



2011

Annual Report

St Joseph's Primary School, Narrandera

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The School

St Joseph's School is a Catholic, coeducational, Diocesan Primary school situated in Narrandera NSW in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga.

St Joseph's School is an integral part of St. Mel's Parish.

Catholic Identity

St Joseph's Primary is part of the evangelising mission of the Church. St Joseph's is a faith community, learning together, building the kingdom of God. The Staff have worked hard at continuing its mission to 'Carry forth the Good News to every sector of the human race.' St Joseph's has endeavoured to meet the needs of the whole school community by:

- Providing Religious Education Programs, which enhance knowledge, understanding and practice of our Catholic faith.
- Creating a Catholic community where all staff and students treat each other with respect.
- Valuing the parent's role in the education of their child.
- Ensuring Gospel values are reflected in the curriculum
- Promoting peace and love
- Being inclusive
- Reaching out to those in need.
- Encouraging all staff and students to grow spiritually and live out Gospel values.
- Treating others with honesty and respect.
- Fostering, appreciating and celebrating cultural diversity.
- Teaching a comprehensive and balanced curriculum
- Fostering learning as a lifelong process.
- Engaging children in their learning and decision making process.
- Providing a happy and a safe environment
- Incorporating a range of learning styles
- Providing an education for students, which will prepare them for life.
- Promoting continual renewing of knowledge and skills
- Promoting a responsible attitude towards care for the environment
- Reflecting on our practice of all of the above.

At St Joseph's, Religious Education is taught each day by committed, trained staff. It is integrated throughout all Key Learning Areas. In this subject, students are given opportunities to grow in their understanding of God and His love for us as well as develop

their knowledge of Jesus, His Son, and the Holy Spirit.

In 2011 students were offered opportunities to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation (Year 2), First Eucharist (Year 3) and Confirmation (Year 6). Students other than Catholic are included in all lessons, and have opportunities to participate in these special Sacramental celebrations.

St Joseph's were involved in liturgical dance, Stations of the Cross and Christmas Carol singing in the community.

During 2011 each class and the whole school regularly celebrated masses, liturgies, feast days and graduations. Parents and parishioners were invited to attend. Staff participate in formal prayer and reflection each day.

The REC and other teachers furthered their understanding of RE, in particular assessment, with a number of days spent completing professional learning at McAlroy House in Wagga Wagga.

A Message from key School Bodies

The year 2011 was significant for St Josephs with the handing over of our new administration and classrooms. Major refurbishments in the historical area of the school have complimented the new works. The completion of this program has seen major improvements to the school environment as well as significant reductions in school maintenance commitments.

The school council is continuing with forward planning to ensure we have improvements in safety and amenities around the entire school environment. These include refurbishment of the storage shed to allow more effective use of space, enhancements to the cricket nets to improve safety and additional play areas for ball sports. The old administration area is being converted to a new library facility allowing the John O'Brien Hall to return to its full capacity.

We are striving to have up to date information technology equipment that is reliable and relevant to today's educational environment.

St Josephs has also been successful in achieving a solar electricity grant, and the installation of this system should have a significant reduction in the amount of electricity that has to be bought. It may also allow the export of power in times of low use but high production during holiday periods.

The school community has been well supported by the P&F with a successful Spring Fair and significant funds being raised and donated to the school.

The school has performed well in recent assessments and the staff deserves high praise for these results. They are a truly dedicated group of professional people that strive to ensure the best outcome for their students.

The School Council is working towards developing a strategic plan to ensure we are in a position to capitalise on funding when they become available and provide direction for future School Councils as they change over time.

We appreciate the support and guidance we receive from the St Mel's Parish and in particular Father Tony Schipp. We farewelled Mrs Sharon Stutchbery, a much loved and long serving Assistant Principal. We have been fortunate to gain Ms Katrina Grace to fill the role of Assistant Principal.

The management team for the school continues to provide great leadership and stable work environment and we thank them for their efforts in the last year.

The School Council looks forward to continuing the rise of St Josephs as a centre for truly excellent education in a safe and pastoral environment.
Alastair Hayward
School Council President

Student Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy Testing

NAPLAN results for 2011 indicate that the school's results are substantially above or above the average of statistically similar schools in most areas of literacy and numeracy for Years 3 and 5.

Professional Learning

The staff and Leadership Team from St Joseph's has been involved in a number of professional development activities both in school and in their own time. These include, the Early Literacy Project, Jolly Phonics, First Steps Writing, National Partnership Leadership, Using Technology in the Classroom, Phonemic Awareness, Inquiry

Based Learning, SENA Maths, CPR, Sharing Our Story, Leadership Team Network Days, NAPLAN Analysis, Reading Recovery, Diabetes Information Training, Anaphylaxis Training and Child Protection.

Teaching Staff

The NSW government requires that this report detail the number of teachers in each of the following categories:

- A) have teaching qualifications from a recognised higher education institution within Australia
- B) have qualifications from a recognised higher education institution within Australia but no formal teacher education qualifications
- C) have relevant successful teaching experience and appropriate knowledge but no formal teacher qualifications.

A	B	C	TOTAL
12			12

Workforce Composition

The workforce at St Joseph's School consists of 6 full time teachers, 1 full time Principal, 5 part time teachers, 1 part time specialist music teacher, 1 full time secretary, 3 full time teacher assistants, 3 full time indigenous teacher assistant trainees, 1 part time cleaner and 1 part time grounds person.

Student Attendance

Student attendance rates for each Year level and the whole school.

Year	Attendance %
Year 6	92.22%
Year 5	94.05%
Year 4	93.50%
Year 3	92.73%
Year 2	99.25%
Year 1	94.36%
Kinder	95.05%

Student Non-Attendance

Class rolls are marked electronically on a daily basis. Significant student absences are reported to the Principal to follow up with the parents. At the end of each term parents are asked to complete an Unexplained Absences Sheet and return it to the school. The Principal follows up absences with parents. A

report of all student absences is generated and filed at the end of each term.

Enrolment Policy

NSW legislation allows for the enrolment of children who turn 5 before August 1. At St. Joseph's School, parents seeking to enrol their child / children who turn 5 after May 30 are advised of possible implications.

The closing date for enrolment is advertised in the School Newsletter, the Parish Bulletin and the Narrandera Argus

Characteristics of the Student Body

Boys	Girls	Indig'	LOTE*	TOTAL
83	89	9	0	172

**Language background Other Than English*

Structure of Classes

Throughout 2011 St Joseph's had 1 stream of each class from Kindergarten to Year 6 with no composite classes.

School Policies

Discipline

At St Joseph's school we believe that children respond best to an approach that encourages and rewards positive, independent behaviour. Our Discipline Policy reflects this. Corporal punishment is prohibited.

Student Welfare

At St. Joseph's School believe that every child has a right to be safe and feel safe. Our student welfare policies and practices guide us in achieving these goals.

Complaints and Grievances

The school has adopted an approach to resolving complaints and grievances that is based on procedural fairness, it recognises that parents/ caregivers and students must have access to processes that allow them to resolve concerns in a supportive and conciliatory way. Parents/students with a complaint are encouraged in the first instance to contact their class teacher. If the need then arises contact with the Principal and the CSO may be appropriate.

Changes to School Policies

Copies of the above policies can be obtained by writing, emailing or phoning the school.

Improvement Targets

Religious Education, English and Mathematics were targeted Key Learning Areas for 2011. Targetted foci areas in English in particular being spelling and comprehension. Targetted areas in Mathematics included working with money, fractions, place value and improving instant recall of number facts. An additional goal is to integrate ICT into teaching and learning.

Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility

At St. Joseph's School, the Principal, Parish Priest and staff model respect and responsibility to each other and to the students. At St. Joseph's School, emphasis is placed on student leadership, self-respect and responsibility. Each class composes co-operatively its own responsibilities and consequences at the beginning of each year. These norms are referred to frequently and focused on according to the needs of the students. Visuals prompts are used for some students. Respect and responsibility permeate St. Joseph's Religious Education Program and Pastoral Care Policy. Senior students have many opportunities to accept a leadership role in the school. Other students, right from Kindergarten, are encouraged to show respect and carry out responsibilities in the day-to-day running of their classrooms and in the playground. At St. Joseph's School, discipline is viewed as preventative, corrective and supportive. No form of bullying is tolerated. We proudly display the National Safe Schools Framework and Values for Australian Schools' posters. Pastoral care at St. Joseph's is an expression of what we believe about relationships with God and with others. Respect and responsibility are encouraged and demonstrated through child protection policies, programs promoting self-esteem, programs that teach life skills, the provision of school counseling services through Centrecare; Community Service programs such as Landcare, fundraising for victims of disaster and Seasons for Growth – a grief and loss program. Students and staff who show respect and responsibility are acknowledged and thanked.

Community Satisfaction

The following information has been provided to the school. It has been a valuable gauge for determining the level of satisfaction the community has with our school.

Parents

My child (son or daughter) is usually happy at St Joseph’s School.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
55%	44%	1%	%

Students

I am usually happy at St Joseph’s School.

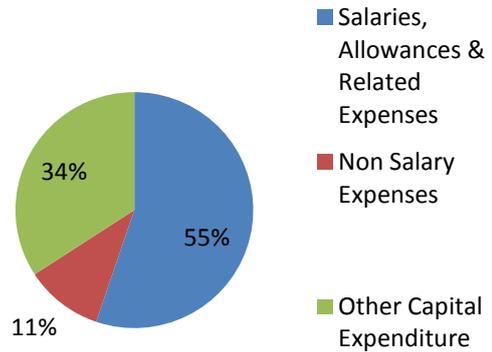
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
61%	36%	3%	%

Staff

I am usually happy at St Joseph’s School.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
55%	50%	%	%

School Expenses



About This Report

The Principal, staff and Leadership Team from St Joseph’s wrote this report. Contributions were also received from the School Council.

Financial Statement Summary

School Income

