Welcome to our School

Welcome to St Joseph’s Primary School, Bombala!

We have the advantage of being a small school with an excellent teacher/pupil ratio. This allows us to have a strong academic program with a focused approach to Literacy and Numeracy. We are able to monitor developmental steps for each student and adjust our teaching programs according to their needs. The academic success of our students is paramount. We encourage them to strive for continuous improvement. The students readily respond and rise to the challenge of giving their best in all areas. This year the growth of our students from Year 3 to Year 5 has exceeded expectations.

In 2010 our major focus had been on further developing the literacy skills of our students. To this end we have separated Literacy and Numeracy instructions into 3 separate areas — Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 in one area, Stage 2 and Stage 3. We have also introduced the Accelerated Literacy program in the senior classes that has brought about a pleasing improvement in spelling, writing and reading. Both students and teachers are excited about the very interesting elements of this program.

We have continued to work closely with the Parish and this year celebrated Confirmation, First Eucharist and Reconciliation with other members of the Parish. The students involved in each sacrament took part in a retreat day with assistance given by the school.

Our school is a Country Area Program school and this allows the school to take part in many extra curriculum activities including excursions for students across the school and specialised programs such as the Boys’ Education Program run by our Sports Facilitator.

Highlights of the Year

What a wonderful year we have had! Some of our highlights include;
• The Canonisation of St Mary of the Cross. As a Josephite school we were proud to take a very active role in community events. We opened the Mary MacKillop Garden designed and planted by the students in the Community Garden. We took a significant role in the Parish Pilgrimage and conducted a Pilgrimage of our own, prepared by and featuring every student in the school. We also celebrated a special Mass for Mary MacKillop at St Mary of the Cross College in Canberra when all of the students from Years 3-6 attended.
• Our school was featured in ‘The Land’ newspaper when they wrote an article on small schools that goes far beyond the normal expectations. The article covered many of our activities such as daily breakfast, sporting achievements and our outreach in the town. Our Year 6 students took part in a 5-day excursion to Melbourne. The students took part in many exciting activities such as panning for gold at Sovereign Hill, looking out from the Eureka Tower, swimming in a wave pool and touring the Melbourne Cricket Ground.
• We are very proud of what we have been able to achieve this year!
  • We continued our sporting successes by winning the Bombala and District Small School Swimming Carnival, the Regional Small School Cross Country and Athletics Carnivals and having one of the seniors achieve a personal best for discus at the State Carnival.
  • Our students competed in the local Rotary Club Public Speaking Competition and received high praise from the judges and one of our students was runner up in the Southern Region competition.
  • Our School Community Council moved from trial to full adoption and has hosted a number of Open Meetings with the vast majority of families represented. The Council has done an outstanding job in bringing the school to the attention of the town and this has resulted in an increase in the student population.


School Overview

Parent Satisfaction – Parents either agreed or strongly agreed that the teachers at St Joseph’s were committed and had an enthusiastic approach to teaching as well as providing a stimulating environment that challenged the students to do their best.

This level of satisfaction was also apparent in both the management and leadership areas with staff considered to be approachable and always available to listen to any concern that parents may have. Credit was also given to the school for the safe and happy environment it provides for the students.

Many parents commented on the wonderful camaraderie that exists between all the students at the school from the oldest to the youngest.

Parents also commented upon the many opportunities to be involved with the school, particularly noting the open meeting held each term by the School Community Council where parents are appraised of current issues, where new ideas are put forward and families have a real say in the future planning and direction of the school.

Teacher Satisfaction – All staff members at St Joseph’s expressed high levels of satisfaction in all areas of their work. They know that they have input into decisions regarding their work and are appreciated for the work they do. Staff know how important they are in the smooth running of the school, that their suggestions are always noted and where possible acted upon. The school works on a democratic principle where all members of staff are treated equally. Staff at St Joseph’s feel that communication is effective. They know they have the respect of the leadership and each staff member works hard to encourage student independence and responsibility.

The school has a positive ethos where any conflicts are handled well and students are continually encouraged to do their best.

Teacher Absence – The average number of days each teacher was in attendance at the school was 201 out of a total of 204 days.

Teacher Retention – 100% of the teaching staff remained at the school from 2009 to 2010 thus providing a stable environment for the students and the whole school community.

Teacher Qualifications – At St Joseph’s all teachers are qualified to Masters level of achievement.

Teacher Participation in Professional Development - Teachers attended a number of sessions in regard to the teaching of Mathematics. The first of these was an all-day professional development day with a visiting expert. This was followed up by working with the visiting expert at staff meetings at the school and working under her supervision with other local schools. Country Area Program funding supported this initiative.

This funding was also used to train one of the staff in Accelerated Literacy. Included in this training was 6 full day sessions, visits to other schools for demonstration lessons and follow up a number of staff meetings, including two twilight sessions.

The staff also worked on the Quality Teaching Framework in a more in-depth way again during staff meetings.

One member of staff also acted as Literacy Contact person attending two full time training sessions as well as visiting other schools to look at Literacy across the board. She also attended a professional development day looking at learning tools across the school. This lead to the staff developing a scope and sequence for learning tools from K-6. This development occurred over a number of staff meetings.

The staff also met with members of the Catholic Education Office to familiarise themselves with the new internal school review process. As a result the staff took part in the pilot program successfully trialling the new process.

The principal also attended the Archdiocesan Principals’ Retreat and Conference.

Workforce Composition – Members of the school staff include a Principal, two full time female teachers. As well the school has two female Learning Support Assistants and a part time female who works as both the school bursar and the part time clerical officer.
Principal's Report

St Joseph's continues to be a vibrant, growing community. A very special element of the school is the close partnership that it shares with the Parish and the parents. We all work together successfully to bring about the best possible outcomes for the school and its students. The lines of communication are open and parents feel they have a real say in the school both now and also in planning and developing the future directions. The close links with the Parish ensure that the school’s mission of helping to develop in students a close and personal relationship with a loving God is carried out. This links beautifully with the program ‘Making Jesus Real’ that is a daily mission for both teachers and students alike. Everyone tries to give another ‘God moments’ during the day and each school day had a particular focus such as ‘Winking Wednesdays’ and ‘High 5’ Fridays. Students are taught to value each other as unique and very special individuals.

There are been a number of significant events this year including a delightful Grandparent’s Day that incorporated a Mass followed by an assembly and classroom visits, all capped off with a shared picnic. We also took part in the local art show and auction when paintings produced by the students brought up to $80 and $90 each. Students were very proud of the work they exhibited.

Students from Kindergarten - Year 6 visited the local nursing home on a number of occasions, chatting with the residents and on Mother’s Day giving each of the ladies a gift they had made. Their visits were very much appreciated by all.

The senior students also organised and ran a Mission Day that included a talent quest presented by most of the students from Kindergarten - Year 6. The money raised on the day went jointly to two overseas schools that our students sponsor. They amount raised was extraordinary considering the size of the school.

Patricia Smith
Principal

School Community Report

2010 has been a year of achievements for St Joseph's School Community Council. After evaluation of the previous 12 month period trialling the parent / community leadership through the operation of a School Community Council, a formal decision was made to adopt the CEO’s model for our School Community Council (SCC).

The SCC’s focus for 2010 has been largely on the positive promotion of the school to ensure an increase in enrolments for 2011 and beyond. A proactive approach saw the development and dissemination of a series of promotional brochures including a “Myth Buster” which informed the whole local community about Catholic Education and happenings at St Joseph’s School. This strategy has resulted in an increase in commitment and enrolments from local families.

Strategic planning is ongoing, and to ensure every school community member has input an Open Meeting has taken place in each of the four Terms to enable consultation, new ideas and feedback into our planning. Sub-committees have been established to address specific tasks, including maintenance, canteen, cleaning, enrolment, uniform, policy, and fundraising.

Major achievements of sub committees are the hosting the Annual Debutante Ball, street stall, wood raffle, catering for the Annual Bombala Calf Sale, Bombala Races and a local clearance sale. External improvements have included the revamping of garden beds, new shelving in the sports shed, the purchase of five solid timber outdoor settings and a new Barbeque.

Policy review, general maintenance, cleaning and canteen continues to be effectively managed by the SCC and sub-committees. Social activities continue to be popular amongst our families including a parent dinner at the end of each Term.
Student Wellbeing and Engagement

The pastoral care policy at St Joseph’s is based on the Gospel values of Jesus. Students are aware of their rights and the responsibilities that go hand-in-hand with those rights. They know the expectations associated with their behaviour both within and outside the school. Each student understands that he or she is to be an ambassador for the school and they live up to those expectations.

The children are proud of their school and enjoy the opportunity to speak about it to others, particularly visitors. They take great care to let others know that they attend a good school and that all are welcome here.

Currently there are 22 students at the school. The small cohort means that there is a family atmosphere and as such the students all look after and care for each other. They help and work with each other to live out the school motto of 'Grace and Justice' guided by the staff.

Significant academic progress has been made by students in all classes this year. Staff and students have worked hard to bring about this progress. The improvement in Reading has been particularly pleasing.

Amongst the families there is a wide range of socio-economic levels and a number of families have been adversely affected due to the current drought. The school, however, tries to support each family directly at their level of need.

Parent Satisfaction.
Parents who replied to the Satisfaction Survey either agreed or agreed strongly that the teachers were committed to and enthusiastic about teaching at St Joseph’s and provided a stimulating environment for the students. They were informed about their child’s progress. Parents also agreed or strongly agreed that reports were informative.

This level of satisfaction was also shown in regards to the pastoral care shown at the school. The expected standard of behaviour is high and the management policy is fair. At the same time the school meets the social needs of the each student and provides sufficient challenges.

Parents see the school as well managed with effective leadership and the staff as a whole listen to any concerns they may have. They feel they can be involved with the school and are satisfied with the education that is presented

Student Attendance – Kindergarten 95% Year 1 97% , Year 2 95%, Year 3 92%, Year 4 85, Year 5 81% and 88% for Year 6

School Based Policies
Management of Non-attendance - The school has an attendance policy that covers both attendance procedures and non-attendance procedures. A copy of the policy is available from the office.

Enrolment - In enrolling students we are directed by the Archdiocesan Enrolment Policy on the Catholic Education Office website.

Enrolment Profile: Currently there are 22 students at the school with 9 girls and 13 boys. This number will rise to 23 next year and again classes will go from Kindergarten to Year 6.

Teacher Satisfaction - Teachers felt supported knowing their role was important to the overall success of the school. They were committed to the students. The workplace had a positive ethos and their efforts were recognized by the community.

Teacher Absence – Teachers were in attendance 186 days out of a possible 204.

Teacher Professional Development Participation. Teachers have taken part in a number of significant courses this year e.g. Mathematics inservices, Accelerated Literacy and Learning Tools development program and Literacy Focus Days.

Teacher Retention - The teacher retention rate is 100%
Teacher Qualifications - All the teachers at St Joseph’s Primary School, Bombala are qualified teachers as required by the relevant State and Territory authorities.
Priorities and Targets

The priorities for the 2010 Annual School Report, the school has been working on a number of priorities for both Literacy and Numeracy. One significant priority was to increase the abilities of all students in the following area; Engagement with Text.

Students in Kindergarten to Year 6 are more deeply engaged in the daily quiet reading sessions. Not only are they reading in a focused and concentrated way, they are able to discuss the books and are anxious to get back to them each day. This has been followed up by the increase in the number of books borrowed from the school library and the added confidence shown by the Years 3-6 students when reading to the children at the local preschool. The students also requested that they be allowed to increase the number of books they could borrow each week. Reading levels have shown steady increase across the school.

Other areas of improvement have included improved achievement levels for each Yr 5 student in the NAPLAN. Even students who did not reach State level, scored significantly higher than results in Year 3. Students have also improved in their ability to identify inference in various written texts. The school also now has a consistent approach to teaching Mathematics with clear guidelines for all lessons. This has brought about an improvement in results for Space and Data.

Due to the small number of students in Years 3 and 5, summary NAPLAN results for these cohorts have not been included in this report to protect student privacy.

Literacy and Numeracy

Initiatives for 2011 include:
- implement Accelerated Literacy strategies across the school. Strategies within this model will look at explicit teaching in high and low levels of comprehension, structured support for engagement with texts, text modelling, looking at the four forms of spelling and ordered progress through all levels of grammar.
- implement visual literacy skills across the school. This will involve the students engaging with various forms of visual literacy and looking for elements that are included in all and the elements specific to each one.
- continue to work towards all Year 2 students reaching a minimum of Level 20 for reading by the end of the year. As well as using Accelerated Literacy strategies, students in Kindergarten, Year 1 and 2 will take part in daily guided reading that has been tailored to meet the specific needs of group members. Running records will be taken for each student at least four times each Term. The school will also invite parents and family members into the classroom to read regularly, helping to track reading progress. These helpers will be offered a training session to assist them with the work.
- Focus on problem solving skills with open-ended tasks across the school.
- Students to reflect both orally and in writing more on their learning at the end of each Maths session.
- Improve the fast recall of basic number facts for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division across the school.
Financial Information

St. Joseph's Bombala - Income

- Commonwealth Recurrent Grants: 69%
- State Recurrent Grants: 11%
- Fees and Private Income: 8%
- Other Capital: 1%
- Government Capital Grants: 11%

St. Joseph's Bombala - Expenditure

- Salaries, Allowances and Related Expenses: 80%
- Capital Expenditure: 9%
- Non-Salary Expenses: 11%
## School Contact Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address:</th>
<th>31 Queen St Bombala</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal:</td>
<td>Mrs Patricia Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish Priest / School Chaplain:</td>
<td>Fr Mick MacAndrew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Board / Council Chair:</td>
<td>Mrs Kath Farrell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone:</td>
<td>026458776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax:</td>
<td>0264583990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pat.smith@stjbombala.nsw.edu.au">pat.smith@stjbombala.nsw.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web site:</td>
<td><a href="http://www.stjbombala.new.edu.au">www.stjbombala.new.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This report was prepared by:

Patricia Smith  
PRINCIPAL