

St Mary's School, Donnybrook



School Performance Report

Report for the 2017 Academic Year

## **School Vision Statement**

St Mary's Catholic Primary School Donnybrook is committed to empowering our school community to become compassionate, confident and capable individuals. Our inspiration and strength to achieve this, comes from our mutual support and the sharing of our faith in Jesus Christ.

## **Introduction**

This report provides the St Mary's school community with information about the school's activities and performance for the 2017 academic year. It highlights our school results and outcomes and helps set targets for improvement during 2017. The school's website contains many relevant documents that will provide information for parents. This report is a government requirement.

## **School Performance Information:**

### **1. CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION**

St Mary's School is a Catholic co-educational school catering for students from Kindergarten through to Year 6. St Mary's is concerned with the development of the "whole" child and as such develops the spiritual, academic, personal, social and emotional well-being of all students. Children are taught in composite and single classes (In 2017 classes consisted of K, PP, Yr 1 Yr 2, Yr 3, Yr 4 and Yr 5/6). A differentiated curriculum ensures that the individual needs of each child are met.

In 2017 Italian, Science, Physical Education and Art were offered as specialist subjects. Ipads and interactive whiteboards are in each classroom. The school has excellent home-school relationships with parents taking an active role in all aspects of the school's daily operations. St Mary's develops the leadership qualities of students through School Captains' roles. The Year 5/6 students are part of the student leadership team - filling four alternating ministry roles throughout the year (pastoral, sports, environmental, communication). We want our children to be: caring, believers, open, secure, well balanced, generous, creative. There was a whole school focus on the 8 core Mercy values in the school - Term 1 (courage and forgiveness) Term 2 (compassion and respect) Term 3 (service and justice) Term 4 (excellence and determination).

## 2. TEACHER STANDARDS & QUALIFICATIONS

### QUALIFICATIONS OF TEACHING STAFF AT ST MARY'S SCHOOL

Qualifications	Number of Staff
Graduate Diploma	1
Bachelor of Education	11
Masters of Education (Early Years)	1
Masters of Education (Religious Education)	1

## 3. WORKFORCE COMPOSITION

	Teaching Staff	Non-Teaching Staff	Indigenous staff
Male	0	3	0
Female	14	7	0

## 4. Student Attendance

The average rate of attendance for the gazetted school year for students in Years PP to Year 6 was: 93.18%

This was broken down into the following class groupings:

Year Group	Attendance Rate
PP	92.64
1	92.05
2	94.06
3	93.27
4	93.27

5	94.4
6	92.49

Parents of children who are absent from school are asked to clarify the reason for non-attendance. Parents are sent an SMS to inform them their child is absent from school. An absentee slip/note is required to be completed upon the child's return. For lengthier absences during term time, which are not health related, an approval of extended leave form needs to be completed and written notification sent through to the principal.

## 5. NAPLAN INFORMATION

National Assessment Plan for Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results in 2015 were:

### YEAR 5 STUDENT DISTRIBUTION PERCENTAGES IN AUSTRALIAN TOP 20%

YEAR 5	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
READING	8%	7%	0%	25%	38%
WRITING	0%	7%	0%	17%	0%
SPELLING	0%	0%	0%	8%	0%
GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION	8%	13%	0%	0%	13%
NUMERACY	0%	0%	15%	8%	14%

### YEAR 3 STUDENT DISTRIBUTION PERCENTAGES IN AUSTRALIAN TOP 20%

YEAR 3	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
READING	6%	22%	8%	13%	8%
WRITING	0%	0%	0%	15%	8%
SPELLING	0%	6%	9%	8%	0%
GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION	6%	6%	0%	8%	8%
NUMERACY	6%	11%	0%	7%	0%

<b>YEAR THREE</b>	<b>ALL AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS MEAN</b>	<b>ST MARY'S MEAN</b>
<b>READING</b>	431.3	413.00
<b>WRITING</b>	413.6	388.7
<b>SPELLING</b>	416.1	373.5
<b>GRAMMAR &amp; PUNCTUATION</b>	439.2	376.2
<b>NUMERACY</b>	409.4	392.4

<b>YEAR FIVE</b>	<b>ALL AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS MEAN</b>	<b>ST MARY'S MEAN</b>
<b>READING</b>	505.7	461.2
<b>WRITING</b>	472.5	462.0
<b>SPELLING</b>	500.8	472.2
<b>GRAMMAR &amp; PUNCTUATION</b>	499.3	459.2
<b>NUMERACY</b>	493.8	448.1

More results can be viewed by visiting the Myschools website:  
<http://www.myschool.edu.au/>

## **6. Parent, student and teacher satisfaction**

Students are given a variety of opportunities to develop spiritually, academically, and socially. The children attend sporting events, sacramental retreats and social functions. Attendance at parent meetings and other school events is good with over 80% of attendance at classroom meetings and 3 way interviews, highlighting good relationships between the school and parents. Discussions and feedback at school board and P & F meetings suggest parent satisfaction with the school. Attendance numbers at P & F meetings have been maintained at a good level since the introduction of a new classroom representative program in late 2015. In 2017 the school reviewed the following components as part of the Quality Catholic Schools initiative: Effective Pedagogy Practices, Pastoral Care of Students and A culture that promote Learning. Parents are encouraged to provide feedback through parent/teacher meetings, principal interviews and informal processes.

## 7. POST SCHOOL DESTINATIONS

In 2015 11 Year Six students graduated. Their high school destinations were as follows:

High School	Number of Students
Bunbury Catholic College	12
Donnybrook District High School	2

## 8. SCHOOL FINANCES

The My School website can be accessed to view the school's breakdown of income. The link to the website is:

<http://www.myschool.edu.au/>

### Principal's Report to the St Mary's School Community

20 November 2017

Good evening and thank you to everyone for taking the time to join us this evening for the St Mary's 2017 AGM. It is my privilege to stand before you as the principal of St Mary's and provide a summary of the teaching and learning within our school in 2017. At Mary's we look at education through the lens of LEAD. LEAD refers to learning, engagement, accountability and discipleship and this helps us to focus and refine what we do not only as a school but as part of a system. All communication – newsletter, board reports and P & F reports by the principal are organised under these headings to show the relationship in our decision making and keep a concise direction for the school as part of the Catholic Education system of WA.

Learning is what we do – and the highlight of my job is to experience the wonderful teaching and learning experiences we offer at St Mary's on a day by day basis whether it is by popping into classrooms, having children visit me in the office to show me their work or by getting feedback from parents and the wider community.

Each year we formulate an ASIP (Annual School Improvement Plan) which focuses on the four areas of LEAD. In 2017 our school goals in

LEARNING were:

- Develop a whole school approach to spelling to improve spelling levels across year levels
- Continue to develop a whole school comprehension tool kit to promote reading comprehension

In ENGAGEMENT were:

- An increase in engagement with outside community groups to develop a strong identity of St Mary's within the community and develop a school understanding of social justice

In ACCOUNTABILITY were:

- To develop staff skills in the implementation of reading comprehension and assessment strategy
- To develop- Code of Conduct for all community members at St Mary's

In DISCIPLESHIP were:

- To engage the school community in the Gospel values through action and reflection

To achieve these goals many different strategies and resources were employed which include and are not limited to:

CEO consultants on site to deliver PD and support– including Viv Marwick, Sue Williams, Jan Flemming, Sr Christine

PD offered by specialist presenters including whole staff PD as part of the TREE conference in Manjimup, Aussie Optimism PD, Religious Accreditation PD, DISC PD, NQS PD, CEWA Stem Pilot PD, Letters and Sounds PD, Keeping Safe PD, Leading Lights PD, Brightpath PD, Early Years Teaching PD, Challenging Behaviours PD with First Aid, STEM Digital Technologies, further RE accreditation -still to be completed in 2017.

We ran parent meetings to commence the school year as well as in Keeping Safe our protective behaviours program. Dissemination of information regarding the school to parents and wider community through SMS, newsletters, website, newspaper articles and through the launch of our new Facebook page.

Staff professional learning meetings and staff meetings. Data analysis of NAPLAN, PAT testing, Observation survey, Hattie's effect sizes, reading levels, Ballard Westwood, the commencement of the Brightpath analysis. There has been specific use of data to drive the inclusion of new teaching practices and programs within the school.

Development of QIP (Quality Improvement plan) for ECE (Yrs K-Yr 2) in 2017

Acquisition of new reading and ECE resources – which was well supported by the school board and P & F.

Promotion of literacy with events such as storytelling night, oral language presentations

Promotion of student resilience with the Drumbeat program across Years4-6.

The production of a school yearbook which will go out at the end of term – with the graduating class receiving their copies at the graduation mass.

Whole school writing tasks and some Brightpath moderation of writing samples

Outreach to community organisations such as IGA, the Shire, Bendigo Bank, Preston Press and South West Times, Drumbeat, Flores, Leonardo Day and the Men's shed who have all supported the school in various ways through sponsorship, resources, introduction & continuation of school banking, visiting businesses, and media coverage of school events

Outreach to less fortunate under the heading of St Mary's values of service and justice by fundraising for wheelchairs for kids, Caritas, Flores and the Salvation Army Christmas appeal.

We have had many successes with our goals

- Increased use of school value language by students and staff for example students taking about service, justice, compassion – with over 40% of students In Years 4, 5 & 6 able to verbalise the core values of St Mary's
- Increased understanding of students of service and justice through the Flores project, Wheelchairs for Kids
- Increased outreach to wider educational communities through the attendance of the TREES conference and through inclusion in pilot programs.
- Facebook providing greater outreach to communities with individual post views peaking at 1500 local people.
- All staff in serviced in Letters and Sounds program and movement of students from Feb inception to November shows a significant movement through the spelling phases
- All Staff in serviced in Code of Conduct and all members of the community informed of Code of Conduct through sign in sheet, email rollout, newsletters and class meetings. 100% of parents notified.
- 2017 NAPLAN data shows 70% of our students between Years 3-5 have increased their writing years by more than 2 and ½ years growth in that time, this is up from 60% of our students last year. 83% of our students in maths have shown a growth of over 3 years or greater between NAPLAN testing. In spelling 66% of our students showed a growth over 2 and half years.

We aim to give our students the skills to be lifelong learners and to function successfully in an ever-changing society. Anecdotal evidence also suggests we are doing a great job of this as I took the opportunity to ask the children in Years 1-4 about the letters and sounds program, our comprehension focus and gospel values – their comments were insightful.

Our St Mary's values are important because the kids can learn better than other schools and we have fun, to keep everyone safe, kind and helpful, because it helps with the respect in the school, to make this a good school

On our education programs feedback from the children was –

If you want to be a principal, you need to be able to spell and write reports to do the job or if you want to be a teacher you need to know spelling to teach it to kids. If you are going to be a



shopkeeper you need to know maths to give change. If you are going to be rich and you want to buy something for a billion dollars and four cents you need to know how much money you have and how to spend it. When you grow up and have to sign contracts you know how to read and write them. If you want to go into space, you need to have maths to work out the times to get to space. If you are cooking, you need to know measurements. You need to learn spelling and writing to communicate with others to get things done. You need maths to figure things out, it is important in everyday life.

I would like to thank the staff on behalf of the entire community for all they have done this year and continue to do. The staff at St Mary's are tireless in their endeavours to provide a diverse and enjoyable education for the children in their care. I am constantly amazed as they enthusiastically tackle each day with care, humour and passion. They are dedicated to doing their best for each student. I would like to thank the admin team of Mrs Humphries and Mrs Marwick for all their patience, leadership and humour this year as they are dealing with a range of new processes.

This year we farewell Miss Ryan and Mrs Steinepreis as we end the school year. We wish them all the best for their future endeavours. We are very grateful for the fantastic contributions they have made to St Mary's.

I would like to thank all the board members for their dedication and commitment this year. Thank you to Chris, Paige, Daniel, Jo, Rodney, Darryl and Sarah and Viv. The board have been a wonderful source of support and wisdom throughout the year. I would like to personally thank Chris Sharp for his time on the board as he steps down finishing his tenure – he has been a very supportive board chair. Also thank you to Darryl Brown for his time on the board and his insights as he steps down from the board.

To Mia, Elena, Sarah & Bronwyn as the P & F executive and to all the members of the P&F and parent representatives thank you for the amazing role you have all filled this year. Your tireless work, energy and enthusiasm for the school has enabled the school to participate in a range of fantastic activities including the inaugural Mother's Day high tea, disco, and upcoming movie day as well as gain some amazing resources such as picnic benches, reading resources, ECE resources, giant jenga just to name a few.

We wish our graduating class of 2017 all the success for the future. They have been a wonderful group of students and we hope they take with them the skills and values from St Mary's to be successful learners throughout life.

In 2017 we had straight classes until Year 4, then a composite class in Year 5/6 and an enrolment of 139 to commence the year. Next year we project our enrolment will be around 130 students (with 14 students leaving for high school and 17 new Kindy enrolments) with stand-alone classes in Years 1-6 (for the first time in a long time), and a composite Kindy/PP class. We welcome some new families to the school in 2018 and look forward to a successful year.

We thank Father Gerald, the parish council and the parish for their ongoing support as we as a community aim to deepen our relationship with God. Father Gerald has been a wonderful acquisition to our school community in 2017 – his homilies, question and answer sessions with students, interactions with staff and fabulous singing bring the living Church alive in our school. A special thanks to Lesley Wunnenburg who has helped with the altar serving training this year.

Through our sacramental programs, altar serving programs, class masses, whole school masses, retreats and prayer focuses we have endeavoured to support everyone on their faith journey.

Finally I would like to thank again all the parents and staff for their exceptional commitment to our school which benefits all the children we have in our care. It is truly a privilege to be a part of such a supportive and engaging community – we look forward to many more successes next year.

God Bless

Annette Quirk

Principal

St Mary's Donnybrook

## **School Board AGM - 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

### **Chairperson Report**

It gives me great pleasure to submit my report as Chairperson of the School Board of St Mary's Catholic Primary School.

This year we welcomed 6 new families and 3 new staff members to St Mary's with a student population of 124 and a complement of 27 staff members which put the school in a sound position for the 2017 academic year.

#### **Infrastructure:**

This year we carried on with our goals of improving our school and managed to approve the solar system for our school which was installed in the September school holidays. This can give our students an insight into how much electricity can be produced by the sun with a read out in the front office whilst also reducing our power costs.

A nature playground has also been created along the river bank and I would like to thank Sarah Steinepreis, Nina Fiumano and all staff and parents who were involved in this. Well done. The kids love it.

We are still looking at other projects like the retaining wall behind the multipurpose room and class room sizing and availability as the needs arise.

#### **Information Technology**

30 new iPads were purchased at the end of 2016 for classrooms and these were ready for Term 1 2017. 30 additional iPads will be purchased at the end of this year ready for 2018. There will be 1 to 1 iPads in years 4-6. Our Wifi system will also be upgraded to support the new amount of devices.

The IT Levy will go up by \$3/family next year to \$60 to help fund this.

Annette introduced and maintains a Facebook account for our school – with some of our posts reaching around 1500 people. This helps showcase our school profile and promotes future enrolments in line with our school strategic plan and annual school improvement plan.

## **Budget**

As part of the Budget, there is an increase in the school fees, which is in line with the recommendation from the CEWA. Rodney Woodhouse will outline in more detail fees for next year in the Treasurer's Report. The Board is aware that some families may experience financial difficulties and that the school has provisions in place to support families in need. The Board supports the Principal to deal with these matters respectfully and confidentially.

## **Staffing**

We have been very blessed to have Annette Quirk as our principal. She has taken on this role with a professional and dedicated approach which hasn't gone unnoticed. She was fortunate enough to be one of the 5 educational leaders in Catholic Education WA selected to attend a "Executive Development for Educational Leadership Program" and went to New York and Toronto as part of her studies.

Annette also completed her review this year in line with the Principal Deed of Agreement and at the conclusion of this successful review was offered an additional 5 year contract.

We also welcomed the following teachers this year;

1. Nicola Cross Year 5/6 teacher,
2. Vivian Marwick Assistant Principal Year 3 Teacher
3. Mrs Caroline Jackson as Term 4 Year 4 teacher

I take this opportunity to formally welcome you to St Mary's and thank you for your hard work and hope that you have found your time at St Mary's rewarding.

I would also like to thank the efforts of all the staff at St Mary's for their wonderful efforts and professionalism. It is greatly appreciated by the board and the school community.

## **P&F**

The Board thanks the P&F for their continuing support in the last year. They have again done a fantastic job with the running of various events, including the disco, lunches, fun day just to name just a few.

The inclusion of a P & F rep at the school board meetings this year has been a huge milestone, believe it or not. The fact that we can have input and ideas whilst also being able to give ideas back has cemented the need for representation at a board level.

The P&F is a vital part of our school community and the board acknowledges that without the P&F, the school would not be able to have all those extra items which help improve the running of the school. We thank you very much.

The relationship between parents, staff and students, is what makes the school community what it is and we thank everyone for their efforts.

Thank you to Mrs Naomi Strelein for taking on the roll as book club co-ordinator. This takes a tremendous load off the school staff and allows us to get most of the books for the Library for free.

## **Board**

I thank the board members Mrs Jo Alilovic (or Walton?), Mr Daniel Towers, Mr Darryl Brown, Mr Rodney Woodhouse, Mrs Paige Weaver and Sarah O'Rourke from the P & F for their continuing support and acknowledge their time and effort that they have put in this year. It has been great to work alongside others with similar visions for our school, staff and children.

As this will be my final year on the school board I must acknowledge that over the last 7 years being part of the board and see the school grow to

where we are today has given me a great sense of satisfaction. To go from 3-4 board members and a principal at a meeting to now having a table of 9 including the P & F rep and assistant principal seems unbelievable. Well done everyone involved.

For the board to continue to work effectively, it needs parents to become actively involved, this is a great privilege and very rewarding. The board is looking strong and I believe this is a reflection on how well our school is performing.

Thank you and god bless.

Chris Sharp  
School Board Chairperson  
St Mary's Catholic Primary School  
Donnybrook