School Reporting

Mandatory school reporting provides parents, staff, students and the community with meaningful information about schools. All Queensland schools are required to publish this information under the following headings for parents and the community.

Descriptive Information
St Mary’s School is a Catholic Archdiocesan co-educational primary school located in the fertile Lockyer Valley at Laidley. Laidley is just over an hours drive South-West of Brisbane and can be accessed via the Warrego Highway. Our school is located in a growing area that includes the suburbs of Hatton Vale, Grandchester, Summerholm, Glenore Grove, Kensington Grove, Brightview, Forest Hill and the Laidley Valley. St Mary’s School is located in the heart of Laidley with an amazing outlook over fields of cultivation up into the Mulgowie Valley. At Present St Mary’s has an enrolment of 181 students from Prep to Year 7.

St Mary’s School is regarded highly for its focus on the individual where each student is respected and valued. Our school culture is built around the understanding of respect, Respect for self, respect for others and respect for the environment in which we live and learn. It is these values that translate into the relationships between students, staff and parents. This culture of respect and being valued is strengthened through the modelled leadership of the school.

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings
At St Mary’s the school curriculum is centred on an outcomes-based curriculum that is specifically framed to meet the needs of the students in each class. It is focused on meeting the student’s academic, spiritual, physical and social needs through a range of student-directed and teacher-directed learning experiences. These prepared learning experiences consider the needs of the individuals at St Mary’s and are aimed to be meaningful, fun, challenging, play-based, integrated and flexible. In accordance with the Brisbane Catholic Education Guidelines, we aim to build “foundations for learning which are life long and life giving”.

**Extra-curricular activities**
At St Mary’s School we provide a number of different activities that compliment the day to day teaching of students. These activities are an important part of school life here at St Mary’s and would often not happen if it weren’t for the generosity of many staff, parents and other community members. These community contributors through their willingness, generosity and talent allow our students to experience a wide range of other activities. We acknowledge their gifts and talents and thank them sincerely for their support. These activities include instrumental music, choir, chess club, interschool sport, speed-soccer, cross country, athletics, swimming, Auskick netball and dance.

**The social climate of the school, includes pastoral care programs**
The St Mary’s Learning Community prides itself on being supportive and welcoming. These attributes guide the interactions between students, staff, parents and the wider parish community. Students, staff and parents have opportunities to be involved in pastoral care projects and activities such as:

- Buddy groups
- Virtues Program
- School Liturgies and Masses
- Catholic Mission Appeal
- St Vincent De Paul
- St Mary’s Care and Concern

**Parental involvement in their child’s education**
At St Mary’s we recognise that parents are and always will be the primary educators of their children. With this in mind we aim to support, promote and build on this foundation through encouraging parent involvement within the school.

At St Mary’s we see parents as a key stakeholder in the three way partnership of student education and they are therefore highly valued and appreciated. Parent help occurs in a variety of ways from direct support in Support-A-Reader, excursion helpers, swimming instructors through to indirect support including book covering, working bees, tuckshop, assistance with Munch and Crunch preparation and assisting with grounds maintenance. Along with these areas the St Mary’s P&F also work hard to organise social activities for the St Mary’s Learning Community. Parental assistance is both welcomed and encouraged as our school learning environment is enhanced through their ongoing support.
Staffing Information

Qualifications of All Teaching Staff

Whilst the majority of teaching staff at St Mary’s have a Bachelor of Education a number have gone on to do post graduate studies up to a Masters Level.

Many staff have qualifications or majored in other areas including, Middle Schooling, Teacher Librarian, Religious Education, Special Education, Social Science, Outdoor Education and Educational Leadership.

- Masters Level 14%
- Bachelor Degree Level 79%
- Diploma Level 7%

Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development

During 2008 St Mary’s expended $16,432.00 on staff professional development. This amount is comprised of training that has been provided by Strategic Renewal Funding (received from Brisbane Catholic Education) and training provided from local school funds.

As a faith community with a core focus on learning and teaching, the staff at St Mary’s School have focused their professional development on a number of key elements from the school Strategic Renewal Plan. The Strategic Renewal Plan outlines key elements that the school has also committed many hours of planning, organizing and professional development. In 2008 this Professional Development included:

- Skill development for staff in Information Communication and Learning Technologies.
- Professional learning in Spiritual Formation
- Reviewing and updating of Student Support Process
- First Aid and CPR refresher for all staff
- Support for Young Leaders of the Future
- Enhancing Religious Education
- Training in Christian Meditation
- Regular collaborative curriculum planning.

Percentage of staff involved in Professional Learning: 100%
Average staff attendance
The average staff attendance for the school year, based on unplanned absences of sick and emergency leave for periods of up to five days 2008: 97.10%

Proportion of teaching staff retained from the previous school year: 86.6%. This represents two staff members leaving and both of these were for family reasons including marriage.

Key Student Outcomes

Student Attendance Rate
Average Student Attendance Rate: 95.8%

Queensland 3, 5 & 7 Literacy and Numeracy Tests

The 2008 national testing for students in Years 3, 5 and 7 is a different style of testing from that used in previous years. This means that it is not possible to validly compare the 2008 results with the 2007 results, as they are based on different testing systems. In 2007 and earlier, testing was based on the Queensland curriculum. The 2008 tests were conducted on a national basis, which did not take into account differences in curriculum and timing between the states. (In some instances in these national tests, Queensland students were tested on elements of the curriculum they had not yet been taught.) This also means it is not possible to compare the results of one state with another, as the curriculum varies from state to state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 3 Test Results (2008)</th>
<th>School Average</th>
<th>State Average</th>
<th>% of students at or above National Benchmark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>374</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar and Punctuation</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 5 Test Results (2008)</th>
<th>School Average</th>
<th>State Average</th>
<th>% of students at or above National Benchmark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>474</td>
<td>467</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>468</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>471</td>
<td>461</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar and Punctuation</td>
<td>476</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
<td>448</td>
<td>457</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Year 7 Test Results (2008)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>School Average</th>
<th>State Average</th>
<th>% of students at or above National Benchmark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>521</td>
<td>529</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>521</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar and Punctuation</td>
<td>510</td>
<td>519</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comparative results from previous years can also be found on the schools website at www.stmaryslaidley.qld.edu.au

### Progress and Future Direction

Parents, staff and students are regularly offered opportunities to contribute their thoughts and ideas about the school through a variety of ways. These include:

- Surveys published in school newsletters
- Monthly Parents and Friends Meetings
- Parent Teacher Interviews
- Casual Conversations
- Staff Meetings
- Compliments, Comments & Concerns slip in newsletter

Feedback from students, staff and parents is valued and appreciated as the thoughtful and constructive feedback has helped and will continue to guide the future direction of St Mary’s. This feedback is then used in our Strategic Renewal, Planning and Goal Setting. Responses have been of a very positive nature and show a genuine appreciation for the efforts of staff and parents at St Mary’s.

### Value added by School Report Progress in respect to School Renewal Goals – See attached reports below.

St Mary’s Catholic Primary School  
37A John St, (PO Box 166)  
Laidley QLD 4341

Principal: Mr Nathan Haley
ST MARY’S LAIDLEY
SCHOOL GOALS 2008

Ethos, Faith & Spirituality

We intend to:

- Strengthen relationships with GLR Parish and especially St Patrick’s, Laidley.
  - Strengthened relationships through a combined 2008 Parish Fete held at St Mary’s.
  - Implementation and participation in Youth Masses at weekend services.
  - Regular sharing of school information with Parish Pastoral Council.
  - Monthly Mass shared between school and parish.
  - Parish Members invited back to school after special events.

- Enhance the classroom teaching of Religious Education at St Mary’s.
  - Christian Meditation implemented and taught school wide.
  - New teaching resources purchased.

- Enhance spiritual formation for staff.
  - Professional Development of staff through guest speakers sharing their spirituality.
  - Each Wednesday staff gather for prayer at 8:00am.
Partnerships and Relationships

We intend to:

- Strengthen links with community groups.
  - In 2008 we commenced connections with the Gatton Agricultural College.
  - Plainland Hardware and Rural supported St Mary’s as we implemented our Federal Government Green Voucher.
  - Participate in and support local events e.g. Spring Festival, ANZAC parade.
  - Support local charities through fundraising events e.g. Laidley St Vincent De Paul

- Strengthen links with local Catholic Schools.
  - Regular meetings held between schools.
  - Combined staff professional development.

- Further develop parent involvement.
  - Parent involvement through Support-A-Reader, Tuckshop, Literacy Groups and Interschool sports.
  - Parents assisted with library book covering.
  - Parents welcomed for family reading in library after school.
  - Parents updated on P&F matters and invited to attend meetings.
  - Parents invited to all school functions and celebrations e.g. school masses, Grandparents Day, Mother’s Day, Celebrations of Learning.

- Re-write and update Parent Handbook.
  - Parent Handbook re-written and printed for the commencement of 2009 school year.
  - All families received a copy of the new handbook.
ST MARY’S LAIDLEY
SCHOOL GOALS 2008

Teaching and Learning

We intend to:

➢ Develop a school plan for Information Communication Learning Technologies.
  • ICLT Committee established in 2008.
  • An audit was undertaken on ICLT infrastructure and hardware.
  • Installation of wireless network commenced.
  • A plan for future direction was drafted.

➢ Provide high quality, relevant Professional Development for Staff.
  • Staff undertook professional development in ICLT, Religious Education, Spirituality, Oral Language and Science at a school level.
  • Teachers as part of their Annual Goal Setting identified Individual Professional Development workshops to attend. These workshops covered many and varied curriculum areas.

➢ Review and Develop a Whole School Literacy Plan.
  • Literacy Plan Reviewed
  • Oral Language in the Early Years identified as an area for further development.
  • Professional development provided for Early Years teachers in Oral Language.
  • Preparations made for all staff to be trained in First Steps - Speaking and Listening in 2009.

➢ Undertake Review of Specialist Roles.
  • Student Support Services reviewed –Student Support Team developed.
  • Student Support Referral Process re-written to enhance delivery of student support.
Leadership and Management

We intend to:

➢ Establish a School Promotion & Marketing Plan.
  • St Mary’s Marketing Plan developed in conjunction with John Phelan (Brisbane Catholic Education).
  • St Mary’s Prospectus developed.
  • Full Brisbane Catholic Education Marketing suite implemented.

➢ Provide and promote quality education through providing adequate school resourcing.
  • Annual budgets set and implemented.
  • In 2008 a large focus was on Reading Resources across the school.
  • Resourcing was provided in all Key Learning Areas.

➢ Engage with the School Renewal Framework & School Validation Process.
  • In 2008 St Mary’s reviewed five components within the School Renewal Process.
  • Feedback was gained through consultation with parents, students and staff.
  • Information gained through Renewal Process used to set future goals.

➢ Begin process for the introduction of a Pastoral School Board.
  • George Kendall engaged to help with the focus of preparing for a Pastoral School Board in 2009.
Teaching and Learning

We intend to:

- Develop a school plan for Information Communication Learning Technologies
  - Hardware and infrastructure audit undertaken – Term 1
  - Upgrade of infrastructure – Term 2
  - 15 new computers purchased – Term 2
  - Upgrade of operating system – Term 2
- Provide high quality Professional Development for staff in:
  - First Steps – Speaking and Listening
    - Cath Grealy from BCE engaged to lead all staff in training – Terms 1 & 2
  - Science – Life and Living
    - Four staff engaged in CTJ Science workshop and then peer mentoring – Term 2
  - ICLT – Audit of staff skills, staff sharing of professional knowledge
- Further development and implementation of Oral Language Program in the Early Years
- Review and evaluate current reporting processes
  - Staff surveyed on current practices – end of Term 2
  - Parents surveyed in current practices – end of Term 2
- Refine Student Tracking Folders and processes
- Undertake a Whole School Curriculum Audit of Outcomes/Essentials taught
- Friends program conducted with Year 4 Students – Caroline Chisholm Centre
ST MARY’S LAIDLEY
SCHOOL GOALS 2009

Leadership and Management

We intend to:

- Begin discussions for the establishment of a St Mary’s School Board
  - George Kendall engaged to discuss introduction – Term 1 & 2
  - School Pastoral Board discussed – June P&F meeting
  - Parents and staff participated in School Board Conference
- Review and renew the Staff Handbook
- Engage with the School Renewal Framework & School Validation Process
  - Timeline developed for 2009 – Term 1
  - Parent and staff surveys developed – Term 2
  - Data collated – Term 2 & 3
- Continue planning for the implementation of an OSHC program
  - OSHC discussed in line with new building project
- Discuss further the establishment of the Lockyer Valley Resource Centre
  - Playgroup commenced – end of Term 1
- Review functions and purpose of the St Mary’s Library
  - Staff survey developed and completed – Term 2
  - Parent survey developed – Term 2
  - Parent Survey conducted – Term 3
- Reviewed morning supervision – Term 1 (Modified morning play introduced)
- Engage with P21 Building Project – Strategic Building Planning
- Enhance school facilities by expending National School Pride funding
ST MARY’S LAIDLEY
SCHOOL GOALS 2009

Ethos, Faith and Spirituality

We intend to:

- Review and critique school practices in regards to the School Vision & Mission Statement
  - Will occur in line with the introduction of the School Pastoral Board – Beginning 2010
- Continue to strengthen the relationships with the GLR Parish and in particular St Patrick’s, Laidley
  - Inaugural Gala Evening – 31st October 2009
  - Youth masses introduced and promoted
  - Anointing mass attendance – Years 6-7
- Establish and maintain sacred spaces in classrooms and around the school
- Further develop staff understanding of Spirituality and Faith Formation
  - Fr John Dobson – Breaking open the Gospels - Jan 2009
  - Fr Carlos Gilbert – Christian Meditation – May 2009
  - Staff pilgrimage to St Stephen’s Cathedral and Mercy Centre – July 2009
- Establish Priorities for resourcing of Spiritual and Faith Formation Initiatives
Partnerships and Relationships

We intend to:

- Reinforce the importance of the P&F and develop the P&F understanding of the role of a School Board
  - Brief outline of the role of a School Pastoral Board – June P&F meeting
- Further promote active participation in the school’s P&F
- Work closely with the St Patrick’s Parish in the development of the Lockyer Valley Resource Centre
- Strengthen links with community groups and businesses
  - Joined in partnership with Laidley News Express & IGA for Bushfire Appeal
  - Joined in partnership with Laidley Rugby League to take on LDSHS student for a traineeship
- Further develop Pastoral Care and Community Support
  - St Mary’s Care & Concern Committee established