

St. Mary of the Angels

Address Malpas Street, Guyra

Ph: 02 67791661 Fax: 67792016

Email: stma_guy@arm.catholic.edu.au

Parish Priest: Fr. Simon Leworthy

Parish: Guyra

Principal: Mrs. Sharon Wittig



Annual School Report 2006

Mission/Vision Statement

St. Mary's strives to develop each child spiritually, morally, emotionally, academically and physically to the individual's full potential, instilling self-discipline and self-worth.

St Mary's School Community works together to provide a Christian example and influence in the wider community, and to offer a choice of educational systems.

About this Report

St. Mary of the Angels 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 2006 and gives information about 2007 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. The validated report will be available on the CSO website early in the 2007 school year.

The school's Diocesan Education Consultant 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

The highlight of the 2006 school year for St Mary of the Angels was the announcement that an Australian Government Capital Grant had been approved to assist with the construction of a replacement school on our present school site. This project will include general learning areas, student amenities, covered areas, library, staffroom and administration block. The entire school community is looking forward with

great anticipation to this project. We are very appreciative of the wonderful support of the Catholic Schools Office in making this dream a reality.

In 2006 we ran a very successful partnership with Community Health designed to promote active lifestyles and healthy eating. Our statistics from height/weight screenings suggest that families in our school are not contributing to the nation's concerns about obesity and inactive children. We hope to continue this valuable partnership again this year.

Also 2006 saw the introduction of A-E reporting. This process involved much soul searching and hard work for our staff. I thank our parent body for the open minded way that they accepted this new legislation. With further demands by both State and Federal Governments I am sure that we will be busy perfecting this assessment and reporting process for a number of years to come.

Transition from one school to another can be a very trying and difficult time for some students. We welcomed the partnership with O'Connor Catholic College that made the transition to high school a non-threatening and smooth process for our senior students. Once again we ran a very successful transition program for students entering Kindergarten in 2007. This program ran one day a week for the 2006 school year. This program helped students prepare for school by developing social skills, pre-reading and writing skills and introducing them to activities across all KLAs.

Faith formation and spiritual growth were a priority for the students and staff. Endeavours in this area help to ensure that our school maintains and promotes its Catholic identity. This work was further strengthened by the

work done to implement the "Values For Australian Schooling" and the "National Safe Schools Framework".

Parental Involvement

During 2006 parental involvement was welcomed by St Mary of the Angels school. Again, the partnership between home and school was strengthened by the cooperative efforts of parents and staff. The School Board, in its advisory role, helped to set and deliver a realistic budget that placed the school in a sound financial position. The Board also gave guidance in the writing of policy and procedure. It was our pleasure to reply to correspondence from Bishop Matthys on the future of Catholic schools. A highlight of board meetings in 2006 was the proposed building of a new school and the discussions centred on the design proposal. We look forward to the beginning of this project in 2007.

St Mary of the Angels P & F were very active in 2006. Their major fundraiser, a Seafood Night, was a credit to all involved. Fundraising efforts allowed the purchase of classroom readers, art and literacy stands and other valuable resources to make learning more interesting and rewarding for our students. The P & F also contributed to ensuring that the school mission statement was fulfilled by creating a welcoming environment where a sense of community prevails. Their work at carnivals, Masses and community based events helped to make our school a special place.

During 2006 parental involvement was also welcomed within the classroom. Parents assisted teachers in literacy, maths, art and sporting activities. They also helped to provide transport to and from excursions and inter-school visits.

Board Chairperson

Student Leadership

Being a student leader at St Mary of the Angels school is a very important responsibility. All Year Six students have the opportunity of being school leaders. At our Blessing Mass we make a commitment to our school community that we will act as good role models and do the best job that we can.

As student leaders we accept responsibility for helping with jobs around the school. We also have the chance to run school assemblies and organise sporting competitions. Student Leaders also help to organise the use of sporting equipment. This means that we can

use the school's equipment during morning, recess and lunch breaks. With lots of equipment available we have very active students and because everyone is busy playing we don't usually have any bullying.

Because our school is small the Student Leaders are careful to make sure that we really look after the smaller children. We help them to organise games and we help them to sort out little problems. Being a Student Leader is a very rewarding job.

Year Six

School Profile

School History

St Mary of the Angels Primary School Guyra was established in 1919 with the Ursuline Sisters, and is located on the Northern Tablelands. St Mary of the Angels is currently staffed by lay teachers and provides an outstanding education for students from K-6. The schools current enrolment is 45 students.

Location/Drawing Area

St Mary of the Angels is located on the Northern Tablelands being a rural community. The majority of our students are from the township and the remainder of our students travel on buses from the outlying farming districts

Enrolment Policy

St. Mary of the Angels 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
2004	30	19	39
2005	28	20	48
2006	33	12	45

Student Mobility

Due to travel arrangements and difficulties during the drought we had a family of three children move to a school closer to the family property.

Student Attendance

The average daily attendance for 2006 was 89.1%.

Structuring of Classes

In 2006 there were three composite classes averaging 15 students per classroom. Composite classes comprised K/1, 2/3 and 4/5/6.

Staff Profile

The staff of nine includes the Principal, three class teachers and a teacher librarian. All teachers have teaching qualifications from a higher education institution from within Australia; one teacher has a graduate Diploma in Literacy, two have a Bachelor of Education Degree, two have a Diploma in Teaching and one has a Bachelor of Arts Degree. Support staff include two part-time Teacher Assistants and a part-time secretary. St Mary of the Angels staffing allocation allows for three class groupings. We have two teachers with over twenty years of teaching experience, two teachers with ten to twenty years experience and one teacher in her fourth year of teaching. 100% of staff will be returning for the 2007 school year.

The staff attendance figure is not reported as the number of teachers in the school is smaller than the threshold for which this information is provided.

The average expenditure per teacher on professional learning for 2006 was \$2096.04.

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

Staff Professional Learning

During 2006 St Mary of the Angels School continued its whole school commitment to participation in Quality Learning. This has allowed staff to improve student outcomes through a better understanding of higher level thinking skills and improved programming techniques. All staff completed the Gifted and Talented Modules and Modules 3 and 4 of the new K-2 Religious Education Curriculum.

School commitment to Count Me In Too (CMIT) and improved maths teaching was supported by professional learning on Assessment, Space and Geometry and also with revision sessions on CMIT and Counting On.

Six staff members completed Senior First Aid courses and all staff attended training on Anaphalaxis. One teacher attended the Professional Assault Response Training (PART). Individual teachers also participated in a wide range of additional professional development opportunities covering Religious Education, PDHPE, Additional Needs and Information Technology. Training on SAS was also completed to allow student reporting to move to the new A - E reporting scales.

Catholic Identity

Religious Education Program

St. Mary of the Angels 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

Masses were celebrated each Monday morning with students taking an active part in the presentation of Liturgies. Mass themes were carefully selected to enhance learning about the liturgical seasons and to complement themes being studied in class. During 2006 there was an increase in the number of students who trained as altar servers.

Staff and Student Faith Formation

Students at St Mary of the Angels celebrated the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Faith formation was strengthened with the implementation of the K-2 RE Curriculum. A member of staff completed the requirements for a Master of Arts Theological Studies. Ongoing faith formation for staff was encouraged through staff prayer, attendance at retreat days and spiritual growth days. Staff were encouraged to lead by example in attending Mass at the weekends. During 2006 staff spirituality was promoted through a well attended weekly Lenten program.

Year 6 Religious Education Test

	Diocesan	This School
Average score 2004	51.6	58.5
2005	58.5	68.9
2006	66.5	58.9

Social Justice

Social Justice is an integral part of the Religious Education Curriculum with social justice issues being addressed within individual teaching units. Students and staff supported Project Compassion, Children's Mission Week and St Vincent de Paul. A special unit on Social Justice was covered in Term 3 with many of our students receiving major prizes in the Commission for Social Justice Competition.

Respect and Responsibility

St Mary of the Angels actively promotes the "Values For Australian Schooling" with respect and responsibility being a major focus. Our student leaders act as great role models for younger students and accept responsibility for specific tasks around the school. During 2006 the school contributed to society and civic life through participation in Anzac and Remembrance Days, Clean Up Australia Schools Day and other community/school initiatives. The values of Care and Compassion were modelled in weekly visits to the local aged care facility and participation in Seniors Week celebrations.

School Curriculum

This 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 feature of the school curriculum at St Mary of the Angels is the dedication of staff to addressing the individual needs of students. Data from Basic Skills Testing and other school assessments is carefully analysed to ensure that work programmed is engaging and at an appropriate level for all students. Individual programming is used to cater for funded students and other targeted students.

Environmental Education continues to be a priority with students taking an active role in environmental activities that will help them to form positive attitudes for the future. Students were involved in Clean Up Australia, recycling workshops, Streamwatch and an aboriginal heritage day. A strong partnership was evident between local council, Landcare and our school to make environmental education meaningful.

Healthy eating and active lifestyles are issues that are important for all students. A wonderful

partnership was initiated between our school and Community Health to promote these important issues. Students participated in a height/weight screening and healthy eating initiatives were promoted at school and at home.

During 2006 our Transition into Kindergarten program operated for one day each week. This program was invaluable in preparing children for a smooth transition from pre-school to Kindergarten. Students entering school come with a wide range of social and academic skills and student achievement is accelerated. A very successful transition to high school program was also conducted with O'Connor Catholic College.

St Mary of the Angels is also proud of our achievements in the integration of disabled students into our school environment.

Student Performance

The 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 state-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.

Basic Skills Test

There were nine Year 3 and six Year 5 students who sat for the 2006 Basic Skills Test. Year 3 is reported in Bands 1-5; Year 5 in Bands 1-6, with Bands 5 and 6 respectively being the highest.

Year 3

Literacy: 55% of students were in Bands 1 and 2, with 0% of students in Band 5. The best performance was in Writing, followed by Reading and Language.

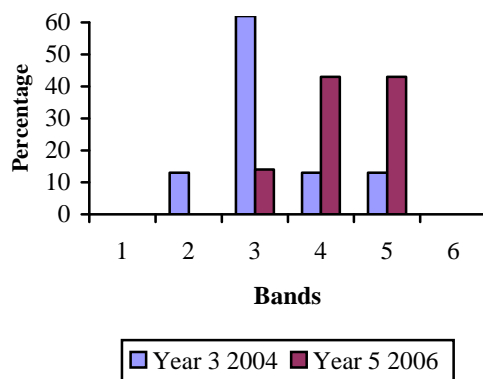
Numeracy: 22% of students were in Bands 1 and 2, with 0% of students in Band 5. The best performance was in Number, followed by Space and Measurement.

Year 5

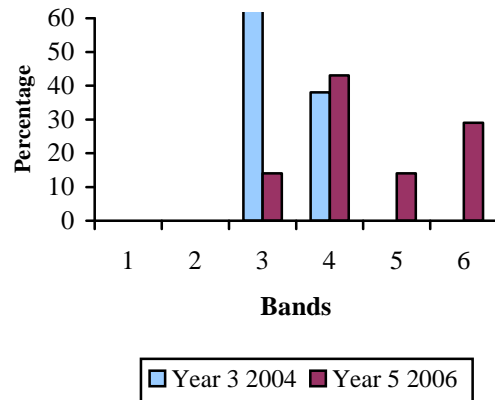
Literacy: 0% of students were in Bands 1 and 2, with 43% of students in Bands 5 and 6. The best performance was in Writing, followed by Reading and Language.

Numeracy: 0% of students were in Bands 1 and 2, with 43% of students in Bands 5 and 6. The best performance was in Measurement, followed by Number and Space.

Learning Gain — Literacy



Learning Gain — Numeracy



National Benchmarks

The table below indicates as a percentage the Year 3 and Year 5 of students achieving the national benchmarks.

	Year 3		Year 5	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
Reading	100	77	100	100
Writing	100	89	100	100
Numeracy	100	89	100	100

Note: National Benchmarks not included as they have not yet been published

School Policy Summary

Student Welfare

St. Mary of the Angels 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*.

No changes were made to Pastoral Care Policies during the 2006 school year.

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

During 2006 a need for supporting students in times of family stress was identified. One staff

member trained in the Seasons program which assists children to deal with issues of grief and loss. The Seasons program will be delivered early in 2007 as part of our school's Pastoral Care.

Discipline Policy

The 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 from the school office.

No changes were made to Discipline Policy during the 2006 school year.

Complaints and Grievance Resolution Policy

The 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 from the school office.

Parent, Student and Staff Satisfaction

Responses to the parents, students and staff surveys were very positive. They all saw the school as a positive, friendly and very caring place of learning. Parents noted the work of teachers in addressing the individual needs of students. There was also recognition of the sense of partnership and community that exists.

The delivery of ICT skills was identified as an area of weakness especially in terms of being able to provide up to date, efficient computer and internet systems. This needs to be a priority for 2007.

Staff expressed concern about the new reporting system. They would like further professional development at a diocesan level to help give confidence that grades given are consistent at a school, diocesan and state level.

Our students are very happy but of course they would like more sport, more excursions and no homework.

Great excitement was also expressed about the building of a new school in 2007. Parents, staff and students are all keen to see this project under way as soon as possible.

School Review and Development

Annual School Priorities 2006

- Continued commitment to improving learning outcomes through involvement in Quality Learning Program
- Successful implementation of new K-2 Religion Syllabus
- To improve student learning outcomes in Space and Measurement as identified in school analysis of BST data
- Policy development and review in areas of attendance and security
- Systematic approach to maintenance and building improvement as identified in School Maintenance documents
- Review of all assessment and reporting practices in light of new government requirements

Projected School Priorities 2007

Careful preparation for School Educational Audit and successful writing of follow up Strategic Management Plan to guide future directions

Improvement in the delivery of ICT skills through upgrading of computer and internet services

The development of a school website

Improved learning outcomes in literacy and numeracy as identified in the 2007 Literacy and Numeracy Plan

Revision of homework policy and procedures

Development of a Casual Teacher Package to provide guidance in Child Protection and School Policy and Procedure

Ensure that additional activities are carefully linked to outcomes and become an integral part of the teaching program

To work closely with the Parish and new Parish Priest to develop a sense of continuity and community in light of the departure of the Dominican Sisters

To access professional development at school and diocesan level to give teachers confidence in implementing the new A-E reporting system

Smooth progress through all steps involved in the building of a new school at St Mary of the Angels.

Major Achievements from the 2006 Annual Plan

The K-2 Religious Education Curriculum was successfully implemented with all staff across the school completing professional development in all four training modules. Resourcing this program was also a high priority with class sets of KWL and appropriate Big Books being purchased to complement the narrative approach.

Teachers and students benefited from the knowledge gained through participation in the Quality Learning Program. Teachers became familiar with teaching strategies that encourage higher order thinking skills and the teaching of a more diverse curriculum.

Intensive sessions in mathematics saw an improvement in student performance in space and measurement. We need to continue to focus on this area, especially the Space concepts in stages 2 and 3.

Policy development and review continued with new policies and procedures being implemented to cover school security and student attendance.

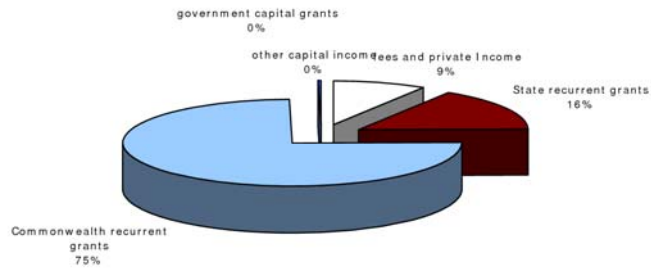
Assessment and reporting were a major focus for 2006 with the school moving to A-E

reporting using the SAS software. Parents were well informed of new developments through newsletters, School Board and P & F input and through presentations at school assemblies. This will continue to be a priority in 2007.

While basic maintenance and building improvement continued, our priorities in this area have changed in light of the successful CGBA Grant that will allow the building of a new school on the present school grounds. The school community is looking forward to this project with great enthusiasm.

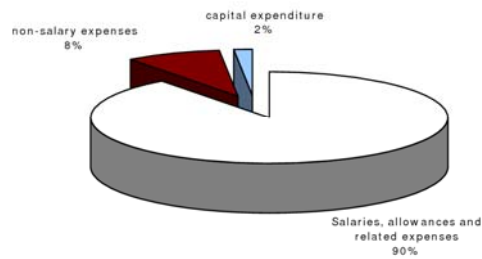
Financial Statement

St Mary of the Angels, GUYRA 2006



fees and private income ■ State recurrent grants ■ Commonwealth recurrent grants ■ government capital grants ■ other capital income

St Mary of the Angels, GUYRA 2006



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's Diocesan Education Consultant.

Rick Johnston
Director of Schools

Sharon Wittig
Principal