



ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT

2020

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SCHOOL BARMERA



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MID YEAR 2020



St Joseph's School, Barmera School Performance Report 2020

Contextual Information

Name: St Joseph's School, Barmera

School Address: 8 Joyce St, Barmera, SA 5345

School Phone: (08) 8588 6100

Principal: Mr Lee Abela

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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 2020 – Principal

They say, “what doesn’t kill us, only makes us stronger!” In many ways this quote reflects the year that we have had. As a school, we have only grown stronger and stronger throughout the year. The best part about the growth, is the benefits it has had to student learning, the support that we provide and resilience in children it has created.

A key focus in my leadership is to build the capacity of staff both in their teaching and learning and in their leadership. The leadership part can be difficult to see at times and only when an opportunity is created the true strength of leadership is able to be seen. On the very last day of the school year, it was announced that Nanda de Winter would be taking 12 months leave to be the Acting Principal at Our Lady of the River. Though we were excited for her, it meant that our 2020 plan was out the window and we had to develop a new plan.

Fortunately, we are a school that deals with change well. We managed to employ two great teachers at the start of the year, we moved classrooms around and engaged in a little bit of building work. Come the start of the year, we were ready to provide the very best for every child!



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For the first time in 66 years, the school introduced a co teaching model in the Middle Years class. This meant a class of 35 children with 2 full time teachers and a support staff member for part of the week often bringing the class to a 1:12 ratio. The co teaching model is not a take turns approach, it is where both teachers plan together, teach together and report together.

In the early part of Term 1, the staff travelled to Melbourne to visit St Peter's School, Epping who had been using this model for a number of years. The experience of the trip was amazing and the impetus for moving the Primary Years classes from two into one using the co teaching model. Whilst in Melbourne we also visited the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre to deepen our connection and understanding of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop whose footsteps we walk in.

Towards the end of Term 1, we began to become familiar with COVID-19 and needed to plan to teach online. Again, dealing with change successfully, we created StJo BOLT, our online learning platform. We had a combination of children learning at home and at school. The COVID-19 experience has been challenging at times. Again this was an opportunity for us to be stronger!

I am thankful to work in a community that are able to be flexible and adapt with change. Though it can be frustrating at times, I know that families understand that every decision that is made, is in the best interest of the students.

This year is the 66th year that our school has been open and in this time so much has changed. This year, we have replaced the side fence by kiss'n'drop, created an outdoor library area, installed sliding doors to the Early Years classroom, concreted the drive way and opened the old Discovery Room and Primary Years R class into one learning space belonging to the Primary Years class.

Our school has been continuing to grow over the last few years and it was my hope that we would reach 100 children this year. Prior to 2020, the school has been as high as 109 students (2009) and as low as 21 students. Growing to over 100 students had only happened once. This year, we have exceeded 100 children and we have concluded the year with 110 students. Not only should this be celebrated due to being over 100 students for a second time, it is also the highest amount of students we have ever had!

Again, it has been a year that we have continued to grow stronger despite a few hurdles that we have had to jump. There is no doubt I am still in love with the school and am proud to be the Principal of this amazing school.

This year we farewell Ellie Fry and Sarah Hinge and wish them well on their journey ahead. Scarlett Yeomans will be on leave as she welcomes a second child into her family. Next year we will have another amazing team of staff that will care, love and support every child in their care.



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Religious Reflect – Marissa Redden

This year I have had the privilege of being the leader in Religious Education at St Joseph's School Barmera. Through this role I have been given the opportunity to support teachers and students in the implementation of Religious Education throughout the school.

As a staff we travelled to Melbourne for our annual retreat in Term 1. Alongside some professional learning, we dedicated some time to deepening our connection with Mary MacKillop. In East Melbourne, you will find the Mary MacKillop Centre. This is where we started our journey learning about her life and work in Melbourne. Mary is a wonderful role model who we look up to as a staff. Her work in education and her beliefs such as "never see a need without doing something about it" or "we must teach more by example than by word" are messages that we try to instil in the students at St Joseph's Barmera.

In Term 2 we began with online learning and St Jo BOLT. To create consistency and enhance community across the school, each class learnt about the same parable on a weekly rotation. Each teacher was responsible for bringing one parable to life, using video format, for everyone to view. This was highly enjoyed by both students and staff who got to see the different creative styles across the staff.

In October we welcomed Bishop Karol, who is from Poland, as the new Bishop for the Port Pirie Diocese. This then means that Bishop Greg is able to retire from the role he has held for the past 11 years. Myself, Mr Abela, Mrs Stavrou, Father Paul, Jemma and Josephine all travelled to Port Pirie for the installation Mass. As school captains, Jemma and Josephine participated in the mass by carrying candles up to the altar as part of the welcoming procession.

Although this year has been slightly out of the ordinary, both staff and students have been able to participate in rich Catholic Education learning experiences.

School Board Report – Natasha Chabrel

As I sit here writing this, we are currently in day 1 of a 6-day state COVID-19 lockdown - 2020, what a crazy year it has been!!

2020 has thrown many challenges at us but, one thing remained constant and that is how amazing our school is. Regardless of whether the children were at school or at home, their needs, safety and education were not comprised in the slightest. I am very grateful, as I am sure that you are too, for the hard work and dedication of our staff to achieve this.

Putting COVID-19 aside we've welcomed new families, staff and continued to upgrade our school grounds. While some things haven't gone as planned, a bit of "out of the box" thinking has ensured that our children have still had an enjoyable year.



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After 6 years, 2020 also brings my time on school board to an end. It's been a privilege to sit alongside my fellow members providing guidance to Lee and his staff.

So, as I reflect and say goodbye to 2020, I look forward to 2021. Regardless of what happens, I know that we will get through it together being the strong, wonderful community that we are.

Staff Profile

Our staff consisted of:

- Teaching staff: 8 teachers making up 7.4 Fte
- ESO staff: 5 Educational Support Officers making up 2.77 Fte

Staff Attendance

The average teacher attendance rate during 2020 was 86.32%. 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. Two staff members holds a Masters in Educational Leadership. One staff member is studying a Masters in Leadership with the ACU. Three 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 110 students in 2020

Year level	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
R	12	13	17	17
1	13	14	16	16
2	10	9	10	10
3	18	19	20	21
4	10	10	10	10
5	10	10	10	10
6	17	16	17	17
7	9	9	9	9
Total	99	100	109	110



Student Attendance

The average student attendance for the school during 2020 was **87.7%**. School attendance rates by class are shown below;

Year level		Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
R		80.6%	90.9%	93.1%	93.1%
1		83.2%	95.0%	94.0%	92.9%
2		79.7%	94.5%	94.1%	94.8%
3		81.3%	90.2%	90.7%	91.1%
4		81.3%	89.5%	93.7%	90.5%
5		80.2%	87.6%	90.8%	86.0%
6		69.4%	88.0%	82.6%	80.2%
7		82.0%	90.9%	88.0%	86.7%

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. Also, many of our students are selected to compete in Adelaide for a week with SAPSASA sport.

Surveys

Each year the school gathers data from students, families and staff. Usually there is a focus on each of the surveys or the ongoing data that is collected.

Student – class surveys

With the introduction of the Pulse Check Data Collection, the school been using this as its form of collecting data on student satisfaction. This was completed twice last year.

Parent – Survey and Interviews

This year parents were surveyed based on the Parent perceptions on their child's connectiveness and learning at the school. The survey was emailed out as link to 71 families, 56 families responded making a 79% response rate. Overall the responses were very positive. The data was share with the staff and the School Board and used as a tool for improvement.

At the end of Term 1 & 3 the school conducts Parent Teacher Interviews. At each of the interviews, a sample of families meet with by the Principal to discuss parent satisfaction.



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Staff – ongoing

Staff at St Joseph's School, Barmera are given many opportunities to provide feedback. Weekly staff morning meetings are held to outline key events for the week. This forum also gives staff opportunity for issues to be discussed and resolutions sought. After each major school event feedback is sought from the staff. This is generally done through staff meeting and individual conversations.

At least once a year, staff have a professional review/conversation with the Principal. This conversation includes; reflection, goal setting, satisfaction and any concerns.

An individual survey was completed at the end of the year asking staff about their connection with the school, the leadership team, students and the community. All questions were responded positively.

Resource Management

Enrolments at St Joseph's School have continued to grow over the last few years 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	\$101,218.00
Other/Private income	\$
State Government Recurrent Grant	\$468,261.00
Commonwealth Government Recurrent Grant	\$319,032.00
Total Recurrent Grant	\$1,058,095.00
Capital fee income	\$
Total Capital income	\$
Total Income	\$2,042,321.00



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School Improvement

In working with the School Board and staff the school reflected upon what can be improved upon at St Joseph's School.

2020 School Improvement

The School Improvement links to the school's identity statement 'Relationships, Learning & Community'.

Relationships

- Contemporary catholic identity in the spirit of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop – staff professional learning at Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre
- Promotion/celebrating the good
- Increased use of social media to connect with families and students through COVID
- Creating and/or strengthening community partnerships

Learning

- Investigate opportunities to strengthen literacy development in writing/dyslexia
- Visit to St Peter's, Epping around co teaching and classroom design
- The implementation of a co teaching structure
- Extending learning into an ecological awareness and practice
- Finalise School Master Plan including redesign of indoor and outdoor learning space

Community

- Building the Occasional Care
- Being out in the community where possible
- Acknowledgements to community on RU OK Day
- Managing link with community and holding events during COVID
- Maintaining relationships with Staff, Students and Families with COVID and remote learning
- Maintaining the relationship with the Kindergarten