



Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn
CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE

MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL

Yass, NSW

2013 Annual Report



SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: 24 Dutton Street Yass NSW 2582

Principal: Mrs Gaye McManus

Parish Priest / School Chaplain: Fr Mick Burke

School Board / Council Chair: Mrs Lara Kirk

Telephone: 02 6226 3357

Fax: 02 6226 3033

Email: office.mtcarmel@cg.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.mtcarmel.nsw.edu.au

This report was prepared by:

Gaye McManus

PRINCIPAL

MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Principal's Message

Our community at Mt Carmel School Yass believes that its mission is to encourage each individual to achieve their personal best in a meeting place where Christ's teachings are learned and lived. In promoting the value of life long learning, we provide a unique K-10 educational environment which motivates and challenges each student to achieve their best within a Catholic context. We educate the whole child – intellectually, spiritually, physically, socially and emotionally. A strong academic program is provided which includes Religious Education. This is supported by a safe and caring family oriented community with teaching and support staff who are professional, dedicated educators.

School Board Message

As well as meeting regularly to manage and monitor policy, budgets and infrastructure maintenance, the Mt Carmel School Board sought to actively support staff, parents and the parish in the following initiatives: introduction of electronic communication systems, new anti-bullying initiatives and promotion of the school; streamlining financial and staffing arrangements for the canteen and consideration of sports uniform changes; support to sister school in Timor Leste, refurbishment of the historic Lovat Chapel and employment of a Youth pastoral associate. Promotion of the outstanding academic results and co-curricula secondary life at Mt Carmel will be a focus for 2014. Board Chair - Lara Kirk

Student Representative's Message

It is hard to believe that our school journey at Mt Carmel has come to an end. We have many fantastic memories and have seen so much change to our learning environment. The students and staff are enthusiastic and supportive of each other in a very special way, unique to Mt Carmel. Learning at Mt Carmel goes beyond the classroom into all aspects of school life. These things are treasures difficult to find in larger schools and our time here will always be fondly remembered. It has been an honour representing and leading the students this year. We wish Mt Carmel all the very best for the future. School Captains - Eleanor Fry and Patrick Dodd

SCHOOL FEATURES

Mt Carmel School is a Catholic Central School located in Yass. The school caters for students in Kindergarten – Year 10, and has a current enrolment of 377 students. Students attending this school come from a variety of backgrounds and nationalities consisting of 52% male and 48% female students and 5% indigenous students.

The school employs 37 staff comprising 29 teachers and 8 non-teaching staff, the latter being employed in a variety of capacities including learning support, office support, canteen manager and grounds officer.

It has been an exciting year at Mt Carmel School as we strived to achieve our personal best. As identified in our school's strategic plan, we have worked to achieve the following:

* An authentic Catholic school focusing on empathy, kindness and a strong sense of service to others

- * Using our gifts and skills to provide contemporary spaces, challenging learning experiences and a quality Catholic education
- * Celebrating the identity of this Catholic school and enhance the faith life of each individual
- * Building strong and respectful relationships with one another, with families, with Parish and with the wider community
- * Actively developing staff and student leadership to see ourselves as leaders in this community and beyond, as well as endeavouring to ensure resources are targeted and distributed equitably to meet the needs of the Mt Carmel community

Mt Carmel School has been home to Catholic education in the Yass Valley for over 160 years. Set amongst magnificent heritage buildings, Mt Carmel is proud of its Mercy ethos and its Catholic values which are embodied in the school's Mission Statement. Mt Carmel has been able to offer extra curricular programs such as Singfest, Premier's Reading Challenge, Music, Art, Dance and Drama (MADD) evening, instrumental music tuition including piano, voice, flute, violin, guitar, drums and keyboard, representative sporting opportunities, School Discos, Senior Performing Arts Evening, Year 5 and 6 Camp, Walkathon, Year 7 Sydney Camp and Year 10 Retreat to Mulgoa. Students also participated in the ICAS competitions prepared by the University of New South Wales and the da Vinci Decathlon as well as a Year 6 Mathematics Enrichment Day. School celebrations included Shrove Tuesday Pancakes, Reconciliation Week, Roald Dahl Day, Book Week Parade, Mt Carmel Day Mass and Activities, Christmas Concert, Year 10 Farewell Assembly, Year 10 Graduation Mass and Dinner and Presentation Evening. Through their hardworking efforts, the Parents and Friends Association has raised funds through such events as a Golf Day, Trivia Night, Chocolate Drive, volunteering at the Yass Running Festival and a Winetasting Evening.

The school's website can be found at www.mtcarmel.nsw.edu.au

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mt Carmel School follows the Archdiocesan Religious Education Curriculum, *Treasures New and Old*.

Religious Education is the foundational element of Mt Carmel School. As part of the curriculum, it allows students at Mt Carmel School to study topics that are both challenging and formative within the Christian religious tradition. The Archdiocesan Religious Education curriculum provides outcomes that are linked to all Key Learning Areas thus providing a sense of the sacred in all subjects. The K-10 school community gathers each Monday morning for prayer in the primary playground. For the remainder of the week secondary students have morning prayer in their homeroom, with primary students still gathering in the primary playground. Parish based, family centred and school supported sacramental programs prepare our children for receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. Special prayer services are prepared to recognise Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Easter, Anzac Day, Remembrance Day, Fathers Day, Mothers Day and the Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. School Masses are celebrated each term: Opening School Mass, Feast of our Lady Help of Christians, Feast of Our Lady of Mt Carmel and the Year 10

Graduation Mass. Year 9 and 10 students are invited to participate in the Catholic Youth Ministry team which assists with the sacramental program in the younger years.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT - NAPLAN

Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sat the *National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy* (NAPLAN) in May this year. NAPLAN assessment results provide valuable information about student achievements in Literacy and Numeracy. An analysis of these results assists school planning and is used to support teaching and learning programs.

School and National Mean Scale Scores

YEAR 3	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	419	416	411	428	397
School	440	436	434	446	404

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	502	478	494	501	486
School	509	491	489	522	492

YEAR 7	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	540	517	549	535	542
School	556	530	559	553	552

YEAR 9	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	580	554	583	573	584
School	615	609	586	632	587

Proportion of students at or above the National Minimum Standard

YEAR 3	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	95%	95%	94%	95%	96%
School	98%	98%	98%	100%	100%

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	96%	92%	93%	95%	93%
School	100%	100%	97%	97%	97%

YEAR 7	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	94%	89%	94%	91%	95%
School	96%	100%	100%	93%	100%

YEAR 9	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	93%	83%	92%	88%	91%
School	95%	93%	93%	93%	88%

Proportion of students in each Achievement Band

YEAR 3	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 6	42%	26%	26%	35%	11%
Band 5	14%	35%	30%	33%	23%
Band 4	19%	28%	28%	9%	43%
Band 3	16%	7%	12%	9%	18%
Band 2	7%	2%	2%	14%	5%
Band 1	2%	2%	2%	0%	0%

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 8	14%	6%	3%	17%	6%
Band 7	14%	11%	23%	31%	11%
Band 6	40%	34%	34%	20%	46%
Band 5	31%	46%	29%	26%	29%
Band 4	0%	3%	9%	3%	6%
Band 3	0%	0%	3%	3%	3%

YEAR 7	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 9	19%	11%	22%	19%	14%
Band 8	12%	15%	4%	11%	18%
Band 7	23%	7%	26%	33%	29%
Band 6	27%	37%	44%	28%	25%
Band 5	15%	30%	4%	0%	14%
Band 4	4%	0%	0%	7%	0%

YEAR 9	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 10	13%	15%	0%	31%	14%
Band 9	13%	15%	15%	15%	14%
Band 8	40%	31%	39%	23%	14%
Band 7	13%	31%	31%	23%	35%
Band 6	20%	8%	15%	8%	14%
Band 5	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%

The above tables show students in all year levels have performed above the National mean in all strands of Literacy and Numeracy with the exception of spelling in one year level. The school's focus on Numeracy in recent years is beginning to have a positive effect on student achievement of outcomes. Quality teaching in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy will continue to be a focus in staff professional learning with an emphasis in 2014 on rich learning strategies and assessment tasks. The school is proud of the efforts of students in all cohorts.

SCHOOL POLICIES

Enrolment Policy

In enrolling students we are directed by the Archdiocesan Enrolment Policy which can be found on the Annual Report page of the school's website or on the Catholic Education Office website at <http://www.ceocg.catholic.edu.au/parents/Pages/GeneralPolicies.aspx>
Mt Carmel School's Enrolment Policy is in keeping with the requirements of CEO policy.

Attendance Policy

Mt Carmel School's Attendance Policy is in keeping with the requirements of relevant legislation, CEO policy and statutory bodies and is available to parents on the school's website or at the front office.

Pastoral Care Policy

The principles of Restorative Justice are embedded in the school's Pastoral Care Policy. These principles include: acknowledging the inevitability of conflict and hurt in relationships, working towards healing by repairing relationships as well as learning and growing from the experience. Staff, students and parents are supportive of the need to provide a safe and caring learning environment. The Policy acknowledges teacher and student rights and responsibilities and is based on Christ's teachings of love for self and others. The school has implemented the School Wide Positive Behaviours Strategy which focuses on being respectful, responsible and a learner.

Corporal punishment is expressly prohibited in this school. In addition we do not sanction the administering of corporal punishment by non-school persons to enforce discipline at our school.

The full text of the school's Pastoral Care Policy is available on the school website or from the Front Office.

Complaints and Grievances Resolution Policy

The school policy is based on procedural fairness and recognises that parents and caregivers must have access to processes that allow them to resolve concerns in a supportive and conciliatory environment. Any concerns raised are responded to promptly and fairly and confidentiality is always maintained. A full text of the school policy is available on the school website or from the Front Office.

PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

School priorities in 2013 focused on establishing effective tracking and monitoring of student performance, a secondary reading intervention, developing rich assessment tasks and planning for the implementation of the Australian Curriculum.

Our priorities for 2014 include:

1. effectively tracking and monitoring of student performance in Literacy and Numeracy
2. consolidating such resources as Tactical Teaching of Reading and First Steps Reading and Writing including spelling
3. continuing a Numeracy Intervention Program involving one-on-one assistance for students experiencing difficulty with mathematical concepts
4. professional learning about consistency of teacher judgment
5. establishing a professional learning community with a school-wide focus on teaching Numeracy using the National Teaching Standards
6. designing rich learning strategies and assessment tasks using the Understanding by Design model
7. implementing the Australian Curriculum

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AND TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Professional Learning

All teachers have been involved in professional learning during the year. These activities are designed to develop the skills and understandings of staff to improve student outcomes. Professional learning can take many forms including whole staff days, subject specific inservices, meetings and conferences.

The school held four (4) whole staff days in 2013. The content of these days was as follows:

Term 1: Assessment - Understanding by Design,

Term 3: NSW Australian Curriculum (2 days)

Term 4: Staff Spirituality focusing on Social Teaching

Teacher Qualifications

All teachers are qualified as required by the relevant State and Territory bodies.

TEACHER ATTENDANCE AND RETENTION

The average teacher attendance rate during 2013 was 96%.

The teacher retention rate from 2012 to 2013 was 88%.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

The average student attendance for the school during 2013 was 91%.

School attendance rates disaggregated by Year group are shown in the following table.

Attendance rates by Year group

Kindergarten	96%
Year 1	93%
Year 2	92%
Year 3	90%
Year 4	94%
Year 5	90%
Year 6	92%
Year 7	91%
Year 8	91%
Year 9	89%
Year 10	85%

Student Pathways and Post-School Destinations

Each year the school collects destination data relating to the Year 10 student cohort. All students continued with further senior secondary education in a systemic Catholic school, independent Catholic school or state high schools.

PARENT, TEACHER AND STUDENT SATISFACTION

The opinions of parents, students and teachers were sought covering a range of aspects including school effectiveness. Parents indicated their satisfaction with teachers being

committed in their approach to and enthusiasm for teaching and learning and being given the opportunity to be involved in school activities. Students appreciated teachers helping them with their work and expecting them to try their hardest. The students also indicated they felt safe and that the school expectation was to act respectfully and responsibly. Teachers welcomed and were very appreciative of the significant support and recognition from their colleagues who set good examples for the students. Teachers felt they had opportunities for professional development and that leadership staff review performance professionally. Teacher satisfaction was positive with all agreeing the school has clear goals and expectations. Overwhelmingly, teachers agreed that Mt Carmel School encourages a climate conducive to learning and students taking responsibility.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

