

## St Joseph's School Kununurra Annual School Report - 2018

### Learning

2018 proved to be a successful year of academic growth for our students. Significant growth was recorded in the areas of Reading and Spelling. This growth exceeded the national average for growth recorded in all other schools in Australia. We were slightly below the national average for academic growth in writing and maths. We look forward to continuing with our Brightpath (writing) and Stepping Stones (maths) focuses in 2019.

Our curriculum focus on Mappen for our Integrated Inquiry units and Stepping Stones for our maths lessons continued throughout the year. Both have provided teachers with planners, visual aides and online lessons. This has ensured that all teachers have been delivering the necessary content to students across a wide number of key learning areas. Teachers have also worked hard to incorporate cultural aspects into their Stepping Stones and Mappen lessons which has engaged students in their learning. Teachers have continued to implement Dianna Rigg strategies into their teaching of Literacy in the classroom. As was evident from our NAPLAN data, the spelling approaches that are being implemented by teachers in their respective classrooms is having a positive impact on the learning outcomes for students.

Our LAPS program proved to be a success in Pre-Primary this year and we look forward to continuing our association with LAPS next year. By the end of the year, almost all students in Pre-Primary were able to read leveled texts with some students confidently reading up to level 24 texts.

A number of staff have participated in various professional learning programs over the course of the year. Jo Camilleri from Notre Dame University continued to work with a number of ATAs as they furthered their qualifications as Educational Assistants. Next year we will celebrate the achievements of those ATAs who have graduated from their Level 4 Certificate in Educational Support.

Melinda Fitt and her team have continued to work hard to engage families with their AFaFE program. One measure of the success achieved by AFaFE in 2018 is the number of students (up to 8) who will be commencing Kindergarten at St Joseph's next year.

During the year we said goodbye to Paul Poutney who relocated to Melbourne at the end of Term 1 and Emily Thomas who commenced Maternity Leave towards the end of Term 2. We thank Emily and Paul for the valuable contribution they have both made towards establishing a positive learning environment at St Joseph's for all students. We wish Paul all the best with his future endeavours and we look forward to welcoming Emily back at some stage in the near future. We welcomed new teachers Jen Rudyard, Izzy Stewart and Kate Carew to our staff team and we thank them

for the wonderful contribution they made with their respective classes throughout the year. Upon Emily's departure, Laura Quinn joined us and should be commended on working extremely hard to fill the void left by Emily and Paul.

To the graduating Yr 6 students, thank you for the significant contribution made as the student leaders of our school. These students represented our school with great pride and set a terrific example for others to follow. We look forward to hearing of the successes they will no doubt achieve over the coming years.

### **Engagement**

A significant event for our school this year was the arrival of our Statue of Mary Mackillop. We welcomed Peter Schipperheyn and his wife Cinzia to our school for several days whilst the statue of Mary was mounted to the plinth installed last year. We held a wonderful Liturgy on our school grounds on the Feast Day of Mary Mackillop where the statue was unveiled. This space will be a sacred space in our school where our Friday morning Rosaries will continue to take place in addition to a number of significant liturgical events.

In a first for our school, the Year 5/6 students ventured off to Canberra for their camp. All students enjoyed this unique experience and appreciated the opportunity that was given to them. A huge amount of work went into making this happen. A big thank you to Miss Marion Gehrmann who worked diligently to ensure the camp was a success. We hope to make this a regular event for every even year (2020 being the next Canberra camp).

We moved our Christmas Concert to the Leisure Centre with excellent results. The event was very well attended and the performances from the children were outstanding. A big thank you to Janine Roach who worked extremely hard to coordinate and organise this event.

Our Mini Vinnies program continued to make a positive impact on the lives of a number of families within the community. 24 food and clothing hampers were delivered to families in need prior to the holidays. A number of students organised fundraising initiatives with proceeds raised going towards the work which will be carried out by the students in our Mini Vinnies group next year. Well done to the students who participated in activities such as tidying the sacred space at Mirima and delivering care packages to those in need. Thanks also to our families and friends who supported some of these initiatives by generously donating goods that were distributed to many people within the community. Well done to Debra Rocke and Sr Marcella for the work accomplished behind the scenes - particularly in making countless meals for a large number of very appreciative families. We look forward to extending upon the great work started by our Mini Vinnies group, and continuing our association with the Kununurra Aged Care Facility.

A big thank you to the members of the School Board and P & F Committee for attending meetings and working hard to achieve the best possible educational outcomes for students at St Joseph's. A special mention to Vin and Lisa Whyte who will be scaling back their involvement with the P & F in 2019. Events such as fundraising for school camp, the St Patrick's Quiz Night, School Fete and Christmas Concert were successful due to the tireless efforts of Vin and Lisa as well as the many other volunteers who assisted. We look forward to welcoming both new and familiar faces to our Board and P & F Committees next year. Thank you to Stephanie Hogan for coordinating our school banking program again in 2018, helping students to develop sound financial habits early on in life.

We enjoyed the opportunity to join with Kununurra District High School and welcome WA Governor Kim Beazley to Kununurra. Later in the year we also welcomed former Prime Minister Tony Abbott to our school. Mr Abbott toured the classrooms and was very impressed with the level of engagement he witnessed in each class.

### **Accountability**

During Term 4 we farewelled Kristen Burgess as our Outside School Hours Care Nominated Supervisor. We thank Kristen for the contribution she made at the OSH over the past 12 months and wish her all the best with her future endeavours. Ros Grace has stepped in to fill this role and will continue on as our Nominated Supervisor in 2019. We thank Ros and Ashleigh for the efforts they have gone to in making sure that our OSH remains a high quality service which is valued by the wider community.

It was pleasing to see further gains in our overall attendance for the year with students attending just under 75% all school days for 2018. Attendance will continue to be a strong focus for 2019 as we set our sights on achieving an average attendance percentage of 90% in the coming years.

### **Discipleship**

Thank you to Fr Joel and Fr James for the support provided to our school community over the course of the year. Whole School Masses, Sacramental celebrations and class liturgies were always events in which the students participated with great reverence. 6 of our senior students were also baptized on the Feast Day of St Joseph which was a terrific occasion for these students, their families and our school community. In 2019, we look forward to implementing 'Making Jesus Real' into our school. MJR will be 'the umbrella' sitting on top of the work students carry out during RE lessons. Students will follow the WEST acronym: W - welcome E - encourage others S - say sorry when needed T - say thank you.

We farewelled a number of other staff at the completion of the 2018 school year:

Meghan Donovan (Kindergarten), Melinda Monks (Yr 4/5 and Reading Recovery Teacher), Leah Allen (Sport Teacher) Tarma Neal (Pre-Primary Teaching Assistant), Emma-Lee Foy (ATA) and Janet O'Meara (Kindergarten ATA). Melinda has taken a 2 year secondment to work in the NT and will be returning to St Joseph's in 2021. After carrying out some relief work during the first 4 weeks of 2019, Leah Allen will be taking the rest of the year off as maternity leave. We thank these staff for the valuable contributions they have made to our school community during their time at St Joseph's and we wish them all the very best for the future.