

# St Joseph's School

## Principal Annual Community Meeting Report (Abridged version)



In the annual Principal's report we are required by an agreement between the Catholic Education Office and the Commonwealth Government to provide information in a number of areas. These requirements are placed on every school in the country. Firstly, the following statistics are required:

	2016
Average staff attendance:	95%.
Average student attendance:	91%
Number of teachers participating in PD in & out of school	All

	2016
Number of enrolled students: Pre K-7	225
Number of families Pre K-7	160
Number of full-time staff:	12
Number of part-time staff:	26
Total number staff:	38
Average Class Size: P-6	24
Staff retention: The percentage	66%

### LEADING in a flourishing Catholic Education System.

#### Learning: 2016 NAPLAN DATA

In Year Three this year, 100% of children in Spelling, 100% in Writing, 100% in Reading, 93% in Grammar and Punctuation and 93% of children in Numeracy were at or above the National Minimum Standard.

In Year Five, 95% of children in Spelling, 95% in Writing, 81% in Reading, 100% in Grammar and Punctuation and 95% of children in Numeracy were at or above the National Minimum Standard.

One of the very important pieces of data we gain from the NAPLAN assessments is the student data over time. This shows the rate of improvement for each individual student, and their cohorts as they progress through primary school. It is pleasing to note that there has been an upward trend in the Year Five Writing and Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy and Year Three Writing over the last few years and an excellent growth rate over time as these cohorts have progressed from Year Three to Year Five. Furthermore, our results show that those students who continue to remain with the school from Year Three to Year Five have achieved above average expected improvement over time.

Year Level	Year	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Year Three	2013	97%	97%	90%	94%	100%
	2014	93%	90%	97%	97%	100%
	2015	92%	100%	92%	92%	88%
	2016	100%	100%	100%	93%	93%
Year Five	2013	91%	87%	87%	91%	87%
	2014	84%	80%	88%	92%	88%
	2015	96%	84%	96%	96%	96%
	2016	81%	95%	95%	100%	95%

We continue to reap excellent results in our literacy school data, as prefaced by our work in the Collaborative Learning Project with Lyn Sharratt over the past two years. As a school we have set very high targets of achievements for cohorts of students across the school. With our focus again being reading, as this is the foundation for success in all subjects, our results have been outstanding and our school continues to be a model for others in the project. For example, earlier in the term we conducted our second last assessment of all children across the school in relation to the targets. At that time, our data showed the following:

- our Kindy target is completion of the LS1, this being the first 13 letter sounds. 76% of the children in the cohort have already reached this target.
- our Pre Primary target is level 8. Over 69% of the children in the cohort have already exceeded this target, some reading as high as level 16.
- In Year One, the target is level 18. Over 70% of the children in the cohort have already exceeded this target.
- In Year Two, the target is level 25. Over 72% of the children in the cohort have already exceeded this target.
- In Year Three, the target is level 30 plus, with most children expected to be on Lexile. Over 87% of the children in the cohort have already exceeded this target.
- In the middle to upper primary, 79% of the children in Year Four, 77% of the students in Year Five and 66% of the students in Year Six have already exceeded this target.

These school wide results are certainly worthy of celebration and I commend the dedication of our students, education assistants and teachers for their ongoing efforts. This data is clear evidence that the explicit teaching, learning structures and curriculum processes put into place three years ago in both literacy and numeracy are continuing to reap rewards

and are having a positive and measurable impact on student achievement.

As a staff, we feel very positive about where our school is heading and all of the wonderful possibilities that our future holds in the light of the improvements that have been made to our school's curriculum.

Next year we will continue to focus on the explicit use of assessment data and achievement targets in order to continue to improve the achievement level for all students, through the third year of the Collaborative Learning Project.

As well as providing our students with a quality education this year at St Joseph's, there are a number of ways we add value to our school. These include:

- Evangelisation Plan
- Open night
- Support for children with special learning needs
- Homework Club
- Phonics Club
- Mini & Multi Lit Program
- Participation in the Goldfields Eisteddfod
- SEEDS Gifted and Talented Program
- Tournament of the Mind
- Early Intervention Speech Screening program
- Student Council
- Year 6 Camp
- Reading Recovery
- Visual Arts & Science Program
- Instrumental Programs
- Christmas Concert Evening
- Pre Kindy Program
- Collaborative Learning Project
- Chaplaincy Program
- School Psychologist (two days a week)

2016 has been a challenging year. We began the Year with a fire destroying the MacKillop block that houses our Years 3-6 students. This was a devastating blow for our staff and students.

I am a great believer that good things always come from difficult circumstances and the fire was no exception. What was incredibly evident in the days, weeks and months that passed was the incredible support and love we received from our local school community and our wider community. I have always maintained that one of the most wonderful things about our school is its community and the love and support we afford each other, particularly in difficult times.

This event acted as a beautiful reminder of the great strength, adaptability and cohesiveness of our community. This was replicated time and time again at the volunteer busy bee where over 65 parents and students cleaned and made resources for the classrooms, in hundreds of new books selflessly covered by parents and friends and in the offer of help from dozens to assist in moving furniture, not once, but twice.

I must make mention of our staff. Preparing for a new year is incredibly stressful without a fire, let alone with one. I am still overawed and graciously thankful for the incredible efforts of our staff at this time. They freely offered their time to each other and for each other to ensure the students and staff affected by the fire had a fabulous start to the year. Never once did I hear a complaint or gripe, despite the great deal of work being asked of them.

I would like to particularly mention Mr Luke Shaw, Mrs Jo Bensted, Mrs Lara Miller, Mrs Tanya Stafford and Mr Ron Neill for their ongoing support at this time. I would also like to thank both the P&F and School Board for their ongoing support and wisdom. A special mention must also go to Ms Chantal Arnold who, as the Library Officer, had to accession and cover hundreds of resources in a short time frame. Chantal your efforts are appreciated more than you know.

In this next section of the report I would like to refer to the work we set ourselves in our Annual School Improvement Plan for 2016.

In our Religious Education in 2016, we continued to give particular focus to the teaching of knowledge about our Catholic faith and traditions. This focus is coupled with the faith development experiences we provide for our children throughout the year. As in previous years, our Years 3 & 5 students sat the Bishop's Religious Literacy Tests. It is clearly evident from these assessments that children who are active in the practice of their faith and have good literacy skills are the students who perform well on these tests. It is worth noting that the focus is reaping rewards with the school achieving its highest Bishop Literacy Tests results in 2016, since the assessments began in 2009. We will continue to focus on the explicit and rigorous teaching of Religious Education into 2017, through pre and post test analysis for each unit studied.

This year the Sacramental programmes have again been a highlight. All Masses where the sacraments of Confirmation, Reconciliation and Eucharist were received were wonderful occasions and I am sure they will stay in the memories of the children and their families for life. I applaud the work of occasions and I am sure they will stay in the memories of the children and their families for life. I applaud the work of Mrs Pavlinovich, Mr Miller, Mrs Craig, Miss Britt and Miss Miles for their work in this area. On behalf of the whole community I thank Father Andrew, Father Garner and Father Matthew for their active involvement in the school on a weekly basis, for bringing the human face of Christ to our children in all their interactions with them and their overall pastoral leadership of our community.

Our efforts to improve matters on the **educational** front have been tireless and focused this year, as outlined earlier. The staff has undergone explicit pedagogically based professional development to build their skills and understanding in various areas of literacy, particularly in the explicit use of assessment data and achievement targets to inform teaching and learning, under the banner of the Collaborative Learning Project . They continue to be open to learn and strive to improve their practice continually. I would like to acknowledge the work of Mr Luke Shaw, Assistant Principal Curriculum, for his work in this area and the work of the Collaborative Learning Team.

Our focus area of **Accountability** has been dominated by a number of projects including:

- Installation of fencing between the parish and the school boundary fence
- Replacement of the school photocopier
- Purchase of contemporary furniture for Year One and Two
- Beautification of the front of the school with native plants and fruit trees
- Replacement of, and an increase in, iPads in Kindy to Year Three
- Replacement of the school car, as per Catholic Education Office requirements
- Reworking of the canteen menu and rebranding of the school canteen

I would like to acknowledge the vision and support of the School Board for their work throughout the year in all of these areas. There is no doubt that these improvements will continue to enhance the teaching and learning program at St Joseph's for many years to come.

### **Engagement**

One of our aims in 2016 was to further develop social activities to enhance community spirit and engage with families new to the school. The P & F have had an incredible year doing just that with magnificent events such as the Family Fun Day, Quiz night, School Discos, Movie Nights, Photo Exhibition, Date Night, Zumba Dance Party, Mother's and Father's day stalls and

Easter raffles. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the P&F Committee for their outstanding efforts this year.

### **2017 School Improvement Planning**

A number of years ago, our whole system moved to implement a robust and specific school improvement model.

Our draft annual school improvement plan for 2017, is currently being devised in collaboration from staff and is taken directly from our strategic plan. It will clearly outline our core business for 2017 and will be shared with the community in the coming month.

### **I would like to briefly mention some items of note for the 2017 plan.**

Learning is the work at St Joseph's School and our core business is the provision of an outstanding education for each and every child. Staff will continue to focus on this through the three year Collaborative Learning Project with Lyn Sharratt.

#### **1. Balance school budget**

As always we need to manage the school's finances with due diligence, while ensuring we continue to provide outstanding facilities for our students. In a broad sense, the fight continues for increased funding for primary schools across the country with the new funding model entering its second year in our system in 2017. We do manage and we do work hard to ensure we provide our children with excellent resources.

We are also continuing with our planning and research into implementing an Out of School Care and Vacation Care Service in order to better meet the needs of the community.

Our canteen is currently making a loss in excess of \$7,000 a year. The School Board has closely monitored the canteen in 2016, and will continue to do so in 2017. In consultation with the Canteen Sub Committee, the School Board and the Western Australian School Canteen Association, we will continue to operate the canteen for three days in 2017,

these being Wednesday to Friday, with a review to take place in July. I thank Mrs Marie Otty for her work in the canteen this year. I would also like to strongly encourage our community to support this very important school resource in 2017.

### **Departing**

A number of our staff are leaving Kalgoorlie at the end of the year and spreading their wings.

**Miss Renita Bodsworth** is moving to Perth after two year with us and has secured a position teaching at Padbury Catholic School. We thank you for your fine contribution to our school Renita. **Mrs Stacey Hansen**, our School Psychologist, is moving back home with her family to the East Coast of Western Australia and her expertise and dedication to our students will be sorely missed. **Mrs Karinne Dowling** joined our staff this year as an education assistant and will also be relocating to the east coast with her family. We appreciate your flexibility and contribution to our school Karinne. **Miss Chantal Arnold** is moving to Mount Baker to join her family. I thank Chantal for her service, her flexibility and her dedication to our school. **Miss Melissa Hayes** will move to Perth to commence her studies at the end of the year; we are delighted to hear you are staying in the field of education Melissa and we wish you all the best. **Mrs Marie Otty** is also moving to Perth as her daughter begins high school. We thank Marie for her work in the canteen over the past two years.

**Mrs Annemarie Hoyne** will move with her family back to Perth to join her husband. Annemarie has been a beacon in our community for 9 years. I have had the pleasure of working with Mrs Hoyne for four years, a large part of that in her role as Assistant Principal. I would like to sincerely thank her for her selfless contribution to our school over many years. Her wise words, vision and passion for our children, staff and school will be dearly missed.

**Mrs Lisa Fardell** has resigned from her fulltime teaching position to do relief and

volunteer work in Kalgoorlie-Boulder next year. We thank you for your service and look forward to you coming back to St Joseph's regularly in the position of relief teacher.

**Mrs Val Western** finished her studies this year and has been appointed to her first classroom position at St Mary's for 2017. We wish you all the best Val.

We also farewell **Mrs Neetha Peramangalath**, our wonderful ICT Technician. Neetha has accepted a fulltime ICT role at John Paul College in 2017 and we wish her all the best.

**Mrs Roberta McBroom**, our Aboriginal Teacher Assistant, is pursuing other projects outside of education next year and we wish her all the best in her endeavours.

**Mr Justin Miller** has reached the end of his Assistant Principal secondment and will return to Our Lady of Fatima in Palmyra next year. We thank Justin for his leadership, passion and enthusiasm over the past few months. I am certain that Justin has a future leadership role in Catholic Education.

### **Acknowledgements**

It has been my absolute pleasure to work with a team of wonderful people at St Joseph's this year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff for their dedication, unwavering commitment and support. Each one of them works tirelessly to improve the outcomes for each student in our school. Their love of their job, loyalty to the students in their care and positive attitude is to be commended.

I would like to acknowledge our hard working office staff, Lara Miller, Karen King and Jo Bensted, who are the face of our school. Your warmth, sense of humour and dedication to your work is admired by many. I thank you for your incredible support this year.

As Principal, I have had the privilege of working with a number of wonderfully dedicated members of staff who have taken on leadership positions this year. We are

blessed to be in the fortunate position of growing capable, strong and resolute leaders who will lead our schools and system for many years to come. I thank Miss Britt for her role as Key Teacher ICT this year and Miss Renita Bodsworth for her work as Literacy Coach and Exemplary Teacher at St Joseph's. I would like to also mention the work of Mr Shaw, Mrs Pavlinovich and Mr Miller for their work this year to ensure our school is the very best it can be. I thank you for your support and commitment to Catholic Education and to St Joseph's School.

Thank you to Mr Ron Neill for his upkeep of the school grounds. Ron continues to go above and beyond in his work on a daily basis and is much appreciated by all.

Thank you to all members of the School Board for your dedicated commitment to the financial management of our school. I would particularly like to thank Mr Terrence Winner for his excellent Chairmanship and his unwavering support and belief in our school and its future, and Mr Mark Baroni for his watchful scrutiny of our financial reports and his wise, big picture outlook.

It has been an absolute pleasure working with such a dedicated group of people this year. I look forward to continuing our robust conversations as we journey together on our quest to provide all of our children with an outstanding education and outstanding facilities to match.

Thanks must be extended to the P & F for your outstanding efforts during the year. I commend you for your endless enthusiasm, passion and great support of our school. Thanks to Elana Scanlon, President of the P&F and the P&F executive for your leadership, and to our regular committee members for their unwavering support and boundless positivity. Your commitment is greatly appreciated.

In conclusion, I thank the children of the school for the wonderful life they bring to our workplace. St Joseph's is a wonderful school.

It is a place of hard work, much growth and development, great fun and energy. It is also a privilege to be able to work in a Catholic community where one's own faith in God is nurtured and fuelled every day. On behalf of the staff I ask that you pass on our very sincere thanks to your children for making our lives more complete by way of what they bring to us on a daily basis.

God bless one and all

Thank you.

Miranda Swann