



Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn
CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE

ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Bombala, NSW

2014 School Report to the Community



SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

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PRINCIPAL

MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Principal's Message

2014 has been a year of consolidation at St Joseph's with a particular focus on ensuring all aspects of school life work towards a reflection of the newly adopted Vision Statement: "To Learn, To Challenge, To Transform". The school works in close partnership with the parent community, parish and wider community and underpinned by a dedicated staff and enthusiastic student body, 2014 has been a most productive year.

School Council Message

St Joseph's is a school with a rich history and broadening horizons and this year has seen significant progress in securing our school's future.

In 2014 we had many new members join our "SCC". The current leadership team is working very positively and has achieved a great deal.

Thank you to our "SCC parent veterans" who stepped down earlier in the year; our growing student numbers are due in no small part to their efforts.

In 2014 our staff have demonstrated their dedication to the children; there is no end to the work that these wonderful individuals do.

Volunteering is critical to our school's operation, we are fortunate to have such a generous community, fundraising at every opportunity so that the children can enjoy so many rich learning experiences.

SCHOOL FEATURES

St Joseph's School is a Catholic Primary School located in Bombala. The school caters for students in Kindergarten - Year 6, and has a current enrolment of 40 students.

Students attending this school come from a variety of backgrounds and nationalities consisting of 24 male and 16 female students; no indigenous students; and no students with a Language Background other than English (LBOTE).

The school employs 7 staff comprising 4 teachers and 3 non-teaching staff, the latter being employed in a variety of capacities including learning support, school administration and school maintenance. The school employs no staff of Indigenous descent.

St Joseph's has shown a steady increase in enrolments in the last 2 years and in 2015 will be moving to a third class group. Stability and consistency have been hallmarks of St Joseph's in 2014 and this is largely due to the dedication of the full-time classroom teachers, ably supported by the teachers working in a part-time capacity. Two of the teaching staff have gained their NSW Institute of Teachers Proficiency status in 2014 which is a reflection of their professionalism and commitment. Support staff have also been involved in furthering their accreditation in their chosen areas. Throughout the year staff have been actively engaged in professional learning to ensure the Australian Curriculum is embedded in programming and practice. The students at St Joseph's have been involved in a wide range of curricular and extra-curricular activities during 2014 to negate any disadvantage due to geographic isolation. ICT has been further integrated into classroom practice and will continue in 2015. At the basis of the school is the Catholic identity which is fashioned in the

spirit of St Mary MacKillop and is promoted to be evident in all aspects of school life. The support of the parent body is greatly significant and further enriches the whole of the St Joseph's community.

The school's website can be found at www.stjbombala.nsw.edu.au

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

St Joseph's follows the Archdiocesan Religious Education Curriculum, *Treasures New and Old*.

The Josephite tradition, emanating from St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, permeates all aspects of St Joseph's. The children are encouraged to try to live out the School Vision Statement of "To Learn, To Challenge, To Transform", not only as students but as members of society who can influence others through their actions.

The school worked closely with the Parish and was involved in the Confirmation sacramental program. Each year the school celebrates St Joseph's and St Mary MacKillop's feast days. This year the students have raised money for charities through a variety of activities such as a Crazy Hair Day for Cystic Fibrosis, and our School Leaders have led a number of fundraising initiatives for CARITAS and Catholic Missions. The school was also fortunate to have a fortnightly Mass in Semester One that they shared with the local parishioners as well as Liturgy of the Word in Semester Two. The students are involved in the Mass by reading, the offertory procession, altar serving and organising the hymns. Having regular interaction with the both the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist ensures their understanding of and reverence for the Mass. The school staff were involved in a very successful spirituality professional development day that focused on prayer and Christian Meditation. The faith and spiritual development of our students and staff is ably guided and coordinated by our newly appointed Religious Education Coordinator, Mrs Shannon.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT - NAPLAN

Students in **Years 3 and 5** sat the *National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy* (NAPLAN) in May this year. NAPLAN assessment results provide valuable information about student achievements in Literacy and Numeracy. An analysis of these results assists school planning and is used to support teaching and learning programs.

NAPLAN assessment results provide valuable information about student achievements in Literacy and Numeracy. As we have a small cohort in Year 3 and Year 5, the results cannot be published due to privacy reasons. However, the school has been able to note the growth for the Year 5 students that has occurred from their previous NAPLAN results. The Year 3 results show a number of students at St Joseph's are above the state and diocese mean in all areas of Literacy and Numeracy. The school looks carefully at the results of each student and is able to adjust the school teaching programs accordingly once the NAPLAN results are analysed.

SCHOOL POLICIES

Enrolment Policy

In enrolling students we are directed by the Archdiocesan Enrolment Policy which can be found on the Annual Report page of the school's website or on the Catholic Education Office website at <http://www.ceocg.catholic.edu.au/parents/Pages/GeneralPolicies.aspx>

Parents who wish to enrol their children at St Joseph's are asked to have a family interview with the Principal before the enrolment can be finalised. This interview gives the parents and the student an opportunity to take a tour of the school, get to know the Principal, class teacher and allows the student to become more familiar with their new surroundings.

The interview also allows the Principal to assess the educational and social needs of the student to ensure that the school is focused on those needs from the early stages of Kindergarten.

The school also offers an Orientation Program where prospective students come to the school for four sessions with the other students. The length of time for these sessions vary from two hours to half days towards the end of the program. Students who are unable to come to the set session are also invited to come along individually to the school for a 'make up' session if the parent wishes.

Attendance Policy

The Attendance Policy outlines student enrolment procedures, register of enrolment and encourages school attendance. The school must keep a register of attendance at school of all children. This must be in a form approved by the Minister for Education, using the common code for the attendance registers of all NSW schools. It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that a child who is of compulsory schooling age is enrolled at a school and attends the school every day when school is open for attendance and at every activity that the school requires the child to attend. If a pattern of non-attendance is apparent, the parent/carer is contacted in the first instance. If there is evidence of habitual non-attendance the student and their family may be referred to the CatholicCare school counsellor to address any relevant concerns. Advice can be gained from the regional Home-School Liaison Officer should further guidance be required on what constitutes appropriate follow-up action/s.

Behaviour Management Policy

The behaviour management at St Joseph's is coupled with the Pastoral Care Policy. It is based on a principle of rights and responsibilities so that students understand that the two go hand-in-hand. Each classroom has a list of rules set in positive terms developed by both the teacher and the students.

When a problem occurs we encourage the students to go through a process that helps the students learn to take responsibility for their actions as well as taking them through a process of making restitution to the victim. This empowers both students and begins to develop important life skills.

Corporal punishment is expressly prohibited in this school. In addition we do not sanction the administering of corporal punishment by non-school persons to enforce discipline at our school.

The full text of the school's Behaviour Management Policy is available from the Front Office.

Complaints and Grievances Resolution Policy

The school policy is based on procedural fairness and recognises that parents and caregivers must have access to processes that allow them to resolve concerns in a supportive and conciliatory environment. Any concerns raised are responded to promptly and fairly and confidentiality is always maintained. A full text of the school policy is available on the school website or from the Front Office.

PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

As stated, 2014 has been a year of consolidation and has helped guide the direction for the school in 2015. With the expansion in 2015 to 3 classes there will be an enhanced degree of collaboration to focus on the literacy and numeracy development of our students. This has been initiated in 2014 in conjunction with the CEO and in particular by focusing on the Mathematics Framework to ensure that obligations under the requirements of the Australian Curriculum are being met. Teaching staff will continue with their professional development as has been the case in 2014. With an expansion of our ICT capability in effect, there will be an ongoing focus on online delivery of curriculum content, at the same time ensuring that it complements the teaching and learning process rather than as a stand-alone entity.

2015 will see St Joseph's further embedding the School Vision and Mission Statements in practice. Our links with the parish remain strong and we will engage where possible in church community liturgies as well as continue with our sacramental preparation. With a dedicated Religious Education Coordinator on staff we will be developing staff spirituality as was commenced in 2014. The central place of Treasures New and Old will ensure that religious education at St Joseph's is engaging, connected and transforming.

The very productive links with the parent and wider community will continue and the pivotal role of the School Community Council will be sustained, ensuring that resourcing levels are maintained at optimum levels for the students.

The school, in conjunction with the CEO Facilities and Planning Division, will continue working on a Master Plan to ensure the coordinated and staged development of St Joseph's into the future.