Principal’s Foreword
Introduction

St Mary’s School is a Catholic Archdiocesan co-educational primary school located in the fertile Lockyer Valley at Laidley. Laidley is just over an hour’s drive South-West of Brisbane and can be accessed via the Warrego Highway. Our school is located in a growing area that includes the suburbs of Hatton Vale, Grandchester, Summerholm, Glenore Grove, Kensington Grove, Brightview, Forest Hill and the Laidley Valleys. St Mary’s School is located in the heart of Laidley with an amazing outlook over fields of cultivation up into the Mulgowie Valley. At present St Mary’s has an enrolment of 268 students from Prep to Year 7.

St Mary’s School is regarded highly for its focus on the individual and especially that each student is respected and valued. Our school culture is built around the understanding of respect. Respect for self, respect for others and respect for the environment in which we live and learn. It is these values that translate into the relationships between students, staff and parents. This culture of respect and being valued is strengthened through the modelled leadership of the school.

School Profile

St Mary’s Catholic Primary School is a Catholic school administered through Catholic Education, Archdiocese of Brisbane.

Coeducational [☑] or Single Sex [☐]

Year levels offered: Primary [☑] Secondary [☐] P-12 [☐]

Total student enrolments for this school 219

Total Enrolment 219 Girls 101 Boys 118
Characteristics of the student body

The student body is made up of 268 students coming from 184 families with a variety of cultural, religious and socio-economic backgrounds. These cultural backgrounds include: Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander, Samoan, Vietnamese, Japanese, Dutch, Filipino, English and Chilean. Families affiliate with a variety of Religions including: Catholic 46%, Anglican 15%, Lutheran 7%, Baptist 2%, Other Christian Religions 2% and 28% are either have stated they have no-religion or have not stated a religion.

St Mary’s School is a National Partnerships School as many of our families come from low SES backgrounds. Many students live within the local area with some coming in from local farms within the Lockyer Valley.

St Mary’s caters for students with a range of needs. Over the years St Mary’s has catered for students with hearing impairments, vision impairments, cerebral palsy, autism, social emotional difficulties and physical impairments. In 2012 St Mary’s had 12 verified students working on individual education programs. Through a range of curriculum and extra curricular activities we also cater for students who are naturally gifted and talented.

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

At St Mary’s the school curriculum is student centred aligned to the Australian Curriculum. Presently we are working towards the full implementation of Australian Curriculum as each of the new Key Learning Areas are introduced. St Mary’s aims to provide a curriculum that is specifically framed to meet the needs of the students in each class. It is focused on meeting the student’s academic, spiritual, physical and social needs through a range of student-directed and teacher-directed learning experiences. These prepared learning experiences consider the needs of the individuals at St Mary’s and are aimed to be meaningful, fun, challenging, play-based, integrated and flexible. In accordance with the Brisbane Catholic Education Guidelines, we aim to build “foundations for learning which are life long and life giving”.
Extra curricula activities

At St Mary’s School we provide a number of different activities that compliment the day to day teaching of students. These activities are an important part of school life here at St Mary’s and would often not happen if it weren’t for the generosity of many staff, parents and other community members. These community contributors through their willingness, generosity and talent allow our students to experience a wide range of other activities. We acknowledge their gifts and talents and thank them sincerely for their support. These activities include choir, chess club, inter-school sport, speed-soccer, cross country, athletics, swimming, Auskick and dance.

How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning

Improving Information and Communication Technologies within St Mary's has been a key focus over the past few years. St Mary's now has a bank of 60 laptop computers for student use within the school. These computers can be used within both a Computer Lab or taken into individual classroom and can connect wirelessly to the school network and internet in all areas of the school. Digital camera's and digit video camera’s are also used to develop photo stories, Powerpoint presentations and written reports within a variety of classrooms from Prep to Year 7. A number of software programs have also been purchased or subscribed to, too enhance student learning. These resources provide up-to-date interesting, student centred learning activities and children thoroughly enjoy using the programs in their everyday school work. All classrooms are fitted with either interactive whiteboards or interactive data-projectors. Other technologies include iPads, Bee Bots, Easy Speak Microphones and Handy Scanners.

Social climate inclusive of pastoral care and our response to bullying

The St Mary’s Learning Community prides itself on being supportive and welcoming. These attributes guide the interactions between students, staff, parents and the wider parish community. Students, staff and parents have opportunities to be involved in pastoral care projects and activities such as:

- Buddy groups
- The Virtues Program
- School Liturgies and Masses
- Catholic Mission Appeal
- St Vincent De Paul
- St Mary’s Care and Concern
- KidsMatter
- All school rules are based around respect and bullying is not tolerated at any level.
Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Overall Parents, Students and Staff are highly satisfied with the St Mary’s Learning Community and this is shown through the highly positive feedback received through the St Mary’s P&F, St Mary’s School Board and also reflected in our External Review Report conducted during 2010. Each year since 2010 a School Renewal Dinner has been held to gain feedback from parents on six components that were being reviewed. This review process was outstanding and all parents present were able to share their thoughts and discuss them fully whilst also having the opportunity to contribute to the overall rating of each component. After the success of this event it has been decided that it will continue to be used as a means of collecting constructive, quality feedback. Students also have a voice through the Student Council and also through the School Renewal Process. It is through everyday engagement and more formal settings that we are able to gain a good picture of the high level of student satisfaction.

Parent involvement in their child’s education

At St Mary’s we recognise that parents are and always will be the primary educators of their children. With this in mind we aim to support, promote and build on this foundation through encouraging parent involvement within the school.

At St Mary’s we see parents as a key stakeholder in the three way partnership of student education and is therefore highly valued and appreciated. Parent help occurs in a variety of ways from direct support in Reading, Perceptual Motor Programs, excursion helpers, swimming instructors through to indirect support including book covering, working bees, tuckshop, assistance with Munch and Crunch preparation and assisting with grounds maintenance. Along with these areas the St Mary’s P&F also works hard to organise social activities for the St Mary’s Learning Community. Parental assistance is both welcomed and encouraged as our school learning environment is enhanced through their ongoing support.

Staff Profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workforce Composition</th>
<th>Teaching Staff</th>
<th>Non-teaching Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Headcounts</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time equivalents</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>8.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Qualifications of all teachers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highest level of attainment</th>
<th>Percentage of teachers and leaders at the school attaining this level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctorate</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masters</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Graduate Diploma/Certificate</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelors Degree</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diploma/Certificate</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Expenditure on and teacher participation in Professional Learning

The total funds expended on teacher professional learning in 2012 was $25,207.

The major professional development initiatives were as follows:

- Implementation of Australian Curriculum - Maths
- Training and Implementation of Reading 2 Learn
- Supporting students with individual needs - Autism Queensland
- Understanding ASD Students & Aspergers
- KidsMatter
- First Aid and CPR
- Coaching

School Income by Funding Source

School income broken down by funding source is available via the My School website at http://www.myschool.edu.au/.

To access our school income details, click on the My School link above. You will then be taken to the My School website with the following: ‘Find a school’ text box.

Where it says ‘Search by school name’, type in the name of the school you wish to view, and select <GO>. Read and follow the instructions on the next screen; you will be asked to accept the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy before being given access to the school's My School entry web page.

School financial information is available by selecting ‘School finances’ in the menu box in the top left corner of the school’s entry web page.

Average staff attendance rate

The staff attendance rate was 96.60% in 2012.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the 2011 school year, 100% of staff were retained by the school for the 2012 year.

Key Student Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Whole School Attendance Rate</th>
<th>93.4%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep Attendance Rate</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1 Attendance Rate</td>
<td>94.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2 Attendance Rate</td>
<td>90.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3 Attendance Rate</td>
<td>94.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4 Attendance Rate</td>
<td>93.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5 Attendance Rate</td>
<td>93.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6 Attendance Rate</td>
<td>92.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7 Attendance Rate</td>
<td>94.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Policy and practice to manage student attendance

Student attendance is managed at many levels, from the classroom right through to administration. Where there is a number of consecutive absences without explanation a phone call is made to the family. Support staff can also be involved in the process with the Student Pastoral Worker and/or Guidance Counsellor being involved pro-actively to assist families. Ongoing student attendance is consistently managed through the analysis of attendance records by our administration staff. Any anomalies are followed up by the school to ensure the best interests of the student’s learning are being considered.

Student Achievement – NAPLAN for Years 3, 5, 7

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results – our reading writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the relevant years.

Our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the relevant years are available via the My School website at http://www.myschool.edu.au/.

To access our NAPLAN results, click on the My School link above. You will then be taken to the My School website with the following ‘Find a school’ text box.

Where it says ‘Search by school name’, type in the name of the school whose NAPLAN results you wish to view, and select <GO>’. Read and follow the instructions on the next screen; you will be asked to accept the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy before being able to access our NAPLAN data.