CONTACT DETAILS:

PRINCIPAL: Mr. Lou Dogao
ADDRESS: Cnr Johnston & Tarcutta Streets
          Wagga Wagga  2650
PHONE: (02) 69215733
FAX: (02) 69214312
EMAIL: info@sjw.wagga.catholic.edu.au
Introduction

St. Joseph's Primary is a single stream, Kindergarten to Year 6 Catholic school located in central Wagga Wagga.

Our School motto is "All Things for God". At St. Joseph's we strive to provide our students and families with a Christ centred, nurturing, happy environment that encourages an ongoing love of learning.

This report is an indication of our achievements during 2006 and focus for 2007 and beyond.

1. The School

Our Vision and Mission
St. Joseph's is a Catholic Parish Primary School
We believe that:

We are a Christ centred community which celebrates our Catholic faith.
Each member of our community is acknowledged and nurtured in a unique, caring, respectful manner.
We provide a solid foundation for holistic education which encourages an ongoing love of learning.
It is a happy safe environment for all.
Because it is a Christ centred community which celebrates our Catholic Faith, we will:

celebrate community Masses and Paraliturgies
participate in Parish Mass (once a term)
provide opportunities for class prayer
educate children in the Catholic Faith
provide Sacramental programmes
demonstrate Christian faith in action.
Nurture acceptance, compassion, forgiveness, respect, justice, unity and religious practices encourage reverence in the Church
reach out to those in need through prayers, almsgiving and service
ensure that our Catholic Faith permeates all teaching and interactions
use an RE Syllabus
involve the Parish priest in our Religious Education program

Because we believe that each member of our community is acknowledged and nurtured in a unique, caring, respectful manner, we will:

listen to the thoughts and feelings of others
have a fair and Christian discipline policy
speak respectfully and lead others to speak respectfully to and about others
provide Reading Recovery
provide support to the whole family
be receptive to parental concerns
keep parents informed of other services (eg Centacare, tutoring, counselling, gifted children, reports)
acknowledge children through Merit Awards and in the newsletter
acknowledge birthdays, sporting achievements, outside activities
solve our differences in a professional manner
Because we believe St. Joseph's provides a solid foundation for holistic education which encourages an ongoing love of learning, we will:

provide up to date educational practices
teach all Key Learning Areas
provide individual learning programs for children with additional needs
provide interactive and creative child centred activities catering for a variety of learning styles
provide appropriate up-to-date resources to teachers and students
undertake and encourage professional development for teachers
be open to new ideas and challenges
monitor the progress of children and develop programs which respond to their needs and encourage growth in learning
report to parents both formally and informally
refer children to other professionals for assessment and explicit teaching
Because we believe St. Joseph's is a happy and safe environment for all, we will:

provide adequate supervision during school hours
maintain equipment, buildings, furniture and grounds
provide pastoral care for all members of the community
celebrate our successes
acknowledge achievements
provide first aid when required
work as a team to provide consistent, structured discipline
access counselling through Centacare
have a OH&S policy in place
expect compliance to uniform standards
have an anti-bullying policy in place for reference
be sensitive to home issues
be punctual
Religious Education
A course of study (scope and sequence) for K-6 of RE units was written for the new Diocesan Religious Education syllabus ‘Sharing our Story’. This allows for sequential development of all the key strands. Father Blaise continued weekly visits to classrooms making a connection with the children and teaching. Each class was visited by Father Blaise once a term.

Sacramental programs continued with Year 2 having their First Reconciliation, Year 3 their First Holy Communion and Year 6 Confirmation.

Collections for Project Compassion and Missions occurred in Term 1 and 4. As well as collecting money, classes studied aspects of mission countries at levels appropriate to their age.

Sister Helen, a missionary worker from New Guinea, shared her experiences and knowledge with the children on her visit to the school.

The children and families participated and responded well to Saint Vincent De Paul winter and Christmas appeals.

School Masses are held every second week with classes taking turn to organise the Mass. A School and Parish Sunday Mass is held once a term generally followed by morning tea either at the front of the Cathedral or on the school grounds.

The Arts
All classes participated in the Wagga Wagga Eisteddfod.

Music lessons for individual students are offered through the Wagga Wagga School of Music and speech through Mrs. Tucker.

Recorder is taught by specialist teachers to Years 2 and 3.

Children worked with an Aboriginal performer in a workshop called ‘Kulpiyam Culture’ which exposed them to song, dance and story.

Several classes visited the museum and art gallery throughout the year taking advantage of relevant displays and workshops.

End of year celebration involved all children in workshops with Andrew Chinn – religious songwriter and performer- concluding with a Christmas concert presented to parents as a celebration night.

Sport
Through the year we have participated in the following sporting endeavours:
Swimming: Years 3 – 6 School Carnival at Junee, 30 children to Deanery , 12 to Diocesan, 2 went to Sydney as part of the McKillop team and 1 to PSSA.
Athletics: Kindergarten – Year 6 School Carnival, 47 children went to Deanery, 5 to Diocesan and 2 to McKillop in Canberra.
Cross Country: Kindergarten to Year 6 School event, 47 children to Deanery, 20 to Diocesan and 3 to McKillop at Eastern Creek.
Team events:
Paul Kelly Cup, Australian Rules, Years 3 to 6
Mortimer Shield, Rugby League, Years 3 to 6
Trent Barrett shield, Rugby League, all Years 3 and 4
Oztag Year 5 and 6 teams and Year 3 and 4 teams
Diocesan Netball Gala Day Year 5 and 6 girls
Kellyville Netball, Year 5 and 6 team.
Diocesan Trials:
Netball, Rugby League, Soccer, Touch, Basketball and Australian Rules.
Programs through agencies:
Gymnastics Kindergarten to Year 6 ten week program, Auskick, clinics with ARL Development Officer and Cricket NSW Development Officer.

School Initiatives
Kindergarten orientation included a welcome to the Saint Joseph’s Community organised by the P&F. A supper was held following the Parent Information Night which allowed new parents to meet with each other and existing parents forming connections with the school. Following interviews and tours, the children for Kindergarten 2007 spent time at school in small groups engaging in activities and familiarising themselves with the school.

School Policies
The Diocese of Wagga Wagga has established Pastoral Care and Discipline Policies which are implemented by all schools in the Diocese. The full text of these policies can be found at: www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au
The implementation of these policies is monitored by the Catholic Schools Office.
Dealing with 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 Catholic Schools Office may be appropriate.

At Saint Joseph’s we aim to provide a Catholic education for young people to prepare them for the challenges of being future citizens in our society. As such our Discipline Policy is written with the welfare of the child as the highest priority. Based on the premise that all children are innately good our policy aims to ensure that they are treated in a fair and Christian manner. Our policy and attitude promotes self responsibility and care for each other. As a result of working with the National Safer Schools Program we are revisiting our Discipline Policy so that it will better reflect the good work that is currently happening in our school.

Open communication is strongly promoted so that any issues or grievances are worked through in a collaborative manner. This may be dealt with on a classroom level with the teacher and parents or on a more formal level with either the Assistant Principal or Principal.

The Saint Joseph’s Discipline / Pastoral care Policy and Serious Offences Policy can be accessed at the school Office.

School Council

The School Council meets on the second Tuesday of each month. The Council provides advice to the Principal in areas such as budgeting, school fees, capital development, educational and welfare policies, school maintenance, parent support and fund raising. This year the School Council was responsible for the Investing in Our Schools Project which involved surveying parents for priorities, reporting progress and providing opportunities for feedback.

This year members of the Council took on portfolios such as maintenance, grounds etc in order to better utilise talents and share the workload.

2. Information on Key School Programs

Curriculum Focus

A great deal of time, work and effort has been directed at the new mandatory A to E reporting system.

This year has also seen the Creative Arts Policy completed and successfully reviewed, a Teaching and Learning Policy collaboratively written and work begun on an Assessment Policy.


Programs to Support Learning

A component of staff meetings has been ICLT where staff members have been exposed to useful internet sites as well as practical lessons in utilising technology. The focus has been ‘using technology to improve student learning’. A key area for development has been and will continue to be the Myclasses component of Myinternet.

Equity Programs

Even though we currently have no identified indigenous students, we have utilised elders, resource people and opportunities to have children participate in presentations by indigenous performers in order to increase our children’s understanding, knowledge and appreciation of Aboriginal culture and respect and acceptance of difference.

Programs to Support Students

Individual Education Programs are developed collaboratively with classroom teachers, special needs assistant and the guidance of our Diocesan Learning Support Education Officer for students with disabilities. These programs are put into place in the classroom as well as in withdrawal situations to support the student’s learning.

Respect and Responsibility

Values for Australian Schools and National Safer Schools Framework posters are prominently displayed in the School Office area with the intention of conducting a Values forum late Term 3, 2007. Discussion arising from working with NSSF has
highlighted areas for development as well as acknowledging what is being done well. The first item at all staff meetings is student welfare which gives teachers the opportunity to make staff aware of children who may be having difficulty with their own behaviour or how others may be treating them as well as sharing strategies that are proving successful.

**Student Achievement**

**Statewide Tests and Examinations**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Basic Skills 1998 to 2006**

Our school has participated in BST Literacy and Numeracy since 1998 and in the 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.

**3. School Renewal**

**Progress of the School Renewal Framework**

**School Improvement Targets**

The first phase of the National Safer Schools Framework has been completed and this will continue in 2007. Professional development with SENA 1 & 2 Maths was completed by relevant staff.

Reflection and ICLT have been a focus throughout the year and will continue in 2007.

Capital works which saw refurbishments create a new Office Administration area, Kindergarten classroom, meeting room and a special needs room were completed. The improvements have enhanced the functioning of Saint Joseph’s with a welcoming entrance and improved learning facilities, including wireless internet access.

A digital camera and data projector were purchased and an added focus to expand classroom literacy and numeracy resources.

Through funds to be made available via the Investing in Our Schools Project will be purchasing a new computer for each classroom, two school laptops, reverse cycle air conditioners in rooms with aging evaporative cooling, new floor coverings in areas of need and a digital video recorder.

We will continue the process of upgrading our teaching resources.

The major project for the School Council and P&F is the upgrading of the school playground and developing an ongoing plan for establishing and extending gardens, seating and shade.

**4. School Overview**

**School Enrolment**

**Enrolment Policy**

The Diocese of Wagga Wagga has established an Enrolments Policy which is implemented by all all schools in the Diocese. The full text of this policy can be found at [www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au](http://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>103</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Language background Other Than English

**Structure of Classes**

Saint Joseph’s is single stream Kindergarten to Year 6.

**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><strong>TOTAL</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Professional Learning**
Staff members have engaged in professional learning in the following areas: Social justice-bullying and conflict resolution with Robert Pereira, working with children with autism, child protection, duty of care, assessment and reporting with a focus on criteria referenced assessment creating rubrics and the A-E mandatory reporting system, programming and planning integrated units taking into account multiple intelligences and Bloom’s taxonomy with Ralph Pirozzo, literacy learning- the Observation Survey, using ‘Jolly Phonics’, Primary English Teachers Association professional development day on literacy and drama, unpacking and analysing BST data.

**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 96% was achieved in 2006 by staff at St Joseph’s Primary School, Wagga Wagga.

**Community Use of School Facilities**
The Saint Vincent de Paul youth group use the school hall for storage and meeting prior to youth camps.

**Parent Involvement and Participation**
Parent involvement is an important aspect of the Saint Joseph’s School community. Opportunities for parental involvement promotes the continued development of community and the strengthening of relationships.

Parents are involved in many aspects of school life.

The Parents and Friends Association meets every third Tuesday of the month. The P&F responds to requests from the School Council by raising funds for school improvements which could include teaching resources or improvements to school facilities. The P&F has also worked to welcome new families providing social events as opportunities to develop relationships and help parents to feel comfortable as members of our school community.

Saint Joseph’s Tuckshop remains viable because of parent volunteers. The tuckshop was open four days a week. It works to cover costs and strives to improve student diet. This year the tuckshop covered its costs and provided the school with a donation of $4,000 for ongoing maintenance.

Parents assist as classroom volunteers working with small groups or individuals with work prepared by the classroom teacher.

Sport carnivals would not be possible without the support of volunteers acting as starters, timekeepers, measuring throws and jumps and even participating in novelty events.

Working bees and carrying out jobs around the school are clear and positive examples of the ongoing support and interest in the school. Working bees in 2005 saw the relocation of the school flagpole, cleaning verandahs, spring cleaning of the hall, weeding and clearing of gardens and small repair jobs.

A group formed from the P&F has catered for parish and Diocesan events raising funds for the school.

At times parents have accompanied class groups on excursions making them safer and more manageable.

The time, effort and service our parents provide for Saint Joseph’s models and reflects our school motto, “Deo Omnia”, All Things for God.

**Community Satisfaction**
The following information has been provided to the school/college. It has been a valuable gauge for determining the level of satisfaction our community has with Saint Joseph’s.
Parents
My child (son or daughter) is usually happy at Saint Joseph’s.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>48%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students
I am usually happy at Saint Joseph’s.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>56%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Staff
I am usually happy at Saint Joseph’s.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Financial Statement Summary
See Appendix A

About This Report
This report was written by the Principal with the cooperation of the staff of Saint Joseph’s Primary School.
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%
- School Fees: 14%
- Other Fee Income: 5%

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.