St Joseph’s School, Barmera

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2014

Contextual Information

Name: St Joseph’s School, Barmera

School Address: 8 Joyce St, Barmera, SA 5345

School Phone: (08) 8588 2154

School Fax: (08) 8588 2986

Principal: Mr Lee Abela

Email: info@stjobarmera.catholic.edu.au

School Information Statement

St Joseph’s School, Barmera was established in 1954 by the Sisters of St Joseph and continues to provide educational opportunities that reflect high standards of contemporary practice in education. A focus on the use of emerging technologies ensures that students are connected to the global environment as they make sense of their world and experience learning for the 21st century. All this has occurred from the simplest of beginnings when a couple of Josephite Sisters following a vocation to reach out to all children, in the poorest of communities, ventured into Barmera and the journey that is St Joseph’s School began. Close school, parish and community relationships continue to be a feature of the school.

Summary of 2014

Reflecting upon 2014, I found it important to look at the journey of the last three years. It is the culmination of these years that has positioned St Joseph’s School into the school it is today.

I have come to the end of my third year as principal and I am amazed at what has been achieved over this time and I feel that there are only good things ahead for this school. This year we have maintained the three classroom structure. At the end of 2013, we said farewell to Ms Amanda Hickey and welcomed Ms Ros Braham (permanent position). In addition to this, Mrs Amanda Murfitt has accessed another year of parental leave.

The dream of achieving a learning precinct became a reality as the R-2 class moved to the area by the undercover playground. This area was redeveloped with the two transportable classrooms being turned into one. The end of the verandah was closed off and a wet area was introduced.

This classroom joined the Year 3-5 classroom (Ms Nanda de Winter classroom teacher) and the Year 6/7 classroom (Ms Joy Mackley classroom teacher). This structure created a learning hub in this area and allowed for alternative options in the original R-2 area.

The decked classrooms became dedicated to the community. On Wednesday mornings, the community Playgroup called ‘Little Joeys’ ran and on Tuesday afternoons the WASP program ran. This is a joint program between the school and Barmera Kindergarten.

The school has developed a healthy and strong relationship with Barmera Kindergarten. This relationship has allowed many visits from our students to the Kindy and visits from the Kindy to our school.
Jayne McDonough has continued to access a space in the school where she provides Occupational Therapy to children around the Riverland. As I see the school as a service to the community, it should provide opportunities for students within our school, as well as children in the local community. With this thought we have also allowed Autism SA to use our community space twice and have developed an ongoing relationship.

Over the year we have worked towards providing an additional early childhood service – Occasional Care. This was a lengthy process and the school needed to upgrade the area to increase the safety of young children. Once this was done we were able to introduce occasional care for the community which began in Term 4. This program was delivered by Ms Ros Braham and Mrs Sonya Scadden.

The theme of ‘Relationships, Learning & Community’ has continued to be a focus. It is evident that this theme lives through the school and underpins the leadership I provide and supports decisions that are made.

In addition to this theme we also introduced ‘School Pride’. Asking students to think about ‘what are they teaching people about themselves and the school?’ I have been amazed and feel proud with the significant amount of positive feedback I have received over the year.

Our students have impressed on the Year 6/7 Aquatics Camp, the Year 3-5 Rookna Camp as well as on other excursions, incursions and when guest speakers visited.

2014 marked the schools 60 year Anniversary of providing a quality education to children in the Barmera and surrounding areas and community. This was celebrated officially in Term 4 but there were many moments throughout the year we reflected upon this. It is important to take the time to think about the strong shoulder that we stand upon and the journey the school has taken to be the amazing place it is today!

Our new Director for the Pt Pirie Diocese introduced ‘Catholic Education Week’ which was an opportunity to celebrate our identity. This week was filled with activities both in and out of the school.

The education of students is of paramount importance to the school but so to is the education of the staff. This year, Mrs Sonya Scadden and Mrs Louise Stavrou completed a Cert 4 in Educational Services and Mrs Tricia Kingham completed a Cert 3 in Business Administration. Ms Ros Braham and I have also begun a Cert 4 in Early Childhood Care. The staff over the year has also engaged in professional learning both in and out of the school.

It has been a great year with a significant amount of success and solidification of the progress that has been made over the last three years. I have been blessed to work with an amazing staff and school board. St Joseph’s School provides the best of both worlds – the small school that is family oriented and provides significant support for students whilst giving students opportunities and resources that would compete with any larger school.

This year we have welcomed Ms Ros Braham as a permanent staff member and Mr Jarra Reynolds on a 12 month traineeship. We have also welcomed the following staff on a mixed length of contracts, Mrs Mandy Hammond, Ms Kirby Kingham, Ms Margret Bonner and Mr Anthony Segui into our school community. Regardless of the length of time they spent at St Joseph’s School, I am thankful for their contributions to the school. Mrs Dee Barnett has accessed some long service leave and is due to return in Term 3 2015.

At the end of the year, and in some cases during the year, we farewell Ms Joy Mackley, Ms Kirby Kingham, Ms Margret Bonner and Mr Anthony Segui. A special note of thanks to Joy who has been part of the school community for the last 5 years - Joy and her partner Robert are moving interstate. She has worked many hours and has embedded many structures to ensure students are ready for their transition into secondary education.

‘It is the listener that tells the story’ – I encourage people to go out and tell the story of the school and share how wonderful this school truly is.

God Bless and Take Care,

Mr Lee Abela
**Staff Profile**

*Our staff consisted of:*

- Teaching staff: 7 teachers making up 4.5 FTE
- ESO staff 3 ESOs making up 1.86 FTE

**Staff Attendance**

The average teacher attendance rate during 2014 was 98%. This figure does not include teachers on planned long service leave or maternity leave.

**Teacher Qualifications**

All teaching staff hold a Bachelor Degree in Education. One staff member holds an additional degree. Six of the staff have begun a Graduate Certificate in Religious Education

**ESO Qualifications**

Two ESO’s have completed a Cert 4 in Educational Service. One ESO has completed a Cert 3 in Business Administration. In addition to this one of the ESO’s has completed training in the ‘DRUMBeat Program’.

**Student Profile**

The following information describes our student body totalling 52 students in 2014:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reception</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Year 6</th>
<th>Year 7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Indigenous students: 9

Students from families with background in languages other than English: 0

Students with a disability: 4

**Student Attendance**

The average student attendance rate for the school during 2014 was 92%. School attendance rates by class are shown in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reception</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Year 6</th>
<th>Year 7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>89%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parents are required to provide a written explanation for any student absences, as well as having the opportunity to contact the school office by phone. There are well-established school practices in place that require staff to follow up any unexplained absences. Each year a number of our students travel interstate and overseas for extended periods of time to visit relatives or holidays.
**NAPLAN Results**

NAPLAN results in a small school sometimes can be misleading - the affect of 1 child not achieving the National Benchmark out of a group of 7 students appears worse than the reality.

Students sit for the NAPLAN test in years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It is important to acknowledge that NAPLAN data is only one form of data that we collect on students and does not reflect current teaching approaches or assessment.

For the Year 3 students, this would be the first time they would have participated in an assessment like this. Therefore the Year 3 data acts as a benchmark to later inform us on student progress in later assessments.

The graph below represents the amount of students achieving National Benchmark or above;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year level</th>
<th>Student size</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>P&amp;G</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6 out of 6</td>
<td>6 out of 6</td>
<td>6 out of 6</td>
<td>6 out of 6</td>
<td>5 out of 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3 out of 5</td>
<td>4 out of 5</td>
<td>4 out of 5</td>
<td>4 out of 5</td>
<td>4 out of 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7 out of 7</td>
<td>6 out of 7</td>
<td>6 out of 7</td>
<td>7 out of 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: In the event a child did not achieve benchmark, they have shown improvement from their previous test.

Overall, looking at all tests per year level;

- 92% of students achieved National Benchmark or greater in Year 3
- 76% of students achieved National Benchmark or greater in Year 5
- 97% of students achieved National Benchmark or greater in Year 7
- Across the school 89% of students achieved National Benchmark or greater

**Parent Satisfaction**

Parent Satisfaction Survey Term 4 2014

In Term 4, families where invited to complete an online Parent satisfaction survey. Out of 33 families we had response from 19.

1. How comfortable do you feel in St Joseph's School?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very Comfortable</th>
<th>Comfortable</th>
<th>Okay</th>
<th>Uncomfortable</th>
<th>Very Uncomfortable</th>
<th>Total Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How comfortable do you feel when entering the school?</td>
<td>84.21%</td>
<td>10.53%</td>
<td>5.26%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How comfortable are you to make contact with the Principal to discuss your child’s education/wellbeing or any other concerns?</td>
<td>84.21%</td>
<td>15.79%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How comfortable are you to make contact with your child’s teacher to discuss your child’s education/wellbeing or any other concerns?</td>
<td>89.47%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>10.53%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comments:

The school always feels welcoming
2. How effective is the communication between school and home? (Eg. Newsletters, Facebook page, SMS, etc)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Very Effective</th>
<th>Effective</th>
<th>Satisfactory</th>
<th>Needs Improvement</th>
<th>Unsatisfactory</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>57.89%</td>
<td>42.11%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. How satisfied are you with the overall quality of education at St Joseph’s School?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Very Satisfied</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
<th>Satisfactory</th>
<th>Needs Improvement</th>
<th>Unsatisfactory</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>57.89%</td>
<td>31.58%</td>
<td>5.26%</td>
<td>5.26%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comments:
Need music lessons, classes and self defence classes
The growth in my child’s learning has been significant with their new teachers

4. How satisfied are you with how the school supports your child’s individual needs?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Very Satisfied</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
<th>Satisfactory</th>
<th>Needs Improvement</th>
<th>Unsatisfactory</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>63.16%</td>
<td>26.32%</td>
<td>10.53%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comments:
The school has great support staff that work with students

5. How useful is the information St Joseph’s School gives you about the academic growth of your child? (Eg. student reports, blogs, parent/teacher interviews, sending home student work, etc)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Very Useful</th>
<th>Useful</th>
<th>Satisfactory</th>
<th>Needs Improvement</th>
<th>Unsatisfactory</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>63.16%</td>
<td>26.32%</td>
<td>10.53%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. How satisfied are you with the resources and technology at St Joseph’s School? (Eg. computers, iPads, Interactive White Boards, etc)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Very Satisfied</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
<th>Satisfactory</th>
<th>Needs Improvement</th>
<th>Unsatisfactory</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>73.68%</td>
<td>26.32%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comments:
Our children are very fortunate!
7. How satisfied are you with the Extra-Curricular activities offered at St Joseph’s School? (Sport, Choir, camps, excursions, etc)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Very Satisfied</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
<th>Satisfactory</th>
<th>Needs Improvement</th>
<th>Unsatisfactory</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>63.16%</td>
<td>31.58%</td>
<td>5.26%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comments:
My child loved the Yr 3-5 Roonka Camp. Well done!

8. Can you please use three words to describe the school

Ideal, friendly, appropriate.
Excellent, caring, fun.
Understanding, available support, positive nature
Trust, friendly, family
Quality, fortunate, fantastic
Inclusive, caring, supportive
Friendly, modern, creative
Friendly, welcoming, inviting
Warm...caring...polite...
Welcoming, family-oriented, genuine.
Values, inclusive, friendly.
Welcoming, enthusiastic, committed
Inviting, safe, family
Loving, safe and supportive
Well structured school
Caring, supportive, generous

Overall I am pleased with the responses to this survey. There are many things that we as a school are doing well but as always, there is always room for improvement.

Staff Satisfaction
Staff Satisfaction Survey Term 4 2014

In Term 4, all staff took part in a Staff Satisfaction Survey

1. I like coming to work at St Joseph’s School, Barmera

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. I am continuing to grow as a professional at St Joseph’s School, Barmera

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. I feel safe at St Joseph’s School, Barmera

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. I am kept informed about decisions that are made in the school

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. I feel comfortable approaching my colleagues with questions or problems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. The school leadership listens to the views of students, Parents and staff and takes suggestions into account

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. I feel valued and supported by the students and families in the school community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. Staff have access to a range of Professional Learning opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. The facilities at St Joseph’s School, Barmera are well maintained and presented

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. I feel like a valued member of the school community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Student Satisfaction**

Student Satisfaction Survey Term 4 2014

In Term 4, surveys where handed out to students in year 3-7.

There were 5 questions asked;

1. What changes or additions have you valued that have occurred in the school over the last couple of years?

There were many common themes;

- Laptops/computers/devices in the school
- Sport equipment
- Changes in classrooms
- Chickens and gardens
- New students
- Kindergarten connection
2. What are some of the things you enjoy about coming to school?

There were many common themes:

- Seeing friends
- Learning
- It’s a happy place
- Nice teachers

3. Is there someone on staff you can talk to if you have a concern?
   Yes  86% (32 students)  No  14% (5 students)

4. Do you feel you have enough opportunities in the school?
   Yes  92% (34 students)  No  8% (3 students)

5. What improvements can be made to the school?
   Generally students felt there were no improvements needed, though some commented on the school needing a trampoline. A few students commented on additional things to do at lunch. There were 2 one off comments, first was new books in classrooms and the other felt that all students should be treated equally.

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**Resource Management**

Enrolments at St Joseph’s School remain consistent which has allowed our funding to continue to resource our school to provide the best education and care for our students. Mrs Tricia Kingham and our Finance Committee are to be commended on their management of resources.

School Income

Broken down by funding source:

- School Fee income  $78321
- Other/Private income  $133999
- State Government Recurrent Grant  $137526
- Australian Government Recurrent Grant  $682278
- **Total Recurrent Grant**  $1110445
- Capital fee income  $0
- Total Capital income  $0
- **Total Income**  $1110445
School Improvement

Self-assessment process
In working with the School Board and staff the school reflected upon what can be improved upon at St Joseph’s School.

2014 School Improvement Plan
In 2014 the school was working towards developing a School Improvement Plan. Creating the strategic direction for the school and making links with the Continuous Improvement Framework

Progress towards achievement of 2013 goals
The school was committed to focus on three broad areas of improvement – Relationships, Learning and Community.

Relationships

- With community in and outside of the school – relationships were developed and strengthened with local Kindergarten, Council, RSL, Bonney Lodge and Rotary Club.
- Internally we have working on ‘every child is enrolled at St Joseph’s School, Barmera’ – we are all responsible for every person in the school.

Learning

- Strengthening our understanding and implementation of Inquiry/Discovery based learning
- Reflecting on classroom layout and structures – staff immersion trip to Adelaide to learn from two other schools

Community

- Finding ways to be part of the community – Barmera market Stall, WASP and Bush Kinder with Barmera Kindergarten
- Holding a community event – Gala night