

St Joseph's School Southern Cross



2021 Annual Community Meeting

Principal's Report

22nd November 2021

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to everyone and thank you for taking the time to come along to our Annual General Meeting this evening.

St Joseph's is an amazing community and the students are at the centre of everything we do. With low school fees and many opportunities in the areas such as Performing Arts, STEM (Science & Technology) and targeted learning and support, St Joseph's is truly a school that offers a Quality Catholic Education.

Highlights of the year have included our association with the other YSSSA schools to hold joint events in the areas of sport, Literacy, STEM and Naidoc Week, school special days such as St Joseph's Feast Day, , Mary Mackillop day, Lifelink Day and Remembrance Day. We also were able to attend our Performing Arts camp and performed at the Convention Centre. This was a valuable experience for our students and they are to be commended on how well they represented our school through all of the activities associated with camp.

Parents and students, thank you for choosing to be a part of the St Joseph's Catholic School community! I am thankful for the many ways that you engage with us throughout the year. We truly value this partnership and look forward to your continued support in the future.

The contribution that the P&F make in supporting initiatives, resourcing the classrooms and in building community is vital and is one to be celebrated. This year, many of our members were co-opted on for the year and they did an amazing job for our school. I would like to personally thank Simon, Donna, Leah and Joanna for their contributions as our P&F Executive for 2021. I would like to especially acknowledge Donna who will be stepping down as Treasurer at the end of this year – your contributions and behind the scenes work is very much appreciated.

The School Advisory Council (School Board) is the advisory group to the Principal and Finance Officer. Each person comes to the Board with their own skills and a genuine wish to support the school. Thank you very much to Rob, Donna, Bec, Lisa, Siby and Father Matthew for your support this year. As their terms are up, we farewell Rob, Donna and Bec from the SAC. Your service and commitment to the good of all our children and staff, is highly valued and greatly appreciated.

We have strong links with Our Lady of Monserrat Parish, working together with Jesus at the centre of who we are, why we are here, and what we do. This year saw some changes to our Parish, with Southern Cross moving from the Kalgoorlie Parish to the Bruce Rock Parish. I want to acknowledge the support of Fr Brennan this year, and special thanks to Father Matthew who has been of great support to our school and we are lucky enough to have him remain as part of our community.

To all my staff: I am truly appreciative of all of the hard work and dedication that you put into ensuring that our school sets high standards and has the children at the centre of every decision we make. Thank you to Deb and Jodie who work tirelessly in the office ensuring that everything behind the scenes is running smoothly. To Michelle, Petrina and Lorrae – your support of the teachers and of the students is truly amazing and my thanks go to you all. To Elisha – thank you for bringing such a wealth of expertise to our specialist programs. Big thanks to Cheryl who has helped keep us safe all year with the extra cleaning requirements. To Nat, Chantelle and Sarah - thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to our school. You always step up and go above and beyond to ensure that St Joseph's is the best place to be. We sadly farewell Elisha and Sarah as they pursue other opportunities - I wish you all every success next year in your new schools. We should be in a position to announce their replacements by the end of this week.

It is at this time of the year in schools that we report on the progress of the annual focus areas of the curriculum and school improvement planning. This report provides an opportunity to reflect proudly on our achievements for the year.

It is a CEWA mandated requirement that schools articulate their progress across specific areas within the Annual School Improvement Planning process: The curriculum focus, the Quality Improvement Plan, Quality Catholic Schooling components, and our Evangelisation Planning are all

part of supporting documents that help the SIP achieve its hoped-for outcomes.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

This year I attended the Evangelisation Planning Days to reflect and write our new plan. This plan will form a part of our improvement plans over the next 3 years.

We have been successfully implementing our Living Like Jesus values, incorporating these into our classrooms.

Staff have prepared class liturgies and have successfully planned and taught using the Religious Education units.

Mass/Feast Days/Sacraments

I would like to thank Father Matthew and Father Brennan who celebrated Mass with us this year. Masses were celebrated at the beginning and end of term and also on special feast days such as Ash Wednesday and St Joseph's Day.

Sacraments were also celebrated this year. Bronte Crafter celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation in term 3 with her family, friends and staff. We also celebrated Jake Weir and Alyssa Carlson's first Communion. Congratulations to these students. Thank you to Father Matthew and Father Brennan who celebrated these Sacraments with us.

We have acknowledged the traditional owners of this land through our NAIDOC Week celebrations individually as a school and also as a community at Southern Cross District High School with Moorine Rock Primary School.

STEWARDSHIP

This year we had our school climate survey, cyclic review and Principal review. All three were very affirming to our school and staff with very high ratings in the following areas:

- Staff support
- Satisfaction with student progress
- Welcoming school
- Satisfaction with the school

They also highlighted some areas that could be considered for further

development:

- Assessment and feedback
- Communication

Enrolments have been consistent over the last 3 years

- 2019 (PK-6 = 30) (K-6 = 27) (PP-6 = 22)
- 2020 (PK-6 = 33) (K-6 = 26) (PP-6 = 24)
- 2021 (PK-6 = 33) (K-6 = 23) (PP-6 = 19)
- & Projected Enrolments for 2022 (PK*-6 = 29) (K-6 = 26) (PP-6 = 22)

Father Matthew has conducted the 'You Can Do It' program each Monday. This program aims to develop positive attitudes and social-emotional skills that develop resilience, confidence, persistence and organisation. We have also begun training in using Smiling Minds (mindfulness and wellbeing for staff and students) which will be implemented in 2022.

Staff have undertaken PD in PLD, Early careers. Aboriginal Education, Science of Writing.

The school focus for 2021 of 'The National Quality Standards (NQS)' was to continue to develop resources to support play based learning and responsive teaching and scaffolding which had a focus on responding to children's ideas and play and extend children's learning through open-ended questions, interactions and feedback.

COMMUNITY

We have continued to develop a positive and strong St Joseph's community and work extremely hard at promoting positive partnerships within the Yilgarn community through the various activities the school runs and offers and of course the outstanding effort and support of the P&F and School Advisory Council. Covid has played a big part in reducing the activities run this year but we will continue to be a visible presence in the community in 2021

Our Community Mass was a huge success this year. It was lovely to see so many community members, and our visitors from Kalgoorlie, Bruce

Rock and surrounds joining in to celebrate with us.

The strength of the local schools community was very evident this year. The YSSSA Swimming, Lightning, Cross Country, T20 Cricket and Athletics Carnivals were a big success, along with the Literacy Day at St Josephs, STEM day at Moorine and NAIDOC week celebrations at SXDHS. This year we also attended interschool Cross Country and Athletics for the first time as a combined Yilgarn Team.

EDUCATION

Curriculum

Our focus for this year was to enhance the classroom pedagogy and data informed practices. This included a differentiated approach to learning. We also continue to work on enhancing writing teaching practices. We have had regular Case Management Meetings and continue to track student progress through regular data meetings and moderation of writing through Brightpath.

We have continued to develop our Information Technology. We participated in the CEWA Makers Empire 3D printing project. As part of this we now have a 3D printer in the school.

Aboriginal Education has continued to be a focus. Our staff attending a PD with St Mary's in Merredin to look at the Aboriginal Improvement Map and to continue to gain insight on how we can embed Aboriginal Perspectives across the curriculum.

We have also begun the process of implementing the Smiling Minds wellbeing program across the school. Staff have undertaken training and a plan has been written for the implementation of the program in 2022 with the students and our community.

WHAT LIES AHEAD IN 2022?

School Improvement Plan

- Our Evangelisation Plan focus is increasing the understanding of all

aspects of the Mass, including the symbols and rituals. We will also be exploring informal prayer.

- We will be undertaking a Numeracy Focus, with the aim to develop high impact teaching strategies in mathematics to increase student achievement and engagement. This will involve reviewing resources, develop a school wide approach and use data to track the progress. We will be undertaking Brightpaths Numeracy in 2022.
- Another area of focus will be to demonstrate effective feedback in classrooms and to parents.
- We will continue to work on our AEIM to incorporate Aboriginal Perspectives into all learning areas.
- We will continue to focus on wellbeing, embedding the Smiling Minds program across the school.
- We will be re-evaluating our sustainability practices and making this as part of a whole school focus. This will also form a part of our NQS focus on the physical environment, with a particular focus on element 3.2.3 (Environmentally responsible)

There will be further engagement with SXDHS and Moorine Rock Primary schools – Combined Numeracy, STEM, NAIDOC, Sporting Events, Incursions.

Thank You

Best wishes to our Graduating students – Ekam and Bronte. I trust that St Joseph's will hold a special place in your heart as you take the next steps in your life journey.

I wish everyone a most beautiful holiday, spent in the love of friends and family, and I look forward to your safe return in the new year!

Mel Allen

PRINCIPAL 2021