

Annual Report

S Mary's School

2015



The Annual Report provides parents and the wider school community with information about how the school has met its strategic direction by outlining progress against the Annual School Improvement Plan (ASIP), relevant financial and infrastructure information and other matters determined by the school to be of general interest.

**St Mary's School
Northampton**

INTRODUCTION

In compiling the 2015 Annual School Report, it is difficult to know where to begin after what has been a roller coaster of a ride. A ride that has had so many ups, and a few curve balls to navigate through. Who would know that St Mary's School would have to contend with a cyclone threatening the area during the Faction Swimming Carnival, a fire that would close the school for nearly three weeks, collisions with not one but two kangaroos, a couple of snakes and a plumbing apprenticeship! However, all of these twists and turns are quickly pushed aside when we have the opportunity to reflect on and celebrate all of the highs of 2015.

LEARNING (EDUCATION)

At St Mary's School, learning is instrumental for both staff and students. In 2015, the Staff as a whole have undertaken professional learning in the following priority areas:

- Visible Learning, specifically providing meaningful and explicit feedback to the students
- Protective Behaviours
- Cultural Immersion and
- The Year of Mercy on our Staff Retreat

These days of professional development provide the staff with the knowledge and skills to educate the whole child, opportunities for networking, and the capacity as adult learners to grow and develop as educators.

As a Staff, our learning is not just restricted to professional learning events involving outside presenters. During our Staff Meetings and Professional Learning Communities, we have covered a vast array of topics, which have resulted in collaboration, conversations and common understandings. Some of our meeting topics have included:

- Planning for school based events
- Review of selected policies
- Visible Learning – learning intentions and success criteria
- Upskilling on the new SEQTA Reporting program
- The West Australian Curriculum (SCSA)
- Data analysis and the implications for teaching and learning
- The teaching of Grammar and investigating a whole school language approach
- The National Consistent Collection of Data
- Discussions on various professional readings
- Information Communication Technology
- Planning for 2016

As the staff grows and develops, the school community reaps the benefits of their learning.

Some of these benefits have resulted in the formulation of the many planning documents that St Mary's School is required to have as part of government and system requirements.

For 2016, St Mary's School has:

- A finalised Strategic Plan which will be implemented from 2016 to 2018. The Strategic Plan is derived as a result of input from the School Board, P&F, Staff and Year Five/Six Students.
- An Evangelisation Plan which leads the religious dimension of the school for 2016 to 2018. This plan makes very clear links between the role of the school, families and Parish.
- The Annual School Improvement Plan draws from the Strategic Plan and outlines key areas of focus for the school next year.
- Finally, the 2016 Curriculum Plan provides a snapshot of current practices, 2015 data analysis and the literacy and numeracy focus for 2016.

The release of these plans will be advertised to the school community early in 2016 and made available on the School Website. A considerable amount of time has been spent on ensuring that all of the plans link up and flow from one to the next, guiding the school in a direction that will result in the best possible outcomes for the students. Thank you to all of the stakeholders for their valuable input.

In 2015, Physical Education, Visual Arts, Science, Health Education and the environment have all been curriculum focus areas. Once again, St Mary's School was very competitive in the sporting arena. The school was well represented at all NCVISSA Carnivals, proving victorious at the Interschool Swimming Carnival, taking out the Handicap and Overall Trophies. Miss Daniela Miotti is to be thanked for her continued leadership in this area, overseeing all aspects of school and interschool carnivals. Mrs Susanne Warr has shared her passion and strengths in Visual Arts, Science, Health and the environment. We really appreciate the way Mrs Warr shares her enthusiasm for these learning areas, leading many events and initiatives. In 2016, we will continue to explore ways that we can continue to excel in these and other learning areas of the curriculum.

ENGAGEMENT (COMMUNITY)

St Mary's School prides itself on its sense of community. The school works in close partnership with the School Board and P&F. A very big thank you is extended to all members of the School Board for the time and energy they have devoted to serving on this parent body. The support, insights and opinions offered are highly valued and the sharing of your expertise is greatly valued. To Mr Stuart Gerreyn, thank you for taking on the role of Board Chairperson for 2015. You have assisted in many ways, including staffing interviews and attending the CEWA Board Chair Conference. We look forward to working with you and the other continuing board members next year. A special thank you must go to Mrs Kelly Harrington and Mr Ben Williams. Both of these Board Members have completed a six year term, the maximum amount of time that one can serve on a School Board. Mr Williams, thank you for your upskilling in all areas of plumbing and bore maintenance, and for previously serving in the role of Board Chair. Your honest and practical approach to all School Board matters is very much appreciated. To Mrs Harrington, thank you for taking on the role of secretary, a role that is usually avoided by many. Your ability to provide an alternative perspective in relation to topics discussed at a School Board level is highly valued. Two vacancies exist on the School Board, an invitation is extended to all members of the community to consider nominating for one of these vacancies. It is a wonderful way that you can contribute to the financial direction of the school.

To the P&F of St Mary's School, extreme gratitude and thanks are extended for instilling a sense of community and fundraising across the community. This year, the P&F Executive have organised many events, some of which are:

- Busy Bees
- Protective Behaviours Parent Workshop
- AFL Footy Tipping Competition
- Art Cultural Night
- Melbourne Cup Luncheon
- Knights of the Southern Cross Dinner
- Year Six Graduation Dinner

All of these events have been extremely successful, providing many memorable moments for the community to come together and raise funds school related projects. Some of these projects include:

- a concrete bike path for the Naturescape Playground
- funding of the Protective Behaviours Parent Workshop
- the provision of funds for the staff to have their resource wish list granted
- 2016 camp fundraising

The P&F Executive has worked tirelessly under the direction of President, Mrs Corinna Mulgrew. Mrs Mulgrew, the school community is in awe of how you are able to juggle your many hats, P&F President, wife, mother of four children, and friend. Thank you for all that you do with enthusiasm, love and generosity. Mrs Mulgrew is stepping down from the role of P&F President and the P&F is on the look out for someone who would be willing to take the baton and lead the P&F next year. To the other members of the P&F Executive, Mrs Kristy Williams, Mrs Trin Suckling and Mrs Jan Eastough, we extend our heartfelt thanks for all of your hard work, organisation, time and energy. St Mary's School is extremely grateful!

ACCOUNTABILITY (STEWARDSHIP)

In regards to resources, St Mary's School has continued to update equipment and materials, making improvements in a number of areas. Some of these improvements include:

- sixteen new laptops for the Computer Lab
- a new shade sail over the K/PP sandpit
- a new oven for the K/PP kitchen
- a new bore with a solar pump
- miscellaneous resources purchased in various learning areas
- a new photocopier for the Staff Workroom
- new digital cameras for each classroom

DISCIPLESHIP (CATHOLIC IDENTITY)

The religious dimension of St Mary's is one area that is extremely important. St Mary's is a Catholic school and this is one aspect that sets us apart from other educational institutions. The Fruit of the Spirit will continue in 2016 with continual attention on how it can be integrated into all facets of life at St Mary's School. This year, Miss Sinead Donnellan and Mrs Sara Stancati facilitated the Sacramental Program, working very closely with Father Tai Trinh and the Parish. The students who received a Sacrament this year have celebrated the opportunity to become closer to God through Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. For the students who did not receive a Sacrament, thank you for your attendance, support and participation. You too are a part of God's family and deserve to be recognised as such. To Father Tai, our Priest in Charge, thank you. Thank you for presiding over our liturgies, being a part of the community, supporting school events, playing on the oval with the children at recess and lunch, making spring rolls for the staff, and for keeping us in your prayers. We really appreciate the impact that you have had on us and the school in the short time that you have been commissioned into the Parish.

A major project of 2015 was the updating of the Evangelisation Plan. Miss Daniela Miotti and Mrs Melissa Marquis attended the General Directory Catechesis Professional Development Day run by Bishop Gerard Holohan in Perth. The three day course produced the draft framework of the 2016 to 2018 Evangelisation Plan. Staff input was sought through a number of Professional Learning Communities and email communication. By the end of 2015, the Evangelisation Plan was finalised, ready for publication to the School Community through the School Website and Newsletter. A goal for 2016 is to produce an A4 overview document, in parent friendly language, for inclusion in Enrolment Packs, display in the School Office and publication on the School Website.

The Meals on Wheels initiative grew from strength to strength in 2015. Students continued to deliver meals to the elderly in the local community. A very big thank you to Mrs Kate Hasleby for assisting the students in undertaking this avenue of Christian Service Learning. The Year 5/6 students also made and delivered Christmas cards for the Meals on Wheels clients during December. In addition to Meals on Wheels, the school fostered strong links with the 'Never Too Old' Group for the elderly and disabled. The Year 5/6 Class visited the group at the hospital and RSL Hall to perform dance routines, play cards, make bracelets, talk and share in afternoon tea. 'Never Too Old' was also invited to view a dress rehearsal of the End of Year Concert, providing an audience and enjoying the entertainment. In 2016, St Mary's School will endeavour to maintain and develop Christian Service Learning initiatives specific to Meals on Wheels and 'Never Too Old'. Increased staff participation in supervising Meals on Wheels will also be another priority.

CONCLUSION

In 2016, the St Mary's School has a number of improvement items and curriculum foci. The old Administration Block will be remodelled to create an open plan, flexible learning space. This space will be available to all staff to use for many purposes, including Art, Science, collaborative learning etc. Bright colours, easy to move furniture and flexibility will all be on the agenda. Expansion of the current student leadership program is another item on the agenda. Mrs Melissa Marquis will be working very closely with Mr Matthew Nicholson, the Year 5/6 Teacher, to build on current practices. 2016 will also see Specialist Teachers for Physical Education, Science, Health and Information Technology. In Literacy, we will continue to focus on Grammar, adopting a whole school approach, and we plan to review current practices in Spelling to produce a more streamlined delivery method. In Numeracy, we will have an emphasis on problem solving, specifically word problems. In regards to the religious dimension of the school, the Year of Mercy will be a whole school focus, which will see the Parish and the school continuing to work in close partnership.

In concluding, there are a few vote of thanks to make. Firstly, to the School Community, this includes the parents, extended family members and members of the Parish. Thank you for the continued support, interest and involvement in the children's education. The sense of community is well and truly alive as we all work in partnership to achieve the best possible outcomes for educating and nurturing the students of St Mary's School. To the students, a very big thank you. You are the reason why the staff are so happy to be at school each day. All of you have your own unique gifts and talents that you are willing to share with others. We have learnt so much from you and it has been truly amazing to witness how you have all flourished over the course of the 2015 school year. Finally, thank you to the staff. Each one of you is a very special individual who goes above and beyond the role that you hold at St Mary's School. All that you do is for the betterment of the students and the school community. Regardless of your role within the school, you are all teachers, imparting your knowledge to the students.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The following reports can be obtained from the School Office or via the School Website (<http://smsn.wa.edu.au/compliance.html>):

- 2015 School Board Chair's Report
- 2015 School Board Treasurer's Report
- 2015 P&F President's Report
- 2015 P&F Treasurer's Report
- 2015 School Performance Data