Principal’s Report – March 2013

Priority 1: Mission and Religious Education
- The teaching staff attended a professional development network day with the staff from St Catherine’s Catholic Primary School, Wishart. The focus for the day was on the new Religion Curriculum that will be officially launched across the Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane in 2013.
- The 75th Year Anniversary Committee has been established and members include: Chris Thomas, Amanda Sheridan, Wendy Randall, Lauren Payne and a representative/s from the Parents & Friends. Sr Kari will also provide invaluable input. Suggestions for celebrations/events from the teaching staff include:
  1. A Community Mass followed by morning tea or light lunch.
  2. Establish a partnership with a community/parish/school in need.
  3. Development of a meditative walk from the prayer garden to the church capturing the charism and story of the St Joachim’s community.
- The Opening School Mass was held on Friday 8 February & the Ash Wednesday Mass and Liturgy took place on Wednesday 13 February.
- The Holy Week prayer rituals will be held each afternoon during Holy Week from 2.00pm.
- Many St Joachim’s students are involved in the Holland Park Mt Gravatt Parish Sacramental Program. Our prayers are with them and their families during this time.
- The Year 4 students will be invited to join the parish community to participate in the Sacrament of Penance before the end of Term 1. Years 5, 6 & 7 will join the parish in Terms 2, 3 & 4.
- Whole school meditative prayer has been introduced each Monday afternoon commencing 11 March.

Priority 2: Learning and Teaching
- Parent/Teacher Information sessions were well attended on 18 & 20 February.
- Teacher have planned unit of work reflecting the Australian Curriculum Learning Areas of Mathematics, English, Science and History.
- Teachers participated in a 3-hour professional development session on Curriculum Differentiation with a particular focus on Gifted & Talented education.
- The Curriculum Team will meet during March to discuss how the St Joachim’s School Vision for Learning & Teaching will be presented to the students and parents.
- The Raw Art Program continued during Term 1.
- Parent/Teacher Interviews will be held during the final three weeks of Term 2.
- The new School Wide Positive Behaviour Support Program will be launched at the beginning of Term 3.

Priority 3: Professional Practice and Collaborative Relationships
- In 2013 a new screening initiative has been introduced into Year 1: hearing, vision and occupational therapy screening.
- National Partnership Funding: St Joachim’s will receive approximately $30 000 in national partnership money to improve literacy outcomes. This will go towards funding Reading to Learn, Learning Connections, Teacher Toolkit, mentoring and coaching programs.

Priority 4: Strategic Resourcing
- New prep classroom proposal to include the resurfacing of the area in front of the prep classrooms and underneath the play gym equipment, and around the sandpit.
- Master Plan Update: the architect has provided in-principle drawings to the BCE Planning Advisory Committee.
- Discussions regarding the building of a new OSHC facility are well underway. The location of OSHC is likely to be beside the Parish Hall at the eastern end of the hall near play gym. A funding agreement between the Parish Pastoral Council, Centacare and the Parish School Board yet to be formally discussed and finalised.