PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

This Principal’s Report is taken from the Annual Report to the School Community which will be uploaded to the State Register in a couple of weeks and is part of our compliance requirements.

At St. Mary’s we value each child as a unique gift from God, something to cherish, to love and to respect. We hope that each child who enters St. Mary’s experiences a unique education, one filled with great adventures in learning, and one where Jesus Christ is the centre of all we do and all we are.

In 2013:

- Our Learning and Teaching focus through 2013 was the implementation of and reporting on the new AusVELS Curriculum in English, Mathematics, History & Science. This was supported by our Learning & Teaching and Maths Leaders attending Professional Development sessions and then working extensively with staff in Staff Meetings, Professional Learning Team Meetings and attending Level Planning sessions.
- Our Year 5/6 teachers and Literacy Co-ordinator attended a number of Professional Development days to support our implementation of Reading to Learn to improve our children’s outcomes in Literacy.
- We supported our focus in Mathematics by engaging Mr. Rob Vangerhoets (Maths Consultant & author) to run a parent workshop which was well attended by school families.
- Initiated “Need to Read” sessions for families before school and the occasional evening session.
- Joined in partnership with Mobil Refinery to establish a Science and Environment project.
- In the Religious Education area we celebrated our second combined celebration of Mary MacKillop’s Feast Day with St. Leo The Great School at St. Leo’s. We look forward to celebrating at St. Mary’s this year.
- Development of Prep – Year Six school based Social Justice Units.
- We reviewed our Discipline Policy and practices working with external experts (Patrice Wiseman and Marg Armstrong). We implemented a revised Behaviour Management Policy including our Restorative Practices.
- We continued our implementation of “Kids Matter” – an Australian Primary Schools Mental Health Initiative.
- Our Walk/Ride to School Days and our Walking School Bus (on National Active Transport Days) remain very well supported with a high participation rate.
- The Parents & Friends Association again worked tirelessly in their two fold role within the school. That being: the enhancing of the welcoming, supportive and inclusive community that is St. Mary’s and also in fundraising for the school. Two highlights of the year were: The Family Film Night and The School Disco.
- School Education Board members continued their valued contribution to the many and varied issues discussed. This two way communication is fundamental to the successful ongoing management and improvement of our school.
- I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Julie Whatman and Lyn Longaretti for their valuable contribution and appreciated support over the past four years and to Simon Hussey and Grant Simonds during their time on the Board.
- Thank you also to Fr Paul Tru for his ongoing support and guidance
- Finally to all current and future Board members for finding the time in their busy schedules and life’s to make such a valued and worthwhile contribution to our school. Thank you.

David Kelly