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 2007 and focus for 2008 and beyond.

1. The School

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:

- provide Special Needs programs
- 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 an 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. This allows for sequential development of all the key strands. We welcomed Monsignor George as our new Parish Administrator. Monsignor George celebrated most of our school Masses and was involved in the Sacramental programs, particularly parent information evenings.

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

Four of our students were welcomed into the Catholic Church this year.

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.

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**

Most 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.

The whole school engaged with the Musica Viva program which involved lessons and preparation in class, music and dance, and culminating with a concert presented by Tigramuna.

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

End of year celebration saw a combination of Eisteddfod items, singing and the Christmas story.

**Sport**

Through the year we have participated in the following sporting endeavours

Swimming: Years 3 – 6 School Carnival at Junee. One child being selected for the McKillop Squad.

Athletics: Kindergarten – Year 6 School Carnival,

Cross Country: Kindergarten to Year 6 School event.

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.

Diocesan Trials:

Netball, Rugby League, Soccer, Touch, Basketball and Australian Rules. One student went on to be selected for the McKillop squad.

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 2008 spent time at school in small groups engaging in activities and familiarising themselves with the school.

In addition to this, Transition involved the opportunity for prospective Kindergarten students to spend two morning sessions in groups of 5 with the current Kindergarten class. The current class was able to model expectations and routines and a Year 5 buddy was assigned to mentor them as well.

2007 saw the introduction of the Peer Support Program. Year 6 took part in a Leadership Training Camp, two days and one night, based on the Peer Support Foundation Training module. The program commenced in Term 2, the focus being ‘Bullying- we can work it out’. Year 6 spent class and some lunch time to prepare and debrief each session. They ran sessions with groups of Kindergarten to Year 6 with the main goal being to help children develop relationships. 2007 was also the first year Stage 3 students went to Bendigo and Ballarat as a culmination to their HSIE unit ‘Gold’.

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.

Student Welfare
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 and Robert Pereira we are constantly 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.

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 then the Catholic Schools Office may be appropriate.

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 overseeing the expenditure of the funds from the Investing in Our Schools Programme. The funds were used to put reverse cycle air conditioning in the library and 5 classrooms, replace carpets in 3 classrooms as well as the staffroom and 2 hallways and purchase 9 stand alone computers and a laptop.

Council members continue to take responsibility for portfolios such as maintenance, grounds etc in order to better utilise talents and share the workload.

The Council assisted with the official opening of the refurbishments undertaken during 2005 and 2006.
Through the instigation and work of the Council, Saint Joseph’s was successful in its application for a water grant, announced in November this year, which will be expended in 2008.

2. Information on Key School Programs

Curriculum Focus
As a staff we updated our HSIE policy which was successfully reviewed by our Catholic Schools Office. Work continued on the Diocesan Religious Education Syllabus which meant further changes to our school policy, particularly assessment and scope and sequence.

Work has begun in preparing our English policy for review in 2008 as well as preparations for our School Registration.

Programs to Support Learning
Buddy Program: The children in Kindergarten and Year 6 are involved in a buddy program which includes a variety of activities through the year. There is a specific literacy focus when the two classes join each afternoon so that the older children can assist the younger ones with their home reading. Other times during the year there are calls for assistance from the older students when activities such as those in Maths and Practical Arts are complicated.

Shopping / Cooking Program: The children who require special needs funding are involved in a shopping program where they visit the local supermarket and purchase supplies for weekly cooking lessons. There is a literacy and numeracy focus as well as opportunities to develop life skills, social interaction and appropriate conversation.

Equity Programs
Even though we currently have no identified indigenous students, we have utilised elders at important school functions to welcome us to Wiradjuri country. Classroom programs, particularly in Religious Education and HSIE incorporate and develop and 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.

The Peer Support Program, Kindergarten to Year 6, and the ‘Skills For Life Program’, Year 4, were aimed at assisting children in developing relationships, self worth and strategies to deal with conflict.

Respect and Responsibility
Values for Australian Schools and National Safer Schools Framework posters are prominently displayed in the School Office. Elements of the Values Education Kit was utilised in classrooms and a Values Education forum was held for the School Community during Term 4.

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

Basic Skills 1998 to 2007
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
During 2007 we undertook a successful review of our HSIE policy and elements of our Religious Education policy.

The Peer Support Program, based on the Peer Support Foundation program, was successfully introduced. This involved Year 6 students in a leadership camp and, following the selection of leaders, weekly sessions with groups of Kindergarten to Year 6 children with the focus unit ‘Bullying: Together we can work it out’.

A values education forum was conducted for the parent group attempting to link Australian School Values with our own Vision and Mission statements.

Literacy resources in stage 2 and 3 were updated and renewed.

The Investing in Our Schools Programme funds were expended resulting in 5 classrooms and the library being fitted with reverse cycle air conditioners and 9 computers and 2 laptops purchased, 3 classrooms, the staff room and 2 hallways fitted with new floor coverings.

Two new industry standard wireless routers and a new switch were installed.

We conducted 2 official functions, one to bless and open our 2006 refurbishments and the other to acknowledge funding from the Investing in Our Schools Programme. Our Federal member, Mrs. Kay Hull was present to formally open both ventures.

Our school prospectus has been updated with a fresh new look and our school website went live.

The school playground has undergone a major facelift. A second water mains connection has been put in due to previous water pressure problems. A new watering system and controller has been installed and new turf has been laid.

All circuit boards have been checked and upgraded to ensure adequate earth leakage and circuit breakers. Lights have been installed under the shade structure.

The school has sought and successfully gained a water grant and a chaplaincy grant, both of which will come into play in 2008.

Portable bench seating and picnic seating for outdoor learning have been ordered.

Musical equipment has been upgraded.

A rose garden has been planted outside the school. The garden was a gift from the 2006 Year 6 student group.

In the coming year, we are looking to replace our ageing photocopier with a colour copier. We hope to improve both our multimedia hardware and skills. We also hope to purchase another new computer for each classroom.

There are plans to upgrade the school hall with cooling and repainting.

Expending the water grant funds and successfully implementing the Chaplaincy, Pastoral Worker role are key targets for 2008.
4. School Overview

School Enrolment
Enrolment Policy
The Diocese of Wagga Wagga has established an Enrolments Policy which is implemented by all schools in the Diocese. The full text of this policy can be found at 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>109</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>183</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>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Professional Learning
Some staff members are undertaking a Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies.

All staff undertook the Senior First Aid and Resuscitation courses. We also engaged in Child Protection and Worker’s Compensation compliance inservices.

As a staff we worked with Robert Pereira learning about his social justice model and practical ways to implement it throughout the school.

Relevant staff took part in an Early Literacy inservice over 3 days, Measurement in Maths over 2 days and an Inquiry Based Learning course. One staff member from each stage went to the Musica Viva workshop.

Our school secretary is also undertaking her Certificate IV in Frontline Management and Certificate 1 in Information Technology.

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 96.7% was achieved in 2007 by staff at St Joseph’s Primary School, Wagga Wagga.

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 $3 000 for resources as well as purchasing 3 metal picnic benches which can be used by whole class groups for learning activities as well as recreation.
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 2007 saw the playground cleared and prepared for turf by parents and their own equipment, a new watering system connected to a new dedicated water main, paid for with P&F funds, and laying of turf.

Clearing out of the old boiler room to make a storage area for the P&F and painting of the room and the back wall of the stage was also undertaken at a working bee.

A group formed from the P&F has catered for parish and Diocesan and Catholic Schools.

Office 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 Use of School Facilities

The school hall was utilised by the Sacred Heart Parish debutante group for dance practises and by the Saint Vincent De Paul Youth Group as a storage area prior to their camps.

Community Satisfaction

The following information has been provided to the school. 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 {school name here}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>59%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students

I am usually happy at {school name here}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>33%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Staff

I am usually happy at {school name here}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>33%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
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</table>

Financial Statement Summary

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.
The total income and expense of the school, that is included in the above, is shown below.

### Income
- School Fees: 4.6%
- Other Fee Income: 7.8%
- State Government Recurrent Grants: 11.5%
- Commonwealth Government Recurrent Grants: 20.7%
- Capital Income: 55.4%

### Expenses
- Salary and Related Expenses: 15.0%
- Non Salary Expenses: 5.1%
- Capital Expenditure: 79.9%

**About This Report**

This report was written by the Principal with the cooperation of the staff of Saint Joseph’s Primary School.