

St Joseph's Primary School

18 Thomas St, PO Box 309

QUIRINDI, NSW 2343

Phone: 02 6746 1033 Fax: 02 6746 2606

Email: admin@stjosephsquirindi.catholic.edu.au

Parish Priest: Fr Roel Llave

Parish: St Brigid's, Quirindi

Principal: Carmel McCosker



Annual School Report 2010

Mission/Vision Statement

We, the Quirindi St Joseph's School family, strive to promote the holistic growth and development of each child, through meaningful relationships with God and each other. At St Joseph's we endeavour to:- Create and nurture an environment that embraces Christian values as reflected in the Gospel; Recognise the uniqueness of each child and through a variety of learning experiences, develop their potential, acknowledge their gifts and prepare them for life; Provide excellence in all curriculum areas, with the Catholic ethos being paramount in the child's education; Through positive reinforcement, encourage the child to take responsibility for decisions made, within a secure and caring environment. Our School Mission Statement reflects this: "St Joseph's School is committed to providing Catholic Education embodying the Gospel values of love, faith, respect, friendship, forgiveness, peace, justice and acceptance. Thus we invite all to 'Come! Share the Spirit!'

About this Report

St Joseph's Primary School is registered by the Board of Studies (NSW) and managed by the Catholic Schools Office, Armidale, the 'approved authority' for the Registration System formed under Section 39 of the NSW Education Act 1990. The annual report provides parents and the wider school community with fair, accurate and objective information about various aspects of school performance and development. The report describes achievement of school development priorities in 2010 and gives information about 2011 priorities. This Report complements and is supplementary to school newsletters and other regular communications. This Report is sent to the Catholic Schools Office, Armidale for validation with the requirements of the Education Act 1990 before being forwarded to the Board of Studies. Following its submission to the NSW Board of Studies the report will be presented to the parent body and be available on the CSO website by 30 June 2011. The school Regional Supervisor also validates that the school has in place appropriate processes to ensure compliance with all NSW Board of Studies requirements for Registration.

Principal's Message

The 2010 academic year has been a year full of new experiences, celebrations and adventures.

One of the key focuses of our year has been our Literacy program and the work done as part of our National Partnerships program. This has involved a whole school approach to reading with our Leading Teacher guiding us in the Focus on Reading Program. The staff and students have responded so enthusiastically to this program and adopted the strategies presented openly and with gusto. Terms such as Alphaboxes, VIPs, Sketch to Stretch, Knee to Knee, Three circle map and Spin a Story are commonly heard as buzz words in reading lessons. We have also been able to implement the MULTILit program for students needing revision of sight words and word attack on a one to one basis to facilitate their progress in reading. I thank the 5 fantastic people who have done a wonderful job as tutors for this program.

The combination of whole school and individual programs has seen a positive result in our literacy results. It was very affirming to see that as a school we are showing tremendous growth in our NAPLAN results. Our Regional School supervisor couldn't wait to ring to share the news when results were first

released to the CSO. The programs will continue in 2011 to consolidate the efforts of 2010 and to ensure a sustainable and effective program continues at St Joseph's.

The students have also had broad and varied experiences within the classroom for the other Key Learning Areas. Whether is growing Hairy Harry's, creating electrical circuits, researching cyclones or creating a remarkable performance for Catholic Schools Celebrate, our students have embraced the learning opportunities given to them and we celebrate their achievements.

This year has seen the building of our new library under the BER program of the Australian Government. It was very exciting to see its progress throughout the year, culminating with the big move in November. This is the first purpose built library the school has had and a welcome and versatile addition to the schools facilities. The school community will be able to really celebrate at the official recognition ceremony early in 2011.

In 2010 we celebrated 125 years of Catholic Education in Quirindi. This was a time to remember, reflect and reminisce about past years, as well as being a time for the present school family to celebrate current happenings and connections. It was fitting that our celebration took place so close to the Canonisation of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, reminding us of our strong connection to the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart and enabling us to renew our commitment to continuing our School's mission and story into the future.

I would like to take the opportunity to say a few thank yous:

Most importantly and loudly, I thank the children – the centre of our school community. They are a tremendous group of children and they all contribute something of themselves to help make St Joseph's School the great place that it is. I am filled with hope for the future as they grow and learn and prepare to take their place in society. The future is in safe hands.

To the parents of our school community – I thank you for entrusting us with the precious job of helping to nurture your child. I thank you for your support of and involvement in your child's education at St Joseph's. I thank you for your contribution to the wonderful sense of community, which has been strong and so supportive in practical and prayerful ways. I consider myself blessed to have the privilege of being part of such a pastoral school family for the past 5 years.

Next, to the staff who do such tremendous job with the children in their care. They are so very enthusiastic and supportive and keen to do all they can to assist children and parents in the educational journey. They invest so much of themselves in the work they do and to them teaching is more than

a career, it is a vocation. I thank them for their professionalism, personal commitment, generosity of self and their support. Be proud of a job very well done.

And to our Parish Priest who joined our Parish and School community in October. Thank you for the enthusiastic way you have taken on your role as parish priest and your keen involvement in our Faith journey in such a positive way. Thank you for your time, guidance and continued support as we work together to nurture our Parish School.

To the members of the P T & F and School Board – I thank you for your ideas, feedback and your generosity of time given through the year. Your input is valued and helps us as we continue to keep our school progressing and offering quality education in a quality environment.

Parental Involvement

The School Board has had another successful year. It has turned out to be a year of welcomes, farewells, structural growth and promotion of our school. We welcomed two new teachers at the beginning of the school year. The new library work commenced and is now complete and in use. The new pavers are still to be laid next year. Big emphasis has been placed on promoting the school. Kindergarten visited the preschool and the preschoolers came to visit for the NAIDOC celebrations. The School Readiness Program took place in Term 4. It has been a very successful program enjoyed by all involved. The school celebrated its 125th year of Catholic Education. Many activities were held and enjoyed.

School Board Chairperson

Student Leadership

2010 has been an eventful year. We have had major events such as our 125th Birthday celebrations, our new library being built, Catholic Schools Celebrate and the Year 5/6 Canberra excursion. There have also been many other opportunities for us such as our swimming, athletics, cross country, Diocesan Touch Carnival, Diocesan Soccer Gala Day, Chess Tournaments, Winter Trials, Antarctic Experience, Drum Beat performance as well as the many activities in the classroom. On behalf of all the students I would like to thank the teachers for teaching us this year and putting together the different events for us, the parents for their support of our school and the 125th celebrations and to the builders for the new library. I am pleased Year 6 got to use the new building before moving on to High School.

St Joseph's School Captain

School Profile

School History

Catholic Education began in Quirindi in January 1885 with the arrival from Lochinvar of three Federation sisters of the order of St Joseph's to establish a school. Quirindi was then in the Gunnedah Parish in the Diocese of Maitland. In 1887 following the reorganisation of Diocesan boundaries, Quirindi was incorporated into the Armidale Diocese and the Sisters from Lochinvar withdrew and returned to Maitland. In 1888, following a request to Mother Mary MacKillop from Bishop Torreggiani, a community of four sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart was established in Quirindi to conduct a school with an enrolment of 67 children. Blessed Mary MacKillop was present at the opening and blessing of the new convent in 1895. In more recent times, St Joseph's School has enjoyed an extensive refurbishment and capital works program, revitalising our facilities and enhancing the student's learning environment. Our new library was completed in 2010, in time for our celebrations commemorating 125 years of Catholic Education in Quirindi.

Location/Drawing Area

St Joseph's School is located in Quirindi, which is best known as the gateway to North-West New South Wales. Quirindi is a township of 2500 nestled in a valley and surrounded by picturesque hills. The name Quirindi, which is derived from the Kamilaroi Aboriginal language, means 'nest in the hills.' The town and its surrounding region are blessed by some of the richest soil in Australia, the Liverpool Plains. Quirindi is primarily a farming community with a balanced mix of beef, grain and cereal cropping. In recent times, Quirindi has become a popular destination for those moving into retirement.

Enrolment Policy

St Joseph's Primary School follows the Bishop's Commission for Catholic Schools policy Enrolment of Students in Catholic Systemic Schools in the Diocese of Armidale 2002. This document can be obtained from the school office or is available on the Catholic Schools Office web site: <http://www.arm.catholic.edu.au>.

Student Enrolment

Year	Boys	Girls	Total
2008	30	20	50
2009	31	25	56
2010	27	21	48

Student Mobility

During the 2010 school year we had 2 children move to our school. We also had 10 children move from the school: 4 children moving to other towns while 6 remained in the local area.

Student Attendance

Average daily attendance for 2010	
Kindergarten	93.4%
Year 1	90.8%
Year 2	88.1%
Year 3	92.5%
Year 4	91.7%
Year 5	92.3%
Year 6	88.9%
All students	90.9%

Management of Non-Attendance

Non-Attendance was followed up by letters to parents and phone calls and where necessary meetings with Parents / Guardians were held to deal with higher levels of absenteeism.

Staff Profile

The staff of ten consisted of five teachers and five ancillary staff. These included: a teaching Principal / Religious Education Coordinator; two full time classroom teachers; two part-time teaching staff; a secretary; three education assistants and a cleaner. The teaching experience of staff ranges from 1 to 30 years. One teacher holds a Graduate Certificate in Special Education. Of the total staff, one temporary teacher and the principal left at the end of the 2010 school year.

The average daily staff attendance rate for 2010 was 96.51%.

Teacher Standards

Teacher qualifications fall into 1 of 3 categories for all teaching staff responsible for delivering the curriculum.

Teaching qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised by AEI - NOOSR* 100%

Have qualifications as a graduate from a higher education institution within Australia within AEI-NOOSR* guidelines but lack formal teacher qualifications %

Do not have qualifications as above but have relevant successful teaching experience or appropriate knowledge relevant to the teaching context %

* Australian Education Institution - National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition

Percentage of teachers accredited to teach Religious Education 100

Percentage of teachers undertaking accreditation to teach Religious Education

Staff Professional Learning

The school as a learning community encourages all staff to continue to invest in their learning. Some of the professional development undertaken by the staff included: Numeracy Training with Ed Lewis, Count Me In Too Numeracy, ICT and Technology, Focus On Reading, NAPLAN Data Analysis, MULTILit Literacy Intervention, Dynamic Assessment, Spiritual Reflection Retreat, Pray 2010, Additional Needs Training, National Partnership Team Leadership Development, PD/H/PE Development and SAS Budgeting and Reporting Workshop.

Catholic Identity

Religious Education Program

St Joseph's Primary School follows the Armidale Diocesan Religious Education Curriculum and uses the student text To Know, Worship and Love as authorised by the Bishop of Armidale, Luc Matthys.

Liturgical Life

The liturgical life of the school is healthy and active, with children having numerous opportunities to celebrate the Eucharist at whole school each fortnight. St Joseph's School is for many students and families the main link they have with the Catholic Church. As a result, the school strived to ensure that the students had regular exposure to prayer, liturgy,

the Mass and the Sacraments. Each day begins with prayer and throughout the day, class and individual prayer are recited (grace before meals etc). Our Student Leaders lead us in our School Prayer at each assembly. The children also took part in a variety of Prayer services. Participation in Parish liturgies and Sacramental programs were promoted. Sacramental programs have been successful for Reconciliation and Eucharist. Prayer is part of the school's daily life, with formal and informal prayer times taking place in classrooms, staffroom and our parent meetings. Parents are always invited to join with us for our Liturgical celebrations.

Staff and Student Faith Formation

Prayer reflection and Retreat opportunities were offered to staff and students during 2010. The variety of prayer services and experiences provided children with many opportunities for Faith formation. Prayer celebrations were included as part of every Religious Education unit in addition to whole school prayer services. Student Reflection Days were also held as part of the First Holy Communion sacramental program. All staff were invited to participate in the Staff Retreat Days offered through the Catholic Schools Office and staff and the parent and parish community were invited to and participated in a Twilight reflection program.

Year 6 Religious Education Test

Average score	Diocesan (%)	This School (%)
2008	73.9	89.4
2009	73.2	76.0
2010	70.0	74.2

Social Justice

St Joseph's School community supported a range of fund raising activities including Project Compassion and Children's Mission and the Pakistan Flood Appeal. Student Leaders accepted responsibility to coordinate some of these projects through the year, while other classes took on the others, which allowed students the opportunity to develop and exercise their leadership skills.

Parish Links

St Joseph's School is very closely linked to St Brigid's Parish. Staff and families are active members of the Parish and we enjoy the support from our Parish Community. Our Parish Priest visits our classrooms regularly to talk with the students. Staff are active members of the Parish and are key

members of the Parish Sacramental Team, involved in all Parish sacramental programs. Parish - School connections are assisted by having the Principal on the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) and also have a member of this PPC as part of our School Board. We welcome volunteers from our Parish community who generously give their time to help with our Reading Tutor program.

Respect and Responsibility

St Joseph's School addressed the areas of Respect and Responsibility in a number of ways. These included: a Peer Buddy system, with our Year 6 students acting as a buddy for our Kindergarten students and classroom Codes of Cooperation which were collaboratively developed by the students utilising Quality Learning Australia tools and strategies. The Religious Education Program also contains many components linked to respect and values. For example Stage 1 outcome S1.8, in which the children are to demonstrate an understanding of their responsibility to respect themselves, others and all creation. All students are given roles of responsibility throughout the school year on an individual classroom and whole school level. Respect and responsibility are supported through school newsletter items and through the use of visual literature around the school setting.

School Curriculum

St Joseph's Primary School follows the Board of Studies syllabus for each subject offered (as required for registration under the Education Act 1990) and implements the curriculum requirements of the Catholic Schools Office.

Features of the School Curriculum

There were a number of specific features of St Joseph's school curriculum. Students across all stages studied six Key Learning Areas in accordance with the syllabus of the Board of Studies. These included: English; Mathematics; Human Society and It's Environment; Science and Technology; Personal Development, Health and Physical Education; and, Creative and Practical Arts. They also studied the Religious Education syllabus 'Celebrating Our Journey.' The school utilised a number of different strategies for the teaching of Key Learning Areas. These included such programs as: WRAP, a phonetics approach to reading, writing and spelling; and 'Count Me In Too' and 'Counting On' in Mathematics. At an organisational level, St Joseph's offered numerous activities to enhance the

curriculum. These included participation in: Literacy / Numeracy Week; KLA focus days; St Joseph's Day; National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Day of Celebration; Participation in University of NSW competitions; Diocesan Athletics, Swimming, Cross Country and AFL clinics and carnival. Students were afforded the opportunity to become involved in a variety of community events. These included the Quirindi Show, ANZAC Day commemorations and the Quirindi Chamber of Commerce Christmas Carnival. 2010 saw the continuation of the school's participation in the Federal Government's Smarter Schools National Partnership for Literacy and Numeracy. This incorporates the inclusion of the Focus On Reading program for whole school improvement and the Multilit program for student intervention in literacy. School staff were also developed in Team Leadership which incorporated data analysis, latest education research, target setting and action research models for the school.

Student Performance

St Joseph's Primary School uses a variety of assessment strategies at key points in the learning framework. These include teacher observation, portfolios, projects and presentations. The school also participates in the nation-wide literacy and numeracy testing program for the purposes of diagnosing individual learning needs and reviewing whole class teaching programs. Information on student progress is communicated on a regular basis and opportunities exist for external assessment results to be discussed with parents on an individual basis annually.

Literacy and Numeracy

The National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) was introduced for students in Years 3 and 5 in May 2008. NAPLAN replaces the previous State-based Basic Skills Test and the results provide valuable information about student achievements in Literacy and Numeracy. Analysis of the results is used at school level to support the enhancement of Literacy and Numeracy outcomes for all students. Year 3 results are reported in Bands 1 to 6 with Band 6 representing the highest achievement and Year 5 results are reported in Bands 3 to 8 with Band 8 representing the highest achievement. **Please note: Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.**

Year 3 % in Bands		1&2	3&4	5&6
Reading	School	0	14	86
	National	14	39	48
Writing	School	0	50	50
	National	6	38	56
Spelling	School	14	14	71
	National	13	42	46
Grammar & Punctuation	School	14	28	57
	National	15	32	54
Numeracy	School	14	71	14
	National	15	46	38

Year 5 % in Bands		3&4	5&6	7&8
Reading	School	33	34	33
	National	20	46	33
Writing	School	34	50	17
	National	13	59	27
Spelling	School	34	34	34
	National	16	49	36
Grammar & Punctuation	School	34	17	50
	National	17	38	45
Numeracy	School	17	67	17
	National	16	52	32

The small nature of our student numbers obviously distorts these figures. The school uses the NAPLAN data as a diagnostic tool to inform our teaching and learning and the needs of individual students.

National Minimum Standards

The lowest Band for each year (Band 1 in Year 3 and Band 3 in Year 5) represents students who are achieving BELOW the National Minimum Standard (NMS) in each aspect of NAPLAN. Students in the second Band for each year (Band 2 in Year 3 and Band 4 in Year 5) represent students who are achieving at the NMS. Students in all other Bands are achieving ABOVE the NMS.

The percentages of students in this school achieving the national minimum standard are reported below.

		Year 3	Year 5
Reading	School	100	67
	National	96	93
Writing	School	100	66
	National	98	96
Spelling	School	86	66
	National	96	95
Grammar & Punctuation	School	86	83
	National	94	94
Numeracy	School	100	83
	National	97	96

The small nature of our student numbers obviously distorts these figures. The school uses the NAPLAN data as a diagnostic tool to inform our teaching and learning and the needs of individual students.

School Policy Summary

Student Welfare

St Joseph's Primary School seeks to provide a safe and supportive environment which:

- minimises risk of harm and ensures students feel secure
- supports the physical, social, academic, spiritual and emotional development of students
- provided student welfare policies and programs that develop a sense of self-worth and foster personal development

The school's Pastoral Care Policy is based on the Bishop's Commission Policy Pastoral Care In The Catholic Systemic Schools Of The Armidale Diocese.

St Joseph's Primary School seeks to provide a safe and supportive environment which: •minimises risk of harm and ensures students feel secure •supports the physical, social, academic, spiritual and emotional development of students •provided student welfare policies and programs that develop a sense of self-worth and foster personal development The school's Pastoral Care Policy is based on the Bishop's Commission Policy Pastoral Care In The Catholic Systemic Schools Of The Armidale Diocese. Other Pastoral Care Initiatives included our 'Buddy Program' with our Kindergarten and Senior Students, the offering of Seasons for Growth programs as well as our individual responses to specific needs in our school community. Each class used Quality Learning Australia tools to develop their own Code of Cooperation to guide classroom behaviour and practice and to also develop processes and procedures to assist students with day-to-day aspects of school life. The full text of school and diocesan policies are

The full text of school and diocesan policies are available from the School Office upon request.

No changes were made to the School's Pastoral Care Policy in 2010.

Discipline Policy

St Joseph's Primary School bases its Discipline Policy on the Bishop's Commission Policies Pastoral Care In The Catholic Systemic Schools Of The Armidale Diocese, Policy On Suspension, Expulsion Or Exclusion Of Students In Catholic Schools In The Diocese Of Armidale and Management Of Drug Related Issues In Catholic Schools In The Diocese Of Armidale. These policies are based on

procedural fairness and are discussed with students on a regular basis. In compliance with the NSW Education Reform Act 1990, corporal punishment is banned in ALL Armidale Diocesan schools.

The full text of school and diocesan policies are available from the School Office upon request.

No changes were made to the School's Discipline Policy in 2010.

Enrolment Policy

St Joseph's Primary School bases its Enrolment Policy on the Bishop's Commission Policy Enrolment of Students In Catholic Systemic Schools in the Diocese of Armidale.

The full text of school and diocesan policies are available from the School Office upon request.

No changes were made to the School's Enrolment Policy in 2010.

Complaints and Grievance Resolution Policy

St Joseph's Primary School procedures for resolving concerns and complaints is based on the Bishop's Commission Policy Complaints & Suggestions Policy for the Diocese of Armidale. This policy is based on procedural fairness and recognises that members of the school community must have access to processes that allow them to resolve concerns in a supportive, conciliatory environment. The full text of school and diocesan policies are available from the School Office upon request.

Parent, Student and Staff Satisfaction

When asked what was going well at St Joseph's School responses included: •Positive and dedicated School Board •Good interaction between the school and PT&F •Facilities and infrastructure •Embracing new extracurricular activities •Communication between staff and parents •Pastoral care •Instilling good values •Family support •Happy children •Quality and dedication of staff •Smaller class sizes •Literacy programs •Family feel •Homework •Maths involvement •Sense of community •Religion program – faith is supported

When asked what we should priority for improvement to the key ideas were: •Catering to individual strengths of children through a wider variety of opportunities •Lift our 'My School' results •Follow

through on ideas •Continue to access more extracurricular activities •School size - it would be lovely to grow •Excursions – more variety •Have other activities for children eg chess club, gardening group

School Review and Development

Annual School Priorities 2010

The School's Strategic Management Plan drives its Annual Development Plan. For 2010 the school will focus its improvement on four priorities: Catholic Identity and Religious Education, Organisation, Management and Curriculum including Teaching and Learning. For Catholic Identity and Religious Education this year the focus will be on nurturing a culture of prayer and celebration within the school and supporting the spiritual needs of staff, students and parents. The school is targeting increased participation in the Parish Sacramental Program. For Organisation the school will be heavily committed to the upgrading of school facilities under the Federal Government Building the Education Revolution Program Primary Schools for the Twentieth First Century. The school's management focus will be on reviewing, developing and implementing contemporary policies and procedures to guide practice into the future. Our Curriculum focus will be the continued implementation and development of the Smarter Schools' National Partnership for Literacy and Numeracy with a focus on Reading and to meet DEEWR targets. See attached document on website.

Projected School Priorities 2011

Our strategic priorities for the 2011 Academic Year are as follows:

The continued implementation of the Focus on Reading program and Multilit reading intervention under the Smarter School National Partnership program. These programs will be complemented by the creation of literacy and numeracy blocks to focus the students on these crucial areas.

The introduction of ipads to continue the school's ICT initiatives to further engage students in the learning process will supplement our developing and increasing use of SMARTBOARDS to engage contemporary learning pedagogies.

The use of data including NAPLAN results to build a culture of action research among the staff at the school.

The school will work a lot more closely with the ST Brigid's parish to strengthen relationships and deepen the faith life of the school. A key element of

teacher professional learning in the area of Religious Education will be the introduction of the new Roman Catholic Missle.

Major Achievements from the 2010 Annual Plan

The school's target to increased participation in the Parish Sacramental Program was reasonably successful as more parents were actively involved in this aspect of their children's faith journey. For Organisation the school will be heavily committed to the upgrading of school facilities under the Federal Government Building the Education Revolution

Program Primary Schools for the Twentieth First Century. The implementation of this program had many successes as not only was it evident that students' results improved but qualitatively their engagement with learning also improved. The school's management focus on reviewing, developing and implementing contemporary policies and procedures to guide practice into the future saw several of the school's policies upraded. Our Curriculum focus will be the continued implementation and development of the Smarter Schools' National Partnership for Literacy and Numeracy with a focus on Reading and to meet DEEWR targets. These targets were successfully achieved in 2010. See attached document on website.

Financial Statement

Income

Expenditure

- fees and private income
- state recurrent grants
- commonwealth recurrent grants
- government capital grants
- other capital income

- salaries, allowances and related expenses
- non-salary expenses
- capital expenditure

The information in this report has been verified and the priorities endorsed by the Director of Catholic Schools and the school Regional Supervisor.