



Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2015**

ANNUAL SCHOOL COMMUNITY REPORT

Year: 2015

School Name: Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School

Suburb/Town: Lenah Valley

Address: 10 McCann Crescent

Telephone: 03 6228 3335

Email: ihms@catholic.tas.edu.au

Principal: Mr Nick McGann

School Facts:

School Sector: Non-Government

School: Primary

Year Range: Kinder-Grade 6

Total Enrolments: (Prep- Grade 6) 168

Girls: 85

Boys: 73

Indigenous Students: 5%

Student Attendance Rate: 95%

Teaching Staff: 14

Full time equivalent Teaching Staff: 9.4

Non-Teaching Staff: 7

Full Time equivalent Non-Teaching Staff: 3.5

SCHOOL PROFILE AND HISTORY

Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School is a co educational, single stream Catholic primary school established by the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1961. Our mission is to provide, in a Catholic education environment, a lived experience of the gospel value of all embracing love.

As a Josephite school, Immaculate Heart of Mary, has a strong focus on outreach to the disadvantaged. This is evident in the large humanitarian enrolment within the school community. The school also has an extensive learning support program, which provides individualised and small group learning opportunities for all children, including those who have English as another language.

The core values and mission of the school include a strong emphasis on promoting the value of each child in the school as well as a very recognisable culture of caring and supporting all students and families. The school aims to provide an educational foundation for each individual to reach his or her full development as a person, intellectually, spiritually, physically, morally and emotionally. The school also provides an excellent extra-curricular program to support the traditional teaching and learning programs in the school and this includes Physical Education, Music, Library and specialised Art.

CATHOLIC CULTURE AND ETHOS/RELIGIOUS LIFE

The main focus of attention in the area of Religious Education has continued to centre on the Archdiocese Religious Education Curriculum “Good News for Living”. We aim to provide substantial learning experiences for the students in programs for the Liturgical Calendar of the Church, incorporating Lent, Easter, Advent and Christmas. Our mission at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School is to follow Jesus, our Teacher, by providing a welcoming and supportive environment where we strive to live the Gospel values of love, forgiveness, justice, compassion and peace. The promotion of these Gospel values is evident in our modelling to our students, by word and example, to become fulfilled and responsible members of society. The partnership between parents and staff working together is an essential part of the development of relationships within our school community. We aim to develop within our community an attitude of respect and acceptance where all members are valued. As an educational community, we aim to challenge students to express their opinions and communicate effectively and creatively, so that they may become resourceful and effective problem-solvers with a commitment to life-long learning. We are committed to providing the best possible educational opportunities for our part on Spirituality.

The Values and Virtues Program was again a significant component of our Religious Education curriculum. This program is integral to building relationships within our community based on the values of the Gospel. These include hope, love, forgiveness and hospitality among many others. The values are explicitly discussed and taught using scripture, song and real life experiences. Students are encouraged to ‘make it real’ in their daily lives.

We continue to maintain the charism and spirituality of our Founding Order – the Josephite Sisters. During the year, we supported outreach programs such as CARITAS, and other ‘causes’ for which the school has an affinity including a number of student led initiatives. As a Catholic school it is important for us to celebrate as a Christ-centred community. We gathered throughout the year to celebrate prayer in class groups and as a whole school. We support the Parish Sacramental programs of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation, which are significant celebrations in the Parish/School year. Parents are vital participants in the programs and we encourage them to support their children through preparation and celebration of the Sacraments.

As an important part of the school/family/parish partnership, we strive to foster co-operation, support and communication. We encourage students and their families to attend Parish Masses, Holy Days and significant Feast Days. Special liturgies are held to celebrate important events such as Holy Week, ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day, Advent, the Commissioning Mass at the beginning of the year and the Thanksgiving Masses at the end of the year.

STUDENT LEARNING AND ACHIEVEMENT

Student background

School ICSEA value:

Distribution of Students

Bottom quarter Middle quarters Top quarter

NAPLAN Results for 2015

Grade 3	IHMS Score	Similar School Score
Reading	408	418
Persuasive Writing	407	407
Spelling	404	392
Grammar and Punctuation	418	413
Numeracy	394	390

Grade 5	IHMS Score	Similar School Score
Reading	527	493
Persuasive Writing	478	469
Spelling	513	482
Grammar and Punctuation	505	488
Numeracy	477	482

During 2015, we focused on a number of strategic and operational goals as identified from the school annual plan. A goal has been to enhance student learning by engaging in improvement strategies that draw from the critical reflection of our school community as it responds to various questions and issues about student learning. This ensures knowledge remains current and that we can cater for all educational needs, learning styles and challenges presented at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School.

Students with special needs, talents and gifts are given appropriate opportunities, challenges and experiences to develop their potential and to satisfy their learning needs with various activities throughout the year. Individual education programs (IEP's) are provided for students who are

assisted in our educational support programs.

Multilit and Minilit are intervention-reading programs that have been specifically designed for teaching students who are experiencing some difficulties in the acquisition of appropriate reading skills.

Grade Six students continue to be involved in leadership programs which develop their skills and experience in assisting and supporting younger students. One program is the 'Making Jesus Real', program. This program aims to provide opportunities for Grade 6 students to participate in leadership activities, which promote values, character building and Christian living. The program enables students to explore co-operative group sharing activities and encourages them to show initiative in decision-making and problem solving tasks. It encourages affirmation of others and develops leadership potential through understanding the responsibilities of being effective leaders.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

We continue to be in the midst of a pedagogical transition from instruction to active learning, with increased capacity for and attention to personalised learning, collaborative learning, globalised learning and project-based learning. In 2015, Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School continued to promote the need of learning spaces for instruction and presentation; spaces for talk and private study; spaces to access resources; rooms to move; technology that is 'just in time' and flexible; tools for communication and flexibility in space location and resources. We are confident that these new spaces will be flexible and adaptable with furnishings and equipment that can be rearranged with speed and ease, as well as having the capability to switch between individual and groups settings.

The school has a fully operational attendance policy which is consistent with *The Education Act* which requires that a child who has turned five on or by January 1 in any year must start school (Prep) in that year, or be provided with home education. Students are required to be in full-time attendance at school unless they are receiving approved home tuition, correspondence education, or have been granted an exemption by the Education Department. Our aim is to maximise student learning opportunities and performance by ensuring that children required to attend school do so regularly and without unnecessary or frivolous absences. All student absences are recorded in the morning by teachers, and are aggregated on our database and communicated to the Department of Education as required. The Principal contacts parents of students with high levels of unexplained or unapproved absences, with the view to developing and implementing strategies to minimise absences.

CURRICULUM AND PEDAGOGY

The students of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School receive a Catholic education which encompasses the following learning areas: Religious Education;

English; Mathematics; Science; Languages; Technologies; Humanities and Social Sciences; the Arts, which includes Music and Drama; Health and Physical Education and ICT.

We aim to:

- Guide students in their discovery of a Christian way of living within the family of God within our Catholic tradition.
- Assist students to develop and grow academically to the best of their abilities and capabilities.
- Encourage students to take responsibility for their own learning.
- Provide equity and equal opportunity for all students.
- Provide a well-balanced curriculum, which acknowledges and addresses the needs of students in a climate of social, cultural and technological change.
- Assist students to develop self-confidence, self-esteem and respect for others.
- Encourage students to learn co-operatively and collaboratively and to maintain a positive attitude to learning.

To provide and maintain a positive environment we aim to:

- Become witnesses of the Gospel values of truth, justice, freedom, love and service.
- Create a friendly, safe and supportive school community where everyone is treated with dignity.
- Provide a balanced and broad Catholic educational experience which stimulates learning, encourages excellence and respects individual differences.
- Support staff through structures that allow for personal and professional growth.
- Give every opportunity for parents to enter into an educational partnership with staff and to share in their children's spiritual, emotional and intellectual development.
- Support staff, parents and students in times of grief, illness and stress.

During 2015, Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School followed the Australian Curriculum. This involved team planning, moderation of assessment and a focus on general capabilities and cross curricula teaching opportunities. All staff were involved in systemic professional development that centered on Australian Curriculum.

The focus on planning involved extensive professional development and dialogue surrounding backward design. This approach to planning enabled the learning sequences and assessment to be authentic and purposeful.

Consideration was also given to the general capability of thinking. Staff engaged in collaborative planning and considerable discussion to explicitly and directly teach the skills of thinking within their existing learning sequences.

Daily 5 Literacy Program

In 2015 we consolidated this literacy program. The Daily 5 Literacy Program is a structure that helps students develop the daily habits of reading, writing, and working independently that will lead to a lifetime of literacy independence. The program incorporates students from Kindergarten to Grade 6 and classroom teachers, learning support staff working with groups.

Mathletics

The online program of “Mathletics” was introduced to all students from Prep to Grade 6 in 2015. Mathletics is an online Mathematics program that is specifically designed to target the requirements of both State and national curricula. Mathletics includes well over 1200 individual adaptive practice activities and eBooks available for all year levels. All students from Prep to Grade 6 have a one-to-one iPad to use during the school day.

Oral Language

In 2015 we focused on the improvement of Oral Language with the students. We appointed a Literacy Project Officer who worked with teachers and students in gaining knowledge and implementing strategies to improve teaching and learning of students. This will be our main goal for 2016 and 2017.

Targeted Programs

Learning Support is directed towards children within Targeted Programs. These programs are designed for individuals, pairs or small groups to work on the challenges presented to them in literacy and numeracy. Children move in and out of these programs as their learning develops. Assessment is an integral part of the establishment of Targeted Programs. The Learning Support teacher with support from Teacher Aides work with children to move them along the learning spectrum.

Assessment

Assessment is integral to the teaching and learning cycle. Students are regularly assessed within the classroom setting. Students from Grade One to Six are involved in the annual PAT (Progressive Achievement Test) testing which produces standardised scores in mathematics, comprehensions, spelling and vocabulary.

Prep children are involved in the PIPS (Performance Indicators in Primary Schools) testing. This establishes children who are ‘at risk’ academically and allows their progress to be monitored though the year. Students in Grade Three and Five are involved in the nation wide NAPLAN testing. Standardised testing such as PAT and NAPLAN does not take into account the large humanitarian population at the school. These students who are learning English dramatically affect school scores. Research states that it takes up to seven years to successfully learn English however, students are only exempt from testing for

their first twelve months in Australia.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT

In 2015, Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School continued the implementation of the program recognising the positive behaviour of the children at the school. 'Positive Behaviour Support' (PBS) is a program that focuses strongly on a whole-school approach to behaviour management. PBS is assisting the school to generate strategies and systems for developing positive, effective and caring school environments.

The program commenced with collaborative sessions between teachers and the student leadership group. They were challenged to come up with some beliefs that are associated with positive behaviour at the school. They came up with what we now call the 'Three R's' – Respect, Relationships, Responsibility. These beliefs are vibrantly displayed across the school in banners and student made posters, demonstrating how this positive behaviour is recognisable. Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School is identified as a PBS school in the following ways:

- *Behavioural expectations are clearly displayed;
- *Students are able to state the behavioural expectations;
- *Students are recognised for appropriate behaviour;
- *All staff know the expectations;
- *Data is collected and used for decision-making;
- *It is a team-based program, where families are actively included.