**PRINCIPAL’S ANNUAL REPORT 2014**

The 2014 school year has been a very productive year for our community. Our community continues to work together and in partnership for the benefit of Mary’s Mount Primary School and its students. It encourages me greatly to see staff, parents, students, parish and wider community members maximising their efforts for our school. This year we have also introduced and implemented throughout many areas in the school the Catholic Education Office’s Strategic Directions for 2014 – 2016 under the Acronym of LEAD, (Learning, Engagement, Accountability and Discipleship).

As I reflect throughout the year I would like to divide my report into four domains of operation within our school and every Catholic school in Western Australia. These domains are action areas in promotion of the educational mission of the Catholic Church.

**CATHOLIC IDENTITY**

Some of our highlights in this domain for 2014 have been our whole school Masses and Sacramental programs. We have continued our strong relationship with the parish and have worked cooperatively together on a variety of projects. We are very fortunate to have a very enthusiastic and hardworking Parish Priest in Fr. Greg Donavan. Fr. Greg is in our school on a weekly basis and very visible to staff, students and parents. Every fortnight Father celebrates liturgies for us. I would like to thank Fr. Greg for all that he gives to our community. We are truly grateful.

We have continued to support Lifelink and St Vinnies throughout the year. We have had many collections such as the Pyjama Drive and Food Hamper Drive, to help the needy within our own community.

Our Year 6 students organised and coordinated a very successful mini-fete day and raised over $1200. This money was distributed to a variety of charities such as the Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition, purchasing $400 worth of books for two remote schools in our system and finally assisting our parish with some of this money.

One of Professional Development Days was devoted to Catholic Identity with the focus being on the ‘The Sacredness Within’. We were fortunate to have Mario Borg (Disciples of Jesus) to present and facilitate the day for us.

We continue to build our knowledge of St Emilie de Vilar and the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Apparition throughout Mary’s Mount Week and keep our tradition burning. Individual classes continued to focus on different stages of St Emilie’s life. The week was highlighted by our special Mass along with Grandparents morning tea. It is pleasing to see the Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition attending this special mass.

Our Sacramental programmes were well supported by the school community throughout the year, culminating in celebrations which were both meaningful and memorable.
especially for the children. Parents attended the workshop evenings in great numbers and the children enjoyed their retreat/reflection days. I would like to thank the staff for organising and planning our class Masses and class liturgies.

We were so pleased that for the second year running our Year 5 student performance in the ‘Bishop’s RE Assessment’ received an average well above the ‘all schools’ average. Our year finished off with a beautiful and reverent Liturgy and Christmas carols night on our oval of which we had well over 500 people attend.

EDUCATION

I have been very pleased to see the growth in this area. We have seen a continual rise in work standards and students taking far more pride in their work. All teachers were asked to challenge the students this year and to raise the bar in work standards. The student’s as previously mentioned responded magnificently to this challenge and produced some outstanding work throughout the year. We are very pleased with our NAPLAN results and in particular very pleased with the results from our PAT Standardised Assessments that are held throughout the Year in Semester 1 and 2. You can see these results at the end of this report. Other assessments that we were involved in were The Archbishop’s Religious Assessment for our Year 3 and 5 students and PIPS assessment for our PP students.

Results from standardized testing in Literacy and Numeracy at the beginning of the year gave our teachers a great indication of what levels various children were at and also allowed teachers to programme for various abilities in their class. Differentiation of children’s work was a main focus for all teachers this year. We also have trialled various strategies of explicit teaching within some classrooms with the view to implement this strategy in 2015 for all classes.

Our Early Intervention program in Speech and Occupational Therapy screening for our 4 Year Old Kindy children continues to be a great success. Our support programmes continue to give us pleasing results. Support a Reader Program and the Multilit, (reading and phonics program), along with the SEEDS program, (extension) have been very successful.

THRaSS continues to be a valuable tool within our school.

Regional Network Meetings were held with other schools once a term for staff along with staff going to visit other schools. This has been a very successful initiative and one that will challenge our staff along with assisting them to grow and develop as educators. Along with these meetings, staff also attended some quality professional development. Some of the PD for this year was; ‘Brain Based Approaches to Maximizing Student Engagement’ – Andrew Fuller; QCS Insight reviewing and evaluating feedback; Supporting our Kids - Ian Lillico; The Sacred Within – Mario Borg (Disciples of Jesus and Real Kids in an Unreal World – Maggie Dent.

We have continued to offer our homework club for Years 3-5 in the library once a week while at the same time our junior staff run a ‘Clever Cookies Club’ for students in Year 1 and
2 to help students who need extra support. This program also involves having the parent of the student at the session as well.

Our physical education teacher has also offered and run a fitness club in terms 2 and 3 which has been very successful with a very good number of students attending.

Our sporting program was again a great success this year with our school participating in the Primary Catholic Schools Sports Association. The students were involved in a variety of sports this year and I was very proud of the spirit in which they participated. The sportsmanship the students showed was tremendous.

Throughout the month of August our Pre Primary students performed at Performing Arts Festival Carnevale section. We also had our Year 5 students represent the school at the annual Speak –up Award. This gives the students the opportunity to speak in public in front of an audience.

Our year 6 students traveled to Canberra and Sydney for the second year running. Again this proved to be an invaluable experience for the students and was a memorable tour for them.

I would also like to thank our parent body for supporting the school and teachers by attending Parent/Teacher nights in great numbers. The three way conferences have been a well-attended and some very good discussions taking place.

STEWARDSHIP

Firstly I must thank all members of our School Board for their support, time and dedication that they give the school. Their efforts have been exceptional. I especially thank members of the Board on our Finance Committee and Maintenance Committee for the extra time given to the school for extra meetings. I am very grateful to you all.

I would especially like to thank Mr. Justin Pavlinovich for his contribution to the Board over the last 6 years. Justin will leave his position on the Board as chairman for the last 6 years after giving outstanding service. My thanks also goes to Mrs Laura DiTorro and Mrs Judy Houlahan who complete their two year terms on the Board and to Mrs Vannessa Van Beek who completes 4 years on the Board. All will be missed greatly! We wish you and your families all the best and God’s blessing for the future.

This year has been an exceptionally busy year with a variety of events and projects being carried out by the Board.

An exciting moment for us this year was the launch of our new Strategic Plan and our 5 Pillars in ‘Our Commitment’ – mission.

Our new school website was also launched this year along with our new crest and logo. With these changes we also upgraded our school stationary as well.

Other work or board involvement saw the following:

One area that I am so proud of at our school is the Board and P&F join ventures. On a yearly basis, representatives from both parties come together with school leaders to prioritise a list of resources that can be given to the school.
This year joint projects involved in providing:
- Lexile readers
- Literacy program
- Kindy / Pre Primary – Big Books
- Apple TV and adapters
- Busy Bee
- Library Shelving
- Adventure Playground – Junior and Upper

Some of the Board projects this year involved:
- IT work on the school’s infrastructure – continued on installing two new external wifi access points and a new router installed.
- Purchasing 30 i-Pads for a 1-1 program for our Year 6 class.
- In-class PD – support for the Year 6 class teacher by an outside consultant.
- $20 000 grant from Bendigo Bank used on more IT resources. More i-pads were purchased with this for groups of junior classes to use. This money continues to be spent on IT resources as stated by Bendigo Bank.
- Power to the Gardener’s Shed.
- Library Shelving
- Closing off the undercover area to create a new store room for our archives.
- Continued work to school main entrance

COMMUNITY
Our Mary’s Mount School community again has been a very supportive community throughout the whole year. Our new P&F committee this year, led by Mrs Naomi Holly, have done an outstanding job. This young group of mothers are all from our junior primary area which is very rare to see. The P&F along with many helpers throughout the year in various projects/events have helped create a real sense of community in our school. With all events held we have had great numbers attend.
As is the case every year, Breakfast in the Park was a highlight again along with Casablanca Night.
These are just two of many events that the P&F have organised throughout the year or been involved in.
The P&F again have been generous with their donations to the school and seeing the need to build in resources in our classes, especially in our Literacy area.
Part of our goal as a school is to have great parental involvement within the school. I believe that we have been successful with achieving this goal. Events such as the following have ensured this and also given more to our community:
- Parent Volunteers Workshop
- Ian Lillico parent evening on ‘Supporting of Kids’
- Maggie Dent parent evening – ‘Real Kids in an Unreal World’
• Tremendous survey feedback by parents Insight QCS. Results generally showed that all stakeholders were very happy with Mary's Mount Primary School and felt welcomed, safe and happy coming to this school.
• $2000 Bendigo bank grant for BIP.
• Breakfast in the Park
• Lapathon
• Casablanca Night
• Art Show/Open Night
• Class Representatives
• Volunteers who have helped out on requests in the classrooms
• School leaders representing the school at the Kalamunda Anzac Service
• Mother's and Father’s Day events
• Supporting the Canberra/Sydney fundraising committee.
• Grandparent’s morning tea

These are just some of the events that the P&F and parents in general are involved in. There are many, many other areas where we have parental involvement in the school and the reason why we have a great community spirit. Parental involvement is highly encouraged at Mary's Mount and at the same time creates a warm and welcoming community.

I would like to thank our families for their support, time, patience and commitment throughout this year.

STAFF
Membership Teacher's Registration Board of WA TRBWA (originally WACOT) – checked annually
Working With Children - checked annually
Parish Priest reference

STAFF LEAVING 2014
• Mrs Drummond
• Mrs Moore

NEW STAFF 2015
• Miss Karen Ballato
• Miss Natasha Morisco
• Mr Daniel Harris

PRINCIPAL
• Mr Sandro Coniglio
ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS
- Mr Clinton Payne
- Mrs Sarah Williams

PARISH PRIEST
- Fr Greg Donovan

YEAR LEVELS
- 3K - Mrs Annmarie Baltov
- 4K - Mrs Tamara Ellenbroek
- PP - Miss Jasmine O’Brien
- Y1 - Miss Sarah Correia
- Y2 - Mrs Jo DeBarro
- Y3 - Miss Lindsay West
- Y4 - Mrs Natalie Hainsworth (.6) Miss Natasha Morisco (.4)
- Y5 - Miss Karen Ballato
- Y6 - Miss Nicole Smith (.8) Mr Clinton Payne (.2)

SUPPORT:
- Mrs Sue Blair (class support PP – 3)
- Miss Sarah Williams (ITC) and class support (K – 2)
- Mr Clinton Payne Year 1 – 6 support
- Miss Nicole Smith (ITC) and Year 4, 5, 6 class support (.2)

SPECIALIST AREAS:
- Physical Education – Mrs Denise Pollaers
- Art – Mrs Wendy Hull Deane
- Music – Mr Paul Leeder
- Italian – TBC (ITALO)

TEACHER ASSISTANTS:
- Mrs Allyson Bignell
- Mrs Belinda Henderson
- Mrs Nancy Wrenn
- Mrs Antonietta Christie
- Mrs Angela Smith

ADMINISTRATION:
- Mrs Jane Taylor (.8)
- Mrs Debbie Cockman (.4)
- Mrs Gabby Hoffmann (.2)
UNIFORM SHOP
• Mrs Tracey Hischar and Mrs Kelly Hilder

GROUND:
• Mr Daniel Harris

CLEANERS:
• Mr & Mrs Michael and Assunta Giovinazzi
• Miss Maria Parravicini

CANTEEN
• Mrs Cathy Audino and Mrs Shirley Shaw

VALUE ADDED 2013
• Excursions/Incursions all classes
• Homework Club (extra curricula)
• Clever Cookies support classes (extra curricula)
• Performing Arts (extra curricula)
• Year 5/6 Dance Troupe (extra curricula)
• Yr. 6 Student Leadership
• Yr. 6 Camp (extra curricula)
• Open Night (extra curricula)
• Art Show (extra curricula)
• Support for children with learning needs
• Educational Psychologist Service
• Extension Program – Yrs. 1-6
• State Speak-up Award – Yr.5
• Early Intervention Speech and Occupational Therapy Program – 4K
• Fitness Club (extra curricula)
• Sports training morning – (extra curricula)
• Canteen and uniform shop online
• Parent Workshops
• Parent Information sessions
• Parent/Community boot camp
• School Performing Arts afternoon
• Swimming Program PP - 6
• Year 6 Tour to Canberra and Sydney
• Retreats for sacramental years
• Class sleep overs (extra curricula)
• Mini Fete
• School Garden
• Incursions
• Excursions
• Breakfast In Park
• Student Disco (extra curricula)
• ECE Adventure Playground
• Commencement of general school Adventure Playground

FUTURE FOCUS 2015

• Continue implementation of the Australian Curriculum
• Student engagement
• Staff engagement
• Explicit Teaching
• Staff Growth and Development Process
• National Quality Standards
• AITSL Standards – promoting self-goals
• School Improvement Plan
• Quality Catholic Schooling initiative will continue.
• Insight QCS Community Survey (Culture)
• Board and P&F joint projects
• Board Projects
• Professional Development days shared with other schools.
• Regional network with surrounding Catholic schools to increase.
• IT Upgrade to Computer Lab – Contemporary Learning Hub
• Homework club cont.
• Clever Cookies cont.
• Continue to implement the Strategic Plan and ‘Our Commitment’ – 5 Pillars
• OT specialist working from the school 2 days a week
• Adventure Playground development – ongoing
• Painting Program for the school
| Comparator | Year 3 | | | | | Year 5 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | Comparator | Reading | Writing | Spelling | Grammar & Punctuation | Numeracy | Comparator | Reading | Writing | Spelling | Grammar & Punctuation | Numeracy |
|  | Nation | 418.6 | 402.1 | 411.9 | 426.2 | 401.8 | Nation | 500.7 | 468.2 | 497.7 | 504.1 | 487.2 |
|  | State | 407.1 | 397.4 | 402.6 | 413.1 | 392.0 | State | 492.1 | 464.5 | 492.4 | 495.4 | 480.3 |
|  | MMPS | 411.0 | 429.5 | 407.6 | 452.1 | 405.6 | MMPS | 504.4 | 475.0 | 501.8 | 501.6 | 512.7 |
Finally I wish all our school community a safe and Holy Christmas a healthy New Year.

Sandro Coniglio
Principal