



Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn
CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE

ST GREGORY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Queanbeyan, NSW

2013 Annual Report



SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

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Ms Claire Frazer

PRINCIPAL

MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Principal's Message

Our theme for this year has been 'Raise the Standard'. It was our goal to raise the standard; in our work, in our dealings with others, our attitude and our participation in prayer. I commend the members of our community who worked hard all year to achieve this goal. The partnership between our school and homes continues to be a great strength of this community. There is never an occasion when we struggle for parent support at the various activities. Whole School Focus Assemblies, Liturgies, Sporting Carnivals, and of course the Walkathon have been very well attended throughout the year.

School Council Message

2013 saw the School Community Council hold its 'open meeting' in conjunction with the school disco. Families have also been encouraged to offer feedback and ideas through suggestion boxes. The new school hall saw the re-establishment of the YMCA After School Care Program at the Macquoid Street campus. Kidsmatter, an initiative dedicated to assisting families to support their children's positive mental health and wellbeing through interaction with the school community began in 2013 and will build over the coming years. The School Council has concentrated on improvements to the grassed area at the Macquoid Street campus. Fundraising has been spent on increasing IT resources for students.

SCHOOL FEATURES

St Gregory's is a Catholic Primary School located in Queanbeyan . The school caters for students in Kindergarten - Year 6, and has a current enrolment of 634 students.

Students attending this school come from a variety of backgrounds and nationalities consisting of 322 male and 312 female students; 14 indigenous students; and 41 with a Language Background other than English (LBOTE).

The school employs 52 staff comprising 37 teachers and 15 non-teaching staff, the latter being employed in a variety of capacities including office manager, bursar, fee officer, library assistant, learning support assistants, groundsman, IT technical support and canteen manager.

St Gregory's is a two campus school. Currently K-2 are on one site with K-6 on the other. Plans to restructure are in place and in 2015 all Kindergarten and Year 1 classes will be located at Lowe Street with Years 2-6 at Macquoid Street.

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

St Gregory's follows the Archdiocesan Religious Education Curriculum, *Treasures New and Old*.

We are blessed to have a strong connection with St Gregory's Parish. As a school we regularly celebrate Masses and Liturgies with the parish. The students of St Gregory's host Whole School Focus Assemblies three times a term. Each assembly has a value focus such as Courage.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT - NAPLAN

Students in **Year 3 and Year 5** 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	416	411	428	397
School	411	403	394	424	377

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	502	478	494	501	486
School	487	456	457	476	462

Proportion of students at or above the National Minimum Standard

YEAR 3	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	95%	95%	94%	95%	96%
School	40%	37%	33%	45%	20%

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	96%	92%	93%	95%	93%
School	26%	7%	13%	20%	12%

Proportion of students in each Achievement Band

YEAR 3	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 6	18%	5%	13%	22%	2%
Band 5	23%	32%	19%	22%	18%
Band 4	34%	35%	26%	29%	38%
Band 3	13%	24%	30%	17%	30%
Band 2	8%	3%	7%	4%	9%
Band 1	4%	2%	5%	5%	3%

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 8	7%	2%	2%	5%	6%
Band 7	19%	5%	11%	15%	6%
Band 6	41%	28%	32%	29%	26%
Band 5	14%	49%	26%	33%	33%
Band 4	15%	8%	11%	11%	20%
Band 3	4%	7%	19%	7%	8%

The above tables show -

The growth of our Year 5 students in Spelling is pleasing compared to previous years. A number of initiatives have impacted on these results, including the implementation of a range of teaching strategies to improve teacher understanding of personalised spelling.

NAPLAN results will be further analysed to inform and guide the direction for future improvements particularly in the area of Writing. In 2013 the Year 5 girls are 12 scale scores above the state average growth in Writing. Our aim for 2014 is to have a greater proportion of students represented in the top bands. This year we have had extensive input from Wendy Bean, a literacy educational consultant, in the area of Writing. We hope to see improvements in writing as teachers continue to embed writing initiatives and processes in the classroom.

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>

Enrolment packages are available for collection from the school office or from the school website. All families seeking enrolment are invited to meet with the principal. Prospective applicants are invited to visit the school by appointment and tours can be arranged on request. The designated enrolment period in May is widely publicised.

Attendance Policy

There are several procedures in place that enable us to monitor and encourage regular school attendance as outlined in the Attendance at School Policy. Attendance is monitored by classroom teachers and any absence longer than five consecutive days and where appropriate the principal is notified. Parents are contacted by the principal when ongoing unexplained absences are identified. Referrals to external agencies are made at the discretion of the principal. All students arriving late or leaving early are required to be signed in or out by a parent/guardian, these slips are retained with absentee notes. Exemption

certificates are issued by the principal for planned absences from school; applications for exemptions are available on the school website.

Behaviour Management Policy

St Gregory's is a School Wide Positive Behaviour School. All students are encouraged to behave in ways that are safe, respectful and fair. Students that demonstrate behaviours that are representative of our three rules are acknowledged. Students are encouraged to develop self-control and to value personal accountability. Consideration of specific needs and circumstances of individual students is highly valued.

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 Behaviour Management 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

A school priority in 2013 was to improve the writing of all students. Wendy Bean, Literacy Consultant, was engaged to conduct small group workshops and whole school staff meetings in Terms 1, 2 and 3. Teachers now include many of the strategies from these professional learning sessions in their Literacy Blocks. The provision of a Literacy Coach by the Catholic Education Office allowed our teachers the opportunity to plan more specifically for writing with one on one assistance from this coach. St Gregory's now has a secure online data platform to store student details, academic results, behavioural incidents, record of parent teacher interviews and awards presented to students. Whilst there have been some technical issues associated with this platform it has proven to be a very effective way to store data that can be easily retrieved.

Priorities for 2014 include building teacher capacity in using assessment to inform teaching, planning and programming as well as building on the effectiveness of our current Literacy and Numeracy Blocks. The implementation of the NSW Australian Curriculum in English and Mathematics will also be a significant focus for 2014.

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 six whole staff days in 2013. The content of these days was as follows:
Positive Partnerships 2 days - Training to improve support in the classroom and create an 'autism friendly' school culture
Introduction to the NSW Australian English Curriculum
CPR Refresher
Asthma and Anaphylaxis Refresher
The Tools of Writing and agreed practices for writing assessment

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 2013 was 94%.

The teacher retention rate from 2012 to 2013 was 90%.
Three teachers transferred to other schools and one teacher retired.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

The average student attendance for the school during 2013 was 95%.

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

Attendance rates by Year group

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

PARENT, TEACHER AND STUDENT SATISFACTION

A parent satisfaction survey at St Gregory's Primary School was undertaken in November 2013. Invitations containing a link to the online survey instrument were sent to 203 families. The survey remained open for 14 days. Parents who had not completed the survey three days before the survey closed were sent a reminder before the survey closed. 128 of the 203 parents completed the survey. Parents were asked to express their satisfaction in response to 22 statements, scoring 0 - 4 indicating strongly disagree to strongly agree. Of the 22 statements 19 scored an average score higher than 3 the remaining 3 statements scored an average of 2.9.

Students from Years 3-6 were invited to complete an online survey undertaken in December 2013. 282 of 350 students completed the survey which involved them responding to 14 statements with the same rating scale as for the parents. The average score for 6 statements was between 3 and 4; the average score for 7 statements was between 2 and 2.9. There was one statement in relation to student behaviour that scored 1.9 as an average.

In November 2013 the St Gregory's staff were invited to respond to an online survey responding to 23 statements that focus on staff morale. 43 of the 71 staff completed the survey, a response rate of 61% which is considered excellent. The average score in relation to 8 of the statements was between 3 and 4 the remaining 15 statements had an average score of between 2 and 2.9.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION



