



2014 Annual General Meeting (February 2015) Principal's Annual Report

Good evening and again, welcome to the St Mary's School Board and P&F AGM for the 2014 school year.

In taking this opportunity to reflect on last year, I would like to thank Mr Justin Tuohy for the notes and information that he has provided to assist with the construction and presentation of this report.

Learning/Education

The focus of Staff Professional Development for 2014 was:

- Grammar and the Australian Curriculum
- Visible Learning
- The integration of Information Communication Technology (ICT) across all facets of the curriculum
- Bluearth refresher course
- First Aid renewal

Last year, Visible Learning continued to be a major focus for the staff and students. St Mary's School explored, developed and implemented John Hattie's research in regards to the positive impact that the following mindsets have on student and staff achievement and learning:

- the use of clear and explicit learning intentions
- the monitoring of student progress through student self-reflection
- the provision of student feedback to teachers about the effectiveness of their teaching
- providing meaningful student feedback
- student goal setting
- the management of questioning response rates
- the administration of pre and post testing in Mathematics

Staff have continued to measure the effect size of student and teacher learning through various assessments, tracking student achievement over the year and measuring the impact the teachers are having on student learning.

All areas of the curriculum are important. Last year, however, the following initiatives were a focus for St Mary's School:

- sustainability and the environment, in particular the Reuse, Recycle & Reduce initiative
- Health & Physical Education: tennis, NCVISSA Carnivals, squash clinics and the follow up competition

Engagement & Accountability/Community & Stewardship

Major purchases and projects for St Mary's School last year included:

- purchasing of six chrome books
- buying and installing a TV for the Church
- painting of the walkway & undercover area
- installing two skylights in the walkway
- the commencement of the Naturescape Playground
- the planning for the resurfacing and repainting of basketball courts

A very special thank you must go to the 2014 School Board & P&F. The School Board acts as a body to assist the Principal in overseeing the financial management of the school, make decisions pertaining to planning the future direction of the school, and to provide a sounding board for the Principal on a variety of matters. On behalf of the school community, thank you to each and every School Board member for your willingness to serve and contribute through this avenue. A special mention must go to Jayde Teakle who is standing down after having served six consecutive years. The School Community really appreciates your years of service and commitment to the betterment of St Mary's School. Please accept this gift as a small token of our appreciation.

To the P&F of 2014, we will take a moment to reflect on your major accomplishments. This includes, but is not limited to, undertaking the NCVISSA Winter Carnival catering, fundraising through the Footy Tipping competition, overseeing the very successful Art Cultural Night, and organising the Playscape Playground. The objectives of fundraising and the promotion of togetherness within the school community have most definitely been met because of the hard work and commitment from all members of the P&F. Thank you.

Discipleship/Catholic Identity

St Mary's School has continued to foster a close working relationship with the St Mary's Parish. Throughout 2014, priests from Geraldton have presided over school Masses and the Sacraments. Our thanks go to Bishop Justin and the priests for their service and support in developing the faith community of St Mary's School. Thank you also to Sara Stancati and Daniela Miotti for organising and preparing the Masses, and the Sacraments for 2014.

Before looking ahead to 2015, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the wonderful work of the 2014 Staff of St Mary's School. To the staff who have continued on in 2015, and Justin Tuohy, Brett Love, Kimberley Noble and Corina Mulgrew, thank you for the contributions you have made to providing a vast array of educational opportunities for the students at St Mary's School.

2015

2015 brings new opportunities, growth and energy. I would like to officially welcome the new staff to St Mary's School. Miss Rebekah Walton, K/PP, Miss Sinead Donnellan, Year 5/6 and Mrs Lee-Ann Walton, Specialist Teacher in K/PP and Year 1/2. The school community looks forward to tapping into and benefitting from your knowledge, enthusiasm, experience and expertise.

This year, Visible Learning, Grammar, ICT integration, Mathematics and paragraphing in writing will be the key areas of focus for teaching and learning. Staff will continue to develop and expand the use of Google sites, docs and apps in relation to student and teacher learning. Parent workshops are being planned to inform family members of these new pathways in ICT.

The Strategic Plan, Annual School Improvement Plan and Curriculum Plan will be the driving documents behind decision making in regards to all facets of school life. These three planning documents are based on various bodies within the school examining data and collaborating to create working documents for 2015 and beyond.

In terms of resources for 2015, the school plans to

- continue with upgrading IT, including more chrome books and the replacement of the PCs in the Computer Lab
- enjoy the newly resurfaced and repainted basketball court
- complete the works relating to the Naturescape Playground

In regards to Discipleship/Catholic Identity, the school will continue to plan and celebrate various Masses and Liturgies reflective of the liturgical calendar. In 2015, the Year 5/6 Class will prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, welcoming the gift of the Holy Spirit into their lives. Various Catholic agencies will be the focus of our prayers and fundraising for 2015, providing opportunities for the school community to serve others and spread the Good News.

In undertaking my role as Principal of St Mary's School, my own personal professional vision for the school is based upon the flourishing child at St Mary's School. In order to help every child to flourish, my decisions will take into consideration the following mental models. Any decisions I make, any new initiatives, practices etc will all be made based on this vision and the mental models underpinning it.

Thank you for your attention this evening. I am looking forward to working with each and every one of you to ensure that St Mary's School and the enrolled students are provided with every opportunity to flourish.