Community Council Open Forum

Wednesday 15th June 2016
Agenda

• Vision for St Mary’s
• Mission of St Mary’s
• Our Philosophy
• Goals
• Pillars
• Curriculum Update
• PE and Sport
• Extra-curricular
• Community
School Vision...

Empowering the Gifts Within
School Mission

- Making Jesus real in the lives of our community by living the Gospel values.
- Recognising parents/carers are the primary educators of their children and valuing the partnership between families and our school community.
- Encouraging climate of prayer and promoting Christian values as an integral part of the lives of children.
- Nurturing the children to express and explore their unique spiritual, academic, cultural, social and sporting gifts through empowering learning opportunities.
School Mission...

- Sharing and participating in and contributing to the traditions and culture of our local Young community.
- Acknowledging our rich past through recognising and celebrating the Wiradjuri people, the Presentation Sisters and all those who have come before us.
- Promoting awareness of others and service to those in need within and beyond our community.
- Empowering learners to make a positive contribution to humanity.
Philosophy

St Mary’s School is a welcoming and inclusive community where everybody counts and friendliness and kindness are at the heart of our relationships. There is an emphasis on supporting the wellbeing of all community members through the implementation of the Genesis Project; an all-encompassing approach to nurturing personal, social, spiritual, cultural and academic development.

At the heart of the St Mary’s educational philosophy, is the firm belief that all students can learn and that there are no predetermined limits to what students can accomplish at any age. Students come to St Mary’s with varying interests, abilities, experiences, passions and skills.
Philosophy

Curricular units are carefully designed to engage students with a variety of learning to meet their individual interests and needs and to provide them authentic and dynamic learning experiences. A broad range of materials, activities, approaches, and interconnected learning opportunities encourage each student to discover and develop in a cooperative learning environment. Students experience appropriate levels of challenge and are encouraged to recognize those areas where they may need to review in order to master required skills and content. St Mary’s School constantly monitors, analyses, and refines all aspects of teaching and learning. The result is a dynamic curriculum that evolves to accommodate learning needs of the students.
Philosophy

The teaching staff is a dynamic, dedicated group of professionals. Committed to quality, they continue to reflect upon current practices in light of research findings and adapt accordingly to give the children the best possible educational opportunities. In English, we have evolved toward a student centered curriculum rich in quality literature with an emphasis on the process as well as the product of writing. In Maths, there is an emphasis on problem solving and application of mathematical skills in real-world situations. The teaching faculty participates in an extensive professional development program and works closely with visiting consultants to ensure our practices provide the children with a rich, stimulating and supportive learning environment.
Philosophy

Individually and collectively, we challenge ourselves to pursue excellence in supporting the children in their personal, social, spiritual, cultural and academic development. As a school, we are committed to the joys of exploration and discovery. Differences among us enhance intellectual inquiry, expand understanding, and deepen empathy.

St Mary’s encourages active engagement in environmental stewardship, global citizenship, and service, empowering learners to make a positive contribution to humanity now and in the future.
Goals of the School

- High expectations
- Excellence in rural education
- Pride in self and school
Pillars

• Innovative Learning
• Nurturing Environment
• Faith in Action
• Enrichment Experiences
• Dynamic Community
Curriculum Focus Areas

• Language of Virtues

• Kagan Cooperative Learning

• Literacy Block

• COSA...SENA and LAF Class Data Walls

• Genesis - Reset/calming spaces, Friendly Kids

• Philosophy – Yr 2,3,4 and 6
PE and Sport Highlights

• Athletics Carnival
• Mortimer Shield (3rd), Representation at WR e.g. cross country, McKillop Touch Footy
• Rugby – curtain raisers at Brumbies on 1st July
• Netball – increased participation
• Sporting Schools Grant...many visiting instructors including martial arts, gymnastics, lawn bowls, soccer and speed stacking
• PE resourcing
• Thank you supporters.....
• Hosts for WR Athletics 29th June 2016
• Partnership...Amy and Leonne
Christ-centred welfare at St Mary’s
As co-creators we seek ways of bringing life to relationships and enabling our students to learn and grow socially, emotionally and in harmony with their own spirituality.
We continue to build our capacity to support our students in a variety of ways – which requires flexibility and ongoing insight and wisdom to adapt to the needs of our students. We are informed by ongoing research, expert knowledge, and our own deepening understanding of student’s social, emotional and spiritual development.

We also need to adapt to changing needs and specific ‘challenges’ as they are presented, and respond from a Christ centred perspective.
Why Virtues Are Important

Virtues are important because they show people love. They show people how to be better in life. Then it would be a better place to live. Some people don't know about virtues so we have to put up with it. Some times. But we are Lukey to no about virtues very very very very much. We are very Lukey to have a School like that. It is very Lukey. The name of the School is St. Mary's.
• Whole school Making Jesus Real and Virtues Project - promoting positive Christian behaviour within the school and in the homes
• Forum structures i.e. Student clubs - Circle Time: Teachers leading groups to give emotional support to friendships/issues
• Tailored programmes to meet the needs of groups such as our Friendly Kids programme
• Classroom structures i.e. cooperative learning – inclusive curriculum
• Peer support/mentor programme from the leadership group - on playground and specific peer support days
• Parent programmes - such as Family Virtues workshops, workshops with counsellor
• School counsellor for one-on-one sessions for targeted students
• Reward systems
• Yoga
• Meditation sessions
• Garden Programme – School Projects
Extra-curricular

In addition to sporting opportunities...

• St Mary’s Primary Choir
• St Mary’s Band
• St Mary’s Drum Corps
• St Mary’s Infant Choir
• Dance classes
• Aspirations
• G.A.T.E.W.A.Y.S
• Private instrumental lessons
• Faith in Action
Community

- Autumn Fair
- Soccer Carnival
- Trivia Night
- WR Athletics
- Reading Volunteers
- Parent volunteers for publishing
- Canteen volunteers
- Parents Workshops – Anxiety and Kaye Lowe

- Uniform