



# 2015 Annual Report

Mary MacKillop Catholic College, Highfields

*A Catholic coeducational school of the Diocese of Toowoomba*

*"Celebrate God In All Things"*

<b>Address</b>	PO Box 15 Highfields Road Highfields QLD 4352	<b>Phone</b>	07 4698 7777
<b>Year Levels</b>	Prep–Year 7	<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:highfields@twb.catholic.edu.au">highfields@twb.catholic.edu.au</a>
<b>Principals</b>	<b>P-12:</b> Mr Peter Murphy <b>Primary:</b> Mrs Donaugh Shirley	<b>Boarders</b>	No
<b>Enrolment</b>	518	<b>After School Care</b>	Yes
<b>Vacation Care</b>	Yes		

## Our Mission

**Mary MacKillop Catholic Primary School exists to promote:**

- **Quality Education:** Staff members are committed to giving students a holistic education, so that they will enhance society through their contribution.
- **A Vibrant Learning Environment:** A place where laughter, spontaneity, success, risk taking and inquiry are experienced.
- **Our Catholic Christian Tradition:** We are a pilgrim people journeying together, constantly drawing upon our story and also being called into new ways of growing and renewing ourselves.
- **Collaboration and Partnership:** We value 'shared wisdom' as a process of a joint venture where we share the whole journey, the risks as well as the gains.
- **Life Long Learning:** Our educational framework equips our learners for a personal and global future.
- **Creativity:** Innovation and imagination will be the essence of all our teaching and learning.
- **Stewardship:** Living in a community calls for positive attitude and action in our relationships with one another and the world.
- **Community of Care:** Positive and caring relationships will be nurtured so that all members of our community experience Christ in each other.
- **Dignity & Justice:** Our school empowers our students with values that enrich and enliven our world, while recognising the rights and responsibilities of all.
- **Inclusion & Welcome:** The living spirit of Christ will be witnessed through the outreaching presence of our school community

## **Distinctive Curriculum Offerings**

At Mary MacKillop Catholic College teachers worked cooperatively to implement current national and state syllabus documents. The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority's documents for Mathematics, English, Science, History and Geography, Health and Physical Education and The Arts, the Queensland Studies Authority documents for Technology, Languages Other Than English plus the Brisbane Catholic Education Religious Education Syllabus were the references for teaching and learning in the school.

## **Use of Technology**

The use of technology and associated software are integrated throughout the School curriculum. Teachers and students view the use of technology as part of their daily teaching and learning. This has been supported by the purchase of interactive whiteboards, interactive projectors, iPads and classroom computers. Teachers have been provided with Professional Development in the use of iPads and integration of technology across learning areas.

## **Extracurricular Activities**

The Arts is very much part of our curriculum and we offer drama, music and art in school time as well as drama classes as an extra. Physical Education classes as well as swimming and specialised sport training at the required times are offered.

A range of additional activities have been included here as examples:

- Celebration for School Feast Day
- Buddy Program for Prep and Year 6 and Years 1 and 7
- Interschool Sport
- Mini Vinnies (Junior St Vincent de Paul) group
- Fund Raising activities for Caritas, The Missions and St Vincent de Paul
- Senior and Junior choir
- ICAS Digital Technologies, Math, English and Science Tests. (Years 3 to 7)
- Maths Teams Challenge (Year 7)
- Enrichment Groups – Optiminds
- The Arts – Drama, Music
- Biennial School Musical
- School Camps – Years 4 to 7
- Extra-Curricular Sport

## **Social Climate**

At Mary MacKillop Catholic School we seek to develop the whole child: spiritually, socially, emotionally and academically. While academic intelligence is central to our core business, we place great importance on the emotional intelligence of our students. Our belief in Jesus Christ supports the spiritual development of our students and empowers them to become worthwhile citizens who will contribute to the future world.

We support the development of the whole child through:

- Daily prayer and reflection
- Attendance at and participation in liturgies, masses and the Sacraments
- Participation in Curriculum Programs such as the 'You Can Do It' which promotes the skills of Persistence, Organisation, Confidence and Getting Along
- Buddy Programs which develop relationships between Prep/Year 1 and Years 6/7 students through involvement in shared activities



- Involvement in intra and inter-school sporting activities
- Pastoral Care Group activities
- The Arts
- Community Projects

Mary MacKillop Catholic College has a Restorative Justice program in which many staff members have been trained. Our Behaviour Management Policy promotes the selection of good choices and while the school has a levelling system, our philosophy is 'A new day, a new beginning.'

We welcome parents and community members to Mary MacKillop Catholic School and invite them to participate in a variety of ways, including:

- Attendance at school assemblies, liturgies, masses
- Involvement in P&F committee activities and social events
- Invitation to academic presentations, sports carnivals, drama, music and choir concerts, classroom activities
- Participation in rounded Professional Development opportunities such as Parent Connect.

Through these initiatives Mary MacKillop Catholic School aims to develop the spiritual, social and emotional and spiritual well-being of every student while fostering strong relationships between school, parents and the local community.

### **Parental Involvement**

As we see this education as a partnership, all parents are invited to be involved in their child/children's education. The secret to this involvement is frequent and open communication between teachers and parents. Parents are always welcome to assist in and around the school in any capacity. Numerous opportunities exist such as reading, art, craft, tuckshop, library and maintenance. The school runs an accreditation program for volunteer workers. It is also important that parents are involved in the school in a social capacity in order to build community. Social opportunities include participation in fund-raising events, such as Race Days and Balls.

### **School Financial Information**

The information on net recurrent income including:

- Federal Government recurrent funding
- Queensland Government recurrent funding
- Fee, charges and parent contributions
- Other private resources

Is available from: [www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au)



## Staff Composition

Workforce Composition	Total Teaching Staff	Total Non-teaching Staff	Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	38	25	2
Full-time equivalents	35.0	16.1	2

## Teacher Qualifications

Qualification	% of Teaching Staff
Doctoral / Post Doctoral	0%
Masters	10.52%
Bachelor Degree	89.48%
Diploma	0%
Certificate	0%

## Professional Development

The school budget expended \$3044.86 on staff professional development in. In 2015, professional development had the following priority areas:

- Religious Education – RE Curriculum, Bishop’s In-service
- Curriculum Initiatives – preparation for teaching and assessing Religious Education,
- Literacy with a focus on First Steps Spelling, Reading and Comprehension
- Student Protection (internet safety, risk management)
- First Aid/CPR Certification
- iPad training
- Professional Learning Communities Conference

Further opportunities were provided by staff from the Diocese of Toowoomba Catholic Education.

## Average Staff Attendance

96.61%

## Staff Retention

100%



## Average Student Attendance Rate

The average attendance rate for the whole school as a percentage in 2015 was 94.8%.

## Student Attendance for Each Year Level (expressed as %)

Prep	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
94.0	95.0	94.7	95.1	94.4	95.5	94.6	95.8

## Description of How Non Attendance is managed by the School

If attendance requirements are not met by a student, the parents/guardians are contacted by the College office to ascertain reasons for the absence and to reinforce attendance requirements.

Parents are encouraged to contact the school before 8am and leave a message if students will be absent. Late students report to the office to be recorded as Late Arrivals before going to their classrooms. Rolls are marked by 9.30am and office staff contact parents of any student who is absent without an explanation.

## National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) Results

Year 3 Test Results (2015)				
	OUR SCHOOL AVERAGE	NATIONAL AVERAGE	STATE AVERAGE	Percentage of Students at or above the National Benchmark
Reading	450	425.5	418.4	100
Writing	443	416.3	405.8	100
Spelling	409	408.8	395.7	97
Grammar and Punctuation	474	430.5	433.2	99
Numeracy	423	397.8	392.2	100
Year 5 Test Results (2015)				
	OUR SCHOOL AVERAGE	NATIONAL AVERAGE	STATE AVERAGE	Percentage of Students at or above the National Benchmark
Reading	506	498.5	494.5	95
Writing	498	478.1	470.2	98
Spelling	499	498.1	489.2	98
Grammar and Punctuation	514	503.1	499/8	95
Numeracy	498	492.5	486.0	98



Year 7 Test Results (2015)				
	OUR SCHOOL AVERAGE	NATIONAL AVERAGE	STATE AVERAGE	Percentage of Students at or above the National Benchmark
Reading	566	546.0	543.0	100
Writing	547	510.6	504.6	100
Spelling	575	546.7	544.3	100
Grammar and Punctuation	583	541.3	539.1	100
Numeracy	561	542.5	538.9	100

### Value Added

Staff attended in-services in a number of important areas, including Professional Learning Communities, Building Positive Relationships between school and home, Religious Education, Curriculum, Reading and Vocabulary Workshops, iPad Integration and Cyber safety, Workplace Health and Safety and Student Protection in order to maintain and update their professional knowledge and skills and therefore meet the educational needs of students.

Funding was also directed to updating curriculum, (particularly in relation to the continued implantation of the Australian Curriculum) and interest areas of the school library collections. Digital Resources were purchased to support the teaching of the Australian Curriculum. New reading books were also purchased to support the school Literacy Program.

Throughout the school, students were provided with a variety of excursion opportunities which developed their knowledge and skills in both academic and social settings.

iPads and additional interactive projectors and computers were purchased to provide greater student access to technology and to increase the integration of Information and Communication Technologies throughout the curriculum.

2015 was a year of significant building to accommodate the expansion to become three streams in the primary and the introduction of Year 7 in the secondary. Construction projects carried out included: the building of a new block for Year 6 and a seven-million-dollar Stage 1 of the secondary part of the College.

Years 6 and 7 students attended their annual camp where skills of leadership were promoted and consolidated. All students were involved in Music and Drama lessons and students in Years 3 to 7 participated in *Marymac's Got Talent*, thereby promoting creativity through the Arts Program. Throughout 2015 students were provided with many opportunities to develop sporting skills through participation in swimming, athletics, football, netball and softball at both school and community levels.

### Excellence in Catholic Education-School Renewal and Improvement Process

School Renewal and Improvement is an ongoing process of self-evaluation measured against a commonly agreed set of criteria. It informs action planning at the school level to identify areas of strength and areas for improvement. Above all, Catholic schools must be good schools with a strong learning orientation and a strong sense of purpose. This process provides an opportunity for each school to reflect on 4 Domain areas: Catholic Life and Religious Education; Learning and Teaching; Leadership for School Improvement; Strategic Resourcing.



Each of these domains has components (24 in total) which are reviewed on a cyclical basis and plans for improvement were developed if necessary.

In 2015, the elements of Planning & Teaching, Assessing and Reporting, Religious Life of the School and ICT Resourcing were reflected on, reviewed and strategically planned.

## **Parent Satisfaction**

There are a number of areas where parent, student and teacher satisfaction can be measured at Mary MacKillop Catholic School. Increasing enrolments is one, as is positive parent feedback to classroom teachers and through our Parents and Friends Association, which meets regularly throughout the year. Student satisfaction is measured through student attendance and the level of respect and caring displayed by all our students for others in the School community. Teacher satisfaction is measured through an open forum during fortnightly staff meetings and the cooperation and professional courtesy that are displayed daily.

### **Parent Comments:**

*"Such a dedicated, supportive group of teachers and parents."*

*"A truly caring environment."*

*"The learning environment for students, both within and outside the classroom is top notch."*

*"A very welcoming community."*

*"The way that people work and live identifies it as a Catholic School."*

***A hardcopy of this report is available by request from the Principal.***

