CONTACT DETAILS:

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The School
St Joseph's School is a Catholic, coeducational, Diocesan Primary school situated in Narrandera NSW in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga.
St Joseph's School is an integral part of St. Mel's Parish. During 2013 the school had an enrolment of 187 children.

Catholic Identity
St Joseph's Primary is part of the evangelising mission of the Church. St Joseph's is a faith community, learning together, building the kingdom of God. The Staff have worked hard at continuing its mission to 'Carry forth the Good News to every sector of the human race.' St Joseph's has endeavoured to meet the needs of the whole school community by:
- Providing Religious Education Programs, which enhance knowledge, understanding and practice of our Catholic faith.
- Creating a Catholic community where all staff and students treat each other with respect.
- Valuing the parent's role in the education of their child.
- Ensuring Gospel values are reflected in the curriculum
- Promoting peace and love
- Being inclusive
- Reaching out to those in need.
- Encouraging all staff and students to grow spiritually and live out Gospel values.
- Treating others with honesty and respect.
- Fostering, appreciating and celebrating cultural diversity.
- Teaching a comprehensive and balanced curriculum
- Fostering learning as a lifelong process.
- Engaging children in their learning and decision making process.
- Providing a happy and a safe environment
- Incorporating a range of learning styles
- Providing an education for students, which will prepare them for life.
- Promoting continual renewing of knowledge and skills
- Promoting a responsible attitude towards care for the environment
- Reflecting on our practice of all of the above.

At St Joseph's, Religious Education is taught each day by committed, trained staff. It is integrated throughout all Key Learning Areas. In this subject, students are given opportunities to grow in their understanding of God and His love for us as well as develop their knowledge of Jesus, His Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Students other than Catholic are included in all lessons, and have opportunities to participate in special Sacramental celebrations.

St Joseph's were involved in liturgical dance, Stations of the Cross and Christmas Carol singing in the community.

During 2013 each class and the whole school regularly celebrated masses, liturgies, feast days and Year 6 graduation. Parents and parishioners were invited to attend each of these special events. Staff participate in formal prayer and reflection each day.

The REC and other teachers furthered their understanding of RE with a number of days spent completing professional learning activities and a staff Spirituality Day within the school at Narrandera.

2013 was certainly a busy year in regards to the Religious Education at St Joseph’s. I found my first year as Religious Education Co-ordinator both challenging and rewarding.

During 2013 a new resource room and REC office was established in what was the old staffroom. It was great to have things in the one room and to have a place that I could work from. Making the time to go through the resources and sorting through those that needed to be kept and those that could be archived, proved time consuming. I thank Helen Kirk for her assistance with this task.

During the year we celebrated Masses for St Joseph’s, the Assumption of Mary, All Saints Day and school masses. Class masses were held during the weekend parish mass this year which proved to be quite successful. This is something that we will continue in 2014.

Sacraments this year:
Communion - Preparation for the sacrament Communion class was undertaken by Miss Jess Grigg. Jess did a wonderful job in a few short weeks to get these children ready to receive the body and blood of Christ. The parents of this class also were a great help in organizing morning tea and decorating the hall for this special event.

Confirmation - Mr Chris Walker organized this for the Year 6 children and again the children were well prepared. Bishop Hanna visited the school and parish and was very pleased with the children.

Reconciliation: Reconciliation took place in Term four for the Year 2 children and for one child attending from the local state school.

Julie Flynn - Religious Co-ordinator
A Message from key School Bodies

School Council Report
The year 2013 was another successful year for the St Joseph’s School Council. We welcomed Connie Longobardi, Dave Sergeant and Jill Robinson onto the council and farewelled Helen Ryan, Sue Forrest and Suzie Litchfield thanking them for their contributions over previous years. The council met regularly throughout the year and meetings were well attended. The school council provided a place for thought and discussion over issues bought forward by the schools leadership team and parent body. In addition to providing advice and assistance where required the council also took a role in helping maintain the schools grounds with a number of working bees during the year as well as giving oversight of the schools budget.

The school council also wishes to thank the St Joseph’s P & F for their excellent fund raising efforts during the year, including the Spring Fair which once again was tremendously successful and a highlight of the school year. The funds raised and services provided are truly welcomed by the school.

The school council congratulates the students and staff on another successful year of learning and faith and looks forward to this continuing in the future.

Matt McLellan – President

P and F Report
At the beginning of the year we welcomed our new canteen co-ordinator, Christy Morton, who has done a fantastic job all year. During March, the stainless steel cross (the Year Six gift to the school) was installed at the front of the school as well as $463 being raised from the Mother’s Day raffle. Before our July meeting, we held our Annual General Meeting and the following office bearers were elected:

President – Heather Ostler, Vice President – Vanessa Hoffman, Secretary – Ruth Hutchins and, Treasurer – Bridey Hugo

After a few relatively quiet months, November saw two new fridges installed in the canteen as well as the annual Christian Living book prizes purchased for the final assembly. On November 9th the Spring Fair was held, and raised approximately $11,600 for the school. The decision for the Year Six graduation dinner to be held at the Narrandera Golf Club from 2013 onwards was also made during November, as was the decision for the P and F to continue to contribute financially to the annual year six gift rather than to the graduation dinner. The Year Six gift to the school for 2013 will be a flag pole for the front of the school.

Another noteworthy achievement for the 2013 year, was the uniform pool receiving a $2000 grant (secured by Leonie Moylan) to assist families in need with uniform purchases. $25,000 in total was pledged to the school account by the Parent’s and Friends association during the 2013 school year.

Heather Ostler - President

Student Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy Testing
NAPLAN results for 2013 indicate that the school’s results are substantially above or above the average of statistically similar schools in most areas of literacy and numeracy for Years 3 and 5.

Professional Learning
The staff and Leadership Team from St Joseph’s has been involved in a number of professional development activities both in school and in their own time. These include, the Early Literacy Project, First Steps in Reading, Literacy and Numeracy Networks, Curriculum Review Process, Best Start Training, Phonemic Awareness, Inquiry Based Learning, SENA Maths, CPR, Sharing Our Story, KLA Network Days, NAPLAN Analysis, Reading Recovery, Diabetes Information Training, Anaphylaxis Training, OH&S Training and Child Protection.

Teaching Staff
The NSW government requires that this report detail the number of teachers in each of the following categories:
A) have teaching qualifications from a recognised higher education institution within Australia
B) have qualifications from a recognised higher education institution within Australia but no formal teacher education qualifications
C) have relevant successful teaching experience and appropriate knowledge but no formal teacher qualifications.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
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</table>

2013 Annual Report
Workforce Composition
The workforce at St Joseph’s School consists of 6 full time teachers, 1 full time Principal, 7 part time teachers, 1 part time specialist music teacher, 1 full time secretary, 2 full time teacher assistants, 1 part time cleaner, 1 part time library assistant and 1 part time grounds person.

Student Attendance
Student attendance rates for each Year level and the whole school

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Attendance %</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinder</td>
<td>87.51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>88.91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>89.25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>87.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>87.65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>89.23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>88.62%</td>
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Student Non-Attendance
Class rolls are marked electronically on a daily basis. Significant student absences are reported to the Principal to follow up with the parents. At the end of each term parents are asked to complete an Unexplained Absences Sheet and return it to the school. The Principal follows up absences with parents. A report of all student absences is generated and filed at the end of each term. Parents are required to complete a Certificate for Exemption from Attendance at School Form if they know their child will be away from school for 5 or more days.

Enrolment Policy
NSW legislation allows for the enrolment of children who turn 5 before August 1. At St. Joseph’s School, parents seeking to enrol their child / children who turn 5 after May 30 are advised of possible implications. The closing date for enrolment is advertised in the School Newsletter, the Parish Bulletin and the Narrandera Argus.

Characteristics of the Student Body

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Indig*</th>
<th>LOTE*</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Language background Other Than English

School Policies

Discipline
At St Joseph’s school we believe that children respond best to an approach that encourages and rewards positive, independent behaviour. Our Discipline Policy reflects this. Corporal punishment is prohibited in our school.

Student Welfare
At St. Joseph’s School believe that every child has a right to be safe and feel safe. Our student welfare policies and practices guide us in achieving these goals.

Complaints and Grievances
The school has adopted an approach to resolving complaints and grievances that is based on procedural fairness, it recognises that parents/ caregivers and students must have access to processes that allow them to resolve concerns in a supportive and conciliatory way. Parents/students with a complaint are encouraged in the first instance to contact their class teacher. If the need then arises contact with the Principal and the CSO may be appropriate.

Changes to School Policies
Copies of the above policies can be obtained by writing, emailing or phoning the school.

Improvement Targets
English, in particular spelling and comprehension, and Mathematics were targeted Key Learning Areas for 2013. Improvement in phonemic awareness was also a targeted area. Targeted areas in Mathematics included interpreting data from graphs, place value and improving instant recall of number facts. An additional goal was to integrate Inquiry Learning into the pedagogical practices of each classroom.

Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility
At St. Joseph’s School, the Principal, Parish Priest and staff model respect and responsibility to each other and to the students. At St. Joseph’s School, emphasis is placed on student leadership, self-respect and responsibility. Each class composes cooperatively its own responsibilities and consequences at the beginning of each year. These norms are referred to frequently and focused on according to the needs of the students. Visuals prompts are used for some students. Respect and responsibility
permeate St. Joseph’s Religious Education Program and Pastoral Care Policy. Senior students have many opportunities to accept a leadership role in the school. Other students, from Kindergarten to Year 6, are encouraged to show respect and carry out responsibilities in the day-to-day running of their classrooms and in the playground.

At St. Joseph’s School, discipline is viewed as preventative, corrective and supportive. No form of bullying is tolerated. Pastoral care at St. Joseph’s is an expression of what we believe about relationships with God and with others. Respect and responsibility are encouraged and demonstrated through child protection policies, programs promoting self-esteem, programs that teach life skills, the provision of school counseling services through Centrecare; Community Service programs such as Landcare and Seasons for Growth – a grief and loss program.

**Community Satisfaction**

The following information has been provided to the school. It has been a valuable gauge for determining the level of satisfaction the community has with our school.

**Parents**
My child (son or daughter) is usually happy at St Joseph’s School.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>57%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
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**Students**
I am usually happy at St Joseph’s School.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>%</td>
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**Staff**
I am usually happy at St Joseph’s School.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
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