



**OUR LADY OF VICTORIES PRIMARY SCHOOL
SHORTLAND**

ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT 2008

OUR LADY OF VICTORIES

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Messages from Key School Bodies

Principal

2008 was a year of review for Our Lady of Victories. The School Evaluation and Development process commenced in and concluded at the end of Term 3 with a Validation Panel from the Catholic Schools Offices compiling a report. All groups at Our Lady of Victories were surveyed and the results collated and to form basis of the review

Our Lady of Victories conducted a values forum which explored the values that have formed our community over the fifty years of its existence.

Gerry Vandermaat
Principal

P & F

Our Lady of Victories has a very good relationship with the parent body. The P&F work hard to support the leaning needs of the children at Our Lady of Victories. The school was supported through the P&F by providing \$8000 in purchases and general support. This included a new message sign for the school and computer hardware to support children with special needs. The Association also provided social occasions to meet the new families and teachers.

Student Leaders/SRC

Our Lady of Victories is an excellent place to learn because of the kind and caring staff members and students. The Canteen is filled with a variety of healthy and delicious foods. We have great fields to play soccer and other sports on and a lot of great equipment. There is a large library for us to read books and use the computers. We enjoy coming to school because it is a friendly place to learn and play.

Elizabeth Walker and James O'Neill
School Captains

The student leaders –school captains- are given the opportunity to represent their school at various diocesan and community celebrations, such as Catholic Schools Week Mass, Mission Mass, ANZAC Day Dawn Service and other events as they arise.

Religious Dimension and Culture of School Life

Catholic Identity

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

We promote the formation of respectful and loving relationships with others and with God. We participate

in **liturgies, masses, school celebrations** i.e. Yr 6 Fun Days and various **programs** run within the school eg. Kinder/Yr 6 Buddy program and Seasons for Growth.

Children experience being members of the parish community through involvement in Sacramental Programs and acting as altar servers at school and weekend masses.

In **2008** the children participated in several liturgies to commemorate feast days significant to the parish of OLV as well as the wider church community.

On **Shrove Tuesday** we had a liturgy to burn the palms to make the ashes for **Ash Wednesday** masses. We also gathered together as a school community to cook pancakes. The teachers took this opportunity to talk to the children about Lent and how it is a time for 'going without' and thinking about helping others.

Each Monday morning during Lent we began the week with a liturgy that told the story of a person or community that is aided by the money raised by the community's donations to **Project Compassion**.

During **Holy Week** the children were involved in a **Reconciliation Liturgy**. During this liturgy the symbols of Christ's Passion were carried forward, placed in the sacred space and reflected upon.

We celebrated the **Resurrection of Christ** with a whole school mass. The theme of which was 'Christ our Light'.

The School as part of Parish and Diocesan Life

We celebrated the **Feast Day of Our Lady of Victories** with a liturgy in the school grounds followed by morning tea for visitors.

To commemorate **Anzac Day**, returned soldiers of the Shortland community were invited to the school to participate in a liturgy and afterwards a morning tea.

During **Catholic Schools Week** we had a school liturgy with the focus being on Catholic Education. After this liturgy parents were invited to an open day which included a performance by each class and a picnic lunch in Northcott Park.

Teaching of Religion

Our school implements the Diocesan K-12 Religion Syllabus. Each class had a structured lesson each day that develops the knowledge and understandings of our Catholic Faith. Professional Development has taken place in 2008 with the Religious Education Coordinator introducing new teaching strategies, purchasing new resources and assisting teachers to develop meaningful class, stage and whole school liturgical celebrations.

Special celebrations related to the church seasons, sacramental programs and liturgies involving grandparents and parents were highlights of the year.

Retreats and Faith Development Programs

In fourth term, the staff participated in a **retreat day**. This was led by CSO RE Consultant Mark Spencer. The theme was 'Life – A Celebration'.

Values (including Social Justice Initiatives)

In April Our Lady of Victories held a Values Forum which gave the senior students the opportunity to join the parents of our school in looking at the values and story of our school.

In June the school community supported the **SVDP Winter Appeal** by having an out-of-uniform day where children were encouraged to wear second hand clothes and give a gold coin donation. We also conducted a clothing appeal which resulted in many bags of second hand clothes brought in by families to be donated to SVDP.

October is **Catholic Mission** month. Here at OLV we invited Mr Richard Cootes from Catholic Mission to speak to the children about the work of Catholic Mission. In the weeks leading up to his visit children were encouraged to donate to their classroom mission box.

Policies

Enrolment Policy

Our Lady of Victories follows the guidelines provided by the Catholic Schools Office Policy *Enrolment (January 2003)*. 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 at our assemblies. Each week awards are given to children from our classes 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.

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 expressly prohibited at Our Lady of Victories. Our Lady of Victories does not sanction the use of corporal by non-school persons, including parents, to enforce discipline at the school.**

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.

Where issues of a serious nature concerning consideration of suspension or expulsion are being required, Our Lady of Victories' Policies are underpinned by the Catholic Schools Policy of Pastoral Care 2002. In particular, attention is given to Procedural Fairness and the steps outlined on p13 of this document

Complaints & 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.

The policy is currently being finalised by the CSO in consultation with the schools. A copy of the draft 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 Zimmerman House (DCPPU).

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, 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 5 week enrichment course held at San Clemente High School

Sporting Achievements

The school participated in all regional carnivals and trials for many different sports. Many children were selected to represent the region at Diocesan trials. One exceptional performance included selection of a child in the State PSSA Athletics team. The older children participated in team sports at the Knights Knockout and the Catholic School Netball Gala.

Performance in State-wide Tests

NAPLAN Program 2008 - Year 3 Percentage in Skill Band						
		Reading	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Writing	Numeracy
Band 6 and Above	Shortland	35.3%	17.6%	35.3%	17.6%	17.6%
	National P	17.7%	15.6%	19.2%	17.2%	12.4%
Band 5	Shortland	41.2%	23.5%	17.6%	23.5%	17.6%
	National P	21.8%	21.9%	21.3%	27.4%	21.1%
Band 4	Shortland	17.6%	35.3%	29.4%	41.2%	41.2%
	National P	23.0%	25.9%	23.4%	28.7%	27.9%
Band 3	Shortland	5.9%	23.5%	11.8%	5.9%	17.6%
	National P	17.7%	19.0%	17.3%	15.6%	23.0%
Band 2	Shortland	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	11.8%	5.9%
	National P	12.0%	10.1%	10.6%	6.5%	10.8%
Band 1	Shortland	0.0%	0.0%	5.9%	0.0%	0.0%
	National P	6.1%	5.8%	6.5%	2.9%	3.3%

NAPLAN Program 2008 - Year 5 Percentage in Skill Band						
		Reading	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Writing	Numeracy
Band 8 and Above	Shortland	16.7%	8.3%	25.0%	0.0%	16.7%
	National P	9.3%	7.6%	13.4%	8.3%	6.6%
Band 7	Shortland	25.0%	41.7%	8.3%	16.7%	0.0%
	National P	18.1%	18.2%	19.9%	17.9%	14.0%
Band 6	Shortland	33.3%	8.3%	41.7%	50.0%	16.7%
	National P	26.1%	28.2%	26.4%	29.3%	25.7%
Band 5	Shortland	25.0%	41.7%	16.7%	25.0%	58.3%
	National P	23.9%	24.9%	21.3%	25.3%	28.9%
Band 4	Shortland	0.0%	0.0%	8.3%	8.3%	8.3%
	National P	13.5%	12.8%	11.0%	11.8%	17.4%
Band 3	Shortland	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	National P	7.5%	6.7%	6.5%	5.9%	5.9%

Staff

Staff Qualifications

Qualifications & 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).	4
II. Teachers with qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised by NOOSR but lacking formal teaching qualifications	
III. 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	
IV. Staff with Post Graduate Qualifications, i.e. at Graduate Diploma, Masters or Doctorate level (optional)	2

Professional Learning Undertaken

The staff attended, with other schools from the North Region, a Mathematics In-service Course facilitated by Brian Tickle which focused on the Working Mathematically Strand of the Mathematics Syllabus.

Teacher Attendance

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

Teacher Retention

The teacher retention rate from 2007 to 2008 was 87%.

Enrolments

Actual Enrolments 2008

Scholastic Year	Number of Students
Kinder	15
Year 1	14
Year 2	12
Year 3	18
Year 4	18
Year 5	13
Year 6	23
TOTAL	113

Roll Class	Number of Students
Kinder/Year 1	20
Year 1/2	21
Year 3/4	26
Year 4/5	23
Year 6	23

Student Attendance (Primary)

The average student attendance rate for students at this school during 2008 was 94%.

School Priorities

Achievement of School Priorities

After trialling various elements of the new CSO Programming Policy during 2007 teachers implemented all aspects of the policy in 2008. Staff trialled and developed various programming proformas in order to facilitate more consistency with programming.

Staff also reviewed Key Learning Area Scope and Sequences. We particularly evaluated units of work covered in Human Society and Its Environment, Science and Technology, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education as changing class structures necessitated planning for the implementation of units of work over a three year cycle (Year A – 2007, Year B – 2008, Year C – 2009).

Facilities

Our Lady of Victories enjoyed the fruits of a completed building project which was officially opened and blessed in November 2007. The infant classrooms began refurbishment during 2008 and all classes are to be completed in 2009.

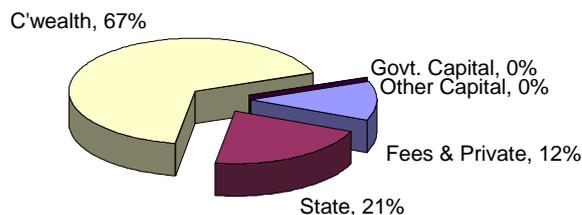
Community Satisfaction

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.

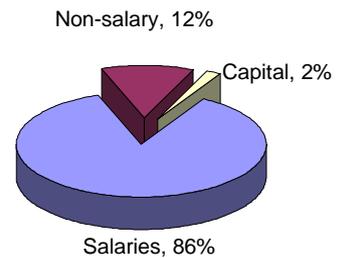
Financial Information

The following graphics represent the income and expenditure for Our Lady of Victories Primary School, Shortland for the school year ending 31 January 2009 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

Our Lady of Victories serves a community where student learning is enriched by the generous support of the staff and parents. School initiatives which broaden the scope of activities offered to our students are supported by staff, parents and community members, who give generously of their time and expertise.

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 report are available to the general public by contacting:

The Principal
Mr Gerry Vandermaat
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SHORTLAND NSW 2307
Phone: (02) 4951-1003

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