Introduction
St. Joseph's School Leeton is nestled in the centre of Leeton. Leeton is a country town of approximately 8,000 people. Leeton is a part of the Riverina in South West NSW and a part of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Scheme. The following is the 2008 Annual School Report for St. Joseph's School.

1. The School

Vision Statement

We believe that St. Joseph's Leeton is a place where:

1. Catholic beliefs are taught and the Catholic faith is experienced, witnessed and shared.

2. The values of the Gospel are evident in the daily routines of school life.

3. All children are given every opportunity to develop their full potential in all curriculum areas.

4. The individual talents and needs of each child are recognised and nurtured.

5. All members of the community experience respect, dignity and justice.

6. All children will be provided with a valuable foundation for their future life enabling them to be happy and fulfilled members of our society.

Catholic Identity

St. Joseph's School is a Catholic School that has Jesus and His teachings as our focus. Our Catholic Tradition comes from the involvement of the St. Joseph's Religious Order who started the school along with Catholic Education in Leeton. Our history is rich in the wonderful work of the Josephite Sisters. The children each day participate in the Religious Education Program called "Sharing Our Story". As a part of the spiritual program in the school, children are involved in prayer, liturgies, school masses and Sacramental Programs in Year 2, 3, and 6.

Our staff pray each morning with a focus on special intentions.

St. Joseph's today is a thriving and vibrant community of 17 classes ranging from Kindergarten to Year 6 with a total of 429 students. They are country children from supportive families. The staff is very committed and dedicated to the children. They care for them and support them academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually. The children are always a source of joy and inspiration as they are good, young people growing and developing. Their dedication to their studies is evident in the results they receive. Their good behaviour and the way they treat each other is seen by the majority of the children receiving silver awards each term and gold awards at the end of the year. The children continually strive to do their best in all facets of school life.

A new classroom was built in Term 1, 2008. This classroom incorporated the latest technology and resources to meet the needs of the children of the 21st Century. The room is architecturally designed and the vibrant colours used were chosen by an interior decorator and they all have a purpose in the new room. Another special feature of the school for 2008 is the friendship garden at the side entrance to the school. Year 6 students and their teachers have made a lovely garden area with a mosaic cross to welcome everyone to our school.

A Message from Key School Bodies


The council fulfilled its main role of providing help and support to the school principal, Mrs Helen Mulholland, with the management of the budget and planning the future direction for the school.

The school Council consists of parents who have been nominated from the school community and members have been very supportive and passionate about our School. Their advice always attempts to look at the best interests of all students. The support of the Council during 2008 has been very much appreciated.

The school building project commenced in 2008 and recently completed, has been a great success and has provided a new classroom and much needed improved
facilities for the staff and students. The School Council has been very diligent in maintaining the grounds and conducting working bees on a regular basis to maintain the school environment and buildings. All those involved in the school are very proud of the achievements for the year.

The 2009 school budget has also been developed and approved by the Council. This puts in place the financial support for the school for the coming year.

Many thanks to all parents and helpers who have contributed to the school over the past year.

Parents and Friends Report for 2008

Many thanks to the dedicated group of parents who have worked together to raise funds for our school this year. The major function was the Freaky Friday night which saw many great costumes from the children and adults. The music played for all to dance to and enjoy. The night was very successful and it was great to see so many families attend. Other fund raising activities were the major raffle, the sausage sizzle at the concert in the park which made another great family night for everyone. A very good cookbook with all the family favourites was produced by Kindergarten parents. Another successful Fathers’ Day and Mothers’ Day Stalls were held with parents getting some special treasures from the children. Again Year 6 was given a special book as a gift from the Parents and Friends to help them on their way on the next stage of their journey. Thank you to all the hardworking parents in the Parents and Friends.

Information on Key School Programs

School Determined Improvement Targets

In 2008 the School Renewal Plan included the following Curriculum areas:

- Religious Education Syllabus – implementation in line with the Curriculum Alignment Process
- Boys’ Education - Year 5 classes consisted of a boys’ class, girls’ class and a mixed class
- Writing Project – continuation of the MIA Writing Project
- Maths Curriculum – with the numeracy grant, funding the expertise of Anita Chin to support non text book use of resources
- PD.H.PE. Syllabus and School Policy – development of the policy to meet curriculum review standards
- Jolly Phonics Kindergarten to Year 3 teachers’ inservice and implementation of this program

The above will continue in 2009 and be developed further:

Religious Education Syllabus – workshops are planned for the full implementation of the Curriculum Alignment Process which will cross all KLA’s, support assessment and A to E reporting
- Boys’ Education – the boys, girls and mixed classes will continue with this group of students into Year 6
- Writing Project – reviewed focus on marking of the students writing and reviewed focus on class planning in line with 2008 Naplan results.

Programs to Support Students

Current Curriculum Initiatives in 2008

The numeracy project allowed funding for Anita Chin to inservice staff and for concrete materials to be purchased for all classes. The PD.H.PE. curriculum review was successful and took place as a culmination of this KLA focus. Jolly Phonics is a continuing project which gives teachers the skills to support the students in the Reading Process. Other Learning Support Initiatives St. Joseph’s in 2008 conducted two Language Classes for children in Kindergarten and Years 1,3,4 and 5 with speech difficulties. These small groups met regularly in terms 2 and 3 with a specialist teacher. Reading Recovery is a program that supports children in Year 1 who are having difficulty with Reading and Writing. A specialist teacher works with each child for 30 minutes per day for 15 weeks. Technology improvement in 2008 saw the introduction of 8 electronic whiteboards across all grades. Equity Program Initiatives included support from an assistant on a regular basis for Indigenous students. The class teacher organises the program for these students in the areas of Numeracy and Literacy. The Student Support Program at St. Joseph’s includes support for students with
disabilities. These students also receive one to one tuition from a teacher assistant who follows the class teachers’ Independent Education Program. The Resilience Program was implemented again in 2008. This gives students the skills and strategies to bounce back from difficult times in their lives. As a part of this program a word of the week was focused on at the weekly assembly and then followed up in class time.

Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility

Year 6 sponsor a child from St. Jude’s School in Africa. They raise funds during the year to support him financially. The children raise money for the Catholic Church Missions. This is done through a Mission Day where all the classes set up stalls. The children enjoy participating in this fun activity day knowing they are helping those less fortunate than themselves. A focus on the word of the week was a way for the children to grow and develop as effective and responsible citizens. The word was presented at the weekly assembly by a teacher and that word became the focus for the week. Some of the key focuses were patience, tolerance, acceptance, positiveness, assertiveness, celebration, collaboration, persistence, friendliness, courtesy and communication. Respectful and responsible behaviour is always expected and the children who work at this all year are rewarded with silver and gold certificates.

Student Performance in Statewide or Equivalent Tests and Examinations

Student Performance
Statewide Tests and Examinations
The table below indicates the percentage of students who have achieved national minimum standards in literacy and numeracy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>Punctuation and Grammar</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100 %</td>
<td>98.6%</td>
<td>98.6%</td>
<td>92.5%</td>
<td>93.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>Punctuation and Grammar</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100 %</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>95.3%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

St Joseph’s Primary school has participated in BST Literacy and Numeracy since 1998 and in BST Writing since 2001. The school monitors Trend Data each year and uses that information to inform its learning and teaching practices for the upcoming year. St Joseph’s Naplan results continue to reflect strong teaching and learning. Our Year 5 results in all Literacy & Numeracy areas show outstanding results well above state wide results. The Year 3 results show achievements above state wide average in all areas except Numeracy & Writing. The School focus for this year includes these two areas. Trends at St Joseph’s School have improved greatly from 2004 to 2008 with exceptional improvement in all areas for Year 5.

School Overview

School Policies
Student Welfare
The students’ welfare is always of utmost priority. The following school policies can be accessed at the school. They highlight the wide range and different levels of care given to all children.

- Pastoral Care Policy
- Health Care Policy
- Discipline Policy
- Students with Additional Needs Policy
- Road Safety Policy
- Students Code of Conduct Policy
- Road Safety Policy
- Students Code of Conduct Policy
• Critical Incidence Policy
• OH&S Policy
• Chemical Safety Policy

Discipline
The school’s Welfare Policy allows for students who are well behaved to be acknowledged. It also outlines clear procedures for working with children who have behaviour difficulties. A time out and detention area for children who need removing from the playground allows the detention teacher an opportunity to follow up an incident by interviewing all involved, including the child directly involved. An appropriate withdrawal time is negotiated between the detention teacher and the class teacher and if found necessary a letter to parents will follow. As a way of being proactive in this area, an activity area is also set up for children who feel they need to have a break from the playground. If they choose to do this they are encouraged to invite a friend. This opportunity is also for those children who find the playground activities unsuitable or they may need some quiet time.

Complaints and Grievances
The school has adopted an approach to resolving complaints and grievances that is based on procedural fairness. It recognises that parents and students must have access to processes that allow them to resolve concerns in a supportive and conciliatory way. The above policies can be accessed at the school. The following is a link to the Catholic School’s Office policies at their public website:

Student Enrolment Profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Indigenous</th>
<th>LOTE</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>227</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>429</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Structure of Classes
St. Joseph’s School has 17 classes from Kindergarten to Year 6. Many grades have 3 classes and the other have 2 classes. The average size is 26 students. Music, librarian and computer teachers give specialist lessons. In 2008 the Year 5 classes were grouped into a boys’ class, girls’ class and a mixed class. This was decided upon after 2 years of research by the school. The project was very successful in 2008 and will be continued for Year 6 in 2009.

Staff

Teacher Standards
The NSW Government requires that this report details 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>26</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Professional Learning
The following is the professional learning the staff have had the opportunity to receive in 2008:
• MIA Writing Project
• Resilience / Bounce Back
• Assessment / Curriculum Alignment
• Technology
• Jolly Phonics
• Phonemic Awareness
• Maths Curriculum
• LLTC Course

Community Satisfaction
The following information has been provided to the school. It has been a valuable way of determining the level of satisfaction our community has with St. Joseph’s, Leeton.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>52%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Students**
I am usually happy at St Joseph’s Leeton.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Staff**
I am usually happy at St Joseph’s Leeton.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>57%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 96.46% was achieved in 2008 by staff at St. Joseph’s.

**Financial Statement Summary**

**About This Report**
- Many thanks to the following people who contributed to this report.
- Principal Mrs Helen Mulholland
- Assistant Principal Mr Chris Walker
- Religious Education Co-ordinator Mrs Michelle Naimo
- Council Chairperson Mr Matt Dando
- Sports Co-ordinator Mr Brendon Greatz