Dear Parents and Friends,

A major sign of a healthy and developing school community is its capacity to renew itself. Such renewal involves critical reflection by the community on its essential purpose as it encounters constant change and new challenges, a review and validation of the authenticity of its current practice and a commitment to continuous improvement. As part of this process of school renewal we entered into the fourth year of our current renewal cycle and reflected on the following components of the *Internal School Review Instrument*:

- Religious Identity and Culture
- Responding to the Diverse Needs of the Learners
- Partnerships and Relationships
- Accountability and Compliance
- School Improvement

Focused reflection by the staff, and the parents’ perceptions from the internal review survey, on each component, has identified areas of strength and areas for development. This will inform our school’s annual goal setting for 2015.

**Mission and Religious Education**

Religious Education at St Joachim’s comprises of two separate, yet complementary, dimensions. The first is the *learning and teaching* of Religion in the classroom, and the second is the *religious life of the school*, which includes 4 components: Prayer & Worship, Religious Identity & Culture, Social Action & Justice, and Evangelisation & Faith Formation.

The following describes the school’s achievements within the Mission and Religious Education dimension of the community:

- Welcomed Rev Joseph Thottankara MCBS to the Holland Park Mt Gravatt Parish.
- Participation in the Holland Park Mt Gravatt Sacramental Program – First Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist.
- Regular class prayer in each classroom.
- Whole school liturgies and prayer rituals included:
  - All Saints Mass, Remembrance Day liturgy, Carols Evening, Year 7 Graduation and End of Year liturgies will take place during Term 4.
- Year 5 & 6/7 students joined the parish each week for Mass.
- Whole school meditative prayer occurred each Tuesday afternoon.
- Fundraising included: Project Compassion, Caritas, St Vincent de Paul, Catholic Mission and Micah Projects Inc.
- Continued partnership with Micah Projects and Brisbane Common Ground including the inaugural St Joachim’s School Sleep Out.
- Participated in Anzac Day ceremonies locally and at Anzac Square, Brisbane CBD.
- Catholic Education Week including activities with Villanova students.
Learning and Teaching

During 2014 the staff were involved in significant professional development opportunities to assist them to implement the Australian Curriculum.

In 2014 literacy and numeracy have been the specific focus for staff professional development, budget and resourcing. Literacy is an essential capability for academic, personal and social success and effectiveness for all students.

Other significant achievements within the learning and teaching domain have been:

- Provided all teachers in Years 1 – 7 with the opportunity to attend the Reading to Learn Professional Development Program. The Reading to Learn Program is designed to enable all learners, at all levels of education, to read and write successfully, at levels appropriate to their age, grade and area of study. The Reading to Learn strategies have been independently evaluated to consistently accelerate the learning of all students at twice to more than four times expected rates.
- Implemented the Australian Curriculum learning areas of English, Mathematics, History, The Arts and Science.
- Provided professional development sessions on curriculum differentiation with a particular focus on Gifted & Talented education.
- The Enrichment Program committee reviewed, and has made recommendations to the staff.
- Professionally printed and displayed the St Joachim’s School Vision for Learning & Teaching posters in each classroom and learning space.
- Successfully implemented the 1 to 1 iPad program in Year 3.
- Planned for the implementation of the 1 to 1 iPad program in 2015 (Year 3 and Year 5).
- Full participation in the Raw Art program across the school.
- Engaged in the Consistency of Teacher Judgment program:
  - Teachers met with other teaching professionals (from other Catholic schools) to share assessment tasks and discuss professional judgments i.e. what constitutes ‘at expected’ or ‘above expected’ levels in reporting.
- Participated in the UNSW competitions.
- Launched the School Wide Positive Behaviour Support Program.
- Year 5, 6 & 7 students attended school camp at Luther Heights Youth Camp, Point Arkwright, Coolum Beach, Sunshine Coast.
- Health and Physical Education:
  - Implemented a Sensory Motor Program (Learning Connections) & Perceptual Motor Program in the Prep and Year 1 classes.
  - Inter-school sport included netball and touch football.
  - Cross-country, swimming and athletics carnivals.
  - Handball, skipping and goal-a-thon competitions.
  - AFL Auskick clinics.
  - Swimming lessons.
- Say No to Bullying Assembly – two Brisbane Roar players visited the school to reinforce our whole school messages.
Professional Practice and Collaborative Relationships

An initiative that began in 2012, and continued in 2014, has been the collaborative relationships the school has formed with allied health care professionals including occupational therapists, speech therapists, psychologists, psychiatrists, optometrists and audiologists. These professionals have greatly assisted the teachers to adjust and differentiate (where necessary) the curriculum to meet the needs of all learners.

The strong partnerships that exist between home and school have been fundamental in each student’s overall development. Parent satisfaction surveys have shown that teachers are readily available to meet with parents to discuss and work collaboratively to address educational and social issues that arise within the school. The mutual respect that exists between parents and staff is to be commended.

The Pastoral School Board and P&F Committee have both been extremely supportive of the school’s strategic plan and vision.

Other significant achievements have been:

- Launched the school’s new website and school app.
- BCE marketing team assisted the school to update its marketing material: website, school brochures, newsletter header etc.
- Continued screening initiatives in the Year 1 classes: hearing, vision and occupational therapy.
- Collaboratively developed Individual Health Care Plans with parents and health care professionals for students with specific medical needs.
- The Pastoral School Board assisted the Principal to:
  - Review school policies and procedures
  - Assist with the Master Plan for building and maintenance
  - Examine budget expenditure
  - Assisted in setting of 2015 school fees

- The P&F assisted the school and community to:
  - Build community spirit through a range of social events for students and parents.
  - Provided a strong forum for community and parent feedback.
  - Raised funds for the purchase of ICLTs and landscaping.
  - Delivered an excellent fete.
  - Maintained excellent services in the tuckshop & uniform shop.

- The school acknowledges the wonderful work of the following P&F executive members, and convenors, who have tendered their resignation this year. Thank you for your enormous generosity and leadership.
  - Mr Matthew Campbell – President
  - Mrs Peta Gomersall and Mrs Larissa Tyas – Uniform Shop Convenors
  - Mrs Natalie Arnold – Fete Convenor
Strategic Resourcing

St Joachim’s School is thriving with student enrolments predicted to reach approximately 330 in 2015. This is a healthy sign and allows for our school to provide excellent educational and personnel resources for the students of St Joachim’s.

The development of the St Joachim’s 2013 – 2016 School Strategic Plan has been written to ensure the school continues to provide quality education and remain true to our vision and mission.

Other significant achievements have been:

- Collaboratively engaged the Pastoral School Board to maintain the 2014 budget, develop the 2015 budget, allocate resources and review the school fee structure.
- Significant funding was allocated to the professional development of staff and PD opportunities were clearly aligned to the school’s strategic goals and annual action plan.
- Purchased 15 new Mac Book Airs to support the learning and teaching of all students.
- Prep – Year 2 classes now have 5 iPads each to use in their literacy/numeracy rotations. More iPads are available through the library.
- Completed the installation of the interactive data projectors in each classroom.
- Upgraded the teachers’ laptops to mac pros and provided each teacher with an iPad for educational purposes.
- Maintained the grounds and facilities including turfing the major playing surface.
- Constructed new OSHC facility and second prep classroom.
- Refurbished the Prep / Year 1 Play Area.
- Constructed a covered early years’ amphitheatre.

Chris Thomas
Principal
13 October 2014