



2015

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. During 2015 the school had an enrolment of 194 children.

Catholic Identity

Religious Education Report

During 2015 each class and the whole school celebrated Masses, liturgies, feast days and Year 6 graduation. Parents and parishioners were invited to attend each of these special events. Staff participated in formal prayer as well as Spirituality days.

During the year we celebrated Masses for St Joseph's, the Assumption of Mary, All Saints Day and school Masses.

From November we were without a Parish Priest, with Father Rick from the Cathedral coming to Narrandera to help out with school Masses whenever possible.

At the end of the year we held fundraisers for the St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal and raised over \$800. This was a great effort by the parents and children of our school.

Sacraments this year:

Preparations for the Sacrament Communion were undertaken by Mrs Carlie Dyce. Carlie did a wonderful job to get these children ready to receive the Body and Blood of Christ.

Mrs Bernadette Irvin prepared Year 6 to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Again the children were well prepared.

Bishop Hanna visited the school and parish and was very pleased with the children.

Reconciliation took place in Term four for the Year 2 children.

Julie Flynn – Religious Education Coordinator

St Mel's Parish Report

I arrived in Narrandera on the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, 17th of February after two years in the Sacred Heart Parish of Griffith. I ask for your prayers as the interim Administrator of your Parish in the absence of your much loved priest, Father Neru Leaua. This Sunday 18 child will make their First Holy Communion. We, as a Parish at St Mel's, have been praying for these precious children and their families over the past few weeks as they prepare for the greatest gift that Jesus

gave us, His Body and Blood under the appearance of bread and wine.

Father Frank Bell and I have conducted the Sacrament of Reconciliation for all students at St. Joseph's leading up to Easter so as to be even more united in Jesus in preparation for His Resurrection.

Finally, I would like to make it known to the St Joseph's School community that I am available at any time to listen to your concerns, but especially as we walk this difficult journey together as brothers and sisters in Christ. My door is always open for you. God bless you – Father Bradley Rafter.

A Message from key School Bodies

School Council Report

The school council has gone along quietly this year as the school has been running smoothly. We have had numerous working bees with grounds tidied up, rotten trees felled and carted away, bark chips spread, weeds sprayed numerous times, cellar cleanout of old and broken desks and equipment, and others that I am sure to have forgotten. A big thanks goes out to all that have given their time for these working bees. Our school fees would be considerably higher if it wasn't for the help that comes in. But we could always have more helpers to spread the load!!!

We have in the pipeline for next year the building of the new sports shed, possible rejuvenation of the basketball area, top dressing main playing area near equipment and a major tidy up of the area behind the container up the eastern end of the school yard.

The school council has discussed many other important issues this year including security, drainage, cleaning, water systems, grey water, funding, learning programs and school equipment and IT which we all hope help the school run smoothly and within budget to give the children the best learning environment and outcomes possible

Thank you to the school council members this year for their work and dedication.

Dave Sergeant – School Council President

Parents & Friends Association Report

During 2015 the Parents & Friends Association (P&F) concentrated on two areas: non-financial, by its efforts to strengthen the school community; and financial, by its on-going fund-raising activities.

A range of initiatives were undertaken during the year, including the formation of a school disco policy and establishing a Spring Fair committee to ensure our major fundraiser and school community event went ahead. The major fundraiser of the year was the very successful Spring Fair, helped in no small part by the excellent efforts of a large group of volunteers from the school community. Thanks must go to the volunteers that enabled the canteen to continue to operate two days per week, an activity that generates considerable P&F funds. The P&F has also undertaken several catering jobs throughout the year to generate further P&F funds.

The P&F donated their committed pledge of \$10,000 to the school, as well \$2600 for the infants to participate in the gymnastics program, approximately \$1400 for the Skoolbag App and \$870 to help subsidise the cost of the Life Education Program.

The P&F would like to thank the families of St Joseph's for their generosity in time, effort and support.

Sport Report

St Joseph's Narrandera holds annually a Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics Carnival. From our school carnivals students then go on to represent our school at the Deanery level, Diocesan level and Mackillop level. In 2015 we had 1 student represent our school and Diocese at Mackillop in swimming, 2 students in Cross Country. Students from St Joseph's also trialed and made it in other sports such as AFL, Cricket and Basketball. 1 student represented our school at the MacKillop AFL and the MacKillop Basketball. Our Year 5 and 6 students also did us proud at the Paul Kelly Cup winning the local competition undefeated. They did not fair as well at the next level. Year 4, 5 and 6 girls competed at the Jackie Murphy Netball carnival and were very competitive.

This year the school paid for a gymnastic program in which the whole school participated in. The student really enjoyed the lessons, learning new skills, and there was much positive feedback from parents. Through the Sporting Schools program, we were able to employ a Athletics coach who came into the school and provided the students with training in both track and field events. The school also participated in Cricket, AFL and Rugby League clinics

through the year. Marie O'Brien - Sports Coordinator.

Student Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy Testing

Year 5 Reading – majority in Band 5

Year 5 Numeracy – majority in Band 5

Year 3 Reading – majority in Band 6

Year 3 Numeracy – majority in Bands 4 and 5

Professional Learning

The staff 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, Training in working with children with Autism, Literacy and Numeracy Networks, Curriculum Review Process, Best Start Training, SENA Maths, First Aid, CPR, Sharing Our Story, KLA Network Days, NAPLAN Data Analysis, Reading Recovery, OH&S 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
10			10

Workforce Composition

The workforce at St Joseph's School consists of 7 full time teachers, 1 full time Principal, 7 part time teachers, 1 full time secretary, 3 full time teacher assistants, 1 part time cleaner and 1 full time Maths tutor.

Student Attendance

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

Year	Attendance %
Kinder	94%
Year 1	93%

Year 2	93%
Year 3	92%
Year 4	91%
Year 5	94%
Year 6	92%

Student Non-Attendance

There is an expectation that children will attend school daily. When this is not occurring the Diocesan Policy is followed to ensure that children attend school.

Enrolment Policy

Our aim is to provide a Catholic Education for all children in our community irrespective of their differing needs, providing that school resources can support them.

Characteristics of the Student Body

<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Indig'</i>	<i>LOTE*</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
96	98	17	16	194

**Language background Other Than English*

Structure of Classes

During 2015 our classes were structured as outlined below:

Kindergarten
 Stage 1
 Year 3
 Year 4
 Year 5
 Year 6

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 will not be used at St Joseph's Primary School Narrandera.**

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

School policies are available from the front office. Diocesan policies are available from the Catholic Schools Office in Tarcutta Street in Wagga Wagga.

Improvement Targets

The school aims to improve outcomes in mathematics, pastoral care and wellbeing, the effective use of feedback and using Google apps.

Improvement has been noted in some aspects of mathematics.

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, from Kindergarten to Year 6, 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. 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 and Seasons for Growth – a grief and loss program.

Community Satisfaction

A follow up to the Dare to Lead Audit indicated that the students, parents and staff surveyed continued to report that the school was a safe place where they are valued and their spiritual needs are being met. They felt that the school is a very attractive and pleasant learning environment with well-resourced classrooms. The students and teachers enjoy working together.

About This Report

This report was compiled by the Principal and staff of St Joseph’s School Narrandera, our Parish Priest and representatives of our school body.

Financial Statement Summary

