



Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn
CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE

MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL

Yass, NSW

2012 ANNUAL REPORT



SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

Address:	24 Dutton Street Yass NSW 2582
Principal:	Gaye McManus
Parish Priest:	Fr Mick Burke
School Board / Council Chair:	Mr Peter Cleary
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 dedicated, professional educators.

School Board Message

The School Board has met twice each term and worked together to approve and manage policies and budgets, and to ensure budget targets such as fee collection and spending remain within guidelines. The most significant outcome this year for Mt Carmel has been the official opening of the Naish Stormon Sport Fields and the Building Education Revolution refurbishments. I would like to thank the Mt Carmel Staff, P&F, Board members and all parent volunteers for the great contribution they make to the success of our school. Peter Cleary - Board Chair

Student Representative's Message

The relationship between the students and teachers at Mt Carmel is very special. Not only are they our teachers in the classroom but they are our mentors as well. Students and teachers share a trusting relationship with each other which assists us in our learning. The highlight this year was the friendships across all year levels. It has been stronger this year and we have really enjoyed the company and support of each other. School Captains - Jade Rayner and Tom Schlunke

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 386 students.

Students attending this school come from a variety of backgrounds and nationalities consisting of 50% male and 50% female students; 4% indigenous students; and 0% Language Background other than English (LBOTE).

The school employs 38 staff comprising 30 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. We concluded our major building programs with official openings in February and August. A new performing arts centre, Library with associated technology centres and three refurbished classrooms will allow us to better educate our students for the future. A state of the art sporting facility funded by Australian Government beckons the children each recess and lunch. As identified in our school's strategic plan, we have worked to achieve the following:

- * An authentic Catholic school focusing on empathy, compassion 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 Mercy ethos and 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 the Back to the 80s musical production with performances over three evenings, da Vinci Decathlon, 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 Geography Camp to Sydney. Students also participated in the ICAS competitions prepared by the University of New South Wales. School celebrations included Shrove Tuesday Pancakes, Roald Dahl Day, Book Week Parade, Mt Carmel Day Mass and Activities (staff cooked cupcakes for each student), Christmas Concert, Year 10 Farewell Assembly, Year 10 Graduation Mass and Dinner and Presentation Evening. The Parents and Friends Association has raised funds through hardworking efforts which included a Biscuit Baking Drive, Trivia Night, School Fete, catering for 140 teaching staff and Christmas Cards designed by the students of Mt Carmel.

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 liturgies 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 the Assumption (when we also celebrate

the 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	415	414	424	395
School	471	442	439	436	416

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	493	476	494	490	488
School	544	492	502	491	494

YEAR 7	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	541	518	543	546	538
School	584	555	562	575	545

YEAR 9	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	574	553	577	573	584
School	620	577	598	602	603

Proportion of students at or above the National Minimum Standard

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

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	92%	92%	93%	90%	93%
School	98%	100%	100%	96%	100%

YEAR 7	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	94%	90%	93%	95%	94%
School	94%	89%	94%	94%	94%

YEAR 9	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	91%	82%	90%	90%	93%
School	95%	86%	95%	95%	100%

Proportion of students in each Achievement Band

YEAR 3	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 6	51%	22%	26%	35%	20%
Band 5	22%	48%	28%	24%	29%
Band 4	9%	15%	22%	15%	22%
Band 3	11%	11%	15%	12%	20%
Band 2	7%	4%	2%	7%	7%
Band 1	0%	0%	0%	4%	2%

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 8	20%	6%	8%	8%	10%
Band 7	40%	16%	24%	16%	12%
Band 6	20%	26%	34%	42%	40%
Band 5	12%	48%	20%	18%	26%
Band 4	6%	4%	14%	12%	12%
Band 3	2%	0%	0%	4%	0%

YEAR 7	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 9	18%	12%	12%	18%	0%
Band 8	35%	24%	18%	24%	29%
Band 7	35%	29%	47%	35%	29%
Band 6	6%	18%	18%	18%	29%
Band 5	6%	12%	6%	6%	12%
Band 4	0%	6%	0%	0%	0%

YEAR 9	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 10	27%	14%	0%	14%	10%
Band 9	9%	5%	41%	14%	20%
Band 8	32%	32%	27%	36%	25%
Band 7	23%	23%	27%	14%	35%
Band 6	5%	14%	0%	18%	10%
Band 5	5%	14%	5%	5%	0%

The above tables show students in all year levels have performed well above the National mean in reading and above the National mean in all other strands of literacy and numeracy. The school's focus on Numeracy in the 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 a particular emphasis in 2013 on assessment and higher order thinking. The school is proud of the efforts of the 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 website at <http://www.ceocg.catholic.edu.au/parents/Pages/GeneralPolicies.aspx>

Attendance

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.

Behaviour

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.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT – Year 10 Certification

Nine students completed their Year 10 requirements.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AND TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Professional Learning

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

The school held four staff days in 2012. The content of these days included: Staff Planning, First Steps Reading, Life (Content Management System) and a Staff Spirituality Day focusing on RE Accreditation requirements. Other professional development included:

- Working Like a Mathematician
- Child Protection and Legal Issues
- Kindergarten Assessment
- NAPLAN Data Analysis
- Senior First Aid Certificate
- CPR and Anaphylaxis Training
- Numeracy Intervention Training
- Aboriginal Contact Teacher Network Days
- Learning Support Assistive Technology Workshops
- Leading Secondary Science and Mathematics
- Literacy and Numeracy Contact Days
- Information Technology

- Early Career Teacher Network Days
- Assistant Principal Network Days
- Essentials of Learning Support in the Classroom for Classroom Teachers

Teacher Qualifications

All 33 teachers are qualified as required by the relevant State and Territory bodies.

TEACHER ATTENDANCE AND RETENTION

The average teacher attendance rate during 2012 was 96%.

The teacher retention rate from 2011 to 2012 was 85% with one teacher moving back to their substantive school and the remaining teachers having completed their contracts.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

The average student attendance for the school during 2012 was 92%.

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

Attendance rates by Year group

Kindergarten	95%
Year 1	94%
Year 2	94%
Year 3	94%
Year 4	93%
Year 5	94%
Year 6	91%
Year 7	94%
Year 8	91%
Year 9	88%
Year 10	86%

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 and 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: the school's enthusiasm in its approach to teaching and learning, being given the opportunity to be involved in school activities, staff who are approachable and listen to their concerns, the stimulating and safe environment provided for their child and a student management policy which is fair. Students appreciated teachers helping them with their work and expecting them to try their hardest. The students also 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, and that

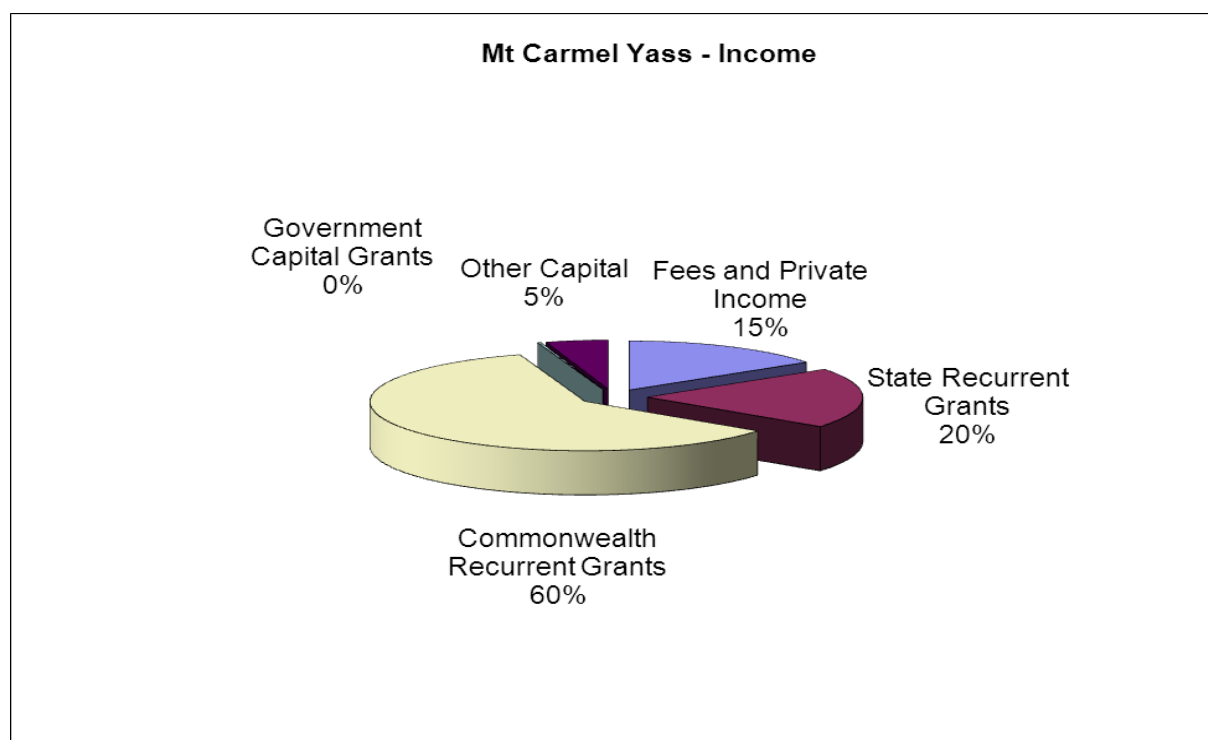
their workplace has a positive ethos. Teacher satisfaction was positive with many citing the school has clear goals and expectations. Overwhelmingly, teachers agreed that Mt Carmel School encourages a climate conducive to learning, students taking responsibility and being supported by their colleagues.

PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

School priorities in 2012 focused on K-10 numeracy, K-6 reading through the First Steps Reading program and 7-10 reading through the Tactical Teaching of Reading program. Our priorities for 2013 include:

1. continuing development and implementation of effective tracking and monitoring of student performance in literacy and numeracy
2. continuing implementation of Tactical Teaching of Reading and First Steps Writing and Reading including spelling
3. continuing implementation of a Numeracy Intervention Program involving one-to-one assistance for students experiencing difficulty with mathematical concepts
4. continuing professional learning in numeracy blocks incorporating brain-based learning strategies
5. establishing a secondary reading intervention program
6. developing rich learning strategies and assessment tasks using the Understanding by Design model
7. planning for the implementation of the Australian Curriculum in 2014

FINANCIAL INFORMATION



Mt Carmel Yass - Expenditure

