Principal’s Foreword

Introduction

St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School, Kangaroo Point was founded by St Mary of the Cross MacKillop in 1870. It is one of the oldest Primary Schools in the Brisbane Catholic Education System. In 1880, the Sisters of Mercy began teaching in our Parish. St Joseph’s is proud of its rich educational history with over 142 years of Catholic Education in Kangaroo Point.

Our school is diverse in almost all aspects. We have a diverse cultural mix. Differing religious faiths are present, not just Catholic or Christian. Families of all economic backgrounds are members of our school. We are proud of this diversity and willingly cultivate it.

My goal, as Principal, is to work with families, students and staff to foster a learning environment based on the values of Christ, especially kindness and respect for each other, compassion for the needs of all and the genuine celebration of individual differences.

Children are actively encouraged, by our committed and professional staff, to develop to their fullest potential. I firmly believe each and every one of our students has a variety of rich talents, gifts and interests. When these are affirmed and encouraged in a spirit of openness, respect and trust, we build fine young people.

School Profile

St Joseph’s Primary School is a Catholic school administered through Catholic Education, Archdiocese of Brisbane.

Coeducational [✓] or Single Sex [ ]

Year levels offered: Primary [✓] Secondary [ ] P-12 [ ]

Total student enrolments for this school 269

Total Enrolment 269 Girls 139 Boys 130
Characteristics of the student body

St. Joseph’s student population continues to grow in their diversity with 12.26% having English as a Second Language. We currently have 3 students enrolled who are from an Indigenous background.

Of note is that student numbers in a particular year level may dictate an enrolment cut-off. Children who present special needs who are residents in the parish may be enrolled at St. Joseph’s according to the community’s ability to provide a quality education for them. This will be assessed using the "Special Needs Enrolment Process" set out by the Brisbane Catholic Education Office which is reviewed on a regular basis. Currently St. Joseph’s special needs student population comprises of 8 special needs students who have been verified with Cerebral Palsy, Hearing Impairment, ADHD/Oppositional Defiance Disorder together with a number of children with general educational delays.

Enrolments at St Joseph’s have fluctuated over time. The school faced a possible closure in the early 1990’s, however enrolments at St Joseph’s have recorded an annual growth rate between 146 students in 2002 to 269 students in 2012. The school currently has waiting lists for most classes.

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

St Joseph’s offers a wide variety of subjects. The basic core skills are covered in English, Mathematics, History and Science. Religious Education is provided to all students as an integral part of our curriculum and ethos of our school community. Our Curriculum is essentials based and integrated. The curriculum is diverse, to provide a range of learning opportunities and caters for the individual style of learning that each child possesses. We believe that students are life long learners and that the curriculum must be dynamic and continually changing.

At St Joseph’s we offer:
- 1:1 Student Laptop Program for all students in Years 5 to 7
- Diversity in programs catering for differences in learner’s needs in learning difficulty and enrichment
- Comprehensive, integrated learning opportunities focusing on the development of the whole child
- By learning together, our highly professional, experienced and dedicated teachers are able to present high quality programs based on the future learning goals required for our students to successfully engage in life long learning.
- These goals aim to develop and enhance the skills and knowledge required in literacy, numeracy, information technology and relationships within a structure which is meaningful and relevant to all the student learners.
- Proudly we offer all students the opportunity to participate and excel in key learning areas, in our instrumental music and choir programs, school musicals and concerts, sport at school, district and regional level.
Extra curricula activities

Parents may nominate and pay for their children to enter various Competitions available during the year
- St Joseph’s Choir
- Tennis
- Speech & Drama
- Music
- Sr Mary Regina String Ensemble
- Chess
- Aus Kick Football Program
- Interschool Sports Competitions
- Milo Into School Cricket
- San Remo Net Set Go Netball
- Brisbane Roar Soccer

How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning

St Joseph’s students increasingly live and thrive in the digital environment, comfortable with virtual, screen-to-screen and face-to-face relationships. Our goal is to look for meaningful, relevant and rich ways to embed technology in the learning and teaching to seamlessly bridge the gap between the home/ school environments. The school community has implemented significant changes in the area of ICLT and these opportunities were further enhanced in 2012. It is expected that improved outcomes for learners will be evident (and measurable) in a number of ways. Students will be given the opportunity to; Engage with high quality commercial computer programs to assist with reading, comprehension, Maths skills, Demonstrate independence and initiative, Work collaboratively with other students via wikis and blogs, Effectively communicate to achieve a purpose eg. Email accounts, digital storytelling, Select the most appropriate technology to complete tasks and discuss and evaluate the consequences of their choice.

In 2011 St Joseph’s, was recognised as up there with the best in the world according to American educational consultant, Alan November when it comes to using technology in the classroom.

Named one of America’s 15 most influential thinkers of the decade by Technology and Learning Magazine, Mr November joined staff and students in a So You Think You Can Learn School (SYTYCL) showcase event organised by Learnology, a technology implementation and solutions specialist.

The co-founder of the Stanford Institute for Educational Leadership Through Technology worked with both students and teachers on tools for cross-referencing and validating information on the Internet and had a little fun along the way.

Social climate inclusive of pastoral care and our response to bullying

St Joseph’s caters for children from many and varied backgrounds, ability levels and cultures. All children are treated equally and given equal opportunity in their educational and extra curricular activities. Ethnic backgrounds and religion are always taken into account when planning special occasions that may involve particular religious celebrations.

Our Guidance Counsellors offered:
- Individual support (counselling) for identified students & assisted parents of these students in developing strategies for success
- Kids Matter Initiatives
- Bully Bulldozer Whole School Program as well as individual Class programs
- Friends Program
- Rock & Water
Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

During 2012 the school made available to all parents a comprehensive survey that asked them to rate their perceptions of the school in seven main categories including:

Priority 2: Student Learning Outcomes
Priority 3 Student Support
Priority 4 Staff Support
Priority 6: Information Communication & Learning Technologies
Priority 7: Resourcing Quality Catholic Schools

The data collated was overwhelmingly supportive of the school and its endeavours with almost all respondents providing answers that either agreed or agreed strongly with the posed questions.

Parent involvement in their child’s education

St Joseph’s School actively welcomes Parents’ involvement within the school and their child’s education. Teachers are happy to give interviews at any suitable time but an appointment must be made. Parent-teacher interviews may also be requested following reports each Semester. At the beginning of the year, a Parent-Teacher Information Evening is held where the teacher will give an overview of the curriculum for the year, the organisation of the class is discussed, procedures explained and parents are informed of excursions etc that they can expect their child to be involved in during the year.

St Joseph’s School has an active Parents and Friends Association which always welcomes new members. Through our P&F we raise much needed funds for equipment, resources and computers. As part of the P & F group each class has a nominated Parent Rep. who acts in a liaison role with the class teacher, parents and the P & F Association. Many parents volunteer their time as classroom helpers, either directly through their child’s teacher or through one of the excellent programs we run to assist children with learning difficulties. Parents may also be trained as support a reader helpers.

Staff Profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workforce Composition</th>
<th>Teaching Staff</th>
<th>Non-teaching Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Headcounts</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time equivalents</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Qualifications of all teachers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highest level of attainment</th>
<th>Percentage of teachers and leaders at the school attaining this level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctorate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masters</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Graduate Diploma/Certificate</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelors Degree</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diploma/Certificate</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Expenditure on and teacher participation in Professional Learning

The total funds expended on teacher professional learning in 2012 was $39799.
The major professional development initiatives were as follows:

Alignment of Staff Professional Learning with the Spiritual Formation Framework
- ICLT
- Implementation of National Curriculum
- Reading to Learn
- First Steps Reading
- Numeracy Project
- Games in Education Project

School Income by Funding Source

School income broken down by funding source is available via the My School website at http://www.myschool.edu.au/.

To access our school income details, click on the My School link above. You will then be taken to the My School website with the following:

‘Find a school’ text box.

Where it says ‘Search by school name’, type in the name of the school you wish to view, and select <GO>.

Read and follow the instructions on the next screen; you will be asked to accept the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy before being given access to the school’s My School entry web page.

School financial information is available by selecting ‘School finances’ in the menu box in the top left corner of the school’s entry web page.

Average staff attendance rate

The staff attendance rate was 98.74% in 2012.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the 2011 school year, 99% of staff were retained by the school for the 2012 year.

Key Student Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Whole School Attendance Rate</th>
<th>93.6 %</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep Attendance Rate</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1 Attendance Rate</td>
<td>92.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2 Attendance Rate</td>
<td>95.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3 Attendance Rate</td>
<td>94.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4 Attendance Rate</td>
<td>95.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5 Attendance Rate</td>
<td>91.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6 Attendance Rate</td>
<td>90.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7 Attendance Rate</td>
<td>94.1%</td>
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Policy and practice to manage student attendance

The school has an absentee line available to Parents 24 hours a day to advise the school of their child's absence. A letter to the teacher is also sent to school upon the students return.

Rolls are carefully monitored by administration staff and teachers to ensure there are students who are not continuously absent.

Should there be any unexplained absence contact is made with the family to discuss the reason for the absence.

The school implements the Queensland Government Exemption from Schooling document across the school to manage long periods of time whereby students may be exempt from formal schooling.

**Student Achievement – NAPLAN for Years 3, 5, 7**

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results – our reading writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the relevant years.

Our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the relevant years are available via the My School website at http://www.myschool.edu.au/.

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