



2024

Annual Report to the School Community



St Mary's School

2-8 Campbell Street, WARRACKNABEAL 3393

Principal: Julie Leonard

Web: www.smwarracknabeal.catholic.edu.au

Registration: 581, E Number: E2027

Principal's Attestation

I, Julie Leonard, attest that St Mary's School is compliant with:

- The minimum standards and other requirements for school registration and school boarding premises (if applicable) as specified in the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic) and the Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017 (Vic).
- Australian Government accountability requirements related to the 2024 school year under the Australian Education Act 2013 (Cth) and the Australian Education Regulations 2023 (Cth).
- The Child Safe Standards as prescribed in Ministerial Order 1359 – Implementing the Child Safe Standards, Managing the Risk of Child Abuse in Schools and School Boarding Premises.

Attested on 03 Apr 2025

About this report

St Mary's School is registered by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA). The Annual Report to the School Community (ARSC), provides parents and the wider community with information about the school's activities and achievements throughout the year including information about various aspects of school performance. The Report is supplementary to other forms of regular communication to the school community regarding initiatives, activities and programs which support the learning and wellbeing of its students. Further information about the contents of this Report may be obtained by contacting the School directly or by visiting the School's website. Information can also be obtained from the [My School website](#).

Governing Authority Report

Reflecting on 2024, we have much to be proud of, with DOBCEL demonstrating our dedication to ensuring the highest quality student outcomes in a safe, affordable, faith-based and nurturing environment. There was significant ongoing investment in new learning facilities and refurbishments through the Australian and state Government Capital Grants Program and school community funding continued across our schools, enhancing learning spaces and amenities for the benefit of students and staff.

In 2024, I visited all our Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Limited (DOBCEL) schools from the Murray to the Sea. DOBCEL governs 51 primary schools, one F-8 school, and five secondary colleges, educating approximately 13,500 students and employing over 2,200 teachers and staff across the diocese. These visits highlighted the spirit of harmony and sense of community, along with the cultures of care for students and staff.

During 2024, I had the privilege of meeting with all Principals along with leadership colleagues and staff. Demands on schools continue to grow, as the communities they service undergo change and face challenges such as devastating bushfires and cost of living challenges.

During the year DOBCEL commenced the development of its future DOBCEL Strategy 2035. Our strategy is focused on ensuring fullness of life for all in our school communities and particularly our students. With our Catholic Identity foundational to our mission our focus will be on

- Collaborative Cultures
- Engagement & Belonging
- School as Community
- Rich Pedagogical practices for deeper learning and wellbeing
- Sustainable Stewardship

I recognise the extraordinary work, exceptional dedication and professionalism of staff in our schools and offices in providing education services to the families and communities they serve. I particularly acknowledge the commitment of our school leadership teams and their staff in nurturing and empowering the students in our care, as together we work to bring to life our vision: As partners in Catholic Education and open to God's presence, we pursue the fullness of life for all.

Tom Sexton

Executive Director DOBCEL

Vision and Mission

Vision and Mission

Vision

St. Mary's Catholic School provides a challenging and comprehensive school curriculum, based on Catholic Christian values and excellence in education. St. Mary's School is committed to the development of the whole person as we promote and support caring relationships between school, home, parish and the wider Warracknabeal Community.

Mission

As a Christ centred school we value our Catholic beliefs, practices and traditions.

In this educational environment we:

- will provide a comprehensive 21st century curriculum which is vibrant, challenging and will support the development of the whole person.
- will cater for the varied learning styles of our students.
- will provide an environment that is happy, safe and welcoming for our students and families. This will include protecting and keeping all children safe from harm in all school environments and outside of school hours (including online environments).
- will respect the dignity of the individual and value the participation and contributions of all.
- will work in partnership with parents and the parish to encourage our students to make a contribution in the community in which they live

School Overview

School Context

St. Mary's is a thriving Christ-centred learning community governed through DOBCEL. As a school of St Paul VI Parish, we are grounded in the Gospels which values each student, and is committed to inspiring and challenging students in a safe, respectful and responsible learning environment. The school has been rebuilt and boasts excellent facilities throughout. We have a rich history of providing a Catholic Education dating back to 1901. In 1928, the Ballarat East Sisters of Mercy began their ministry as teachers. Since 1988, St Mary's has been staffed by lay teachers. We cater for children from Foundation (Prep) to Year 6 with an end of 2023 enrolment of 68 students from 48 families. Our forecast enrolment for 2024 is 65 students.

St. Mary's continues to build upon twenty-first century pedagogy to deliver a curriculum that engages all students across their seven-year primary education journey. We prioritise whole-child outcomes, personalise learning experiences and continue to work towards enabling conditions for meaningful change. Through our School Improvement Plan, our strategic intent is to build the learner agency of students to allow them to navigate their way through life and positively impact their circumstances. Our staff are inspired by the positive future of education that is at our fingertips and are willing to take risks and push boundaries to better prepare our learners for the modern world. We are consciously aware of the changes in education - the need for data analytics and for our staff and students to be digitally literate in the artificial intelligence domain. St Mary's continues to evolve to meet the needs of those we serve.

We are revisiting the school's Vision and Mission statements in light of our previous school review to ensure that they reflect our Catholic ethos in a progressive and modern society. We continue to review the process of engaging staff and families about place of St. Mary's within the Catholic community and how best we reflect who we are.

Principal's Report

2024 School Advisory Council and Parents' Club Annual General Meeting

This is the Annual Report of the operation of St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Warracknabeal for the 2024 school year, as presented St Mary's Catholic Primary School Advisory Council Final Meeting and Parents' Club Annual General Meeting, held 30 October 2024.

At the time of writing this report our school enrolment totals 63 students, a decrease of 5 as per this time last year.

Enrolments

I am forecasting a 2025 enrolment of 75 students, 10 more than this time last year. We have 7 exiting Year 6's, 17 incoming Foundation students with one family with one student indicating they will be leaving Warracknabeal due to work commitments.

At the end of 2022 we were advised to reduce our class groupings from 4 to 3, due to lower numbers and sustainability of finances.

For 2024, classes have been organised in three learning groups.

Chickpeas 21 students Wheat 20 Students Canola 22 students

With our current enrolment numbers at 75 for 2025, we are returning to 4 classes in 2025 and currently seeking a new teacher.

Catholic Identity and Mission

Goals & Intended Outcomes

As a Catholic school, St Mary's ensures the dignity of the human person is embedded in the practices, policies and programs in the school.

The school demonstrates its understanding of its mission as a Catholic school through the Religious Education curriculum, an awareness of its school diversity and faithfulness to Catholic tradition, and its outreach in the local and wider community.

As a Catholic school it is important for us to be aware of the plight of our brothers and sisters as well as our environment as stewards of God's world.

We continue to engage in professional learning in Catholic culture with an emphasis on Scripture, the Catholic Tradition and the language and design of the ECSI survey tool, in order to make explicit connections between ECSI data and the RE curriculum.

Achievements

Religious Education

The continued implementation of the revised Awakenings the Religious Education (RE) curriculum

The focus on formative and summative assessments to inform the Religious Education curriculum teaching

The planned RE units of work to support the school's Enhancing Catholic School Identity (ECSI) data

The raised awareness of the importance of deep scriptural understanding to move student's literal belief towards post critical belief

Implementation of the Fullness of Life: Relationships and Sexuality program Enhancing Catholic School Identity

The school has analysed its (ECSI) data and identified the need to become a more dialogical school by ensuring all students are given learning experiences in the sharing of the Catholic tradition.

The need to re-contextualise the iconography of Mary as the patron of the school.

Awareness and integration of approaches in religious education to reflect the diversity of faith traditions and philosophies of life in the school.

Staff have a good understanding of the preferred stance of the Diocese in the ECSI data

Social Action & Justice

The school has an emphasis on Catholic Social Teachings and its link to the Gospel and ensures links to the school's social action programs.

The school has strong knowledge of all its families and demonstrates deeply committed support for families in need.

Families supported Catholic Mission through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion as part of our Lenten journey. Weekly updates and stories were shared on our newsletter and all families were provided with collection boxes.

Grade 5/6 Lentil students organised and conducted Mission Day and fundraised for those in need.

Students have been aware of and involved in a number of significant Social Justice 'weeks' or 'days' throughout the year. These included, but were not limited to, Project Compassion, ANZAC Day, Harmony Day, National Reconciliation Week, World Environment Day, National Anti-Bullying Week, Remembrance Day. Our students are actively engaged in these social awareness and social justice events.

Value Added

We welcomed Fr Sajan Matthew to our Parish and school and look forward to his stewardship to continue the school's connection to Parish, with regular school visits and assisting and celebrating Masses and liturgies.

Students continue to develop a greater awareness and understanding of the Gospel and the relevance of Jesus in their lives through their involvement in Religious Education classes, daily prayer, preparation and presentation of prayer for class assemblies and school masses and liturgies

St Mary's celebrated Catholic Education Week in 2024 with a liturgy and variety of activities to acknowledge the theme from Romans 12:12 'Be joyful in hope, painful in affliction and faithful in prayer'

St Mary's continues to advocate the sacramental program with another student completing their sacraments this year

Learning and Teaching

Goals & Intended Outcomes

St. Mary's prides itself as a school which has developed as a 'community of learners'. The school has targeted professional learning and all teachers develop and implement agreed shared pedagogical practices.

St.Mary's has a well-documented, sequential and sequenced curriculum in English, Mathematics and Religious Education which underpins effective teaching strategies, practices and programs.

Specialist subjects of Art, Music, Technology and Japanese are provided.

We are well staffed with education support officers throughout the school, who in addition to supporting children in the classroom, implement intervention programs including speech support, QuickSmart Maths Numeracy Intervention and Read 3 Literacy intervention. We also employ through our NCCD funding regular Speech Therapy support provided by Sally Anderson.

Achievements

Pedagogical Practice

St Mary's has clear, agreed school pedagogical practices across all year levels which are informed by the content in the Victorian Curriculum. Within these agreed statements are non-negotiable teaching practices, such as guided reading, daily writing and differentiated learning outcomes, which are clear collective commitments that are adhered to.

Curriculum

A clearly articulated and documented viable curriculum for English, Mathematics, Religious Education and specialist subjects

The Essential learnings are clearly articulated across the curriculum

Teacher planning occurs individually and in a community of practice teams. Numeracy, literacy and religious education planning is also supported by DOBCEL staff. The school's planning documentation clearly identifies learning adjustments necessary for individual students and how indigenous perspectives are integrated into the curriculum.

Student Learning Outcomes

Effective Teaching

Our triangulated data from a range of assessments provides strong evidence students are learning.

All education staff have a clear commitment to ensure all students have access to curriculum and pedagogical approaches to enable them the opportunity to achieve to high standards

Engagement in Professional learning in response to student data e.g. Learner Agency, Data Analytics

Implementation of strategies from professional learning to strengthen pedagogy

The effective use of pre- and post-Common Formative Assessment Tasks (CFATS)

Evidence of clear statements of non-negotiable teaching practices

Engaging Students in Their Own Learning

Teachers have focused on designing curriculum to strengthen student engagement in their learning across the school.

There is use of Learning Intentions and Success Criteria across classrooms.

Analysis and Use of Data

A systematic collection and response to data is evident

A collaborative analysis of all data sets is evident

Data storage ensures accessibility for all staff

Professional learning teams plan strategically through their use of 'Faces on the Data Wall' and now also the SIMON platform dashboard which integrates assessment to provide visual tools to view student progress and achievement. There is a strong focus on data collection. Faces on the Wall data, OARS and online tools show clearly where each student is in their learning, which is used to inform teaching. These and other data sets, including writing moderations are gathered and discussed in professional learning communities, and also as agenda items throughout the year in teacher meetings.

Coordinated Strategies for Intervention

A wide range of Intervention programs are employed to support student learning.

A proactive approach is used in early intervention in the early years.

Strong evidence indicates an outstanding knowledge of students with diverse learning needs.

Evidence of excellent processes to attract and use additional funding (NCCD). Through our

audit in 2024, the school was praised for being exemplar in the gathering and storage of evidence to support our NCCD students.

Achievements

Staff engagement in professional learning in Learner Agency and Data Analytics

Staff engaging in the Religious Education Accreditation Program

Building capacity of students taking ownership of their own learning (student voice and agency)

Developing and implementing viable curriculum across all key learning areas

Implementing and monitoring the effectiveness of Intervention programs

Student participation in Book Week, Catholic Education Week and Mission Days

NAPLAN 2024

Through the use of PAT data analysis in Reading, Writing and Spelling, staff have identified that growth has been achieved. There is still a strong focus to develop further growth of Writing

students in this area. Our PAT data has shown an improvement in Mathematics. We continue to have an increase of students with diverse learning needs who individuals and families chose to complete NAPLAN. St Mary's is committed to continually improving student learning outcomes in Literacy and Numeracy. Being a small school it is difficult to use NAPLAN data alone to determine the overall effectiveness of the school's program. We have a range of evidential practices which demonstrate incredible individual growth of many students across the whole school and this needs to be celebrated and not hidden amongst a snapshot of results of NAPLAN from only Grade 3 and 5 for 2024.

Key Improvements

To continue to improve outcomes across all learning areas with an emphasis on Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation across all year levels

To use evidence-based research of student engagement to inform teaching and student learning

A proactive approach is used in early intervention in the early years - screeners are used including CHIPS and Sound Scouts to identify students at risk, all foundation students complete numeracy and literacy assessments in term 1 to identify their strengths and challenges to individualise their learning programs

Strong evidence indicates outstanding staff knowledge of students with diverse learning needs

Evidence of excellent processes to attract and use additional funding (NCCD)

St Mary's continues to strive to improve Reading and Writing across all year levels and to use evidence-based improvements of student engagement in their learning.

A school's NAPLAN test must have a minimum of 11 participants and 80% participation rate. Data not reported for 2023 due to participation not meeting these criteria or no students were assessed. Participants include students who were assessed, including non-attempt, or those exempted from the test.

NAPLAN - Proportion of students meeting the proficient standards			
Domain	Year level	Mean Scale score	Proficient
Grammar & Punctuation	Year 3	395	50%
	Year 5	*	*
Numeracy	Year 3	430	75%
	Year 5	*	*
Reading	Year 3	404	75%
	Year 5	*	*
Spelling	Year 3	355	42%
	Year 5	*	*
Writing	Year 3	397	58%
	Year 5	*	*

*A school's NAPLAN test must have a minimum of 11 participants and 80% participation rate. Data not reported for 2024 due to participation not meeting these criteria or no students were assessed. Participants include students who were assessed, including non-attempt, or those exempted from the test.

Student Wellbeing

Goals & Intended Outcomes

The wellbeing of the students is integrated through a holistic approach with strong alignment to our SWPB Matrix, underpinned by our school values and the Learning and Teaching culture of the school. We continue to implement effective practices to promote, monitor and enhance the wellbeing of all students.

Achievements

Expectations of our SWPB Matrix are explicitly taught intertwined with the curriculum. Our Fullness of Life Program and Respectful Relationships curriculum promotes the well being for all students.

Reading Certificates have been presented for achieving 'nights of reading' targets which increase in increments of 25. These have been presented at assemblies and recognised via the various platforms of community engagement

Personalised Learning Plans, Health Support Plans and Behaviour plans have helped to develop and improve the confidence in our children as the learning tasks and social interactions they undertake are developed to meet their specific needs.

Students created gifts and cooked food for Mother's Day morning tea, which was well - attended, followed by a learning walk

Students also were able to have a special breakfast with their Dad/Granddad/significant other and made lovely gifts for Father's Day

Our Grandparents Day was exceptionally well attended, with a liturgy followed by shared activities

There is evidence of a culture of pride, hospitality and welcome to the school

The school is seen as open, approachable and staff are compassionate

We have clear, documented evidence around well-being policies and procedures

Restorative practice is embedded across the school

Evident and embedded Child Safe practices, with child friendly version standards established and published throughout the school

The use of SIMON for behaviour incident tracking

The design and maintenance of school facilities ensure a safe and stimulating environment for all

Supporting a safe OHS environment

Strengthening opportunities for student leadership, including the Student Representative Council as a forum for student voice

We continue to embed a consistent approach in whole school agreed strategies for behaviour management and school wide positive behaviour practices

We aim to develop confident and respectful students who are able to regulate their own behaviour and model this to other students

We aim to strengthen student voice and agency in learning

Value Added

Meetings with parents regarding PLPs, behaviour and health plans

Diocesan Child Safety Network

Weekly school newsletter with a focus on student achievements

Local newspaper features with a focus on student achievements

Student awards at assembly to promote achievement across a number of areas

This year students were able to engage in many activities - Grade 5/6 went on a 3 night camp to Melbourne; Grade 3/4 went on a 2 night camp to Halls Gap, whilst P-2 had

a day trip to the Halls Gap Zoo.

We held our swimming program, Swimming Carnival and Athletics Carnival. All these events occurred in Term 1.

In Term 2 students participated in Cross Country, coming second in the Little Desert Division.

We had students compete in interschool AFL competition

Many of our students were very successful at the inter school sports and some also at regional level.

Throughout the year students attended live performances funded by Country Education Partnerships

The STOMP Hip Hop program which performed for parents, and students also performed musical items for the Prelude to Christmas.

Graduation Mass and Dinner for our Grade 6 cohort and whole school end of year BBQ and pool party.

Student Satisfaction

Through staff Professional Learning Learner Agency students are beginning to take more ownership of their learning through goal setting and other forms of independent learning.

Our students are happy and enjoy at school. They feel a strong sense of connectedness to their peers, their teachers and the school. Students feel safe at St Mary's Primary School and high attendance rates demonstrate a preparedness for students to be attending school.

Student Attendance

Student attendance is managed through SIMON. Teachers complete the class rolls at 9.30am and 2pm. Absences are noted by both the Administrative Officer and the Principal. If the school has not been notified of a student's absence via PAM App, phone call or note in the student's diary from the previous day (if a planned absence), the school will follow up with a text message through PAM and/or a phone call to the parents or caregivers. Student attendance is recorded as a percentage to families at the end of each semester on the school report.

Average Student Attendance Rate by Year Level

Y01 89.9%

Y02 90.1%

Y03. 91.8%

Y04. 92.1%

Y05. 93.5%

Y06 89.0%

Overall average attendance

91.1%

Average Student Attendance Rate by Year Level	
Y01	87.2
Y02	88.9
Y03	86.6
Y04	90.3
Y05	90.5
Y06	89.8
Overall average attendance	88.9

Leadership

Goals & Intended Outcomes

There is a strong sense of purpose and direction is shared by all staff in their collective ownership of the learning and teaching environment.

School leadership supports staff so that they build their capacity as teachers and also as themselves as learners; to work collaboratively to embed agreed pedagogies and practices that support students to be informed and independent learners.

Achievements

Through the St Mary's community working together and embracing change, the school can continue to grow and thrive.

All staff have a role to play in the leadership of the school and staff are responsible to and accountable for all students learning.

previous data supports a culture of collective responsibility for improving student learning.

The POL 2 position and role description was revised during 2024, and for 2025 will be POL2 Acting Principal - Inclusion and Diversity. Special duties allowances have also been created to support Sport Coordination and the role of FLARE coordinator

There is an outstanding commitment to staff professional learning in response to identified priorities.

All Professional learning is a response to the analysis of learning data and is connected to the school's Annual Action Plan.

Professional Learning engaged in by staff is research and evidence based.

Our strong PLC culture for continuous improvement drives the next point of student learning.

Support from Catholic Education Ballarat has been consistent throughout the year, and we thank Sam Meerbach for her continued work and tireless commitment to our teachers to unpack the curriculum, analyse assessment data and assist in determining the essential learnings and to implement a viable curriculum for all students.

Bernadette Luckman has been invaluable in guiding our teachers through the Fullness of Life Curriculum and exposing teachers to developing their pedagogical skills towards post critical belief

Maria Richards has guided the school through professional development relevant to the Learning Diversity Leaders, the National Consistent Collection of Data, testing and screening

of students with learning needs and also the Post Enumeration Census conducted this year Sally Anderson remains pivotal in her role in supporting students with speech intervention.

Expenditure And Teacher Participation in Professional Learning	
List Professional Learning undertaken in 2024	
Expenditure And Teacher Participation in Professional Learning <i>List Professional Learning undertaken in 2024</i> • Learner Agency and Data Analytics - Learning Walks - REAP study support - World EduLead Conference in Singapore - Japanese Study tour - SIMON platform implementation - ZART PD - Horsham Alliance - Dyslexia, Autism and Neurodivergent Webinars and Professional Development Days - ROSAE PL - Religious Education ECSI data - Diocesan Leadership Gatherings - Diocesan New Principal Gatherings - Learning Diversity PL - Anaphylaxis, Asthma, First Aid and Emergency Management Updates - NCCD - Personal professional learning undertaken individually	
Number of teachers who participated in PL in 2024	12
Average expenditure per teacher for PL	\$2500.00

Teacher Satisfaction

St Mary's prides itself on a positive teaching climate

Pastoral Care is evident for staff, with staff able to approach the school's leaders to discuss issues. Teachers at St Mary's are dedicated, enthusiastic, passionate and take pride in their work. All staff believe they can make a difference to students' learning and effectively engage students to optimise their opportunities. The curriculum in this school is well-planned and well-documented.

This year there was a change from 4 classes to three, which also included an increase in class sizes to accommodate all students. This has been challenging yet also provided opportunities for growth and learning. Change takes time and all staff continued to work together to strive towards a positive and supportive learning environment.

Teachers at St Mary's are confident that a motivating and engaging curriculum is being delivered,

Staff are continually staying informed with current classroom practices through professional development, weekly meetings and school in-services, including RE, behavioural management, literacy and numeracy. These are selected by analysis of current school data.

Teacher Qualifications	
Doctorate	0
Masters	2
Graduate	1
Graduate Certificate	0
Bachelor Degree	9
Advanced Diploma	1
No Qualifications Listed	0

Staff Composition	
Principal Class (Headcount)	2
Teaching Staff (Headcount)	7
Teaching Staff (FTE)	3.84
Non-Teaching Staff (Headcount)	8
Non-Teaching Staff (FTE)	4.59
Indigenous Teaching Staff (Headcount)	0

Community Engagement

Goals & Intended Outcomes

St Mary's prioritises building strong partnerships with its parents and caregivers based on the belief and commitment that to strengthen parent engagement in learning, is to ensure improved outcomes for student learning.

Whilst we have a committed and active Parent Club with strong parent involvement, St Mary's has engaged educational consultant Tony Dalton to train staff in the area of Professional Learning Walks so these can be implemented to showcase our school and drive parent engagement with their child's learning.

Achievements

Partnering with Families

The staff know their students and families extremely well.

The school is welcoming and accessible to all.

Parents and students report they have been supported throughout remote learning.

There are strong partnerships between the school and all families, particularly families with diverse learning needs.

The school works well in engaging parents in their children's learning through regular communication using a variety of platforms.

St Mary's continues to benefit greatly from the involvement of individuals and groups from the School and Parish Community, in particular St Mary's Parents' Club, Volunteer assistance across the school and parent/grandparent assistance in the classrooms

Parent Club has been exceptionally generous and proactive this year. Students have benefitted from free lunches, Grade 6 jumper and Graduation dinner support, purchase of STEM and sporting and equipment, all possible from the amazing voluntary work and support from our parents. St Mary's is incredibly grateful for these efforts of the families for the children.

Our students were also involved in the wreath laying ceremonies for ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day.

Relationships continue with the kindergarten, St Brigid's in Horsham, our sister Parish Primary Schools and Warracknabeal Educational Precinct.

We have celebrated Mother's Day and Father's Day Breakfasts, Grandparents day with liturgies, assemblies, learning walks and classroom invitations. End of Year Mass and Graduation Dinner are always a special highlight for our Grade 6 students

The school also was active in its support of the Australian Catholic Mission.

Transition days for our prospective new students were very well attended.

Parent Satisfaction

School Advisory Committee (SAC)

Chairperson Report 2024

Welcome to the final stages of the 2024 school year. It's hard to believe we are almost through another year. On balance it has been a very positive year for St Mary's with the full range of camps and extracurricular activities taking place this year. St Mary's has also experienced great success in the interschool cross country and athletics

As always, the school Parents' Club has been busy fundraising at a number of different school events to provide funding and support for our extracurricular activities which ultimately benefits our children. The Parents' Club is only possible because of the dedicated volunteers that donate their time to organise and conduct fundraising events, so thank you to all of you involved and I urge every St Mary's family to consider participating or volunteering to help out with the Parents' Club where possible, ultimately, you'll be helping provide the best possible learning environment for our children.

At the conclusion of the school year, we will farewell our Principal Nerrida Holland who is moving on to pursue other opportunities. We thank Nerrida for her efforts and leadership for the past 3 years and wish her well in the future as she embarks on her next challenge. In 2025, we will welcome Ms Julie Leonard as the new principal of St Mary's. I think she will be a great fit for our school and I urge everyone in the school community to welcome Julie and support her wherever possible as she begins her new role.

Looking ahead to 2025, at this stage St Mary's are welcoming 17 new students into the foundation stream and 2 new students in middle years which is a fantastic result and extremely promising for the school's future. We are also farewelling 7 students as they finish up Year 6. We wish them well on their future education endeavours and hope they look back upon their primary years of education at St Mary's with great fondness.

We are fortunate to have such a vibrant school in our community and this wouldn't be possible without the continued dedication of teachers, LSO, speech therapist, gardeners etc so thank you all for your continued efforts this year both in and out of the classroom.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy remainder of the year, and a joyous festive season as we embark on this busy time of year.

James Gregson

Parents' Club President Report 2024

Thank you everyone for your contributions to this year which was such a successful year in 2024. Our school continues to grow because of the kind and generous contributions given to us by our school community.

We as a Parents' Club continue to create opportunities for our students and allow our staff to access the resources required to provide meaningful learning experiences to our students.

Over the course of 2024, we have raised just over \$9000. This is a fantastic outcome for our students and has provided us with the funds to purchase a variety of resources and fund a range of events.

Our major fundraisers have included our bake sale, our pie drive, catering for private functions, and a wood raffle.

These functions were enabled by the support and time donated by our amazing families. Large amounts of food were donated for the bake sale, and time and effort were donated by families for the wood raffle.

Our fundraisers were huge successes due to the massive amount of work done by our wonderful Parents' Club members.

Parents' Club have purchased new resources for both the classroom and the sports program. We have purchased hurdles, new books for readers and STEM noodle kart. We have contributed to the Year 6 Tops, and graduation dinner and a special lunch day back in Term 3.

We will continue to consult with the school and assist with anything they require moving into 2025.

Words cannot express how grateful Parents' Club are for each and every member of our school families. Your continued support, donations, assistance and ideas towards school fundraisers and events enable us to continue to support the students at St Mary's Warracknabeal. We are truly blessed to share our community. To every person who contributed in any way, great or small; baking, selling, donating, assisting, cutting wood, selling raffle tickets, cooking, cleaning; thank you, your time and effort is to be commended.

Parent's Club would like to thank the Principal, Teachers and all staff for their continued efforts of providing an education and a range of learning experiences for our children at St Marys. Your work is appreciated and valued.

The end of 2024 signals a change, and we would like to thank Ms. Nerrida Holland for her contributions to St. Marys over her three years here with us. We hope Warracknabeal has a

special place in your heart and our students thank you for the time and energy and effort that you gave to each of them.

I would also like to acknowledge our current office bearers, Samantha Schulz, Abby Stephan and Ali Perris. Your efforts behind the scenes and continued support has been amazing and made the challenges over the past 12 months easier.

To potential new members of the Parents Club and Office bearers, know that you have the support of the Parents Club members past and present.

Jess Boyd.

Financial Performance

The school's financial performance information and a report of the financial activities of the school's boarding premises (if applicable) have been provided to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and will be available for the community to access from their website at www.acnc.gov.au.

For more detailed information regarding our school please visit our website at www.smwarracknabeal.catholic.edu.au