

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT 2014

It has been another successful year at St Joseph's School and our foundations are strong as we continue planning for 2015.

We know the foundations are strong because they were established 100 years ago by the Sisters of Mercy. The foundations are based on the Sisters of Mercy four core values of, spirituality, community, service and social justice. I can assure you all, that I witness these values every day through our students, our parents and our staff. I refuse to get disillusioned by some of the small talk that goes on because I know what takes place at the heart and soul of the school each and every day.

In 2014 we were introduced to the Catholic Education Systems new strategic direction under the guide of LEAD; Learning, Engagement, Accountability and Discipleship. Although we had already established our 2014 priorities we were easily able to adapt them to the LEAD Framework.

### **LEARNING**

-We moved our major focus from numeracy to literacy with particular attention to reading comprehension of which there has been substantial work completed.

-At the same time we didn't want to lose the hard work we had achieved in the area of maths and it was great to see over 90 students participate in the AMT Maths this year with Mrs De Silva informing me that the target is for 100 students in our hundredth year.

-We continued to increase our IT hardware with 30 additional iPads, one to one laptops for our Year 6 students and 34 new desktops in the computer lab. For the first part of 2015 we want to ensure that our infrastructure will support what we currently have operating and ensure the speed of our shared space computers is improved.

-National Quality Standards were unpacked for the first time and we have completed our Philosophy Statement for Early Childhood Education and our review indicates that we are hitting the target in most of the areas. Revamping of the Early Childhood play area is one agenda item for next year.

### **Bishops' Literacy.**

In 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 we have been above the all schools total mean in the Bishop's Literacy Assessment. In 2014 our results continued to be above the all schools average which was 59% with our average being 65%. Religious Education Knowledge is obviously continuing to be well taught at St Joseph's.

### **Year 5 WAMSE**

The WAMSE assessments of Year 5 students in areas of SOSE and Science have been discontinued by the State Government this year.

## **NAPLAN Results**

NAPLAN results continue to be good with the school above the national average in 8 of the 10 assessed areas. If looking purely at averages then our Year 3 children have probably achieved the best results that we have ever achieved. Year 5 students have done well but with a slight dip in reading and numeracy.

If we look at NAPLAN results more holistically than just averages then we are able to develop our educational priorities for 2015 which will look at a more explicit teaching model.

I have listed below year 3 and year 5 comparisons.

<b>Year 3</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Australian</b>
<b>Reading</b>	428.6		418
<b>Writing</b>	421.3		402.1
<b>Spelling</b>	455.1		411.9
<b>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</b>	469.8		426.2
<b>Numeracy</b>	433		401.8

<b>Year 5</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Australian</b>
<b>Reading</b>	491.4	492.1	500.7
<b>Writing</b>	480	464	468
<b>Spelling</b>	524.8	492.4	497.7
<b>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</b>	519	495	504
<b>Numeracy</b>	481.4	480.3	487.2

## **2015 Learning Priorities.**

- As part of Explicit Teaching Model, teachers and students have learning intention clearly stated.
- Continue focus on reading comprehension. Teachers use staff developed AITSL class observation checklists to work shoulder to shoulder with partner teacher.
- Data Analysis; Teachers work together on moderating and grading for reports.

## **ENGAGEMENT**

-The major focus for 2014 was to raise awareness and encourage pride in the cultural mix of families at St Joseph's School. We have had some extremely successful events this year which have been a real celebration of our cultural diversity including Harmony Day and NAIDOC Week. The introduction of the National Flags representing the countries of birth has also proven to be a genuine learning opportunity and a real conversation point. We still however feel that these many nationalities are underrepresented in our parent bodies and we look forward to more involvement during our 100<sup>th</sup> Year.

## **2015 Engagement Priorities.**

- Engagement of middle range of students through Explicit teaching Model.
- Ensure reading resources are graded and year levels are appropriately resourced to ensure engagement of students. Develop reading resource rooms.
- Continue with cultural initiatives commenced this year to encourage parent involvement in the school. Cultural dinner and dance performance.

## **ACCOUNTABILITY**

-The introduction of SEQTA as an attendance tool was a major focus of accountability this year. By next year this process will become second nature for staff and it pre-empts the exciting potential of SEQTA in managing and storing student data into the future.

-In 2014 we developed our school's Early Childhood Philosophy and developed our Quality Improvement Plan to address NQS requirements.

## **2015 Accountability Priorities.**

- Next year we hope to see the SEQTA package evolve in the area of pastoral care, report writing and record keeping.
- Implement the NQS Quality Improvement Plan.
- Develop three year whole school strategic plan.
- Clarify teacher assistants' roles and responsibilities.

## **DISCIPLESHIP**

-Sustainability was a priority for 2014 but I'm not sure how much progress we made. It was great to see a gardening club start up and there has been some healthy produce from this garden.

### **2015 Discipleship Priorities**

-Our major focus is our 100 year celebrations and events with an opportunity to highlight the Mercy Values.

-We will continue to commit to the respect for God's Creation through looking at more sustainable practices.

## **SCHOOL COMMUNITY**

I welcome our new Board Members and wish to offer my appreciation to the current Board for their support this year. Dianne Abernethy resigned her position earlier this year due to her work and family commitments and Kelly Miller is retiring from her position as Board secretary. Mel Griffiths has had a long association with the School firstly through the P & F and then in a number of capacities within the Board and finally as Board Chairperson. Mel is an energetic and enthusiastic supporter of the school as witnessed by her final report. I thank her for her hard work over many years.

Dan has thanked his hard working team already tonight but I would like to also acknowledge their efforts. I try to be the voice of reason at their meetings by always saying that you are taking too much on but they are a group of tireless workers whose persistent effort ensures excellent financial support and a range of social activities. A sincere thank you to all on the executive. I would like to thank and acknowledge the work of Megan Riordan as P & F Treasurer over the past two years. Her financial management skills have been outstanding.

We have had several significant retirements this year;

-Mrs Laurel Heieck. Although Laurel was very reserved in nature I believe Mr Lamb could now testify how meticulous she was, how hard she worked and how talented she was in providing technology skills to the students from K to 6.

-Mrs Arlene Henderson our kindy teacher loved children and she had a unique talent to calm even the most challenging of students. She was always quick to defend and reluctant to label. We could all learn something from the way she taught and respected her students.

-Mrs Carmel Fasoli who gave 100% to her students. She set high standards of herself and expected the same of her students. You always knew they would be well prepared for Year 3 and you certainly wouldn't want to plan a vacation during the school term. Carmel was enjoying her retirement and came back for the last 4 weeks for only one reason, the children.

-Our thoughts are with Marie Hassett tonight who remains seriously ill in hospital. Marie is always the ultimate teaching professional and we hope and pray that she makes a good recovery.

-I'm pleased to announce that Wendy gave birth today to a healthy 8lb 4oz daughter Lillian.

As we move into our 100 year celebration the school remains strong. We have an outstanding staff, excellent resources and a balanced financial position. The level of cooperation with the Fr Peter and the St Joseph's Parish is the envy of many other schools and the support we receive through St Norbert College via Annette Morey and her staff is of great value to the school both financially and through the use of shared facilities.

This school is full of very good people and I'm in the fortunate position to see that those values brought to the school 99 years ago are still alive in the community. I know and I witness the kindness and generosity of heart, I see the community care, I see a community of compassion, I see the extra things that the staff do to ensure Christian Spirit is alive. I see daily examples of people who are concerned for those less fortunate than themselves in the actions of parents, students and staff.

From Sunday's mass we hear, "*What is most important is the way we treat the least of Christ's brothers and sisters. What we do for them we do for Christ. By our care for them, we reveal that our profession of faith at Mass is more than just words.*"

I continue to enjoy being part of this school community because this community is..... "*It is more than just words.*"