St Joachim’s Catholic Primary School
Annual School Report 2013
BROAD STRATEGIC AREA
Mission and Religious Education

Strategic Goals for 2013

• By the end of Semester 2 nominated staff members will have participated in the Catching Fire - Staff Spiritual Formation program facilitated by the Brisbane Catholic Education Office so that during Terms 3 & 4 practices learned can be shared amongst all staff.

• By the end of Term 1 teachers will have developed a greater understanding of the purpose and intent of the BCE Religion Curriculum (Consultation Draft) so that planning during Terms 2, 3 & 4 reflect the new curriculum.

Achievements for 2013

• Familiarisation with the new Religion Curriculum for full implementation in 2014.
• Collated core content taught across the year levels for the School Religious Education Program.
• Participation in the Holland Park Mt Gravatt Sacramental Program – First Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist.
• Celebrated the St Joachim’s 75th anniversary with Mass, breakfast & open classrooms.
• Regular class prayer in each classroom.
• Whole school liturgies and prayer rituals included:
• Year 5 & 6/7 students joined the parish each week for Prayer of the Church.
  o Weekly Mass attendance during Lent.
• Introduced the practice of whole school meditative prayer each Monday afternoon.
• Fundraising included: Project Compassion, Caritas, St Vincent de Paul, The Biggest Morning Tea, Catholic Mission, Micah Projects & Books for PNG.
• Formed a new partnership with Micah Projects and Brisbane Common Ground.
• Connected with St Joseph’s School, Cluncurry - a Josephite school in central north Qld with a high indigenous student population.
• Participated in Anzac Day ceremonies locally and at Anzac Square, Brisbane CBD.
• Catholic Education Week activities with Our Lady’s and Villanova students.
• Involved students and staff in sacred singing.
• Provided opportunities for staff prayer.
• Prepared sacred spaces in the school e.g. school office foyer, classrooms.
Strategic Goals for 2013

- By the end of Semester 1 all teachers will be planning, teaching, assessing, evaluating and reporting using the Australian Curriculum Learning Areas of Mathematics, English, Science and History.

- By the end of Semester 1 all Prep and Year 1 teachers will be implementing strategies and programs from the Teacher Toolkit project so that all Prep and Year 1 students are given every opportunity for full participation in school.

- By the end of Semester 2 all Years 2 – 7 teachers will have completed the Reading to Learn Program and be implementing associated strategies during Literacy Blocks so that all learners are reading and writing successfully, at levels appropriate to their year level and/or potential.

Achievements for 2013

- Implemented the Australian Curriculum learning areas: Mathematics, English, Science and History.
- Prep and Year 1 teachers effectively implemented strategies and programs from the Teacher Toolkit project and developed the St Joachim’s Ready to Learn Program.
- Provided all teachers in Years 2 – 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.
- Painted the St Joachim’s School Vision for Learning and Teaching mural in the undercover area.
- Professionally printed and displayed the St Joachim’s School Vision for Learning & Teaching posters in each classroom and learning space.
- Provided professional development sessions on curriculum differentiation with a particular focus on Gifted & Talented education.
- Planned for the implementation of the 1 to 1 iPad program in 2014.
- 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.
- Involved all students in Years 3 – 7 in the St Joachim’s School Musical ‘Masquerade’.
- Year 5 students attended the 2-day KidsConnect IT Conference.
- Year 5, 6 & 7 students attended school camp at Wildeco Outdoor Adventure Camp, Landsborough.
- Health and Physical Education:
  - School HPE Program
  - 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.
Strategic Goals for 2013

• By the end of Semester 2 a working party will have developed a School Professional Learning Model for staff so that professional development reflects contemporary pedagogies, and, is effective, sustainable and resourced appropriately.

• By the end of Semester 1 a school wide teaching matrix of expected behaviours will be finalised; a clear process of rewarding school wide expectations is developed; and a set of clearly defined consequences for undesirable behaviours is established, so that in Term 3 a new School Wide Positive Behaviour Support program is launched.

Achievements for 2013

• Acknowledged and farewelled Sr Kari osu after 9 years of leadership of the Holland Park Mt Gravatt Parish.
• Developed a new School Wide Positive Behaviour Support Program.
  o This has taken considerable review and development time, and will be launched at the beginning of 2014.
• Introduced a new screening initiative 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.
• Engaged the school, parish and wider community in the 75th anniversary celebrations.
• The Pastoral School Board assisted the Principal to:
  o Review school policies and procedures.
  o Develop 4 new policies:
    ▪ St Joachim’s Mission and Religious Education Policy
    ▪ St Joachim’s Learning and Teaching Policy
    ▪ St Joachim’s Professional Practice & Collaborative Relationships Policy
    ▪ St Joachim’s Strategic Resourcing Policy
  o Assist with the Master Plan for building and maintenance.
  o Examine budget expenditure.
  o Assisted in setting of 2014 school fees.
• The P&F assisted the school and community to:
  o Build community spirit through a range of social events for students and parents.
  o Provided a strong forum for community and parent feedback.
  o Raised funds for the purchase of ICLTs and landscaping.
  o Delivered an excellent fete.
  o Maintained excellent services in the grounds, tuckshop & uniform shop.
• Combined staff meetings with local Catholic schools (St James’ & St Elizabeth’s) to share effective learning & teaching practices.
• Engaged staff and parents in the school’s internal cyclical review processes.
Strategic Goals for 2013

• By the end of Semester 2 nominated students and staff will have engaged in LIFE (an online Learning Management System to support learning and teaching in a contemporary environment) so that students and teachers can access, collaborate, communicate and learn in new ways.

• By the end of Semester 2 the school will have completed Stage 1 of the St Joachim’s School Master Plan (a second purpose built Prep classroom); and partake in a trial of an online maintenance and asset tracking system, so that the budget and allocation of resources reflect contemporary learning approaches and meets the school’s commitment to educate baptised Catholic children within the Holland Park Mt Gravatt Parish.

Achievements for 2013

• Designed a new OSHC facility and second purpose built prep classroom.
• Collaboratively engaged the Pastoral School Board to maintain the 2013 budget, develop the 2014 budget, allocate resources and review the school fee structure.
• Completed the installation of the interactive data projectors in each classroom in preparation for LIFE (an online Learning Management System to support learning and teaching in a contemporary environment).
• Purchased ICT equipment (iPads and laptops) for students.
• Upgraded the teachers’ laptops to mac pros and provided each teacher with an iPad for educational purposes.
• 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.
• Maintained expenditure within the school’s annual budget.
• Increased the number of class grouping from 10 classes to 12 classes.
• Fitted out the extra 2 classrooms with necessary furniture and resources.
• Separated the Year 5/6/7 composite class into Year 5 and Year 6/7 classes.
• Purchased flexible furniture for the Year 5 and Year 6/7 classroom that reflect contemporary learning and teaching approaches.
• Collaboratively developed a landscaping master plan.
• Maintained the grounds and facilities.
• Introduced sustainable environmental initiatives:
  o Nude Food Fridays – students and staff are encouraged to bring food in washable containers in order to reduce waste.
  o A new industrial recycling bin delivered and is well utilised.