Annual Report
St Joseph’s Primary School
Jerilderie

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Introduction
St Joseph’s Primary School's outstanding reputation has continued to grow during 2006. This report highlights a few examples of the excellent achievements of our students, staff and parents. Together, we all have the right to feel extremely proud of our school, students and community.

1. The School

Vision Statement
St Joseph's School, Jerilderie is a Catholic faith community committed to empowering all children to be and do their best.

The Vision statement for our school was written this year in conjunction with the staff and parents. It encompassed all stakeholders in our school.

Mission Statement
We are committed to being:
A community of Faith
A community of Learning
A community of Care
A community of Service.

This mission statement is expressed through our actions. St Joseph’s is a Catholic community school in which parents and staff work together to educate children. We recognise and affirm the uniqueness of each student, and assist each to develop his or her full potential through a safe, supportive and challenging learning environment. We work in an atmosphere built on mutual respect and, through the celebration of Gospel principles. We aim to achieve a quality education for all.

We are a community of learners who strive to achieve in all we do. We are a community of faith filled people who live with the understanding of the Gospel. We are a community of parents dedicated to our school and students. We are a community of teachers who go above and beyond in all that we do. We have a staff of devoted and loyal people who enrich our school everyday.

Our School Motto is
Wisdom through truth and love

Exit Outcomes
At St Joseph’s, we commit ourselves to ensuring that our students:
- value learning for life
- are self-respecting
- are self-responsible
- are articulate communicators
- are living the Gospel values
- are resilient
- are respectful and love other people
- value a healthy lifestyle
- enjoy and value our school.

We bring these attributes alive through:
1. Our commitment to our students, their families, our community and our God
2. the use of effective learning and teaching practices in all that we do.

Religious Education
St Joseph’s Primary School is a Parish Primary School which we see as an extension of our local Catholic Parish, existing for and serving the Church. They are an integral part of our school community. The Parish community actively support the school in many ways like providing a ride-on mower for the school, reimbursing insurance rebates and sharing the costs of the hall. All of which are just some of the ways they support the education of our children.

The Catholic Women's League give each Year 6 student a parting graduation gift of Rosary Beads to assist in their faith development.

The Parish provide an encouragement award for each class recognising excellence in Religious Education. They give each graduating Year 6 student a Good News Bible.

We use the Diocesan Religious Education Program called “Sharing Our Story”. Each day the students are educated about the heritage, commitment and principals of our Catholic Faith.

Prayer is an important part of the life of St Joseph’s Primary School. Our teachers pray with the students in their classrooms. Teachers and children are encouraged to share prayers with their class.
Sacramental programs are conducted in the school with the support of the Religious Education Co-ordinator who was Mrs Trish McKenna, Father John the Parish Priest and the Parish itself. This year we had our Year 3’s complete their First Reconciliation and Eucharist. Confirmation occurs each even year, so our Year 5 and Year 6 students celebrated their Confirmation this year.

We celebrated regular liturgies, school masses and Feast days. We had a reflective and celebratory service for our Graduation and End of Year Mass.

Throughout the year, we raise money Project Compassion and the Catholic Children’s Mission through special days and during Mission Week, we raised $124 to support the work of the missions in different countries. Our Year 4/5/6 class held special stalls during Project Compassion. It was a wonderful way to express our commitment to other people in our world.

The Arts
Creative Arts has a prominent place in our curriculum. We train our teachers each year in new varied methods of teaching this area. This year we:
- Attended school plays by St Columba’s Berrigan and St Joseph’s Finley
- had performances under the Musica Viva Program called Makukuhan and Sounds Baroque.
- continued to implement the learning program that accompanies these shows
- had clay play with a professional artist, Bronwyn Strano
- had our kindergarten children sang at the Flower Show; and
- had our Kindergarten and Year 1 students performed a Christmas Play.

Sport
We have a very strong focus of sport in our curriculum. We have twilight swimming and athletic carnivals allowing all parents to attend these events.

We have sport each Friday for one and half hours. In term one, we focus on swimming & athletics. The focus for term two is winter sports and in term three we use our town’s facilities like the Sports Centre, Lawn Bowling Club and even Tai Chi with Barb Brown. In term four, we had our Gymnastics program for 5 weeks involving the entire school and then we finished off with our SwimSafe Program and swimming for sport.

We also had students at the South West Deanery and Diocesan Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics. Students attended local competition and fun day carnivals for AFL and Super 8’s cricket. We held numerous sporting clinics at the school including cricket, AFL and Go Go Golf. There were many opportunities for our students to attend trials for many different sports.

This year, as a whole school, we introduced mandatory 15 minute fitness sessions for four mornings a week as part of the Physical Activity requirement of the Federal Government. Our staff and children have enjoyed this aspect of our daily routine. This year we concentrated on skipping, relays, fun runs and running games.

School Initiatives
At St Joseph’s we strive for and again the best from all our children and staff. Some of the initiatives for 2006 include:
- Public Speaking – Our Year 5/6 students participate in the Rotary Public Speaking with one being selected to present in Finley. We also have the Annual Penguin Public Speaking Competition for our Year 5/6 students.
- Jerilderie Shire Little Aussie of the Year winner from our school
- Active support of all community events such as
  - Jerilderie Letter Event
  - Summer Fair including competitions
  - CWA Belgium Country of Study
  - ANZAC Day
  - ANZAC Day writing competition
  - Various colouring-in competitions
  - Remembrance Day
  - Ecumenical Services with Jerilderie Public School
  - Walk Safely to School Day
  - Police, Rural Fire Brigade and Ambulance visits
- MS Read-A-Thon
- Open Day 2006 saw our students attend a whole school mass, followed
by the opportunity to dress up as their favourite book character for a special parade. We had open classrooms, special lunch and Book Week Art.

- Peter Kearney Workshop and Concert
- Introduced the mandatory common grade scale and assessment system for reporting to parents.
- Resilience information evening for parents with Andrew Fuller and all the students attended workshops about building resilience in their lives.
- Our Kindergarten Orientation Program includes a special information evening whereby all preschool parents are invited and the staff highlight the programs our school offers. We have an orientation program which the preschoolers attend school for a 1/2 day each Wednesday in November. This gives the pre-schoolers a very good idea of how a school operates and they arrive on the first day, the following year, very confident and eager to learn.
- Peer Support – this year we used the resilience “Taking Opportunities” program whereby our Year 5/6 students are trained to be leaders of a small group that helps to build resilience in each child. Our leaders have the opportunity to develop and practice leadership skills.
- PMP – Perceptual Motor Program – this is a daily gross motor program for our Kindergarten and Year 1 students which develop their motor skills whilst using both sides of their brain. This occurred for three terms for four days a week.
- School Leaders – all our Year 6 students are School Leaders and gain a badge. We also have a peer and teacher voted School Captain each year. This program offers all students the opportunity to be a leader in our school.
- Parent Information Evenings – we begin the year with each class holding an information session with parents to inform them about the routines and expectations for that year level.
- Excursion Program – This year our K/1/2/3 students had a day excursion to Linley Park. Our Year 2’s had a day visit to Tocumwal and our Year 3’s had an overnight excursion to Tocumwal. Our Year 4/5/6 students had a four day excursion to Ballarat and Bendigo which them and their parents fundraised successfully.

**School Policies**

This year as a school community we re-wrote a new Vision Statement. We also updated our Parent Information Handbook.

The school has a policy for Pastoral Care and Behaviour of students which is based upon the belief in the dignity of the person. In our school, it is expressed through quality relationships, rewarding learning experiences, the establishment of an effective network of people, provision for a stable environment and the development of self discipline and growth of a responsible member of the school community. The school also has policies on dealing with complaints and grievances which are contained in our school and parent information handbook and given to each parent upon enrolment.

These policies and many more can be accessed via the Principal at the school. Diocesan policies that underpin our own school policies can be found at the following link: [www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au](http://www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au)

**School Council**

Upon the enrolment of a child into our school, each family becomes a member of our School Council. The purpose of the council is to provide advice and support on matters of education, operation, disseminate information, finance, buildings & equipment, organisational items, school policy and procedures, and community issues. By allowing all families to be a member of our council, this provides them with a direct say in the operation of our school.

This year Jeremy Barlow was the Chairperson with Jeanette Barlow as the School Council Secretary, together with, Nancy Curtin the Parents Funds Treasurer, Gina Stonnill the catering co-ordinator, Lyn Harrison and Michelle Read as canteen co-ordinators and Jenny Barlow was the Uniform Officer.
2. Information on Key School Programs

Curriculum Focus
Our Curriculum Focus for 2006 was tied closely to our School Renewal Framework. Using “Today’s Children, Tomorrow’s Adults” as a key skills criteria, our focus for the whole year was on thinking. We introduced the program of implementing Inquiry Based Integrated Units into each class within the school. This is a fantastic method of allowing our students to control and be enthused about learning big ideas. This focus is driven by the Country Area’s Program and is an initiative used by all our member schools.

This project is in the first initial phase. It will continue to grow and develop over the coming years. It will be the main curriculum focus for quite a few years.

Programs to Support Learning

Technology
Our school is very well resourced with technology. We had 4 computers in our Kindergarten classroom and 5 computers in Year 1/2/3 and Year 4/5/6. All of our computers are networked to a server which provides fast and filtered internet access. The major purchase this year was a photocopier which was networked, allowing all computers on the school to print to it. This will ensure efficient and cost effective printing for all students.

This year we also had a weekly 45 minute computer skills lesson each Friday. This program developed every child’s skills in the use of computer software and hardware.

Reading Recovery
We have the resources and specially trained staff to complete this program. Due to the success of our Year One students, we have not needed to offer this support program again in 2006.

Learning Difficulties
The school is allocated a Special Needs In School Co-ordinator. This staff member provides support to teachers who are ensuring the success and supporting the needs of students in their class, to co-ordinate application forms and to assist teachers in accessing special services offered by the CSO. This allocation is granted on the number of funded students within the school.

The school had access to a Deanery Education Officer in the later part of the year and termly access to the Head of Special Services. These people support the needs of all students in our school and, in particular, students with learning difficulties and disabilities. These people are accessed readily throughout the year to meet the needs of our students.

This year, Mandy Catena was appointed as the Deanery Education Officer for the South West Schools. This is a fantastic opportunity for one of our own staff members.

Equity Programs
All of our Key Learning Areas have in built curriculum perspectives in the syllabus outcomes and content. These perspectives reflect the learning needs and priorities of individual students. This includes Gifted and Talented students, Aboriginal students, ESL (English as a Second Language) students, Aboriginal and Indigenous issues, gender and any differences and diversities.

St Joseph’s is a CAP (Country Areas Program) school. This means that the school develops needs-based priorities for funding each year. The programs developed this year included:

- Employment of a teacher for 1/2 a day a week to develop the computer skills of all students.
- The implementation of a guitar teaching program to years 3 to 6. This may be transferred to 2007.
- A gymnastics program from Airborne Gymnastics encompassing a 5 week program for all students Kindergarten to Year 6.
- The employment of a local artist to teach the skills and joy of clay work to all our students.
- Support for various musical shows and performances
- Teacher professional development in music and visual arts.

Programs to Support Students

Through the support of the Catholic Schools Office, we can offer student support in various ways.

School Counsellor
We have a School Counsellor who works through the Catholic Organisation called
Centacare. She attends our school fortnightly to support our families and students.

**Students with Disabilities**

We had a teacher’s aide support for our Kindergarten classroom of 24 1/2 hours a week. Also had support in our Year 4/5/6 class of 4 1/2 hours for students with specific support needs. Many of these students have an Individual Learning Program written to meet their particular needs.

**Drug Education**

The Life Education Van visits the school each year. This targets drug education for all our students through real life strategies. This year we also held a drug forum for parents on the topic of resilience and we implemented the Peer Support Foundation Program on Resilience. These three programs were targeted at ensuring all our students had effective and up-to-date information about inappropriate drug use.

**Road Safety**

Our Year 6 students participate in the Careful Cobber program run by DECA in Shepparton. This is a highlight of their final year at our school but more importantly it allows students to understand the dangers of road usage and how to ensure that they are safe. This year, we also ran a bike safety day at school whilst our Year 6’s were at DECA. Each child brought in their bike which was checked by a parent for safety and a checklist was given to each child. We rotated through a series of activities designed to improve each child’s understanding of bike and road safety. We even had a short obstacle course for them to test their safety skills.

**Respect and Responsibility**

Displayed in our school's staffroom is a poster of the Values for Australian Schools together with Safe Schools Framework Posters. The school completed all a survey on the development and implementation of the Safe Schools Framework. In 2006 we held a values forum for all parents. We had many community people attend the information session as well. In 2007, our Peer Support Program will target bullying under the “Speaking Up” module.

**Student Achievement**

**State-wide Tests and Examinations**

The table below indicates the percentage of students who have achieved national literacy and numeracy benchmarks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Basic Skills 1998 to 2006**

Our school has participated in BST Literacy and Numeracy since 1998 and in BST Writing since 2001. the school monitors the BST Trend Data each year and uses that information to inform its learning and teaching practices for the upcoming year.

**Staff Achievement**

The professional growth and development of our staff learning and teaching practices are vital for the continued success of our amazing school.

During the year, the staff have attended a wide range of professional development courses. All staff have updated their CPR. All have current First Aid certificates and they were in-serviced on their Duty of Care, the new reporting system, Child Protection and Harassment Legislation.

**3. School Renewal**

**Progress of the School Renewal Framework**

The School Renewal Framework (SRF) is a Diocesan accountability structure that supports schools in its efforts to create an effective school under the areas of:

1. Vision & Mission
2. School Programs and operations: Policies and Curricula
3. Leadership: Administration and Management
4. Professional Development
5. Resources & Facilities.
These have not been covered in other areas of this report:

Leadership, Programs, Policy and Curriculum
- Vision & Mission was promoted in school newsletter
- Began the implementation of Kinesiology into the classroom
- Reworked and updated the school website
- Acknowledged Country at school assemblies
- Appointed an Aboriginal Resource Teacher Role
- Purchased readers with Aboriginal themes and authors
- Principals Review occurred

Professional Growth
The teachers had additional training in:
- Stage Statements
- Dotnetnuke – Website software
- Integrated Units – Elizabeth Horscroft
- Reading Strategies in the classroom
- LLTC including Observation Survey and English stage days for all teachers
- Special Needs In-servicing from RBS NSW
- Reporting to Parents – Criteria Referenced Reporting
- Musica Viva implementation training
- Zart Art craft course for Book Week and Christmas

Facilities and Resources
- Investing In Our Schools Grant for a new eating shelter, playground tables and chairs, and a new ride-on mower
- Community Water Grant – including the installation of a fully automated watering system, new dual flush toilets and rainwater tanks for the collection of water
- Healthy Canteen’s Grant for a new stove, fridge and rangehood
- Small Community Grant for a new freezer and all new items to allow the safe preparation and storage of all food for functions and canteen
- Parent maintenance roster started including all families on a roster to ensure the tidiness and safety of our school.

In 2007 the SFR Focus is:
Curriculum:
- English
- Religion
- Integrated Units

Leadership:
- Uplifting and maintaining the profile of the school in the community
- Introduction of electronic classroom rolls
- Compliance

Programs:
- Active Communities After-School Care
- Teachable Moments
- School Production
- Peer Support - Anti-bullying module

Professional Development
- Autism Spectrum Disorder training for all staff
- New CSO wide reporting system
- Kath Murdoch writer of the inquiry model we use for our Integrated Units
- Religious Journey Programs
- World Youth Day

Facilities
- Cover over the pumps for the watering system
- Remodelling of the 125 year site
- Relocating and swapping around the staffroom and secretaries office.

4. School Overview

School Enrolment
Enrolment Policy
St Joseph’s has an enrolment policy which is followed at the time of all enrolments. It details the process and requirements for enrolment. A copy is available from the Principal.

You may also view the CSO’s enrolment policy using this link:
www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au
Student Enrolment Profile:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Indig*</th>
<th>LOTE*</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>38</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Language background Other Than English

Structure of Classes

In the 2006 school year, we were very lucky to have the following class structures due to a variety of agreement:

- Kindergarten Class of 10
- Year 1/2/3 Class of 15
- Year 4/5/6 Class of 13

It would not have been possible to have these small classes without the support of the Catholic Schools Office.

Staff

Teacher Standards

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
B) have qualifications from a recognised higher education institution 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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
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<td>4</td>
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Teacher Attendance and Retention

The Federal Schools Assistance Act 2005 requires that each school report on the average attendance rate of staff members in a given school. The end figure is determined by calculations including certain periods of absence due to sickness, personal carers leave, leave without pay, special leave and accident/workers compensation leave. An attendance rate of 95.8% was achieved in 2006 by staff at St Joseph’s Primary School, Jerilderie.

Parent Involvement and Participation

Parental involvement is the key to the success of St Joseph’s Primary School. Parents are the “back-bone” of our school.

The Parents and Friends Fund of St Joseph’s is where our tireless hardworking parents work together to raise a large amount of funds for the benefit of our students. Their contribution of $7,000 to our school budget allows the school to maintain the high standard of faith inspired education. They also contributed around $7000 for new reverse cycle air conditioners in the Kindergarten classroom and administration block, not to mention, new Kindergarten readers. Their contributions to resourcing the school in 2006 were exceptional.

The Combined Schools Fete/Auction Committee met on four occasions to plan and execute the fete/auction at our school in March. This year we had a “bumper” fete. They donated $5500 to the school budget.

The Canteen, under the supervision of Lyn Harrison and Michelle Read, provides a valuable service to our students, as well as, producing a small profit for the Parent Funds. All parents are rostered on to “work” in the canteen. The School Council applied for and gained two grants to help with providing the best equipment for our school canteen.

Our parental participation does not stop there. We have a dedicated group of reading parents who come in once a week into the Kindergarten and Year 1/2/3 class for reading groups.

We have fantastic support in our library. Parents accession (catalogue) books, cover all the new resources and re-sort books to their shelves. A parent is our Library Monitor and we deeply appreciate all she does for us.

Parents support our working bees, disco’s, transport students to events and sporting carnivals - just to name a few.

Without our parents we would not operate as effectively.

Community Use of School Facilities

From time to time our school is used for a variety of activities. As we are a part of the Parish, we share our facilities. We also had the Annual Combined Schools Fete in our school grounds in 2006.

Community Satisfaction

The following information was not collected due to the change in Principal.

Financial Statement Summary

See Appendix A
About This Report

This report was written by Jason Harrison, Principal in 2006, in conjunction with the relevant school stakeholders. It has been edited by the staff of St Joseph’s in 2007. It is a requirement of our registration as a Non-Government School and is aimed at informing parents and our community about our school.

If you would like any further information about St Joseph’s Primary School, please contact the Principal using the details on the final page of this report.
APPENDIX A

This data shown below is a summary of Diocese of Wagga School System income and expense and includes income and expense of all system schools.

**System Income 2006**

- Capital Income: 3%
- Commonwealth Government Recurrent Grants: 57%
- State Government Recurrent Grants: 21%
- Other Fee Income: 5%
- School Fees: 14%

**System Expenses 2006**

- Salary and Related Expenses: 73%
- Non Salary Expenses: 20%
- Capital Expenditure: 7%
The total income and expense of the school, that is included in the above, is shown below.

**Income**
- Capital Income 9%
- School Fees 4%
- Other Fee Income 11%
- Commonwealth Government Recurrent Grants 58%
- State Government Recurrent Grants 18%

**Expenses**
- Capital Expenditure 13%
- Non Salary Expenses 15%
- Salary and Related Expenses 72%