



Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn
CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE

MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL

Yass, NSW

2014 Annual Report



SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

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PRINCIPAL

MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Principal's Message

Our community at Mt Carmel School Yass believes 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. I acknowledge it has been a challenging year for everyone with the announcement of the closure of the secondary department. The Mt Carmel community continues to be resilient, hope filled and firmly focused on the teachings of Christ.

School Board Message

2014 has been unforgettable. The announcement of the decision to close the secondary was followed by months of negotiation and a united push to keep the secondary section of the school open. Our efforts were ultimately unsuccessful but we can hold our heads high knowing that we belong to a community that cares and knows how to pull together under pressure. We are a stronger, closer community at the end of 2014 than we were at the start. Mt Carmel Primary and St Augustine's Parish will keep that community spirit alive and will continue the proud 170 year tradition of Catholic education in Yass. Board Chair – Lara Kirk

Student Representative's Message

As our School prayer states, "Mt Carmel is a place of wonder, learning and peace, where the lessons of today prepare us for the challenges of tomorrow." Being a student at Mt Carmel, each day we are encouraged to "aspire not to have more, but to be more". As this year's captains we can safely say that we, along with the whole Mt Carmel community, have been every day striving to be better student leaders and better people of faith. Mt Carmel is about the people and this is what every school should be. We have beautiful old sandstone buildings but we are more than just a block of buildings. Mt Carmel is a community and we love it. School Captains – Olivia Muscat and Aodhan Kirk.

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 376 students.

Students attending this school come from a variety of backgrounds and nationalities consisting of 182 male and 194 female students; 16 indigenous students; and no students with a Language Background other than English (LBOTE). There are no staff of Indigenous descent at the school.

The school employs 35 staff comprising 27 teachers and 8 non-teaching staff, the latter being employed in a variety of capacities including learning support assistants, school officers, maintenance officer, canteen manager and canteen assistant.

In 2014, we have worked to achieve the following:

- an authentic Catholic school focusing on justice, kindness and a strong sense of service to others
- using our gifts and skills to provide contemporary learning spaces, challenging learning experiences and a quality Catholic education
- celebrating the identity of this Catholic school and enhancing 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 Central School has been home to Catholic education in the Yass Valley for over 170 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 Premier's Reading Challenge, Public Speaking, 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. School celebrations included Shrove Tuesday Pancakes, St Patrick's Day, 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 (P&F) has raised funds through such events as a Golf Day, Trivia Night and volunteering at the Yass Running Festival. The final P&F event for the year was a community focused Bush Dance.

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mt Carmel Central 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, All Saints, Feast of Christ the King, Advent, Mothers and Fathers 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	402	412	426	402
School	433	396	419	430	410

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	501	468	498	504	487
School	536	473	524	534	523

YEAR 7	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	546	512	545	544	546
School	556	505	567	562	543

YEAR 9	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	580	550	582	574	588
School	674	588	622	672	620

Proportion of students at or above the National Minimum Standard

YEAR 3	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	94%	94%	93%	94%	95%
School	96%	100%	98%	96%	98%

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	93%	90%	93%	93%	93%
School	98%	98%	98%	100%	100%

YEAR 7	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	95%	89%	93%	93%	95%
School	100%	90%	100%	100%	100%

YEAR 9	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	92%	82%	90%	90%	94%
School	100%	90%	100%	100%	100%

Proportion of students in each Achievement Band

YEAR 3	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 6	39%	2%	25%	30%	11%
Band 5	23%	32%	25%	27%	36%
Band 4	11%	16%	18%	21%	18%
Band 3	11%	43%	18%	11%	27%
Band 2	11%	7%	11%	7%	5%
Band 1	5%	0%	2%	5%	2%

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 8	22%	0%	16%	13%	18%
Band 7	31%	4%	33%	47%	21%
Band 6	22%	38%	24%	31%	41%
Band 5	13%	47%	20%	9%	14%
Band 4	9%	9%	4%	0%	7%
Band 3	2%	2%	2%	0%	0%

YEAR 7	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 9	11%	0%	15%	20%	10%
Band 8	32%	5%	40%	20%	20%
Band 7	26%	30%	20%	20%	20%
Band 6	16%	25%	15%	20%	35%
Band 5	16%	30%	10%	20%	15%
Band 4	0%	10%	0%	0%	0%

YEAR 9	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 10	44%	11%	33%	44%	0%
Band 9	11%	22%	11%	22%	22%
Band 8	45%	22%	0%	11%	67%
Band 7	0%	11%	56%	22%	0%
Band 6	0%	22%	0%	0%	11%
Band 5	0%	11%	0%	0%	0%

The above tables show students in all year levels have performed around or above the National mean in all strands of Literacy and Numeracy. 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 2015 on writing. The school is proud of the efforts of students in all cohorts. All students have achieved significantly as groups with diverse learning needs.

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 (CEO) website at <http://www.ceocq.catholic.edu.au/parents/Pages/GeneralPolicies.aspx>

Families are invited to contact the school for further information regarding the enrolment of their child.

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. In those instances where students become regular non-attenders without due reason the school implements the following to encourage attendance.

- Contact is made with the family through the Class Teacher.
- If this contact is unsuccessful the Assistant Principal will phone/arrange a meeting with the parents.
- A meeting will be arranged with the parents, student and Principal if further action is needed
- If this contact is unsuccessful in getting the student to resume school the Principal will notify the CEO. The CEO will provide feedback on whether an external person makes an appointment to speak with the parents and student.

Students may also be referred to outside agencies for assistance.

Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Policy

The principles of Restorative Justice are embedded in the school's Pastoral Care and Wellbeing 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 and responsible learners.

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 and Wellbeing 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 2014 focused on establishing

- effective tracking and monitoring of student performance,
- implementing problem solving strategies in the teaching of Mathematics and
- planning for the implementation of English and Mathematics in the NSW Australian Curriculum.

Our priorities for 2015 include:

- continuing to effectively track and monitor student performance in Literacy and Numeracy

- a school-wide focus on teaching Numeracy that continues the Numeracy Intervention Program involving one-on-one assistance for students experiencing difficulty and the explicit teaching of problem solving strategies in Mathematics
- developing strategies to encourage students to be motivated, persistent and proficient writers
- designing rich learning and assessment tasks using the Understanding by Design model
- implementing the NSW Australian Curriculum in History and Science and Technology
- implementing the Kids Matter program

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 five whole staff days in 2014. The content of these days was as follows: planning and programming, code of conduct and legal responsibilities, First Aid Training, NAPLAN data analysis, problem solving strategies in Mathematics, introduction to the Making Jesus Real program and developing personal professional learning plans.

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 2014 was 94%.

The teacher retention rate from 2013 to 2014 was 87%.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

The average student attendance for the school during 2014 was 94%.

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

Attendance rates by Year group

Kindergarten	94%
Year 1	94%
Year 2	93%
Year 3	94%
Year 4	94%
Year 5	96%
Year 6	95%

Year 7	92%
Year 8	94%
Year 9	92%
Year 10	92%

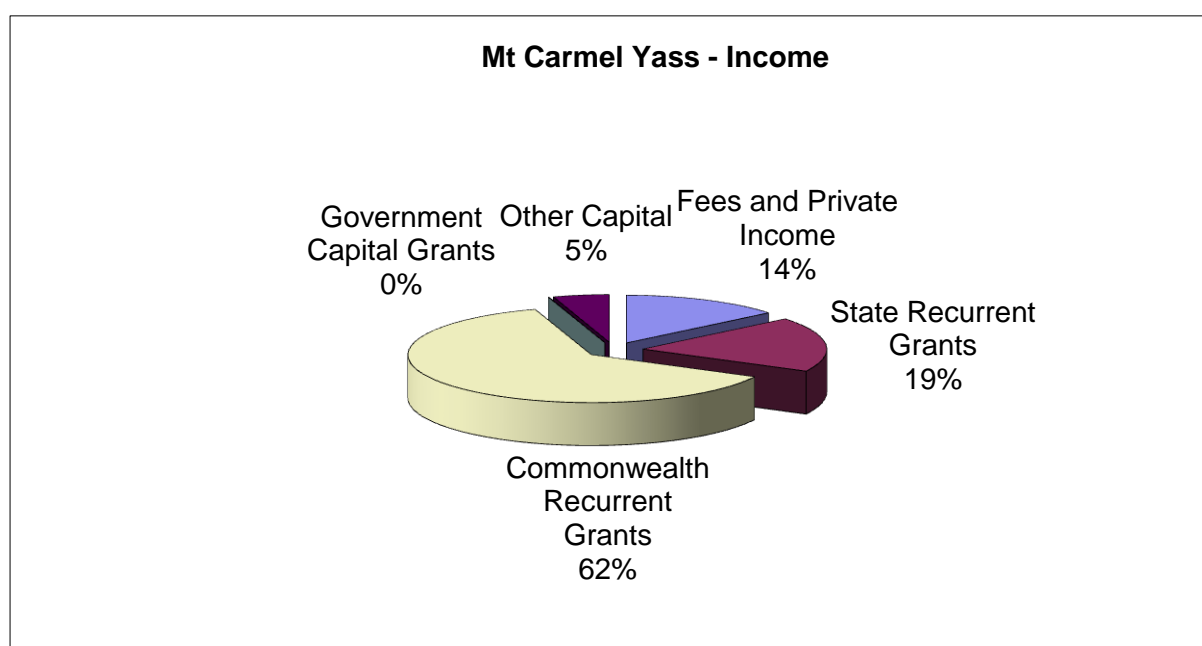
Student Pathways and Post-School Destinations

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. Surveys were provided to members of the school community. The survey instruments were simple four-scale tick boxes with space for comments. Parents indicated their satisfaction with teachers being committed in their approach to and enthusiasm for teaching and learning and that staff were approachable. They were satisfied with the education their child received and appreciated being given the opportunity to be involved in school activities. Students appreciated teachers expecting them to try their hardest and helping them with their work. The students indicated 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 agreed the school has clear goals and expectations, encourages student responsibility and leadership staff review performance effectively. Staff feel committed to the school and agreed that Mt Carmel School encourages a climate conducive to learning and students taking responsibility.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION



Mt Carmel Yass - Expenditure

