

# Principal's Annual Report 2012

## Mission and Religious Education

Religious Education at St Joachim's School 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 *Prayer & Worship, Religious Identity & Culture, Social Action & Justice, and Evangelisation*. During 2012 a number of significant events took place. The Blessing and Opening of the new facilities and the construction of the St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Prayer Garden were two important events. The prayer garden has greatly improved the front entrance to the school and has provided a quiet place for prayer and reflection. This space is used weekly by staff and students.

During 2012 the following describes the school's achievements within the Mission and Religious Education dimension of the community:

- Participation in the Holland Park Mt Gravatt Sacramental Program – First Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist.
- Regular class prayer rituals.
- Social justice fundraising included: Project Compassion, Caritas, Biggest Morning Tea, Catholic Mission and *Books for PNG*.
- Students participated in Anzac Day ceremonies locally and at Anzac Square, Brisbane CBD.
- Liturgies and prayer rituals included:
  - Opening Year Mass, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week & Easter, Mothers' Day, Blessing of the BER Facilities, Feast of the Assumption, Anzac Day, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Feast Day and Grandparents' Day.
  - All Saints, Remembrance Day, Year 7 Graduation and End of Year liturgies to take place in Term 4.
- Year 4 and Year 5/6/7 students join the parish each week for Prayer of the Church. These same students attended weekly mass during Lent.
- Catholic Education Week activities with Our Lady's and Villanova students.
- Ngutana-Lui Visitors attended NAIDOC Day celebrations.

## Learning and Teaching

During 2012 the staff were involved in significant professional development opportunities to explore the Australian Curriculum. Of particular note was a literature review of the contemporary learning pedagogies and the development of a shared *Vision for Learning and Teaching*.

The *Reading to Learn Program* in Years 3 – 7 classes has been a significant outcome of teacher professional development and resourcing in 2012. 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, across all schools and classes, and among students from all backgrounds and ability ranges.

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

- Australian Curriculum Implementation – English, Maths, History and Science Curriculums.
- Years 3, 5 & 7 NAPLAN
- UNSW competitions
- Enrichment and Enhancement Action Plan (EEAP) and extension program included multi-year level literacy and maths groups.
- Yr 5 students attended the two day *KidsConnect IT Conference* at the PowerHouse Museum.
- Implemented Reading to Learn in the Year 3 – 7 classrooms.
- Used BCE's online Student Reporting System (SRS) to report student achievement.
- Year 5, 6 & 7 students attended school camp at Wildeco.
- Health and Physical Education:
  - Implemented a Sensory Motor Program (Learning Connections) & Perceptual Motor Program in the Prep classes.
  - Inter-school Sport included netball and league tag
  - Cross-country, swimming and athletics carnivals
  - Handball, skipping and goal-a-thon competitions
  - AFL and cricket clinics

### **Professional Practice and Collaborative Relationships**

An important development in 2012 has been the collaborative relationships the school has formed with occupational therapists, speech therapists, psychologists who assist students of all abilities to access the curriculum. The development of a *Student Support Team* made up of the Principal, Assistant Principal, Support Teacher Inclusive Education and Guidance Counsellor has ensured a consistent approach to working with external specialist agencies and agreed strategies align with school and BCE policy and procedures. The outcome of weekly Student Support Team meetings has been a far clearer process for the identification, monitoring and support of all students, especially those with specific learning needs.

Other significant achievements have been:

- In collaboration with parents developed *Individual Health Care Plans* for students with specific medical needs.
- Engage the school, parish and wider community in the Blessing and Opening Ceremony.
- Pastoral School Board assisted the School Principal to:
  - survey parents and plan for the application to increase St Joachim's Prep intake to two streams
  - review school policies and procedures
  - assist with the Master Plan for building and maintenance
  - examine budget expenditure
  - assisted the setting of 2013 school fees
- P&F assisted the school to:
  - build community spirit through a range of social events for students and parents
  - raise funds for the purchase of ICLTs
  - delivered an excellent fete
  - maintained excellent services in the Tuckshop & Uniform Shop
  - fitted out the new Tuckshop

On behalf of the school community I would like recognise the exceptional leadership of the outgoing P&F President, Ms Monica Hooper. Since arriving at St Joachim's in January 2011 I have found Monica to be extremely supportive of the school's vision and direction. There has been a strong and positive relationship between the P&F and school and I thank Monica for fostering this so well over the last two years.

### **Strategic Resourcing**

St Joachim's School is alive and well. In light of the growing student enrolments at St Joachim's it has been paramount the school has a clear strategy to manage the extra classes and staff. In early 2012 the school developed an *Education Brief* that set out the educational and pastoral directions for the school. A *Master School Facilities Plan* comprising of three stages was developed to ensure adequate resourcing, classrooms and general facilities are provided for the current and future students. The principal has worked closely with Sr Kari, Brisbane Catholic Education, the Pastoral School Board and the Archdiocesan Development Fund (The Bank) to ensure the school is in a financially viable position.

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:

- Fitting out of an extra Year 3 classroom with necessary resources.
- ICLTs purchased:
  - Purchased and received 1 interactive whiteboard, 6 iPads, 18 notebooks for students, 2 laptops for teachers and 2 printers
  - Plans to order more interactive data projectors, iPads and notebook computers
- Developed the St Joachim's 2013 – 2016 School Strategic Plan ready for consultation.
- Contemporary learning approaches informed the planning, design and use of facilities and furniture in Year 5 and Year 6/7 classrooms in 2013.

Chris Thomas

**Principal**

9 October 2012