

2024 ACM Principal's Report





Good evening and welcome. A special welcome to members of the STMs Parish. I also wish to thank the 2023 Executives of both the School Advisory Council and P&F for their presence tonight. To you, the parents and carers within the school, you have a vested interest in ensuring St Mary's School's successes last year and I thank you for your contributions and your presence this evening. And welcome to my St Mary's School colleagues. I thank you for your presence this evening in amongst a very busy time of the year. I want to focus tonight on some 2023 achievements of St Mary's School.

THESE ACHIEVEMENTS ARE NOT THE RESULT OF ISOLATED EVENTS BUT THE RESULT OF CONTINUOUS AND COLLECTIVE EFFORTS. THE RESULTS OF STAFF BEFORE US TODAY AND STAFF THAT HAVE LEFT.





2023 has come and gone and we once again find ourselves on the cusp of another school year. While challenge and adversity is normally unavoidable, I am confident these challenges will be overshadowed by success, growth and unquestionable accolades which will continue to come our way in 2024. No report or PowerPoint can adequately summarise the joys, success, and achievements within a year of change and growth for us as a school community. And so tonight we will take glimpses of what has happened and has been achieved this year, using the four pillars of Catholic Education.

Catholic Identity





Throughout 2023 our Catholic Identity was the cornerstone of how we can be more like Jesus and to represent the Gospel Values in all our dealings. Religious Education and faith formation are the primary purpose of Catholic schools. In partnership with all parents, the school and parish work together to assist the children to deepen their Catholic faith and relationship with Jesus.



Our liturgical calendar once again saw regular masses celebrating feast days and the start of and end of terms, prepared ably by Miss Miotti. Once again, our students developed their Religious Education knowledge and were invited to meet Jesus within the Sacramental programs. In Year 3 and 4 students celebrated Reconciliation and First Eucharist, prepared by Mrs Lang and celebrated by Father Larry. We also saw our Year 5.6 students celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation presided by Bishop Michael Morrissey. Our School values of Faith, Respect, Challenge and Teamwork became a large part of who we aspire to be at St Mary's.

When you enter and exit the school, visit our website or Facebook or read our letters or newsletter, our values set the standard of how we want to interact with others and display ourselves in and out of the school.





We saw the inaugural Alleluia Day at STMs celebrating the risen Christ. Thank you to the STMs P&F for coordinating a colour Fun Run on this day which was incredible to witness the joy this event brought to our students, staff and parents.

Thank you to Father Larry, Mary Smith and the Parish of St Mary's Church for their continued faith-filled support of our school last year and everything done to ensure we are working for God and Country.



Education



Our Teaching and Learning program at St Mary's continued to grow and develop with the consolidation of several whole school plans. Our Quality Catholic School Improvement Plan saw teaches refining their skills under the umbrella of the Science of Learning. This evidence-based approach to teaching and learning offered a theoretical outline of how students can learn effectively and retain new information.





Our teaches were getting students to think about meaning and giving them sufficient practice through Daily Reviews. Daily Reviews provided opportunities for our students in automating the recall of key knowledge to reduce the load on working memory and giving specific feedback related to improvement. This research-based approach to teaching and learning also ensured background knowledge was sufficient and secure before new information and learning was provided.

2023 also saw the drafting of the Conditions of Learning Strategic Plan to be implemented in 2024-2026. After careful consideration and thorough feedback from various stakeholders within our school community, the staff decided to revise our behaviour engagement strategies and conditions of learning. A three-year strategic plan was drafted aligning current practices and procedures with research-based behaviour engagement and wellbeing strategies. Our goal for 2024-2026 is to create conditions of learning based upon a continuum of promotion, prevention and early intervention. Our core value of Respect will be a central pillar in this strategic goal.



We believe that behaviour engagement is most effective when looked through the lens of a positive and restorative approach. Character Strengths will be a defining element of this plan. Our character strengths are positive personality traits that reflect our basic identity, produce positive outcomes for ourselves and others, and contribute to the collective good. We will be continuing to work closely with families to ensure a consistent approach across the school whilst also ensuring the individual needs of the children are addressed.





2023 saw several more staff trained in the Sounds Write Program. The Sounds Write instructional method is a highly structured teaching program for teaching all children to read and spell. Children are explicitly taught new sounds. They use their knowledge to blend and segment words and apply their skills to reading and writing. We now have up to 80% of educators trained in Sounds Write.

MiniLit and Spelling Mastery were once again embedded to support tier 2 and tier 3 students who required specific intervention to reach their desired learning goals. The school worked closely with the CEWA Psychologist to ensure students wellbeing and psychological safety is paramount within their educational curriculum.





Our students have soared to new heights with their learning. From nationally awarded STEM projects, incredible artwork, incredible sporting prowess across a variety of different sporting disciplines. Their achievements are a testament to their hard work and acceptance of our core value Challenge and a growth mindset.



Beyond the classroom, our school excelled in various extracurricular activities. Whether it's the outstanding performances in sport carnivals, the captivating assembly productions and expertise in spelling bees and Numero, our students showcased their talents in various diverse fields, enriching the vibrant tapestry of our school community.



The teachers and education assistants at our school were amazing, they were so dedicated to the children in their care. From the team in our K/PP led by Mrs Jupp and Mrs Rae. Our 1/2 class led by Miss Alice Dawson, Mrs Lauren Briers, Mrs Kristy Teakle, Mrs Melanie Box and Miss Bridie Teakle. Our Team in the 3.4 class led by Mrs Laura Lang, Miss Tamaia Jones and finally our Year 5/6 class led by Miss Miotti and Mrs Dee-Anne Simpson. In each of these classes we have a group of exceptional Educationalists who go above and beyond.

In 2023 I thank Mrs Carisa Mincerton and Ms Jo Harrison for handling Health and PE and Miss Sonya Eime for delivering the Arts Learning Area. To our other support staff, who consistently work so hard to help and assist all our students and keep our grounds and rooms safe and clean for learning. I thank you.



Out of the classroom we also need to sing the praises of our office team, who are just exceptionally efficient, handling the seamless transition between day-to-day operations and finances, down to being a 2nd and 3rd reminder for me when I need to do something. Beth and Verity, you are outstanding!





Community

The community growth and success at of St Mary's School goes without saying. And this growth is largely due to you, the parent body of St Mary's School. I thank each of you for your warm-hearted approach each and every day. We must acknowledge the P&F Association and the School Advisory Council for their tireless efforts in fostering a sense of community. These two associations play a vital role in creating opportunities for families to connect and build meaningful relationships. Their focus on community building goes beyond mere financial support and fundraising; it reflects a commitment to the holistic well-being of our school community.

Describe your content



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In saying that, the considerable funds raised by the dedicated P&F have greatly benefited our school, enriching the educational experience for our students. We express our sincere appreciation to every member of the P&F for their outstanding efforts. Your hard work has not gone unnoticed, and we are truly grateful for the positive impact you have made on our school community, and the Northampton community as a whole. We extend special thanks to President Tiffany Box, Vice President Verity Harriman, Treasurer Michaela Simpson and Secretary Ange Cripps.



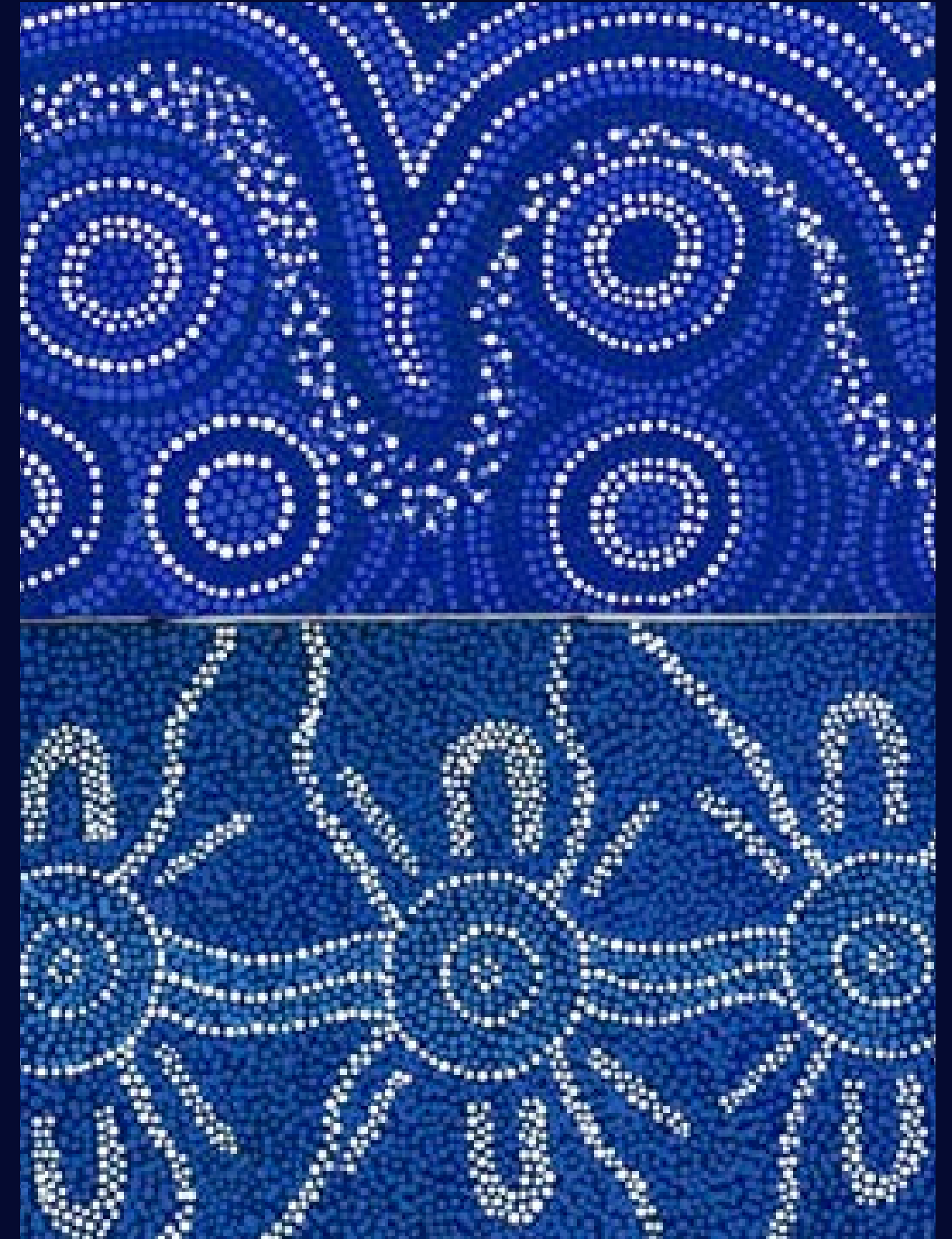
It is with appreciation that I thank each School Advisory Council member for their efforts in planning for the growth and sustainability of our school. In these challenging financial times, the SAC has worked hard to ensure that our families are fully supported and that our educational program is funded appropriately, and our facilities remain up to standard. I especially acknowledge our Chair, Ruth Warr, Vice Ben Cripps, Treasurer Naomi Simpson and Secretary Bridie Teakle, who have given direction and focus to the work of the school. They have also been a source of wise counsel for me on many occasions throughout the year and I thank them for that.



Tonight, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Michaela Simpson and Naomi Simson, the departing treasurers of St Mary's P&F Association and School Advisory council and to Anthon Jupp for his service to the School Advisory Council. Please come forward to receive a token of the school's appreciation.



Stewardship





Throughout the year we have maintained and improved our facilities with the resurfacing of the staff carpark and tree removal, the completion of the STMs School Memorial Garden, glass panelling in all classrooms to ensure clear line of sight and alignment with the Child Safe Framework, Network and Hardware upgrades to our internal internet. This future proofing our school for further digital education and AI capabilities. And finally improved reticulation to the school oval.

This year will see new air conditioners installed in all classrooms, a new security system and PA system to be better aligned with the Crisis Management Plan, A refurbishment of the breakout room to be an extra working space for classroom intervention and clinical therapy sessions. This room will also be used as a sensory room for students to use in moments of regulation and improved wellbeing.

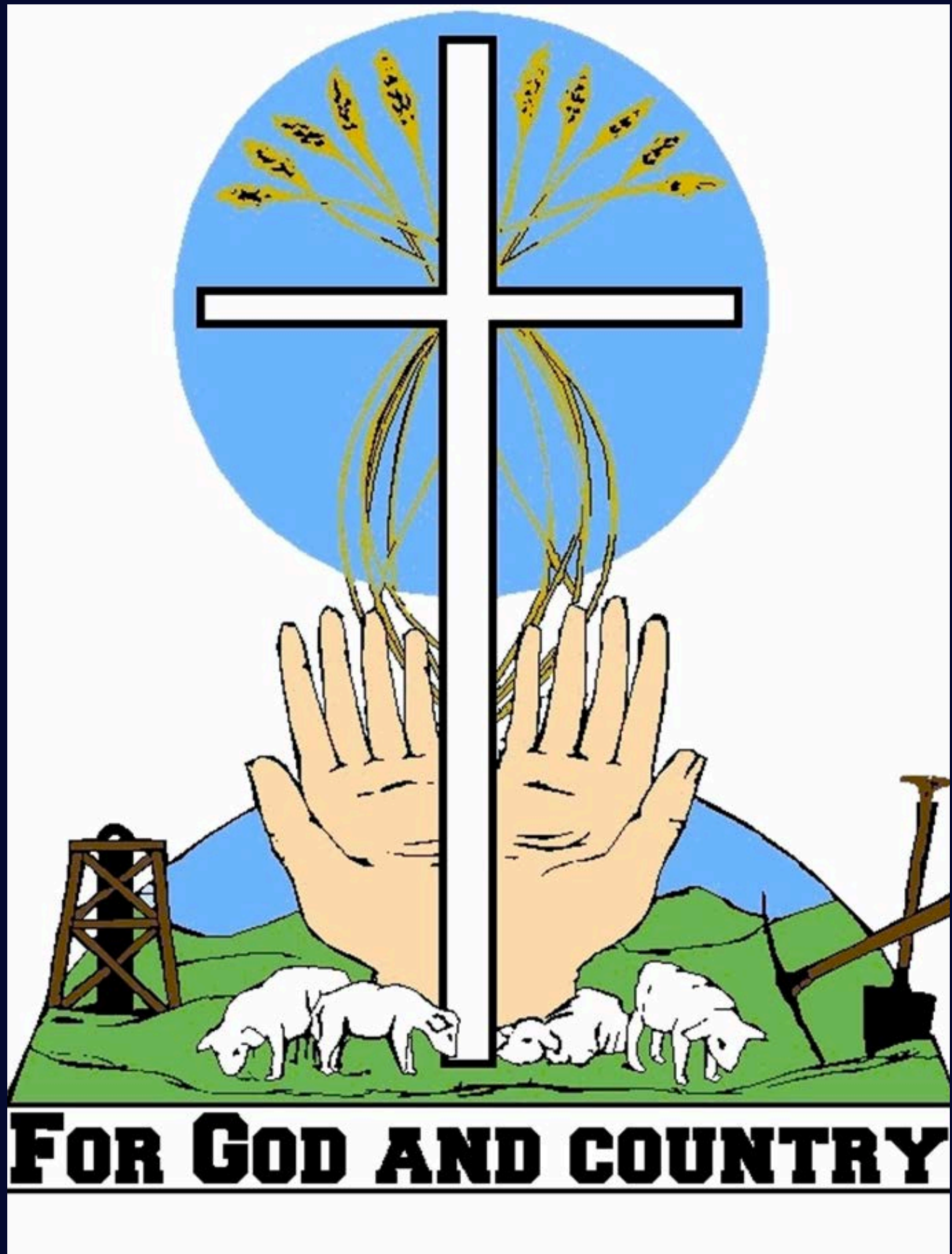


As we reflect on the 2023 school year, our successes have been numerous. These would not be possible without a dedicated staff, a supportive Advisory Council, P&F and a parent body that are united by common goals. However, our success is largely due to the students whom day after day skipped into the school with an eagerness to learn and have fun. We will continue to be Christ Centred and Child Focused, which ensures the students will continue to develop as lifelong learners. I thank all members of our community and wish everybody every success in the coming 2024 school year.





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VALUES OF
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Thank you