

St Mary's Primary School

156 Rusden St

ARMIDALE, NSW 2350

Phone: 02 6772 4441 Fax: 02 6771 1954

Email: admin@stmarysarmidale.catholic.edu.au

Parish Priest: Monsignor Ted Wilkes

Parish: Sts Mary and Joseph's Cathedral

Principal: Mrs Suzanne Fern

**ST MARY'S CATHOLIC
PRIMARY SCHOOL
ARMIDALE NSW**



Annual School Report 2010

Mission/Vision Statement

St Mary's Catholic Primary School lives and celebrates the Gospel values in the rich traditions of the Catholic faith. It is a place where students are nurtured and empowered to become independent lifelong learners. St Mary's is a harmonious community where all members are valued and respected. St Mary's Catholic Primary School is a sacred place where we live Christ's mission in word and action. With Christ as our guide and inspiration we welcome all and encourage each other to grow spiritually. We are rich in stories and tradition providing a strong foundation for life. Educational excellence drives our successful and dynamic learning community. We nurture innovative approaches to teaching and learning ensuring opportunities for individual achievement. Learning is collaborative and student centred focusing on meeting current and future needs. Students have pride and confidence in their work and are challenged to reach their potential. St Mary's Catholic Primary School is a welcoming and inclusive community that embraces compassion and respect for all. We work and grow together in a happy, secure and healthy environment where every individual has a sense of belonging. We are enriched by strong partnerships with families, parish and the wider community as we prepare our students to be effective leaders of tomorrow.

About this Report

St Mary's Primary School is registered by the Board of Studies (NSW) and managed by the Catholic Schools Office, Armidale, the 'approved authority' for the Registration System formed under Section 39 of the NSW Education Act 1990. The annual report provides parents and the wider school community with fair, accurate and objective information about various aspects of school performance and development. The report describes achievement of school development priorities in 2010 and gives information about 2011 priorities. This Report complements and is supplementary to school newsletters and other regular communications. This Report is sent to the Catholic Schools Office, Armidale for validation with the requirements of the Education Act 1990 before being forwarded to the Board of Studies. Following its submission to the NSW Board of Studies the report will be presented to the parent body and be available on the CSO website by 30 June 2011. The school Regional Supervisor also validates that the school has in place appropriate processes to ensure compliance with all NSW Board of Studies

requirements for Registration.

Principal's Message

2010 saw St Mary's Catholic Primary School proudly continue to provide authentic Catholic education for the families of Armidale. This carries on the tradition of Catholic Education in Armidale which commenced in 1848. In collaboration with the parish, our school community lives and celebrates the Gospel values in the rich traditions of the Catholic faith. We strive to live Christ's mission daily in word and action. St Mary's Mini Vinnies group meet weekly and is very active in both community service and charity fundraising. A highlight of this year was the opportunity to join in the Parish celebrations for the Canonisation of St Mary MacKillop of the Cross. Parents enrolling their children at St Mary's often comment that they chose our school because of its spirit of community. St Mary's is a welcoming and inclusive community where individuals and relationships are valued and

respected. Our Class Parents ensure new families quickly feel that important sense of belonging. All beginning of the year activities including the Back to School Working Bee, Welcome BBQ and Parent Information Meetings were very well supported and set the scene for a productive year. The very tangible support and spirit of cooperation that exists at St Mary's is evident daily in the generous contributions of many enthusiastic people. One long serving member of the School community was presented with a special award for outstanding contribution to our School Board at the Annual Conference & AGM of the Bishop's commission in 2010. The amazingly generous support from the school community for a school family in need this year was further testament to the spirit alive in this community.

St Mary's continues to provide a positive learning and caring family environment where parents, students and staff work cooperatively in partnership to build a strong educational community. Together we strive to ensure all children are nurtured and loved as they grow and learn. St Mary's is a happy school that celebrates a love of life. Through the dedication of a committed and professional staff the school has set many new directions, particularly in the areas of teaching and learning and the faith development of our students. Our teachers are also learners who work hard to provide the best quality education for the children in their care. They promote a love of learning in their classrooms and encourage, support and challenge each student on their learning journey. Many students in Years 4 – 6 also have the opportunity to participate in enrichment activities including Tournament of Minds and Brain Olympiad each year. Student Leadership opportunities are provided early at St Mary's with students from Kinder to Year 6 being given the opportunity to lead as members of the Student Representative Council each year. Our Year 5 & 6 student leaders enjoy the opportunity to learn more about leadership through participation in the Young Leaders Day in Sydney and the Impact Student Leadership Conference in Tamworth each year. These experiences empower our students to grow in pride and confidence. Our extended kinder orientation program and our friendly experience days' program for older students ensure new children are secure and confident when commencing at our school. St Mary's Starting School Expo provides parents of children commencing kindergarten in any Armidale school with valuable advice on how to help their child prepare for 'big school'. A number of local professionals generously give their time every year to provide quality presentations. Our Expo is also well supported by many local businesses who display a range of products required by first time school students. Life is busy and exciting at St Mary's with many extra cultural and sporting opportunities available. All students are involved in the annual Student Art Show, school choirs, cultural

performances and excursions as well as learning Indonesian. Many also take on individual music tuition, join the school orchestra or compete in the very successful school chess club. St Mary's Chess teams have a formidable reputation at local, regional and state levels thanks especially to our volunteer Chess Coach. Our vibrant library is a popular destination with increasing numbers of students every year participating in the Premier's Reading Challenge. St Mary's students love their sport and excel through representation in local teams as well as at Diocesan, Polding and State level. 2010 even saw a State Athletics Champion at St Mary's. Representative sporting opportunities include swimming, cross country, athletics, orienteering, rugby, netball, touch football and even horse sports. The playground has been awash with colour on Fridays as coloured sports shirts were introduced in 2010 and the sports uniform being worn for two days each week.

St Mary's has actively participated in community events and continued to enhance its outstanding reputation within the general community. St Mary's is a proud participant and supporter of many Armidale community events including the ANZAC Day March, Autumn Festival Parade, the Armidale Eisteddfod, the new England Sings Massed Choir and the launch of the Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal. We have a proud history but also an exciting future. Our school master plan includes ongoing refurbishments and playground improvements. In 2010 work was undertaken as part of three major refurbishment projects funded by a CBGA Grant, the National School Pride and Primary Schools for the 21st Century Programs. Regular upgrading of our information and communication technologies embraces exciting new developments such as Smart boards which both excite and engage our students. Active support from our School Board and Parents & Friends Association has ensured this ongoing refurbishment program and the upgrading of our ICT facilities designed to meet the current and future needs of St Mary's students. St Mary's is enriched by strong partnerships with families, parish and the wider community. We teach and embrace compassion and reconciliation. After two years of preparation, with invaluable support from the 'Dare to Lead' Coalition, this year St Mary's became the first school in NSW to sign a School Community Education Partnership Agreement. The aim of this agreement is to work collaboratively with our local Indigenous community and members of the wider local and education community to improve the learning outcomes of our Aboriginal students. Our involvement with the Armidale Aboriginal Education Consultative Group and the Dare to Lead Coalition support us in this important work. We celebrated the end of another productive and successful year with a nomination in the Education & Training category for the Armidale Chamber of Commerce 2010 Business

Awards.

Congratulations to the students of St Mary's on the way they strive to do their best in the spiritual, emotional, academic, cultural and sporting aspects of school life.

Parental Involvement

The life of St Marys School continues to be hectic as we move into the 2nd and 3rd stages of our major building projects. The opening of the new Administration area in Term 3 2010 was a resounding success as many of the school, and the wider, community were able to look over the initial changes that had been a number of years in the planning and are now coming to fruition. Stage Two of our planned building works will be an extensive upgrade of the Gym which will include a new canteen, toilets and a more efficient use of the space. Stage Three will be the construction of six new classrooms between the existing St Angela building and the Gym. This will effectively enclose the school grounds and provide opportunity for the school to expand to a 2 stream school, two classes in each year, as enrolment numbers dictate. The parish and broader town community continue to support our school in astonishing ways. The efforts by the school body to raise \$31 000 through our '2010 It's Fete Time Again' School Fete and our 'Talkin' about our Generation' Revue, continue to provide opportunities for the P&F to assist in enhancing our students educational experience. This year the P&F have contributed to the school by purchasing additional Smart Boards, outdoor table settings for the infants area, literacy and numeracy resources, a number of new computer stations to go with our new administration area, and some of the finishing touches needed with the relocation from Dangar to Rusden Sts. In the past it has been difficult to identify a front door for the school, but now that the Administration area has been moved, and we have been successful in moving the pedestrian crossing on Rusden St and the infants building entrance is now a lot more inviting. We now have a 'Heart' to the school which brings our school community closer together, and we can say as a school community we have achieved a lot over the past 12 months. The true meaning of being a member of the St Marys family is best expressed in the care that we are showing to those in need. The Mini-Vinnies group which was started this year have raised funds for the earthquake in Haiti, held a recent Christmas party where goods for Vinnies Christmas hampers were donated and they held a cake stall which raised enough money to provide assistance to educate 6 students through the Assist a Student program in India. Over the past year, the school and broader parish community has banded together to assist a

number of our families experiencing health issues and more than anything else, this highlights the truly caring environment in which our children are being educated. School Board Chairperson

Student Leadership

St Mary's has been a massive part of our childhood that will be impossible to forget. We have had amazing honours, challenges, privileges and experiences during our time here. St Mary's is a great primary school which has nurtured us in our growth, faith and education. We have had opportunities in sport, music, social skills and Religion. This has helped us during our years here and will help us in the years to come. We have had the privilege of being school captains which has opened a new door in our leadership skills. After love, education is the best thing your parents can give you and here at St Mary's we have received a great education and leave looking forward to the challenges of learning ahead of us. Within St Mary's the closeness of the students of all ages is something that creates a community of friendships - from being a kinder buddy to having a kinder buddy. A memory is something you put down but never forget and we have made many great ones here at St Mary's including visiting Mrs Ryan's farm, Coffs Harbour and Canberra. It is sad to farewell our wonderful school and our fantastic teachers but we are glad they have been a great part of our childhood. School Captains 2010

School Profile

School History

St Mary's has a long history dating back to 1848. Our story and traditions have been shaped by the Ursuline sisters, the Patrician brothers and the De La Salle brothers. St Mary's is the oldest school in the Armidale Diocese, established by lay people in 1848. The Ursuline Sisters arrived in 1882 and maintained a presence in the school until 2001. The Patrician Brothers established a boys' primary school on the site from 1889 until 1897. Later in 1906 the De La Salle Brothers reestablished the boys' primary school and taught there until 1972. The school has been under lay administration since 2001. St Angela Merici was the founder of the Ursuline Sisters. The St Mary's buildings are named after St Angela, St Ursula, St Anne and Moira Foley. The school crest is common to Ursuline schools as is the motto: "Serviam" Generations of families have been educated at St Mary's.

Location/Drawing Area

St Mary's is located in the Cathedral precinct of Armidale adjacent to the CBD. The Cathedral, Bishop's House, Catholic Chancery, Parish Hall, Ursuline Convent, Centacare, Catholic Schools Office and Armidale Diocesan Investment Group are all located in the same block. Armidale is a vibrant town and is the centre of the Northern Tablelands. The town has full services and hosts the University of New England. This gives Armidale a unique character and diverse population. St Mary's attracts enrolment from the surrounding district including students from, Invergowrie, Uralla, Black Mountain, Guyra, Yarrowyck, Walcha and Wollombi. Our classrooms are housed in three main buildings surrounded by spacious and park like grounds planted out to make the most of the four distinct seasons we experience. St Mary's has excellent facilities and playing fields. The school library is well appointed and spacious. There are computer facilities available for all students.

Enrolment Policy

St Mary's Primary School follows the Bishop's Commission for Catholic Schools policy Enrolment of Students in Catholic Systemic Schools in the Diocese of Armidale 2002. This document can be obtained from the school office or is available on the Catholic Schools Office web site: <http://www.arm.catholic.edu.au>.

Student Enrolment

Year	Boys	Girls	Total
2008	142	136	278
2009	154	136	290
2010	147	136	283

Student Mobility

In 2010 52 new students commenced their schooling at St Mary's. Of these 38 were in Kindergarten and 14 in other grades. Throughout the year 18 new students joined our school community. 15 students left St Mary's for other schools during 2010. 42 Year 6 students left St Mary's at the end of 2010 and 11 other students left to continue their schooling at other schools.

Student Attendance

Average daily attendance for 2010

Kindergarten	94%
Year 1	93.8%
Year 2	92.8%
Year 3	93.5%
Year 4	93.1%
Year 5	94.5%
Year 6	91.4%
All students	93.1%

Management of Non-Attendance

Absence reminder notes are sent to parents / guardians if an absence is unexplained after two days. The sending of the note is recorded by the class teacher in the Absence Reminder Notes Table. Excessive or unusual unexplained absences (e.g. if there is no response to the notes above,) are followed up by a member of the school leadership team by phone or in writing by official letter. Occasionally, home visits are necessary. Where a child is absent from school for 12 days without successful contact with the parents, the Principal must notify the appropriate education authority. Letters are sent to parents/guardians of students with unacceptable attendance patterns and/or patterns of consistently late arrival as identified in the mid and end of term attendance checks. Parents/guardians are asked to meet with the Principal to discuss the reasons for the absences/late arrival and strategies to improve attendance. The Aboriginal Education Assistant will assist with following up parents/guardians of aboriginal students with unacceptable attendance patterns and/or patterns of consistently late arrival as outlined in St Mary's School Community Partnership Agreement

Staff Profile

In 2010 St Mary's had 13 full-time and 6 part-time teachers. The leadership team consisted of the Principal, Assistant Principal, Religious Education Coordinator, Coordinator Two and Coordinator One. Three of the part-time teachers provide Executive Release time for the teachers in these roles. The classroom teachers are supported by the following part-time specialist staff: Teacher Librarian, Additional Needs Teacher, Music Teacher, Aboriginal Education Assistant and 3 Teacher Assistants. There are two part-time Clerical Assistants. The staff have between 5 and 30 years teaching experience. All teachers hold teaching qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia with 4 holding Masters Degrees and 14 holding Bachelor's

Degrees. Staff finishing their contracts at St Mary's in 2010 included: 1 full-time teacher who was on a temporary contract and returned to her position at a nearby Catholic primary school, one Teacher Assistant who was working on a program only funded for 2009 and 2010.

The average daily staff attendance rate for 2010 was 94.74%.

Teacher Standards

Teacher qualifications fall into 1 of 3 categories for all teaching staff responsible for delivering the curriculum.

Teaching qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised by AEI - NOOSR*	100%
---	------

Have qualifications as a graduate from a higher education institution within Australia within AEI-NOOSR* guidelines but lack formal teacher qualifications	0%
--	----

Do not have qualifications as above but have relevant successful teaching experience or appropriate knowledge relevant to the teaching context	0%
--	----

* Australian Education Institution - National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition

Percentage of teachers accredited to teach Religious Education	85
--	----

Percentage of teachers undertaking accreditation to teach Religious Education	15
---	----

Staff Professional Learning

During the year the whole school staff participated in the following Staff Development Days: Reading Comprehension; Religious Education Reflection Day, School Review Processes, Scope & Sequence Review and Child Protection Trainin. The majority of staff attended the following Professional Development activities: Literacy - Spelling & Guided Reading, Numeracy - Number & assessment strategies, Assessment in Religious Education and Indonesian. Individual or small groups of staff attended the following Professional Development activities: Reading Comprehension, Multilit, Writing Persuasive Texts, Problem Solving in Numeracy, Quicksmart Numeracy, Numeracy strategies for teaching Aboriginal students, Technology in Maths, RE Storytelling, Autism/Aspergers, NAPLAN

Analysis, ICT Technology, Higher Order Thinking skills, PART Training, Keep Them Safe Training, Gymnastics, Good for Kids, PDHPE, David Langford Quality Learning Workshops, Briefings on the National Science and English Curriculum, Teaching History and IEU Rep Training on the Federal Award. Specific workshops were held for Principals, Assistant Principals, Religious Education Coordinators, Education Assistants , Aboriginal Education Assistants, Librarians, Secretaries and Additional Needs Teachers throughout the year. The Principal was also selected to attend the Leading Australia's Schools program in 2010. and attended the Australian Catholic University's Catholic Leadership Conference

Catholic Identity

Religious Education Program

St Mary's Primary School follows the Armidale Diocesan Religious Education Curriculum and uses the student text To Know, Worship and Love as authorised by the Bishop of Armidale, Luc Matthys.

Liturgical Life

St Mary's is fortunate to be able to celebrate Mass regularly in the Cathedral. The Opening School Mass was celebrated with O'Connor Catholic College early in Term 1. At this Mass our School Captains for 2010 were also presented to the combined schools and parish community. A highlight of Term 1 was Grandfriends Day which commenced with a very well attended Mass. Primary students attend Mass weekly. Stage 3 attends Mass on Thursdays at 9.15 am while Stage 2 attends on Fridays at 9.15 am. There is also a whole school Mass at least once each term. Infants' classes attend Mass once each term with their 'buddy' class. Buddy masses are advised in the Newsletter to enable and encourage parents to attend. The whole school attends Mass on Holy Days of Obligation. The end of year Mass was celebrated on the last school day of Term 4. The Parish priests also regularly visit each classroom and provide the Sacrament of Reconciliation each term. Our school based sacramental program prepared children in Year 2, 3 and 6 for the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. Parents supported these programs especially through attendance at the Information Meetings and Enrolment Masses.

Staff and Student Faith Formation

In 2010 25 Year 6 students from St Mary's received the sacrament of Confirmation, which was conferred by Bishop Luc Matthys on Pentecost Sunday. On the last weekend in August 38 Year 3 students received the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time and in November 26 Year 2 students received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. During Lent all students were involved in Holy Week liturgies which were opportunities for parents, students and the wider community to reflect on the meaning of the Easter season. During Advent, students in Early Stage 1, Stage 1 and Stage 2 presented Christmas prayer assemblies which celebrated the Christmas message of love, hope and goodwill. Staff have the opportunity to gather weekly for Staff prayer and in 2010 the Principal, Assistant Principal, Religious Education Coordinator attended role specific Diocesan Retreat days whilst the whole staff participated in a Reflection Day led by members of the Diocesan Spiritual Renewal Team. Our Religious Education Coordinator also attended a four day gathering in Brisbane 'Pray 2010'. One St Mary's teachers received her Graduation certificate from BBI during a Diocesan Mass attended by all the school Principals.

Year 6 Religious Education Test

Average score	Diocesan (%)	This School (%)
2008	73.9	78.9
2009	73.2	74.92
2010	70	68.4

Social Justice

The highlight of St Mary's Social Justice program in 2010 was the example set by our St Mary's "Mini Vinnies" group. Students from Years 4 - 6 are eligible to join this group to help plan and implement a range of initiatives to assist those in need both within and beyond the school. Our Mini Vinnies group were extremely busy and generous with their time. Their activities included: •Fund raising for the Haiti Earthquake Appeal (approx \$900) •Visiting Kent House and entertaining the residents •A Winter Sleep Out and St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal (approx \$510) •A visit from the Youth Coordinators of St Vincent de Paul •A cake stall to raise funds to help educate overseas students (approx \$420) •A Pizza lunch to support the Pakistan flood appeal (approx \$475) •Mission Week activities •An after school Christmas party to raise funds and toys for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal •A charity cycle-a-thon fundraiser for Life Cyclists in aid of the Sydney Children's Hospital (approx \$4225)

St Mary's supported Project Compassion and the

Catholic Children's Mission through fund raising in 2010. Approximately \$1930 was donated to Project Compassion and \$820 to the Children's Mission Appeal. The Religious Education Coordinator assists Stage 3 students who volunteer for community service each term. These students were mainly involved in cleaning the Cathedral in 2010.

Parish Links

The school works closely with the Parish, with the Parish Priests being regular visitors in the classrooms and school. Students are Altar Servers for both daily and weekend Masses. Parishioners are encouraged to support the Stage 2 & Stage 3 students at weekly Mass. In 2010 the classroom teachers taught the sacramental preparation programs for St Mary's students in Year 6 preparing for Confirmation, Year 3 preparing for their First Eucharist and in Year 2 preparing to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation. The school's Religious Education Coordinator is also actively involved in the Parish Sacramental programs for all three sacraments. The Parish provides regular financial support for school building and maintenance projects. The Parish Administrator is a member of the School Board and the Principal is a member of Parish Pastoral Council. Members of the school community supported the Parish Dinner, the combined Parish School celebrations on Mary McKillop's feast day and the 14 Days of Prayer for Armidale celebrations. Members of the parish community supported the P&F Revue and Fete.

Respect and Responsibility

A highlight of 2010 was the signing of our School Community Partnership Agreement on Harmony Day. This was the culmination of a process facilitated by "Dare to Lead" Consultants that had involved members of our indigenous and non indigenous staff, parents and students working collaboratively to develop this Agreement aimed at raising the outcomes for our indigenous students. This was the first time this process has been completed in NSW. During 2010 St Mary's school community explored ways to implement and teach our school Mission Statement with particular reference to the identified Catholic values to be taught and modelled by all members of the school community. These values are : faith, reconciliation, love, community, justice, service, hope and courage. The school's Pastoral Care Policy is underpinned by the notions of respect for others and their property and a responsibility for your own actions. The school rules emphasise this. At the beginning of the year, the school rules, approaches to dealing with bullying and the gospel teachings that are relevant to this

are reviewed with the children. This is done at whole schools assemblies, stage assemblies and in each classroom. The Restorative Justice approach is utilised by teachers in their approach to child management issues. Students were encouraged to participate in the community ANZAC Day March and all were involved in special school based assemblies commemorating ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day and NAIDOC Week. The whole school also participated in the International Pinwheels for Peace project on International Peace Day in September. The Student Representative Council led a number of initiatives aimed at developing students' pride and awareness of their school uniform and environment.

School Curriculum

St Mary's Primary School follows the Board of Studies syllabus for each subject offered (as required for registration under the Education Act 1990) and implements the curriculum requirements of the Catholic Schools Office.

Features of the School Curriculum

A major focus in 2010 was our School Audit in March. Preparation included the completion of our Staff Handbook which clarified many of our school expectations and procedures. We also reviewed and updated all our school based Scope & Sequences for Key Learning Areas. Many of our policies were also reviewed and updated to reflect our School Mission Statement. This was an opportunity to practise our procedures including Evacuation and Lock Down which we hope we never have to experience in reality. The school was found compliant as a result of this Audit and gained ongoing registration. We then commenced a six month School Review process identifying and clarifying our priorities for the next three to five years.

During 2010 our school curriculum focus was on literacy and numeracy. To enhance student achievement in these areas the following initiatives were implemented: •Continuation of our role in the Diocese of Lismore project trialling a Maths program called Quick Smart to improve the numeracy skills of some of our Year 5 & 6 students. •Training of a number of tutors in the MultiLit reading program and successfully implemented this program for a number of students in Years 3 - 6 •Identification of available performance data to measure improvement especially NAPLAN. •Targets set for achievement in literacy and numeracy. •Whole school involvement in analysis of NAPLAN data and implementation of selected strategies to address identified weaknesses commenced. •Establishment of Literacy

and Numeracy Staff Committees to prioritise and plan school wide initiatives and directions •Clear & common expectations K-6 in school based Literacy & Numeracy guidelines •In class support & whole staff PD in effective teaching & learning practices in literacy & numeracy •Guided spelling implemented •Common Grade Assessments implemented each term •Purchase and utilization of a wider range of classroom resources

The integration of ICT in student learning at St Mary's was enhanced in 2010 by: •The successful integration of ICT into our teaching and learning program with the installation of more new interactive white Boards. In 2010 seven classrooms have these boards operating •The continued employment of an ICT Assistant •The provision of PD externally and internally for staff on the effective use of Interactive Whiteboards •The storage of all curriculum and assessment documentation on a common wiki to enhance sharing and collaborative planning. •Continued access for staff to the TESS electronic programming resource

Additional student learning opportunities in 2010 included: •Operation of the SMASH program for all classes K-6 during Term 1 focussing on fundamental movement skills, speed and agility. •Participation in the Hunter New England Health survey of children in K, Yr 2, 4 & 6 with over 90 students being involved. •The introduction of a Year 4 overnight Environmental Excursion to Lake Keepit •Homework Grid continued as a school wide practice •The participation of two St Mary's teams in the Tournament of Minds competition and Brain Olympia •Individual music tuition, Indonesian, school choirs and orchestra, Chess, ICAS competitions and representative sport. •Our school celebration days and events - Grandfriends Day, the Student Art Show, NAIDOC Week celebrations and National Literacy & Numeracy Week activities.

Student Performance

St Mary's Primary School uses a variety of assessment strategies at key points in the learning framework. These include teacher observation, portfolios, projects and presentations. The school also participates in the nation-wide literacy and numeracy testing program for the purposes of diagnosing individual learning needs and reviewing whole class teaching programs. Information on student progress is communicated on a regular basis and opportunities exist for external assessment results to be discussed with parents on an individual basis annually.

Literacy and Numeracy

The National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) was introduced for students in Years 3 and 5 in May 2008. NAPLAN replaces the previous State-based Basic Skills Test and the results provide valuable information about student achievements in Literacy and Numeracy. Analysis of the results is used at school level to support the enhancement of Literacy and Numeracy outcomes for all students. Year 3 results are reported in Bands 1 to 6 with Band 6 representing the highest achievement and Year 5 results are reported in Bands 3 to 8 with Band 8 representing the highest achievement. **Please note: Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.**

Year 3 % in Bands		1&2	3&4	5&6
Reading	School	18	44	38
	National	14	39	48
Writing	School	2	51	46
	National	6	38	56
Spelling	School	25	47	29
	National	13	42	46
Grammar & Punctuation	School	18	37	44
	National	15	32	54
Numeracy	School	18	60	22
	National	15	46	38

Year 5 % in Bands		3&4	5&6	7&8
Reading	School	33	30	36
	National	20	46	33
Writing	School	21	57	21
	National	13	59	27
Spelling	School	27	57	15
	National	16	49	36
Grammar & Punctuation	School	21	45	33
	National	17	38	45
Numeracy	School	28	53	19
	National	16	52	32

The highlights of this year's results are the reduction of students scoring in the lower bands for Year 3 Writing and the improvement in the percentage of students achieving in the higher bands in Year 5 Reading. NAPLAN results in 2010 were closely analysed by all teachers to identify areas where a higher degree of mastery is required by all students. Many students missed out achieving in a higher band by just one question.

National Minimum Standards

The lowest Band for each year (Band 1 in Year 3 and Band 3 in Year 5) represents students who are achieving BELOW the National Minimum Standard (NMS) in each aspect of NAPLAN. Students in the second Band for each year (Band 2 in Year 3

and Band 4 in Year 5) represent students who are achieving at the NMS. Students in all other Bands are achieving ABOVE the NMS.

The percentages of students in this school achieving the national minimum standard are reported below.

		Year 3	Year 5
Reading	School	98	91
	National	96	93
Writing	School	98	88
	National	98	96
Spelling	School	91	88
	National	96	95
Grammar & Punctuation	School	93	88
	National	94	94
Numeracy	School	98	91
	National	97	96

The 2010 NAPLAN results indicated an improvement in the percentage of Year 3 students achieving national minimum standards. Further support interventions have been implemented for all students achieving below acceptable minimum standards.

School Policy Summary

Student Welfare

St Mary's Primary School seeks to provide a safe and supportive environment which:

- minimises risk of harm and ensures students feel secure
- supports the physical, social, academic, spiritual and emotional development of students
- provided student welfare policies and programs that develop a sense of self-worth and foster personal development

The school's Pastoral Care Policy is based on the Bishop's Commission Policy Pastoral Care In The Catholic Systemic Schools Of The Armidale Diocese.

In 2010 all classes at St Mary's participated in a whole school series of lessons aimed at identifying bullying behaviours, exploring the role of bystanders when bullying occurs and introducing the "Turn, talk, tell" strategy for dealing with bullying should it occur. The "Turn, talk, tell" strategy to bullying involves students turning away or ignoring bullies, talking to bullies by saying "No" or telling a teacher what has happened should the bully not respond to the "No". All reports and incidents of bullying are followed up with strategies and support offered to any victims of bullying. Any identified bullies are

given appropriate consequences and also offered strategies and support to modify their behaviour. Additional teaching resources were purchased to support the teaching of other social skills K-6. The Class Parent program was useful in providing support for families in need throughout the year.

The full text of school and diocesan policies are available on request from the school office.

St Mary's Pastoral Care policy was reviewed in 2010 to reflect the school's Mission and Values statement and in preparation for our School Audit and Review processes. Student well-being was supported in 2010 through the "Crunch and Sip" program in all classes which encourages a short snack break at 10am to eat fresh vegetables or fruit as well as the consumption of water throughout the day. A number of St Mary's students also benefit from the "Walking School Bus" option for travelling to school once each week. St Mary's is recognised as a "Sun Safe" and "Asthma Friendly" school.

Discipline Policy

St Mary's Primary School bases its Discipline Policy on the Bishop's Commission Policies Pastoral Care In The Catholic Systemic Schools Of The Armidale Diocese, Policy On Suspension, Expulsion Or Exclusion Of Students In Catholic Schools In The Diocese Of Armidale and Management Of Drug Related Issues In Catholic Schools In The Diocese Of Armidale. These policies are based on procedural fairness and are discussed with students on a regular basis. In compliance with the NSW Education Reform Act 1990, corporal punishment is banned in ALL Armidale Diocesan schools.

The full text of school and diocesan policies are available on request from the school office.

St Mary's Discipline Policy was reviewed in 2010 to reflect the school's Mission and Values statement and in preparation for our School Audit and Review processes. School-wide behaviour awards were continued in 2010 to recognise students who consistently display appropriate and cooperative behaviour throughout each term. These awards are cumulative and points are awarded to the House Spirit shield for each student receiving an award each term.

Enrolment Policy

St Mary's Primary School bases its Enrolment Policy on the Bishop's Commission Policy Enrolment of Students In Catholic Systemic Schools in the Diocese of Armidale.

The full text of school and diocesan policies are available on request from the school office.

In 2010 the age for enrolment in kindergarten at St Mary's was ammended. The recommended youngest age for enrolment of children in kindergarten is now those who turn 5 by March 31st in the year they commence school. Ongoing enrolment at St Mary's is conditional on families abiding by the agreement on the Diocesan Enrolment form including: supporting all school policies, honouring financial commitments and keeping contact details up to date.

Complaints and Grievance Resolution Policy

St Mary's Primary School procedures for resolving concerns and complaints is based on the Bishop's Commission Policy Complaints & Suggestions Policy for the Diocese of Armidale. This policy is based on procedural fairness and recognises that members of the school community must have access to processes that allow them to resolve concerns in a supportive, conciliatory environment. The full text of school and diocesan policies are available on request from the school office.

Parent, Student and Staff Satisfaction

All parents, staff and Year 5 and 6 students of St Mary's were given the opportunity to express their level of satisfaction with the school through a survey distributed in Term 4. 95% of parents indicated they either agreed or strongly agreed with eleven statements made about the school. Parents most strongly agreed with the following statements:

- The school provides various opportunities for me to become involved
- The teachers are genuinely interested in the welfare of my child
- The school effectively communicates information about activities and events and
- The school helps my child to develop a knowledge and understanding about Catholic tradition

Staff surveys also indicated overall satisfaction with 88% of responses either strongly agreeing or agreeing with ten statements about the school. The statements with the strongest support were:

- The school helps students to develop a knowledge and understanding about Catholic tradition
- Professional development of staff is encouraged
- The school strives to meet the individual learning needs of students, and
- The school provides appropriate information to parents about student progress

Likewise in the student survey 94% of responses either strongly agreed or agreed with eight statements about the school. The

students agreed most strongly with the following statements: •My teacher(s) encourages me to learn to the best of my ability •I understand my rights and responsibilities at school and •There are sporting and other activities in which I can become involved

•Supporting parent engagement with student learning •Ongoing commitment to the School Community Partnership Agreement •Explicit teaching of positive behaviours for learning •Shared leadership opportunities •Encouragement of staff and student initiatives •Completion of BER project

School Review and Development

Annual School Priorities 2010

PRIORITY 1: CATHOLIC IDENTITY AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION •Enhancement of school prayer life •Support for parents' role as prime educators •Focus on improving relationships •Improve quality of RE program

PRIORITY 2: STUDENTS AND THEIR LEARNING •School based Scope & Sequence for all KLA's completed •Focus on explicit target setting & feedback for students on their performance •Implementation of school wide literacy & numeracy guidelines •Intervention strategies for lower performing students •School Community Partnership Agreement launched •PLP's introduced for aboriginal students •Improved integration of ICT across all KLA's

PRIORITY 3: TEACHERS AND THEIR TEACHING •Collaborative planning & professional sharing by teachers •Effective use of Literacy & Numeracy Committees to provide school wide directions •Focus on assessment for learning •Staff goal setting •Enhanced use of data to inform teaching and learning

PRIORITY 4: FINANCIAL SERVICES, FACILITIES AND RESOURCES •School Refurbishment

PRIORITY 5: HUMAN RESOURCES •Clarification of Staff roles & responsibilities

PRIORITY 6: PARTNERSHIP •Enhancement of parents as partners in education

Projected School Priorities 2011

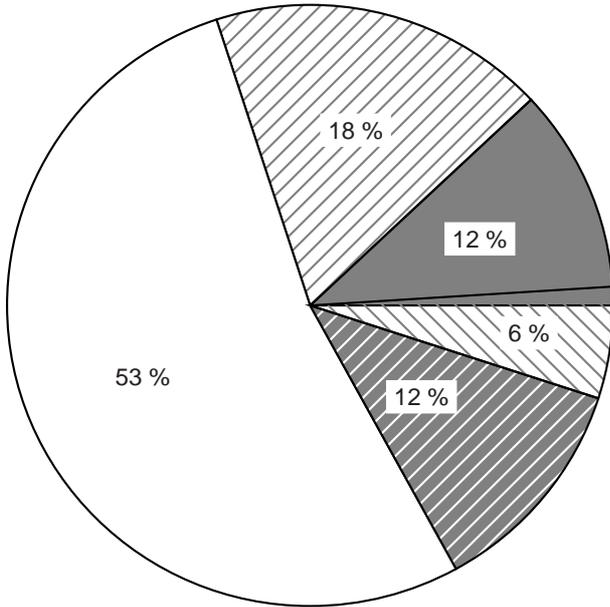
•Student and parent faith formation opportunities •Quality teaching, learning & assessment in all KLA's •Development of a culture of high expectations for all •Student goal setting and meaningful feedback •Support for a professional learning culture

Major Achievements from the 2010 Annual Plan

•Mini Vinnies firmly established •Clear & common expectations K-6 in school based Literacy & Numeracy guidelines •Compliant Scope & Sequence in all KLAs •Establishment of staff wiki for resource sharing amongst staff •In class support & whole staff PD in effective teaching & learning practices in literacy & numeracy •Guided spelling implemented •Additional programs to support Literacy (MultiLit) & Numeracy (Quicksmart) •Common Grade Assessments implemented each term •Tracking Cards reviewed •Staff Handbook completed •All school policies reviewed •Compliant Audit for registration purposes •Thorough School Review process encompassing feedback and suggestions from all members of the school community •Signing of School Community Partnership Agreement •Implementation of Professional Learning Teams •Installation and utilisation of 7 interactive whiteboards Building and Maintenance The demolition of the laundry block was completed during January prior to the commencement of our refurbishment work. Our Capital Grant was confirmed which will partly fund the major refurbishments completed in 2010 including the relocation of the school admin to the Rusden St building, relocation & refurbishment of the staff room, building of staff toilets, creation of a sick bay and Office for the AP & REC and the refurbishment of student toilets. With the relocation of the school admin to Rusden Street we also successfully applied for the relocation of the pedestrian crossing further east making this crossing safer for all. Our National Schools Pride (NSP) work enabled the resurfacing of the Infants corridor, the replacement of many of the frosted glass windows and new fencing for much of the school. The DA for our BER (Building the Education Revolution) project was completed and approved by Council in 2010. This project will involve the refurbishment of the Gym and associated toilets, the relocation of the Canteen and the construction of 6 new classrooms.

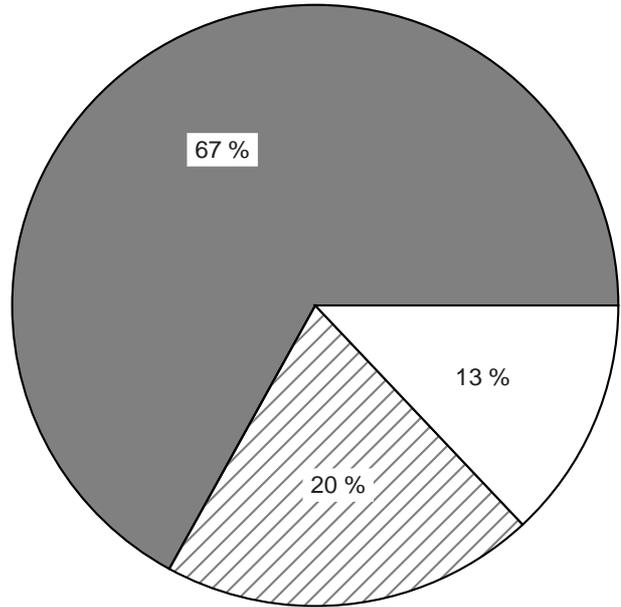
Financial Statement

Income



- fees and private income
- ▨ state recurrent grants
- commonwealth recurrent grants
- ▩ government capital grants
- ▧ other capital income

Expenditure



- salaries, allowances and related expenses
- ▨ non-salary expenses
- capital expenditure

The information in this report has been verified and the priorities endorsed by the Director of Catholic Schools and the school Regional Supervisor.