

St Joseph's School Southern Cross



2020 Annual General Meeting

Principal's Report

26th November 2020

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.

It has been an interesting year, not just in our community but worldwide. Covid-19 has had a big impact on our school and has given us many challenges. These challenges have been met and have made us stronger as a school community.

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, Science, Digital Technology and targeted learning and support, St Joseph's is truly a school that offers 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, Sorry Day, Mary Mackillop day, Lifelink Day, Recycling Week and Loud Shirt Day. We were very fortunate that Covid restrictions were eased enough so that we could take the children on camp. Their performance was a little different though and we were fortunate enough to be able to perform at Loretto.

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. I would like to personally thank Lorrae, Tash and Donna for their contributions as our P&F Executive. I would like to especially

acknowledge Donna and Lorrae who will be stepping down from their executive roles at the end of this year and we hope that we have some more volunteers who will be able to step up and help run the P&F next year.

The School Board is the advisory group to the Principal and Finance Officer. Each person comes to the Board with a genuine wish to support the school and to be the public face and voice within our community. Next year our school board will be formally known as the School Advisory Council, these changes are a part of CEWA becoming incorporated this year. Thank you very much to Rob, Donna, Bec, Lisa 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. I want to acknowledge the support of Fr Brennan and Father Matthew and also thanks to Father Stephen and Father Jeffrey.

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. I would like to thank Rika, our previous principal, for all of her hard work ensuring that our school continues to thrive. 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 and Chrissie – 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 Amee and Ria – thank you for all of your hard work teaching our younger students. Lauren – thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to our school over the last 5 years. You always step up and go above and beyond to ensure that St Joseph's is the best place to be. I wish you all every success next year in your new schools. In 2021 we welcome Chantelle Stock, Natalie Beaton and Sarah Malaxos to our teaching team.

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 CEO 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

In 2020, we continued to reflect on our Evangelisation Plan. This plan is due to be reviewed and rewritten in 2021.

As part of our Evangelisation Plan this year, we welcomed Sr Maree and Sr Maura to our school for a joint PD with St Mary's to explore the history and charism of our school and founders. I would also like to thank Father Matthew for helping us run a PD on understanding the Gospels and linking them to our Living Like Jesus Wall.

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. Roshani Fernando celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation in term 3 with her family, friends and staff. We also celebrated Jake Weir, Piper Holdem and Alyssa Carlson's first Reconciliation as a whole school. Thank you to Father Matthew and Father Brennan who celebrated these Sacraments with us and to Lauren McGoldrick for preparing the students so beautifully.

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

STEWARDSHIP

Enrolments have been consistent over the last 3 years

- 2018 (PK-6 = 24) (K-6= 21) (PP-6 = 18).
- 2019 (PK-6 = 30) (K-6= 27) (PP-6 = 22)
- 2020 is (PK-6 = 33) (K-6 = 26) (PP-6 = 24)

- & Projected Enrolments for 2021 (PK-6 = 29) (K-6 = 26) (PP-6 = 24)

Father Matthew has conducted the 'You Can Do It' program each Monday morning. This program aims to develop positive attitudes and social-emotional skills that develop resilience, confidence, persistence and organisation.

We have nearly completed the refurbishment of the student toilet block – this will be due for completion in the next week.

PD for staff has also been impacted this year, with many face to face PD opportunities being cancelled. Staff have undertaken PD in PLD, Brightpath, Early careers and Literacy Collective.

The school focus for 2020 of 'The National Quality Standards (NQS)' was to be more child centred and have an inclusive environment. I believe that we have been successful in this aspect, however, the further embedding of each child's current knowledge, strengths, ideas, culture, abilities and interests will continue to be the foundation of the program.

COMMUNITY

I believe 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 Board. 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. With the added celebration of the blessing of our Memorial Garden, it was lovely to see so many community members, both past and present, joining in to celebrate and share stories of our school.

The strength of the local schools community was very evident this year. While some events were cancelled due to the restrictions placed upon us due to Covid-19, it was fantastic to see the YSSSA Lightning and Athletics Carnivals go ahead, along with the STEM day at Moorine and NAIDOC week celebrations at SXDHS. All events should be up and running next year.

EDUCATION

Curriculum

Our involvement in the Literacy Collective program has seen us collectively as staff work together to collect and analyse data to reflect and improve student learning and outcomes. We attended a joint PD with St Mary's in Merredin & CEWA teams to continue our work in this area. We have had regular Case Management Meetings and continue to track student progress through regular data meetings and moderation of writing through Brightpath.

Our support program has continued this year as we provided extra reading support and Reading Recovery.

IT use has been at the forefront this year. With Covid-19 impacting Face to Face teaching at the end of term 1, student and teacher use of See Saw and Teams rose greatly. It was wonderful that we could still be so connected in turbulent times.

Aboriginal Education has continued to be a focus. Two staff attended the Aboriginal Early Childhood planning day. We also received PALS funding this year which was used to purchase resources to aid in our focus on Aboriginal Perspectives in the classrooms.

WHAT LIES AHEAD IN 2021?

School Improvement Plan

- Literacy Collective- Differentiated approach to learning
- Brightpath
- An NQS focus on Responsive Teaching and Scaffolding & utilizing resources to support play based learning.
- Working on our AEIM to incorporate Aboriginal Perspectives into all learning areas
- Staff & Student Wellbeing

Also in 2021, we will be implementing an extension program to support some students in Years 1-6 and a specialist STEM program across the

school.

We will be completing the following works next year:

1. Grass area (roll over from 2020)
2. Improvements in outdoor learning area behind Junior and Senior classrooms

Further engagement with SXDHS and Moorine Rock Primary schools – Combined Literacy, Numeracy, STEM, NAIDOC, Sporting Events, Incursions.

In a Covid world, we will continue to find ways to support the Elderly in our Community.

Thank You

Best wishes to our Graduating student – Roshani. 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 2020