

# 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:

	2017
Average staff attendance:	97%.
Average student attendance:	90%
Number of teachers participating in PD in & out of school	All

	2017
Number of enrolled students: Pre K-7	199
Number of families Pre K-7	126
Number of full-time staff:	17
Number of part-time staff:	13
Total number staff:	30
Average Class Size: P-6	21
Staff retention: The percentage	73%

### LEADING in a flourishing Catholic Education System.

#### Learning: 2017 NAPLAN DATA

The following table shows the percentage of students at or above the National Minimum Standard in NAPLAN testing from 2014 to 2017. All NAPLAN testing takes place in early May for Year 3 and 5 students.

An aspect of the NAPLAN data analysis that is worthy of note is the tracking of students' results over time. This has some difficulties for us at Saint Joseph's as a large number of the children join our student body over time, with the minority being here from Kindergarten. However when we investigate more deeply the rate of improvement over time for our long term students, there is sustained positive growth, something that we, as a school, can feel justifiably proud of.

The table below shows the percentage of students at or above the National Minimum Standard in NAPLAN testing from 2012 to 2015. All NAPLAN testing takes place in early May.

Year Level	Year	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Year Three	2014	93%	90%	97%	97%	100%
	2015	92%	100%	92%	92%	88%
	2016	100%	100%	100%	93%	93%
	2017	86%	93%	93%	86%	93%
Year Five	2014	84%	80%	88%	92%	88%
	2015	96%	84%	96%	96%	96%
	2016	81%	95%	95%	100%	95%
	2017	93%	86%	100%	86%	100%

Our school wide results, as evidenced through our third year of work in the Lyn Sharratt project are also 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 structures and curriculum processes put into place four 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 placed at the present and where it is heading into the future.

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 2017.

Within the area of **discipleship** the close working relationship with Father Matthew and the priests from the Goldfields' Parish has continued to bring spiritual rewards to our students, staff and parents. The Sacramental programmes, being parish based and school supported, have again been a highlight. Parents were involved in the preparation for these, alongside their children, at the information evenings and on the day, providing an obvious link between parish, home and school. Masses for the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist were wonderful occasions and I am sure they will stay in the memories of the children and their families. Our Sacrament of Reconciliation was a more private and reflective occasion, with our students showing beautiful reverence on the day. I applaud Mrs Craig, Miss Britt, Miss Miles and Mr Shaw for their work in the Sacramental preparation. On behalf of St Joseph's School I also thank Father Matthew, in partnership with Fr Mark, and the other priests of the parish, for their active involvement in the school on a weekly basis, and for providing the pastoral leadership for our community. We are blessed to have such a generous group of clergy!

Another focus in the 2017 School Improvement Plan was our Evangelisation Plan which was reviewed and updated, in readiness for our School Audit next year.

Our efforts to improve matters on the educational front have been tireless and focused again this year, as outlined earlier. Continual growth has occurred through our involvement in weekly Curriculum Meetings, where our staff gather to expand and share their knowledge, in order to build their skills and understandings in the various learning areas, particularly in the explicit use of assessment data and achievement targets to inform teaching and learning. They continue to be open to learn and strive to improve their practice. 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 predominantly been the management of our school budget in the face of reduced enrolments at the beginning of the school year. Through the careful financial management of Finance Officer, Jo Bensted, Treasurer, Mark Baroni and members of the Board Finance Committee, we have been able to provide for the needs of our school community in a fiscally prudent way. I have great confidence that 2018 will see a growing enrolment and an ability to further enhance the programs and facilities that we have at Saint Joseph's. A highlight of 2017 has been the remarkable improvement in our Canteen. This was an area of concern in 2016, but through the dedicated and expert work of Karen King, alongside our Canteen Sub-committee, there has been solid growth. With some minor changes in 2018 it is hoped that we will get close to a break-even result for the coming year.

A further of investigation was the provision of Out of School Hours Care. This is still being followed up by the School Board and will again be considered in 2018.

## **Engagement**

A highlight of my year at Saint Joseph's has been the social opportunities that have been provided to enhance community spirit and engage with the families and staff of the school. The P & F have had an incredible year doing just that with a range of events such as the Welcome Sundowner, Healthy Food Information Afternoon, MacKillop Block Opening Night, Community Open Day Catering, Op Shop Night, Sports' Day Catering, Rainbow Run, School Discos, Movie Night, All Hallows' Olive Sales, Mother's and Father's day stalls and Easter raffle. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the P&F Committee for their outstanding efforts this year.

The Making a Difference parent help program was re-launched in Term 4 with a parent training session led by Kelly Brown. There are now 2 trained volunteers working in the classrooms, and with further training sessions planned for 2018, it is hoped that we will have many more parents involved on a voluntary basis.

## **2018 School Improvement Planning**

Our annual school improvement plan for 2018, has been devised and reviewed by staff and is taken directly from our strategic plan. It clearly outlines our main focus areas for 2018.

I would like to briefly mention some items of note for the 2018 plan.

Teaching and learning is the fundamental work at St Joseph's School and our core business is the provision of an outstanding education for each and every child. Whilst there will be a continued emphasis on embedding our strong Literacy practices, an extra focus on Numeracy will be developed. Teachers will also investigate ways of extending the more able students through targeted differentiation.

All staff members take part in Christian Service at the end of each school year, and we are looking to develop this area for students as part of our discipleship in 2018.

There will also be a continuation of our drive to market Saint Joseph's as a school of choice. Our Student and Recruitment Marketing Sub-committee have done an outstanding job this year and set a solid foundation for continued growth in 2018.

## **Departing**

A number of our staff are leaving Kalgoorlie at the end of the year and spreading their wings. Mrs Anastasia Yare and family are moving to Perth after two years with us. We wish you the best of luck for the move Anastasia and thank you for your fine contribution to our school. Mrs Bridget Moyo is moving all the way over to the east coast of Australia in 2018. We thank Bridget for her work at St Joseph's this year. We will miss her outgoing personality, colourful wardrobe, and dedication to her Year 5 students. Best of luck Bridget! Miss Tenille Ryan has been with us for two years and done an outstanding job in the field of physical education, sport and health. Her attention to detail when organising events has been a credit to her, as has her commitment to the wider school community. Best wishes for your move to Perth Tenille. Mrs Kiona Craig moves with her family to Geraldton after two years with us. Kiona can feel proud of her achievements over this time, particularly with her Year 3 class in 2017. I think the win in the Eistedfodd would have to have been a highlight Kiona! Mrs Elize Newberry took on the role of Visual Arts teacher this year, and I highly commend her on the work she has done with all classes. Elize, hopefully, will not be totally lost to the school next year, as I hope we see her again in the role of a relief teacher.

Miss Ashleigh Britt is moving back to Perth after four years at Saint Joseph's. Ashleigh has been integral to the development of the use of technology within the school, as well as the implementation of the 1-1 Ipad program in the upper grades. Her dedication to extra-curricular activities, including Wakakirri and the Coding Club, has added much to the experiences of the students. I thank you sincerely for your outstanding contribution Ashleigh and wish you well for both your move to Perth and upcoming marriage.

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

Finally Mr Luke Shaw has done a fantastic job as Assistant Principal over the past four years and is returning to Perth, taking up the role of AP at Francis Jordan School in Currambine. Luke's dedication to Saint Joseph's has been outstanding in all fields of his leadership. He has committed great time and energy to his role and can feel justifiably proud of all that the school has achieved over this time. Many thanks Luke and best wishes for an exciting 2018!

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As Principal, I have had the privilege of working with a number of dedicated members of staff who have taken on leadership positions this year. I thank Miss Britt for her work as Key Teacher ICT and Mrs Kelly Brown for her role as Literacy Coach and Special Needs' Coordinator. I would like to also mention the work of Mr Shaw, Mrs Pavlinovich and Mrs Brown as members of the Collaborative Learning Group again this year, helping 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 has a great dedication to ensuring that the grounds always look their best, something which is continuously

commented on by parents and visitors to our school. Many thanks Ron for all you do!

Thank you to all members of the School Board for your dedicated commitment to the management of the finances, buildings and grounds. I would especially like to thank Mr Terrence Winner for his excellent Chairmanship, and retiring Treasurer, Mr Mark Baroni for their unwavering support and belief in our school and its future.

It has been an absolute pleasure working with such a dedicated group of people this year. I hope that you continue to thrive as you work with a new school leadership team next year.

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 Jade Brown, 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 true sense of life they bring to our workplace. St Joseph's is, indeed, a wonderful school. It is a place of hard work, educational endeavour, fun and energy. Best wishes to all in the school community for the remainder of the year and a highly successful future.

God bless one and all

Thank you.

Greg Wyss