



Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn  
CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE

# ST MARY MACKILLOP COLLEGE

Tuggeranong, ACT

## 2012 ANNUAL REPORT



## SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: PO Box 1211

Principal: Mr Michael Lee

Parish Priest: Fr John Armstrong

School Board / Council Chair: Mr Denis O'Connor

Telephone: 6209 0125

Fax: 6231 9814

Email: [michael.lee@mackillop.act.edu.au](mailto:michael.lee@mackillop.act.edu.au)

Website: [www.mackillop.act.edu.au](http://www.mackillop.act.edu.au)

This report was prepared by:

Michael Lee

PRINCIPAL

## MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

---

### Principal's Message

I would like to welcome the MacKillop and wider community to the College's Annual Report for 2012. The purpose of this Report is to provide clear information about the progress of the College, the profile of its staff and the achievements of its students over the past twelve months. The Report also provides direction to policies and procedures and information regarding the College's finances. As a Catholic school belonging to the education system of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, I again welcome the opportunity to report on a school in the inclusive tradition of the Sisters of St Joseph, Canberra's largest Secondary School, located in the heart of the Tuggeranong Valley.

### College Board Message

The College Board has been active in working with the school to better plan and advise about its future, manage its finances and resources, refine its policies and promote its achievements into the wider community. This year three Board Members representing the parent community retired from the Board including Robyn Larson-Shelton, Ross Barnes and Board Chair Tony Visentin. Their experience and careful stewardship will be much missed.

Denis O'Connor

### Student Representative's Message

2012 was a great year for MacKillop and Year 12 thankfully felt we were very much part of it. Starting with an Opening School Mass, the visit of Prime Minister Gillard and ending with the opening of extensive refurbishment facilities at the Wanniasa Campus.

Year 12's involvement centred around many charity and community events, primary school visits, a huge involvement in Relay for Life and a highly successful program of classroom mentoring to junior secondary classes.

We were farewelled in December. We felt totally loved and supported during our time at MacKillop, it couldn't have been a better year for us.

Tyler Friend College Captain

Ashlee Evans College Captain

## SCHOOL FEATURES

---

St Mary MacKillop College is Canberra's largest secondary school; co-educational and founded in the tradition of the Sisters of St Joseph began by Mary MacKillop. The College relies of 10 Catholic Primary schools to provide an Early Childhood to year 12 pathway for Catholic Education in South Canberra.

The College happily finds itself with a diverse, inclusive student body of 52% female, and 57% Catholic, a wide range of learning talents and needs, 70 students of Indigenous background and a vibrant staff with a wide range of experience, background and talents.

Parent and Friends activities are directed through the College Board and help to support students in a wide range of ways.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

---

St Mary MacKillop College follows the Archdiocese Religious Education curriculum Treasures New and Old and looks to the document “Catholic Schools at the Crossroads”, co-authored by the Bishops of NSW and the ACT for guidance.

The College provides considerable support for staff in helping them to know, understand and to be able to contribute to the ethos of the College and the expectations and hopes of the Archdiocese.

The College is proud of its Masses and Liturgies, in opportunities for community and private prayer. The College enjoys excellent relationships with other Catholic and Parish schools.

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT - NAPLAN

---

Students in Years 7 and 9 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 7	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	541	518	543	546	538
School	549	510	532	547	530

YEAR 9	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	574	553	577	573	584
School	589	568	570	576	582

### Proportion of students at or above the National Minimum Standard

YEAR 7	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	94%	90%	93%	95%	94%
School	96%	92%	91%	98%	95%

YEAR 9	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	91%	82%	90%	90%	93%
School	96%	85%	89%	94%	98%

### Proportion of students in each Achievement Band

YEAR 7	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 9	7%	3%	5%	10%	7%
Band 8	23%	13%	20%	15%	14%
Band 7	29%	24%	26%	34%	26%
Band 6	27%	27%	27%	31%	33%
Band 5	11%	25%	11%	8%	16%
Band 4	3%	8%	9%	2%	4%

YEAR 9	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 10	8	7%	4%	4%	6%
Band 9	19%	15%	18%	15%	13%
Band 8	28%	27%	28%	31%	27%
Band 7	26%	18%	25%	26%	28%
Band 6	15%	91%	16%	19%	24%
Band 5	3%	14%	11%	6%	1%

The above tables show the students in Year 7 are above the National Mean Scale Score in reading and grammar and punctuation. In Year 9 the students are above in reading, writing and grammar and punctuation. A highlight for 2012 is that Year 9 girls have improved by 18 scale scores from the test aspect of numeracy. MacKillop students in Years 7 and 9 have achieved particularly well in bands 7 and 8 and 8 and 9 respectively in all areas of NAPLAN.

## 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>

### Attendance Policy

Under the Education Act 2004 St Mary MacKillop College is required to maintain accurate records of: the full name and address of each student enrolled at the school the attendance or non-attendance of each student enrolled at the school on each day when the school is open or the course of study is available. Where the prescribed hours of attendance are changed, either temporarily or on an ongoing basis, parents will be notified in writing. Under the ACT Education Act 2004 all students are required to remain at school until the age of 17 or until they gain their Year 12 Certificate, whichever

comes first. Year 10 students who wish to pursue work beyond the receipt of their Year 10 Certificate may do so by applying for an Approval Statement or Exemption Certificate through the ACT Education and Training Directorate.

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and community events and are encouraged to participate in co-curricular events. Under the ACT Education Act 2004 it is a requirement that any student who is absent for 25 days or more must apply for an Exemption Certificate through the ACT Education and Training Directorate. This includes leave due to travel, student exchange, part time employment, part time training, and health issues.

## **Behaviour**

St Mary MacKillop College uses a process of restorative practices when working with students. The College is committed to the provision of an environment where students feel safe and happy and where relationships between the staff and students are respectful and productive and based around restorative principles.

The College provides clear recommendation of its policies, a working relationship with families and caregivers and the integration of counselling as ways of helping to ensure the College is a place of support for students. The College outlines its behaviour management code in its Quality Conduct Policy a copy of which is available on the College website.

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.

## **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 .

## **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT – Year 10 and Year 12 Certification**

---

### **Year 10**

The total number of students enrolled in Year 10 at St Mary MacKillop College was 291. All students studying at the Year 10 level received a year 10 Certificate.

### **Year 12**

The total number of students enrolled in Year 12 was 214. All students met the requirements to receive a Year 12 Certificate. All students who received a Year 12 Certificate completed a Board of Secondary Studies (BSSS) accredited course in English or 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 5 whole staff days in 2012. The content of these days was as follows: all staff attended sessions on WHS and laws surrounding workplace safety and expectations, and updated CPR qualifications. Staff who needed to update their first aid training completed training with a private provider. A full day of professional learning was held on differentiation across the curriculum and a separate day on restorative practices. Each year the College holds a Staff Conference. This year the Conference ensured all staff undertook RE Accreditation A: To Work in a Catholic School. All staff attended 3 twilight professional learning sessions to undertake training in QTF. At the end of the year, teachers engaged in 2 days of professional learning on the theme, "Australian Curriculum: General Capabilities."

### **Teacher Qualifications**

All of the 112 teachers at St Mary MacKillop College are qualified as required by the relevant State and Territory bodies.

## **TEACHER ATTENDANCE AND RETENTION**

---

The average teacher attendance rate during 2012 was 197.4 days out of a total of 204 days. The teacher retention rate from 2011 to 2012 was 79.5%. Of the staff not retained, a number moved interstate, some moved to other systemic schools and into promotional positions whilst others moved to positions within the government sector. 3 staff members retired from the teaching profession.

## **STUDENT ATTENDANCE**

---

The average student attendance for the school during 2012 was 98.25%.

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

**Attendance rates by Year group**

Year 7	98.8%
Year 8	98.7%
Year 9	97.4%
Year 10	97.2%
Year 11	98.7%
Year 12	98.7%

### **Senior Secondary Outcomes**

The percentage of students undertaking a Vocational or Trade Training course is 40.65% (87 students received a certificate), 17 students completed an ASBA, and 214 students received a Year 12 certificate.

## Student Pathways and Post-School Destinations

Each year the college collects destination data relating to the Year 10 and Year 12 student cohorts. When surveyed, students say that 60% wanted to go to university or complete further study, 10% of students wish to study at CIT, 20% intend to enter the workforce and about 10% will take up an apprenticeship, while the remainder are unsure.

The Year 12 cohort of 2012 included the following students who received offers from a tertiary institution:

Number of Students	Tertiary Institution which made the offer:
26	Australian National University
54	University of Canberra
10	Australian Catholic University
1	Charles Sturt University: Wagga Wagga
1	Australian Defence Force Academy (University of New South Wales)
3	University of New South Wales
1	University of Western Sydney
2	Sydney University
1	Canberra Institute of Technology
1	Think Group (Hospitality)

## PARENT, TEACHER AND STUDENT SATISFACTION

---

The opinions of parents, students and teachers are sought throughout the year, in formal and informal ways, covering a range of aspects including school effectiveness. As in previous years, parent satisfaction at St Mary MacKillop College has been high. Parents support Information Evenings, College Masses and liturgies, Assemblies and other College events in good numbers. The College Board, a significant conduit for parental concerns and satisfaction, continues to express support for the strategic direction of the College, as well as being pleased with the continued improvements being made in student outcomes, especially at certification points. Parents are also supportive of the measures being taken by the College to support students' well-being, such as *Mind Matters*, which is having an important impact of the satisfaction of our student body.

Student participation in Carnivals, College sports and co-curricular programmes, Masses and liturgies and other College events continues at high levels. Our students continue to look for ways in which they can provide leadership, and they are significant forces in the school through the Student Representative Council and primary school forums. Student leaders also provide direction in House activities, including social justice and fund raising activities, and the involvement of the wider student body speaks to their satisfaction with these aspects of the school.

Staff members continue to express high levels of support for the strategic direction of the school and its vision and mission. They are excited by the opportunities provided for improving student outcomes through flexible learning spaces and refurbishments throughout the school, both for academic subjects and VET training areas. Teachers also comment favourably on the connection



between the improvements in physical facilities, an evolving pedagogy and the continued increase in positive student attitudes in the classroom.

## PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

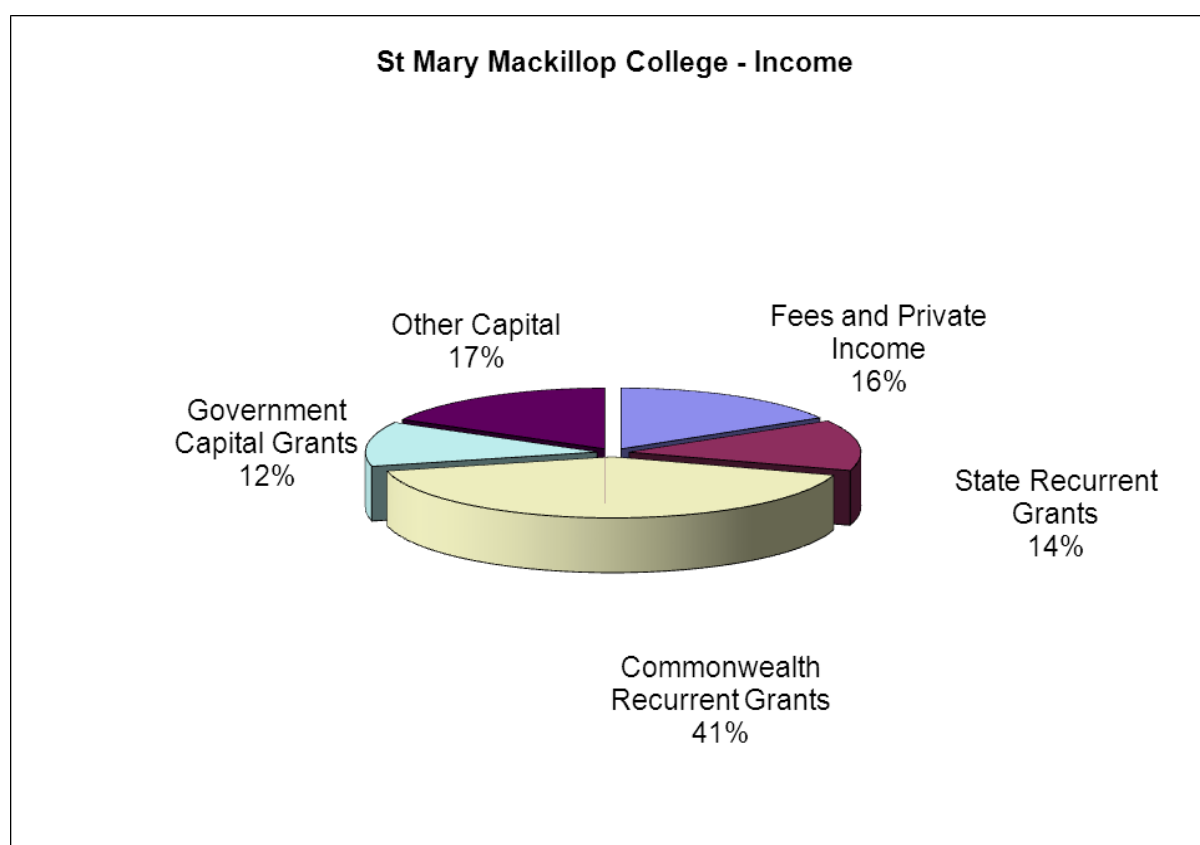
---

In 2012 there has again been a sustained focus in literacy, especially in the areas of writing and tactical teaching in the area of reading. All teachers were trained in tactical teaching and have used this as part of their suite of teaching activities. The College has also continued with an intervention reading program for students in Years 7 and 9. In numeracy teachers have been trained in working like a mathematician and we have participated in the Melbourne Universities Middle Years Maths Project. The College has implemented Manga High which is an online Maths resource.

The College applied for and received a grant under AQTFP. Four staff members have worked on coding classroom practice, visiting colleagues classes and implementing a professional learning program relating to QTF in 2013.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

---



### St Mary MacKillop College - Expenditure

