

# 2012 Annual School Report

Our Lady of Victories Primary School, Shortland



15 Lovell Parade  
SHORTLAND NSW 2289  
[www.shortland.catholic.edu.au](http://www.shortland.catholic.edu.au)

# Messages from Key School Bodies

## Principal

This was a very busy, interesting and educationally productive time in the life of our school. The school continues to be a vibrant and effective learning environment for the children in the Shortland, Birmingham Gardens and Maryland areas. Our connection with the Shortland to Wallsend Landcare continues with work on our gardens and the surrounding areas and this has achieved a physical environment that lends itself to a quiet peaceful place to learn.

Our annual plan targeted an improvement in our spelling and the staff were in-serviced in this area to facilitate positive outcomes. It saw the school consolidate its NAPLAN results. The school initiated preparation for the diocesan School Evaluation and Development (SEVDEV) process. This will be concluded in 2013 and will give the school a clear direction for the next 5 years.

During 2012, Our Lady of Victories commenced a Pastoral Care program which was funded by the Federal Government. This has been a resounding success. It has given support for children at risk, parents, staff and the general community. It provides assistance in pastoral support, behaviour management and also provides alternative play programs for those children who require a more sedate and structured play environment.

## P & F

The P&F continues to work enthusiastically in fundraising activities to enhance opportunities at the school. Highlights of the year include a book stall at the Wallsend Winter Fair, catering for conferences and Bunnings BBQs. In addition, we have held annual mothers' and fathers' day stalls and a school dance. The Association has supported the parents and education of the children at Our Lady of Victories by providing financial support for the fourth term singing classes as well as purchasing a stove and stage lighting for the hall.

Our small school relies heavily on support from our families, with volunteer hours at canteen and special events as well as financial support via raffles, chocolate drives and entertainment books. We are very fortunate to have a strong extended school community with grandparents and relatives also offering assistance wherever possible. We run our canteen at a small profit and ensure healthy lunches and treats are available for our families. The P&F is pleased to have been able to assist in the development of a new sports uniform and strives to identify avenues for assistance for the school programme.

*Bronwyn Hendry – P&F President*

## Student Leaders/SRC

Our school is great because we have wonderful activities throughout the year and they are all lots of fun.

There are two huge fields one for the infants and one for the primary and a playground which has a slide, a flying fox and heaps of other fun parts to it. There is also lots of great sports equipment that we are allowed to use at lunch time.

We have lots of sport clinics throughout the year, we have had the Newcastle Knights come to teach us some footy skills and the Newcastle Jets have also come to teach us soccer skills. The students have lots of sporting opportunities. We have a sport carnival at the start of the year and a swimming carnival at the end of the year.

We also have a great canteen which we can get lunch orders from, chips drink and ice blocks.

At our school the students go to all sorts of incursions and excursions like Stop Bullying, ASPIRE, Morris Gleitzman and all of the students love excursions and incursions. The school and vice captains have gone to Catholic Schools Week Mass and all of the captains went to the leadership day at St Patrick's, Lochinvar.

The year six students are involved in a lot of fun activities, the year sixes get to hold the sausage sizzles and we are very lucky to hold a year six fun day where we all set up stalls and raise money for the school and all of the year sixes are looking forward to the year six camp later on this year.

*By Mitchell and Keely (School Captains)  
Max and Emily (Vice-Captains)*

# Religious Dimension and Culture of School Life

## Catholic Identity

Religious Education is fundamental to the life of Our Lady of Victories' school and parish communities. We are committed to developing a Catholic Faith Community.

We promote the formation of respectful, honest, caring and loving relationships with others, with self and with God. We do this through the teaching of Religion, Personal Development and Health lessons, social justice discussions, fund raising for Caritas Australia and St Vincent de Paul, Class and Family Masses, weekly Liturgies, Yr 5 Buddy Training, Kinder Orientation, a Yr 5 Leadership Day, and whole school events such as Yr 6 Fun Days and Our Lady of Victories Feast Day.

Every Monday, the school community assembles for a Liturgy that celebrates, in part, being a Catholic Community. Each Liturgy is led by a different class each week. The themes of the Liturgies are dependent on various things such as Church season, special Church feast days, saints' days, and the spiritual needs of the school community as a whole.

## The School as part of Parish and Diocesan Life

Children are given the opportunity to experience being members of a wider group – the parish - through involvement in Sacramental Programs, altar serving, Easter celebrations and Masses.

The School Captains are given the opportunity to represent the school at various Diocesan and community celebrations, such as Catholic Schools Week Mass, Catholic Mission Mass, the local ANZAC Day Dawn Service and other events as they arise throughout the year.

During the year, each class is responsible for organising two Masses. Masses are held in Our Lady of Victories Church on Fridays at 9am. The whole school joins in the celebration of every class' Mass, along with parents and parishioners. We celebrated twelve class Masses during 2012.

Also in 2012, the school community participated in Liturgies and Masses with the Parish. On Shrove Tuesday, we had a 'Burning of the Palms' Liturgy to make the ashes to be used for Ash Wednesday. Then, on Ash Wednesday, the primary students attended the parish Mass at 9am, and, after Mass, the infants students received the ashes during a Liturgy with Fr Dom and Sr Angela in the school hall.

In March, the Feast Day of Our Lady of Victories was celebrated with a Liturgy in the hall to which parents, friends and parishioners were invited. We also had a sausage sizzle with parents and a games afternoon.

To commemorate Anzac Day, returned soldiers of the Shortland community attended a Liturgy in the hall and afterwards enjoyed morning tea with some of the parents of the students. The School Captains attended a local Dawn Service on 25<sup>th</sup> April. Our Lady of Victories celebrated Catholic Schools Week with a Mass that focused on Catholic Education, particularly highlighting the many and varied learning experiences that the children at O.L.V are involved in. After Mass, parents were invited to visit classrooms and were then treated to a performance by each class in the hall.

Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day are always special at O.L.V. In May, a Mothers' Day Mass was prepared by Yr 1 class and attended by many mothers and grandmothers of the school and parish. After Mass, a morning tea for mothers was prepared by members of the school community and served by Yr 6 children. In September, a Fathers' Day breakfast was held in the school grounds, followed by a Fathers' Day Mass prepared by Yr 4/5 class.

In December, Yr 6 students graduated from O.L.V. members of the school and parish communities joined them and their families in celebrating this special occasion by attending a Graduation Mass. During the Mass, the Yr 6 Graduates received a Graduation Certificate and a gift from the school. A PowerPoint was shown of the graduating students capturing the special times they had at O.L.V from Kinder to Yr 6.

During 2012, the school welcomed two new members to its community – Sisters Anna and Mary. The Sisters worked in the school one day a week helping the teachers and the students in various classrooms.

## Teaching of Religion

At OLV Religion lessons are an integral part of our week. Teachers use the K-12 Religious Syllabus and Resource Units from Maitland-Newcastle Diocese Catholic Schools Office.

Each Monday morning during Lent, a Liturgy was held focusing on the works of Caritas Australia and Project Compassion. The information presented in each Liturgy enabled children to learn about people and communities affected by poverty, both overseas and within Australia, who are aided by Caritas Australia. During each Liturgy, a PowerPoint was shown highlighting the needs of the particular communities that were featured on the Project Compassion 2012 posters. The school community then prayed for these communities.

During Holy Week, the children attended a Reconciliation Liturgy during which the symbols of Christ's Passion were carried forward, placed in the sacred space and reflected upon. Fr Dom Carrigan attended the Liturgy and spoke to the children about the symbols and about the importance of reconciliation.

## Retreats and Faith Development Programs

In September, the Staff attended an RE Spirituality Day facilitated by Dr Jill Gowdie in the school hall.

## Values (including Social Justice Initiatives)

At Our Lady of Victories we value every student and encourage each child to reach their potential. We value respect for all, honesty and truth. In December of 2012, the Yr 5 students participated in a Leadership Day in preparation for their roles as school leaders in 2013. The day was led by Fr Brian Mascord from the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese. The aim of the day was to help the children identify the qualities of a good leader and help them recognise those qualities in themselves and each other.

During Lent, Project Compassion boxes were available for children to use in their classrooms and at the school canteen. A Lenten Calendar was displayed in each classroom that suggested possible ways of helping others or giving to others, each day of Lent. An 'Easter Colouring In Competition' was also run to help support Project Compassion.

In July, the school community supported the S.V.d.P Winter Appeal by having an out-of-uniform 'Gloves, Scarf & Coat Day'. Students, staff and parents were encouraged to wear gloves, coats and scarves to school and give a gold coin donation. In December, an out-of-uniform 'Christmas T-Shirt Day' was held to raise money for S.V.d.P Christmas Appeal. A 'Colouring-in Competition' was also organized during Term 3 and Term 4 in support of Vinnies Winter Appeal and Vinnies Christmas Appeal.

## Policies

### Enrolment Policy

Our Lady of Victories follows the guidelines provided by the Catholic Schools Office Policy *Enrolment (Amended 2008)*. The Policy has been devised to accommodate, as far as is possible, the needs of families seeking a Catholic education. In situations where enrolments have to be restricted because of limitations on capacity, preference may need to be given to children of Catholic families, as defined in the Policy. Implementation of the Policy is via our local school Enrolment Committee which has discretionary authority in keeping with Diocesan guidelines. Copies of the Policy are available from the school, or from the Catholic Schools Office website (cf end of Report). Parents concerned about school fees should ensure they make contact with the school. Diocesan provisions (including standard discounts for those with a Health Card) exist to help in this area, and the Principal can also exercise discretion where genuine need exists.

### Student Welfare

We celebrate the children's achievements in Sport and Academic fields of endeavour with special lunches and assemblies. Each week awards are given to children from each class for outstanding work and exceptional community spirit. The school offered counselling and the Seasons Program for children experiencing emotional and family grief and separation. There are a number of programs and activities that promote the self-esteem of the children. These include the "Star of the Week" for each class and our weekly award assembly.

In 2012 the school was successful in its application to the Chaplaincy program through the Federal Government and a Pastoral Care worker has been employed to assist in the welfare of the children at Our Lady of Victories. We have been able to introduce programs which are providing guidance, counselling and play alternatives to children. This program will continue into 2013.

In 2012 the school commenced writing a policy on Anti-Bullying which is to be ratified by parents and staff early in 2013. A copy of this policy will be available on the school website under the Policies Button on the Home page or upon request from the school office.

## Discipline

The school Behaviour Management Policy clearly outlines the Rights and Responsibilities of all children at Our Lady of Victories both in the classroom and on the playground. It clearly sets out the consequences of making the right and wrong choices. **Corporal punishment is not practised at Our Lady of Victories. Our Lady of Victories does not promote the use of corporal punishment by parents in relation to school discipline.**

Copies of the Behaviour Management Policy are given to all new students and are available from the office and the school website. It was last reviewed in 2008. The Student Behaviour Management Policy is available on the School Website by clicking on the Policies Button or by request from the office.

## Complaints and Grievances

Parents and children are able to approach their class teacher and/or the Principal with regard to any complaints or grievances. Our Lady of Victories has adopted the draft CSO Complaints Management Policy. This policy outlines the steps to be followed when a complaint or grievance has been received from a parent, student or member of staff. It stresses the importance of procedural fairness provisions in addressing the complaint.

A copy of the policy can be obtained from the school or from the Catholic Schools Office. The Catholic Schools Office's Complaints Management Policy (2006) is to be utilised for any complaints or grievances which cannot be managed at the school level.

Issues relating to Child Protection Legislation are referred to the Catholic Schools Office Child Protection Unit.

## Student Achievements

### Academic Achievements

Academic excellence is valued at Our Lady of Victories. We encourage children to participate in the University of NSW Competitions in Maths, English, Science and Computers as well as Debating and the Newcastle Permanent Maths Competition. Those children who have a skill in the areas of Art, Maths, English and Science are invited to attend a 4 week enrichment course held at San Clemente High School for Year 6 students Performance in National Testing. Two children from each Stage participated in the Regional Public Speaking competition held at Our Lady of Victories and one child came first in the Stage 1 section.

### Performance in National Testing

Results in NAPLAN reflected improved academic achievement.

NAPLAN Program 2012 - Year 3						
Percentage in Skill Band						
		Reading	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Writing	Numeracy
Band 6 and Above	Our Lady of Victories Primary School Shortland	50.0%	35.7%	50.0%	7.1%	14.3%
	<i>National Performance</i>	25.5%	21.5%	27.5%	14.7%	12.4%
Band 5	Our Lady of Victories Primary School Shortland	28.6%	21.4%	21.4%	42.9%	21.4%
	<i>National Performance</i>	21.5%	22.3%	22.2%	31.9%	21.0%
Band 4	Our Lady of Victories Primary School Shortland	7.1%	21.4%	14.3%	28.6%	42.9%
	<i>National Performance</i>	21.5%	23.9%	21.1%	30.1%	27.5%
Band 3	Our Lady of Victories Primary School Shortland	7.1%	14.3%	14.3%	7.1%	14.3%
	<i>National Performance</i>	15.7%	17.4%	14.1%	13.5%	21.7%
Band 2	Our Lady of Victories Primary School Shortland	7.1%	7.1%	0.0%	14.3%	7.1%
	<i>National Performance</i>	9.4%	8.9%	8.0%	5.0%	11.3%
Band 1	Our Lady of Victories Primary School Shortland	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	<i>National Performance</i>	4.4%	4.0%	5.1%	2.7%	4.2%

NAPLAN Program 2012 - Year 5 Percentage in Skill Band						
		Reading	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Writing	Numeracy
Band 8 and Above	Our Lady of Victories Primary School Shortland	10.5%	0.0%	10.5%	5.3%	5.3%
	<i>National Performance</i>	12.0%	11.5%	12.8%	5.3%	9.5%
Band 7	Our Lady of Victories Primary School Shortland	36.8%	21.1%	15.8%	10.5%	26.3%
	<i>National Performance</i>	19.3%	19.9%	17.8%	14.0%	17.2%
Band 6	Our Lady of Victories Primary School Shortland	26.3%	42.1%	57.9%	31.6%	36.8%
	<i>National Performance</i>	26.7%	27.2%	25.3%	30.2%	27.5%
Band 5	Our Lady of Victories Primary School Shortland	21.1%	21.1%	15.8%	47.4%	21.1%
	<i>National Performance</i>	22.3%	22.5%	22.2%	30.0%	25.6%
Band 4	Our Lady of Victories Primary School Shortland	5.3%	15.8%	0.0%	5.3%	10.5%
	<i>National Performance</i>	11.4%	11.7%	12.4%	12.6%	13.4%
Band 3	Our Lady of Victories Primary School Shortland	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	<i>National Performance</i>	6.4%	5.2%	7.4%	5.9%	4.8%

## Cultural Achievements

Our Lady of Victories offers weekly music lessons to interested children in piano and guitar. There are a number of children who participate and share their learnt skills with the community at assemblies and special occasions. One child was selected after auditioning for the Diocesan Aspire program to perform and the whole school attended that performance. The school employed a singing/choir teacher to teach Acapella singing and the children and staff presented a wonderful Christmas Carols night for the community in our new hall using the new stage lights provided from parents fundraising.

## Other Highlights for 2012

Catholic Schools Week was one such significant event for our school. A special liturgy was organised to celebrate the role Catholic schools play in the academic education and faith development of our students. The school held an 'Open Day' which gave parents and grandparents the opportunity to visit classrooms and view their children's work. The event concluded with a concert for which each class performed an item.

## Staff

### Staff Qualifications

Qualifications and Experience	Number of Staff	
I. Teachers with teaching qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised by National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (NOOSR).	8	
II. Teachers with qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised by NOOSR but lacking formal teaching qualifications	0	
III. (a) Teachers not having qualifications as described in I or II above but having relevant successful teaching experience or appropriate knowledge relevant to the teaching context	(a) 0	(b) 0
III. (b) Of these which are New Scheme Teachers.		

## Professional Learning Undertaken

In term 1 teachers attended a whole day in-service on Spelling which was presented by Mr Bernard Hammond. It gave teachers strategies and insights into the teaching of Spelling. It was a focus in our annual plan. In term 3 the whole staff attended the Diocesan RE In-service day conducted by Jill Gowdie which looked at prayer,

## Teacher Attendance

The average teacher attendance rate for this school is 96%.

## Teacher Retention

The teacher retention rate from 2011 to 2012 was 100%.

One part-time permanent teacher retired and was replaced with a full time temporary teacher. Teacher in Category I retired and was replaced with full time temporary teacher in 2012.

## Enrolments

### Actual Enrolments 2012

Scholastic Year	Number of Students	Attendance Rate %
Kinder	18	94.6%
Year 1	21	95.5%
Year 2	20	94.8%
Year 3	15	93.3%
Year 4	18	92.7%
Year 5	21	93.4%
Year 6	10	94.8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>94.2%</b>

### Student Attendance

The average student attendance rate for students at this school during 2012 was **94.2%**.

## School Priorities

### Achievement of School Priorities

One of the school priorities was to provide a Pastoral Care worker to assist the teachers and school counsellor children who are at risk, needing support or wish to participate more fully in the community. This was achieved through the Federal Government Chaplaincy program and commenced services in term 4 in 2012. It was important for the community to maintain a high standard in the NAPLAN results and this was seen to be successful.

### Facilities

Our Lady of Victories comprises of 6 GPLA's and a library. There is a separate administration, staff room, library and community hall. There were no major alterations to the facilities at Our Lady of Victories. Some minor maintenance projects were completed.

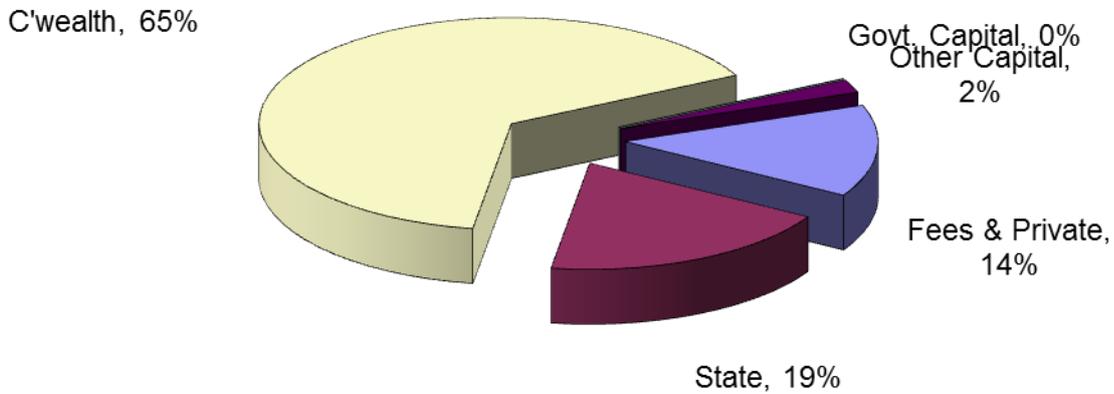
## Community Satisfaction

Our Lady of Victories was involved in the SEVDEV process in 2008. The community was widely surveyed and satisfaction in the school performance was high. Complete results of surveys and the review panel's validations and recommendations are available from the school office. The school will again undertake the SEVDEV process in 2013 and looks forward to the opportunity to review progress, receive input from the school community, reflect on its performance and make future plans accordingly. Our Lady of Victories enjoys a high satisfaction rate within the community including parents, students and teachers.

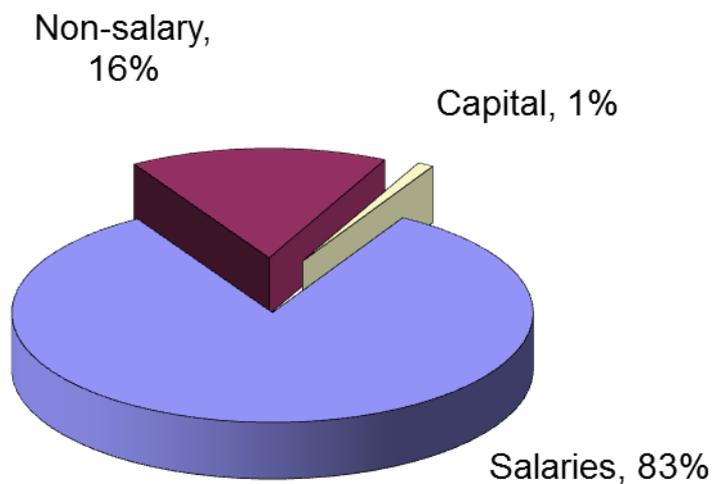
## Financial Information

The following graphs represent the income and expenditure for Our Lady of Victories Primary School, Shortland for the school year ending 31 January 2013 as aggregated from the annual returns to the Australian Government's Department of Education, Science and Training.

## Recurrent & Capital Income



## Recurrent & Capital Expenditure



## Concluding Statement

There has been a significant increase in the number of children attending Our Lady of Victories over the last couple of years. This has been put down to the good standing our school has in the community. A positive roll up at Kinder Orientation is an indicator of growth again in 2013. The staff, parents and children should all be commended for the positive outlook they have for the school and the enthusiasm they show in all our activities and learning. We look forward to a new plan developed from SEVDEV 2013.

# Report Access and Publication

This report is available to members of the school and wider communities. Copies will be supplied to the Catholic Schools Office, The Board of Studies, The Parents and Friends Association, the Parish Priest and to all parents.

Copies of this school's Annual School Report are available to the general public. Persons wishing to access a copy of the report should contact:

**Gerry Vandermaat**  
**Principal**  
**Our Lady of Victories Primary School**  
**15 Lovell Parade**  
**SHORTLAND NSW 2289**  
**(02) 4951-1003**

For further information relating to the Diocesan Policy please refer to: <http://mn.catholic.edu.au>