



STELLA MARIS

Catholic Primary School ~ Burnie

Stella Maris

Catholic Primary School

2013

Annual Community Report

Year: 2013 (Prepared in June 2014)
School Name: Stella Maris Catholic Primary School
School Type: Kindergarten to Grade 6
Suburb/Town: Burnie
State: Tasmania
Address: 24-28 Futuna Avenue, Burnie, Tasmania, 7320
Telephone: 03 6431 4004
Fax: 03 6431 8858
Email: stellamaris@catholic.tas.edu.au
Principal: Mrs Julia Kramer

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The purpose of this Annual School Community Report is to provide the community with a holistic overview of the work and operation of Stella Maris Catholic Primary School. It is by no means an all-inclusive report, but a generalized summary of a number of internal reports and documents that all Systemic schools are required to provide to the Tasmanian Education Office, the Federal Government and other regulatory authorities. Some of the information herein is taken from a number of other reports and documents such as Stella Maris's Annual Plan, School Improvement Validation Report and Board Financial Report. Every year is full of new experiences, opportunities and successes. We trust that the following report provides the reader with some understanding of the work and achievements of Stella Maris Catholic Primary School for 2013.

SCHOOL PROFILE

Stella Maris School is situated in Futuna Avenue Burnie. The school was officially registered as a primary school under the direction and care of the Sisters of Mercy in 1900. Since 1994 the school has had a Lay Principal. The school presently caters for students from Kindergarten to Grade 6.

CATHOLIC LIFE AND MISSION

As a Mercy school, Stella Maris embraces the challenge to empower young people to play a vital role in the world of the future. We challenge each other to "Dare to step out and make a difference. Just like Jesus."

The Mercy mission demands a particular commitment to the life of Jesus Christ. As upholders of this mission, we as educators are called upon to find new and creative ways in which to meet the challenges of today's complex society. We aim to create a sense of community where academic excellence, acceptable behaviour and full student participation are encouraged.

Through the curriculum, students at Stella Maris are given the opportunity to become equipped with knowledge and skills necessary to facilitate learning now, and in the future. Our staff strives to ensure that students witness quality, equity and justice and always feel secure and safe in the school environment. All students are given opportunities to experience success, and are encouraged to reach their full potential as valued members of society regardless of their level of ability. We endeavour to recognise the value and dignity of all people in our school community, and to promote positive interaction between all members of our community.

VISION

The Stella Maris Catholic School community strives to live according to the teachings of Jesus. We collaborate to provide opportunities for all to reach their full spiritual, physical, intellectual, social, emotional and academic potential.

MISSION

Stella Maris is a co-educational Catholic Primary school in the Mercy tradition. Inspired by the Mercy founder Catherine McAuley we aspire to provide a God-centred educational environment which respects and affirms the dignity of each person and promotes life long learning. We commit ourselves to the vision of Catherine McAuley “Dare to step out and make a difference. Just like Jesus.”

OUR VALUES

We hold the values of Mercy, Justice, Courage, Hospitality, Perseverance, and Respect to be central to our culture and to the achievement of our Vision and Mission.

MERCY, we reach out to others and act with compassion in all that we do

JUSTICE, we commit to living justly by engaging in action for social justice and by celebrating our inclusiveness and diversity

COURAGE, we stand up for our beliefs by putting our values into practice

HOSPITALITY, we create a community where all feel welcome, through openness to people, ideas and challenges

PERSEVERANCE, we constantly strive for excellence in all that we do

RESPECT, we are well mannered and considerate to the needs, feelings and safety of others

OUR SPIRITUALITY

Nurturing the Spirituality of all members of the school community begins with daily prayer in the classroom and prayer is part of every gathering. Staff pray together each Tuesday afternoon. Professional learning in the area of Spirituality is a priority for all staff. All classes participate in Christian Meditation where our hope is they find God in stillness.

LITURGY

Celebrating through Liturgy is central to our spiritual development. We celebrate the Eucharist all together at the beginning and end of the year, and for special Feast days throughout the year. Each grade is rostered on to celebrate Liturgy in a more intimate setting. We celebrate special Liturgies for Mary, All Saints, Holy Week and Easter. We also celebrate Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, Grandparent’s Day, Lenten Liturgies, ANZAC Day and NAIDOC Week.

OUTREACH

The students have given generously to many charities throughout the year, notably Project Compassion, the Archbishop's Samaritan Project, Winter Relief, our adopted child, supporting students in P.N.G and the St Vincent de Paul Christmas appeal. We also began a Mini Vinnies group to support the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

During 2013, students participated in the Parish based sacramental program and received the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. Teachers continued to work with Fr. Tony Kennedy, the Parish team and the school's Assistant Principal Religious Education to ensure that children were adequately prepared to receive the Sacraments. Fr. Tony continued to be a regular visitor to the school and liaised with the Assistant Principal Religious Education and class teachers to plan and coordinate whole school and class liturgies.

NURTURING A POSITIVE SCHOOL CULTURE

The school participated in the School Wide Positive Behaviour Support Program. A committee was established with representation from parents, School Board, teaching and ancillary staff. We have 3 rules or expectations. Students were rewarded when it was noted that they were adhering to the rules, a further way to reinforce positive behaviour and reward good habits.

All teachers were involved in training in restorative practices and these were used throughout the year in class and group sessions.

Students continued to work in their cross-age groups or 'Peace groups' for 'whole school' activities including the celebration of Mercy and Harmony Day.

Students also continued the 'buddy' system, where students in the upper classes 'buddy' with a junior class. In most instances the senior students completed a reading activity.

SCHOOL FACTS:

School sector	Non-government
School type	Primary
Year range	K – 6
Total enrolments	383
Girls	190
Boys	193
Full-time equivalent enrolments	383
Indigenous students	3%
Location	Provincial
Student attendance rate	95%
Teaching Staff	24
Full-time equivalent teaching staff	19.1
Non-teaching staff	16
Full-time equivalent non-teaching staff	7.9

STUDENT BACKGROUND

Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA)

School ICSEA value: 1029

Bottom quarter	Middle quarters	Top quarter
18%	29% 29%	24%

LEADERSHIP AND STAFFING

Leadership Structure for 2013			
Principal			
Assistant Principal, Religious Education		Assistant Principal, Teaching & Learning	
Learning Support Teacher			
Kinder - Primary Team Leader	Gr 1 -2 Team Leader	Gr 3 - 4 Team Leader	Gr 5 - 6 Team Leader
Early Childhood Team K - P	Early Childhood Team Gr 1 -2	Middle Primary Team Gr 3-4	Upper Primary Team Gr 5 -6

Our 4 teaching and learning teams continue to work collaboratively and effectively through planning and Professional Learning. Utilising the teams, we can identify areas we need to focus on. These teams plan collaboratively, sharing resources, expertise and ideas. In 2013 Stella Maris employed 40 staff members, 24 Teaching staff and 16 non-teaching staff.

The school employed 2 music teachers, a physical education teacher, a learning support teacher, a Library technician, an ICT support T/A, and an art tutor, a school Chaplain, 4 part time administration support staff. The canteen and the uniform shop employed a manager. Cleaning staff included 3 part time cleaners. Two of our staff members have Indigenous heritage.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

In summary, our school Annual Plan for 2013 was as follows:

Catholic Culture & Ethos

- To deepen staff, students and parents awareness and understanding of the Catholic Culture and ethos of Stella Maris Catholic Primary School.
- Use Positive Behaviour Support Program to embed our Gospel Values into every interaction.

Student Learning & Achievement

- Develop and understand moderation at school and system level.
- Enhance the use and understanding of assessment data to inform teaching and learning.

Curriculum & Pedagogy

- Improve the teaching of comprehension skills focusing on maths problems.
- Continue to develop effective learning programs based on the Australian Curriculum.

Leadership

- Build leadership capacity in all staff with particular emphasis on Team Leaders using the ACEL Leadership Framework
- Plan and initiate building of the early childhood playground
- Implement a rigorous process for teacher performance and development based on the AITSL Teaching Standards.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

