



Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn
CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE

ST MONICA'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Evatt, ACT

2011 ANNUAL REPORT



SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

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Carmel Maguire

PRINCIPAL

MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Principal's Message

St Monica's is a Catholic primary school catering for students from Kindergarten to Year 6 in the Belconnen area of Canberra. Our vision of GROWING TOGETHER ~ BELIEVE DISCOVER ACHIEVE encapsulates all we stand for as Catholics and educators for the students of today and tomorrow. As a learning community, the staff at St Monica's provide a enriched, holistic curriculum in which the gospel values are central to all learning experiences, thus integrating faith and life, in cooperation with our Parish. St Monica's has, as its mission, the formation of the whole child and offers all children many opportunities to enable them to reach their full potential.

Community Council Message

The Community Council provides the opportunity for parents to support the mission of Catholic education at St Monica's. By working together with staff the Council can provide leadership to the school community by contributing in areas of school policy development, provide parental and community opinion on areas pertaining to student education, as well as engaging in a range of school activities.

Catholic education at St Monica's is truly a partnership between the home and the parish school. As parents we play the key role in the growth, enrichment and education of our children embedded in the Catholic faith; with the daily learning and pastoral environment provided by the school.

Student Representative's Message

St Monica's has yet again gone through a year of exciting events and activities, which were lots of fun. Sport, sport, sport! We've been involved in many activities this year including the Catholic School Netball and Soccer carnivals. We also participated in the Boorowa Touch and Netball Carnival, Super 8's Cricket and the Weet Bix triathlon. This year we held a big school concert called "Welcome to the Jungle", which was a great success and involved every student in the school. We had monkeys, zombies, Indy, Shorty and the evil teacher. We look forward to another great, fun-filled year!

SCHOOL FEATURES

St Moncia' Primary is a Catholic Primary School located in Evatt, ACT. The school caters for students in Kindergarten - Year 6, and has a current enrolment of 458 students.

Students attending this school come from a variety of backgrounds and nationalities consisting of 56% male and 54% female students; 0.4% indigenous students; and 3% Language Background other than English (LBOTE).

The school employs 38 staff comprising 29 teachers and 9 non-teaching staff, the latter being employed in a variety of capacities including learning support assistants, office administrator, finance officer, canteen manager and groundsman .

St Monica's endeavours to develop in students problem-solving and thinking skills, within a climate of discovery. Students are provided opportunities to develop an understanding of Religious Education, Science, Social Sciences, Health and Physical Education and Technology. Programs that enhance the students' learning and promote a healthy balanced lifestyle include Japanese, music,

drama, dance, individual music tuition, online learning and a range of sporting activities including gymnastics, athletics, cross-country, swimming, football, netball, cricket and basketball. St Monica's is committed to providing innovative, state of the art learning facilities and resources.

The school's website can be found at www.stmonicas.act.edu.au

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

St Monica's Primary follows the Archdiocesan Religious Education Curriculum, *Treasures New and Old*. St Monica's Primary bases all its decisions and actions on the Gospel values and from the charism of St Monica. The school motto "Respect" is a key factor in all aspects of school life. During 2011, St Monica's continued to embed the Vision Statement: Growing Together - Believe, Discover, Achieve into all areas of the curriculum and community life.

Prayer is an integral part of school life with classes praying every morning. The school community gathers on a weekly basis to pray for each other and in response to particular needs. School prayer takes as its focus our school values and appropriate liturgical celebrations. Each class leads the prayer sessions and an open invitation is extended to all members of the community to join us each Wednesday afternoon in St Monica's Church.

St Monica's Primary School celebrates special events and liturgies throughout the year with St Monica's parish community. Invitations to the parish community are extended for occasions such as Ash Wednesday, Mary Help of Christians, St Monica's Feast Day and Grandparent's Day. The school provides venues for parish events and supports the annual Mission and St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeals. Class groups join the weekly parish mass throughout the term. Our Parish Priest takes an active role in the school community, with the school and parish working together to build stronger connections. In 2011 our school leaders attended the annual NAIDOC Mass.

Sacramental Programs at St Monica's School are based on a parish/school partnership. The following Sacramental timetable applies: Sacrament of Penance - Year 3, First Eucharist - Year 4, Confirmation - Year 6. Parents are actively involved in these programs through participation in the Home Group component of the program.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT - NAPLAN

Students in Years 3 and 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	416	416	406	422	394
School	437	415	426	440	404

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	488	483	484	500	488
School	515	500	486	510	480

Proportion of students at or above the National Minimum Standard

YEAR 3	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	94%	95%	93%	93%	96%
School	97%	97%	97%	98%	98%

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	92%	92%	91%	92%	94%
School	100%	98%	98%	96%	94%

Proportion of students in each Achievement Band

YEAR 3	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 6	36%	13%	25%	31%	13%
Band 5	21%	34%	26%	18%	30%
Band 4	18%	26%	28%	26%	26%
Band 3	11%	21%	20%	20%	18%
Band 2	11%	3%	0%	5%	13%
Band 1	2%	2%	2%	0%	0%

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 8	23%	8%	8%	19%	6%
Band 7	13%	15%	17%	13%	12%
Band 6	27%	33%	19%	29%	38%
Band 5	23%	38%	44%	23%	23%
Band 4	13%	4%	10%	12%	15%
Band 3	0%	2%	2%	4%	6%

The above tables show that the students achieved significantly above the National Mean - Year 5 in Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and Year 3 in Reading, Spelling, Numeracy, Grammar and Punctuation. The tables also indicate that the students achieved significantly above the Minimum Standard - Year 5 in Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and Year 3 in Numeracy. The above tables reflect that a significant number of students in Year 3 are performing in Bands 4 to 6 in all areas and a significant number of students in Year 5 are performing in Bands 5 to 8 in all areas.

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>

Parents wishing to enrol their child into St Monica's can do so by contacting the school directly or visiting the school website to obtain an enrolment package.

Behaviour

At St Monica's the behaviour management approach is based on the School Wide Positive Behaviours Support program. This program ensures a consistent, caring and positive approach to behaviour management. At St Monica's we have a positive learning environment developed through a proactive whole-school approach which assists teachers to define, teach and support appropriate student behaviours. St Monica's motto of respect permeates our relationships with each other. St Monica's is a warm and safe environment where shared beliefs and consistent expectations provide a framework of support to encourage each child to grow and learn.

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 Student Welfare and 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.

PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

The priorities outlined in our 2010 Strategic and Management Plan were met with varying degrees of success. There will be further work undertaken in the teaching of Literacy and Numeracy.

In Literacy the development of Literacy Blocks will continue to be a focus with a whole school approach on reading strategies for modelled reading. First Steps Writing will continue to be revisited and will be further enhanced through the development of rubrics.

In Numeracy, the Numeracy Blocks will continue to be developed with a whole school approach on embedding the Gradual Release of Responsibility model, assisted by peer mentoring. This will be further enhanced with the provision of professional learning which addresses problem solving and rich tasks, and how the brain learns Mathematics.

The staff will continue work, commenced in 2010, on the Australian Curriculum by embedding English and exploring and understanding aspects of the curriculum in Mathematics.

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 in-services, meetings and conferences.

The school held five whole staff days in 2011. The content of these days was as follows:

Exploring the Australian English Curriculum and Primary Connections; First Aid; Staff Spirituality; a Health Fair focussing of physical wellbeing and a mini Learning Support Conference. Additional professional development offered, throughout the year, to all staff included an understanding of the Gradual Release of Responsibility Model, 'Read On' strategies, National Curriculum and Assessment, Asthma Awareness, Persuasive Writing, Interactive Whiteboard using ActiveInspire, Working Like a Mathematician, David Sousa-Brain Based Learning and School Wide Positive Behaviour.

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 2011 was 97%.

The teacher retention rate from 2010 to 2011 was 90%.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

The average student attendance for the school during 2011 was 94%.

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

Attendance rates by Year group

Kindergarten	93%
Year 1	94%
Year 2	92%
Year 3	94%
Year 4	91%
Year 5	96%
Year 6	93%

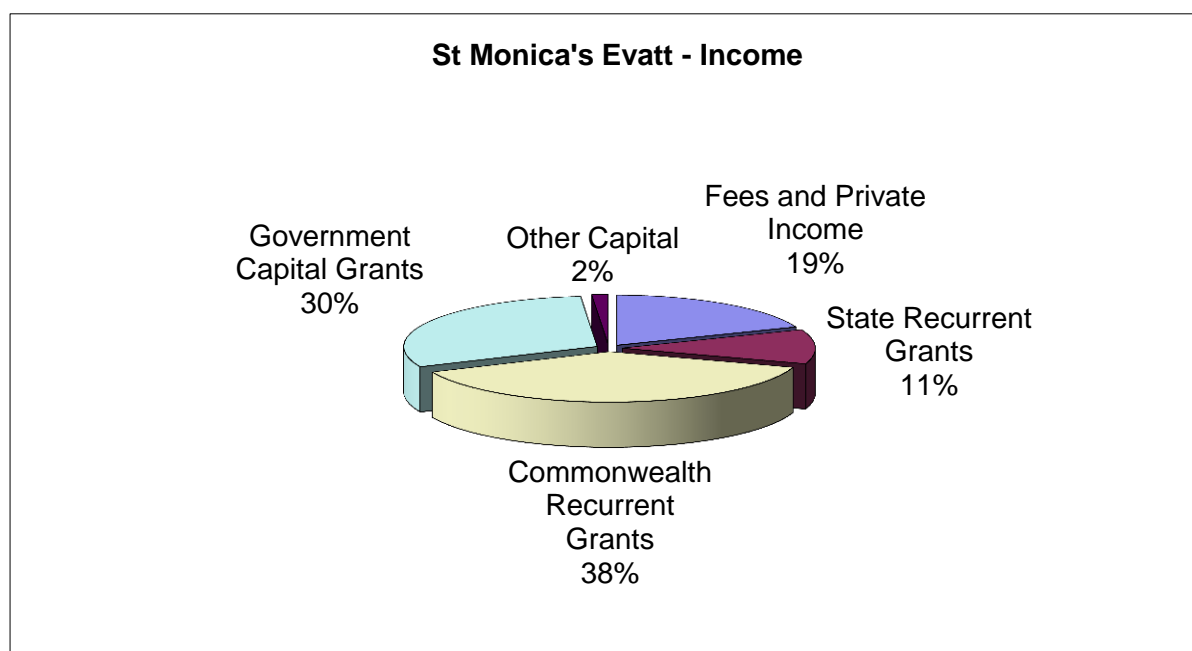
PARENT, TEACHER AND STUDENT SATISFACTION

Parents - Thirty families responded to the school wide annual survey which represented 10% of the parent community. Parents were very positive towards the school as they identified the wide range of events and programs that promote St Monica's as a Catholic school community. Parents did identify their desire to be more actively involved and the development of opportunities for parents to socialise. Educationally parents indicated that St Monica's offered a wide range of programs to meet the needs of the children. Several parents expressed the desire for the school to offer additional programs to cater for individual needs, in particular the extension and enrichment of students and support for those experiencing difficulty with learning. All parents who responded to the survey indicated that the school was meeting the pastoral needs of their child/ren.

Teachers - Eighteen staff, representing 50% of the staff, responded to the annual survey with the results indicating a positive response to the school. The key areas that rated very highly were: staff were provided opportunities for professional development; they felt committed to the school and their role was important. The key areas for ongoing growth include decision making processes and the consistency of approaches to student management.

Students – A cross section of 70% of students, from Kindergarten to Year 6 took part in the annual survey. A high percentage agreed or strongly agreed that they found the school a caring environment where they are helped with their work when having difficulties, they are expected to act responsibly, expectations are clear, the teachers put a lot of energy and preparation into teaching and they are provided a wide range of opportunities and resources to assist learning. Many students agreed that the school could be made much cleaner and would like more feedback regarding their work.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION



St Monica's Evatt - Expenditure

