

St Joseph's School Southern Cross



2022 Annual Community Meeting

Principal's Report

21st November 2022

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

St Joseph's is an wonderful 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, Art, STEM (Science & Technology) and targeted learning, 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, STEM and Naidoc Week, school special days such as St Joseph's Feast Day, Anzac Day, Lifelink Day and Remembrance Day. We are very thankful to our parent community and were delighted to once again celebrate Mother's Day, Father's Day and Grandparents Day in special ways with you. We also enjoyed inviting our first responders in our community to a special morning tea. Although we did not have a dance teacher on site, we managed to work with a teacher via zoom and some site visits to create a dance for the performing arts. Our Performing Arts camp was another success and the students enjoyed their performance at the Convention Centre – our students received a merit this year. 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. I would like to also thank Father Matthew, Mrs Beaton, Miss Harland, Mrs Pedrin and Mrs Pearce for ensuring that camp was such a success.

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 and we are proud of the

community we thrive in. 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. Next year there will be some changes to how the P&F is run as the new terms of reference enable the P&F to become more a part of the school. I would like to personally thank Leah, Tash, Lorrae and Libby for their contributions as our P&F Executive for 2022. - 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 Tash, Leah, Rodney, Lisa, Siby and Father Matthew for your support this year. 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. St Joseph's is an integral part of the parish community and we are thankful to have such a strong relationship. I want to acknowledge the support of Father Matthew who has celebrated Mass with us throughout the year, attended camp and has led the You Can Do It program with our Year 1-6 students. Thank you Father Matthew..

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. Big thanks to Cheryl who ensures that our school is in tip top shape and is always clean for our staff and students. To Nat, Chantelle and Bonita - 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 Bonita at the end of the year as she pursues other opportunities - I wish you every success next year. I am pleased to announce that Miss Molly Brooker will be our senior class teacher next year. Originally from WA, Molly has been teaching in regional QLD for the last 6 years and is very excited to be joining our community.

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

We have been successfully implementing our Living Like Jesus values, incorporating these into our classrooms. Student made posters and specific ways that each value is shown at St Joseph's have been a feature this year.

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

Our planned staff professional development day on the rituals and symbols of Mass with St Mary's in term 2 was postponed due to covid – this will now be in Week 10 when there are no students at school.

Mass/Feast Days/Sacraments

I would like to thank Father Matthew 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.

There were no sacraments this year for St Joseph's students.

STEWARDSHIP

Enrolments have been consistent over the last 3 years

- 2020 (PK-6 = 33) (K-6 = 26) (PP-6 = 24)
- 2021 (PK-6 = 33) (K-6 = 23) (PP-6 = 19)
- 2022 (PK-6 = 37) (K-6 = 25) (PP-6 = 20)
- & Projected Enrolments for 2023 (PK*-6 = 37) (K-6 = 33) (PP-6 = 25)

Father Matthew has conducted the 'You Can Do It' program with our Year

1-6 students each Monday. This program aims to develop positive attitudes and social-emotional skills that develop resilience, confidence, persistence and organisation.

Staff have undertaken PD in Early Careers, Number talks, Science of Reading and PD for RE Accrediation.

The school focus for 2022 of 'The National Quality Standards (NQS) was on the physical environment, with a particular focus on element 3.2.3 (Environmentally responsible). We have worked hard to ensure the environment creates an atmosphere that engages our students in their learning.

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. We did have some interruptions due to Covid, which reduced some of our this year but we will continue to be a visible presence in the community in 2023

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 Lightning Carnival, Cross Country and Athletics Carnivals were a big success, along with the Naidoc Day at St Josephs and the STEM day at Moorine.

We have acknowledged the traditional owners of this land through our NAIDOC Week celebrations individually as a school and also as a Yilgarn Schools community. This year we ran the Naidoc Day activities in conjunction with the team at the GLSC Land Management Rangers. All of the students had a wonderful day making damper, planting our native garden, art, bracelet making and spear throwing (which seemed to be the favourite). Thank you to Barto Gold for supplying our lunch and sponsoring the accommodation for our visitors.

EDUCATION

Our focus for this year was to develop high impact teaching strategies in mathematics (with a number focus) to increase student achievement and engagement. We are continuing to develop a whole school approach to mathematics, aligned with the WA curriculum, so that there is a common dialogue and practice across all year levels.

We also had a focus on demonstrating effective feedback in the classrooms, which linked to our focus on high impact teaching strategies. Learning in these areas occurred through PLC meetings, data meetings and professional development in the maths learning area.

Aboriginal Education has continued to be a focus as we to work on ways on how we can embedded Aboriginal Perspectives across the curriculum.

We have also begun the process of implementing the Smiling Minds wellbeing program across the school through utilizing the smiling minds mindfulness app.

WHAT LIES AHEAD IN 2023?

School Improvement Plan

- Our Evangelisation Plan focus is to continue to increase the understanding of all aspects of the Mass, including the symbols and rituals, as well as increasing staff and student understanding of prayer.
- We will continue to have a Numeracy Focus, where we continue to develop high impact teaching strategies in mathematics so as to increase student achievement and engagement. We will also focus on providing an environment that is engaging, meaningful and challenging across all learning areas.
- We will continue provide opportunities for students to learn, appreciate and celebrate Aboriginal culture and other cultures.
- We will continue to focus on Staff and Student wellbeing, utilizing the smiling minds program.
- We will be re-evaluating our sustainability practices and making this as part of a whole school focus.

There will be further engagement with SxDHS and Moorine Rock Primary

schools – Combined curriculum days, NAIDOC events, Sporting Events, Incursions.

Thank You

Best wishes to our Graduating students – Daniel and Denym. Thank you for being the voice of the students in our leadership meetings throughout the year. I trust that St Joseph's will hold a special place in your heart as you take the next steps in your life journey.

To our families that are leaving us, thank you for choosing St Joseph's and our dedicated staff to look after your child's education. We wish you all the best.

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

Mel Allen

PRINCIPAL 2022