Reporting on the 2014 School Year, 24 February 2015

ANNUAL SCHOOL PERFORMANCE REPORT & OVERVIEW

Our School is committed to sharing aspects of our school performance with the parent/carer community. All Catholic Schools are required to prepare an Annual Report on school performance for their parents and the community each year as a requirement of the Schools Assistance Act 2008. This requirement is additional to the publication by ACARA of data on the MySchool website. With this in mind, and with our commitment to providing you with information about our school, we are pleased to present this report to you.

As you read the following report I hope you can see that we have forged ahead over the past 12 months with many important initiatives that characterise ours as a progressive school and an exciting learning community—who clearly fostered in staff a belief in their own roles as leaders and gave them opportunities to exercise initiative and leadership themselves.

We have an exceptionally dedicated team of over 22 teachers, school officers and other support staff at St Joseph's. I'm confident that all parents join me in commending and thanking them for the outstanding work they do in education and for the very many ways in which they go “above and beyond” in the service of the school.

I would like to thank and congratulate the Parents and Friends Community, Buildings and Maintenance committee and the School Board for their outstanding dedication, commitment and support in 2014.

I thoroughly enjoyed 2014 and consider it a privilege and honour to serve the school community in my role as Principal.

Please see attached my report. In the event and risk that I may leave someone out, I have tried not to single out individuals as I value and appreciate the contributions of all members of our community.

Don DePalma
PRINCIPAL

Principal’s Annual Report:

St Joseph’s is a progressive school and is guided by a clear Development Plan. During 2014 we were mandated to introduce the Continuous Improvement Framework For Catholic Schools. We combined these two documents and after consultation with parents, staff and students we developed a comprehensive Strategic Plan which covers the years 2015-2017. This document, derived from our school’s Mission and Vision statements is a strategic framework that serves as a model and guide for our School Plan. This is organised under four Values which have been used in the structure of this annual report.

VALUE 1- EXPERIENCES INSPIRED BY FAITH:

St Joseph's Parish School strongly promotes the values and teachings of Jesus Christ in catering for the educational needs of all children from Reception to Year Seven. The school promotes educational excellence and develops the whole child in a caring, safe and welcoming environment. Support is provided by a wide range of people who are enthusiastic about making a difference to the development of each individual student. We encourage the growth of responsible behaviour
choices, and develop a sense of belonging in our community based upon values of trust and mutual respect.

During the year we were supported and guided by Bishop Greg O'Kelly SJ. Brenda Keenan immediately established her leadership style as Director of the Port Pirie Diocese and we welcomed Michael Preece as our Principal Consultant.

Our Religious Education identity continued to be a priority that underpins all we do at St Joseph’s Renmark. We farewelled Fr Steve who was posted to Pt Lincoln. I wish to sincerely thank Fr Steve for his wonderful support guidance and positive leadership. We thank him for his wonderful contribution to our Riverland Community. We then welcomed Fr Paul Bourke to our community and together with Fr Medard as a Parish Priest and Fr John Stuart James they established the foundations of our Parish connections. We established positive links with our local Parish which became complete when Bishop Greg proclaimed our combined parishes becoming a single parish to form the Our Lady Of The Riverland Catholic Parish.

During the year, the Diocese of Port Pirie officially launched our Diocesan Pastoral Plan 2014-2017. Bishop Greg O’Kelly SJ reminds us that we are the hands and feet of Christ; the mission of Jesus is to preach, to teach and to heal. We are all being invited to share our gifts and live this mission. Our Parish community, school and church were invited to work alongside one another as we implement the seven strategic directions.

Pope Francis continues to bring a fresh new vision and an overwhelming sense of optimism for Catholic Identity around the world.

We continued to support staff to provide experiences and meaningful memories through our Sacramental celebrations and programs, School Masses and Liturgies and our Religious Education curriculum.

This year we celebrated Catholic Education Week along with the other 12 Catholic schools in the Port Pirie Diocese which included approximately 4200 students. The aim was to promote the distinctive mission of Catholic schools throughout our diocese. The week was celebrated through a range of activities, liturgies and events. Catholic Education Week was a special opportunity for our schools to celebrate and share the great things we are doing with school, parish and wider communities.

During the year we acknowledged the Centenary of the St Therese Catholic Church. This was a wonderful celebration which brought together parish and school. The attendance of large numbers at Mass and at school highlighted the rich community spirit that is present in Renmark. We wish to thank all parishioners, staff, parents, and students who supported the day and the many people that helped in any way. We look forward to a more formal celebration early this year.

We were very active in promoting social justice issues and providing support to the needy with outreach programs. We participated in a number of projects including supporting Caritas, Mini Vinnies, Cardboard Box Sleep Out, Shoe Boxes of Love, Mary Mackillop Foundation, Meals On Wheels, St Vincent de Paul Society and Salvation Army.

We were proud to take part in the annual CARITAS appeal during Lent. We proved to be a very giving and generous school which was highlighted by our efforts with Project Compassion raising $2000, St Vincent de Paul $2100 and the Eva Wheatly Charity project which raised $1000. Finally we worked with Fr Medard and sent a number of Baby Beanies for the children in Zambia. This all helps foster an attitude in our whole community to help those in need.
VALUE 2 – STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS:

As a self-proclaimed Relational School, one of the many joys of being a Principal is witnessing and sharing special events and moments with families, students and staff. During 2014 I wish to acknowledge our Welcome Night, Class Masses and School Liturgies, St Joseph’s/Harmony Day Volunteers/Open Day, Italian Day, Father’s Day Breakfast, Book Week, Sports Day, SAPSASA involvement and Catholic Education Week. All of these days exceeded expectations. Among many of our other activities they were truly significant GRACE moments for our whole school which clearly highlighted that we are a living and active community that is continually growing through the work and partnership of all parents, students, staff and community members. A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of these days.

The Year 7s were promoted as School Leaders with their involvement in Mini Vinnies, Sports Days and Challenge Cup and were visible in our community by participating in Anzac Day and Remembrance Day services. We participated in the Young Environmental Leaders (YEL) forums as part of the NRM Education Program that included attending gatherings with students from other schools and discussed sustainability projects or issues.

There was also Premier’s Reading Challenge and community activities including Aged Care Visits, Class Working Bees, Class Excursions and Outings, School Visitors and Performances, Clean Up Australia Day and Walk Safely to School Day.

We all witnessed a very special occasion when our Active Outdoor Learning Area and Wall Mural was officially opened by Minister Geoff Brock. I congratulate and thank our whole community who should be so proud of what we have achieved. Again, I was filled with so much pride as I was joined by wonderful parents, students and staff. This was a significant community event which highlighted the strong partnerships between our school and the wider community.

I wish to thank and acknowledge the outstanding effort and contribution of the committee and members of our Parents and Friends Community. In 2014 they organised many successful events highlighted by our Quiz Night and Pamper Night. They are a wonderful group of our school that contributed to the positive community spirit that was experienced. All parents who have come forward and taken an active role in supporting the school need to be acknowledged. The many activities and events throughout the year helped all parents value the school, and to stand aside and re-evaluate areas of importance. The successes of 2014 can be attributed to the wonderful partnership that has been created with the school staff, general committee and the wider community.

The hope for 2015 is that even more parents will be welcomed into the P&F community to share the bond and sense of belonging within the school and help make a positive difference for the education of the children at St Joseph’s.

VALUE 3 – DEVELOPING EXEMPLARY LEARNING OPPORTUNITES:

As always the “learning” of our students was our focus. We continued to have high expectations of discipline, and together with our Catholic Faith, provided meaningful life lessons. Our mantra of RESPECT, SAFETY, LEARNING and TRUST was constantly reinforced as we continued to promote our school values.

We have continued to review our teaching methods and maintained our momentum with a change in school culture and educational reform. We continue to question and reflect on how we work and structure the classroom, the learning opportunities we give students and the shift in mindset of “It’s not what we are teaching, it’s what the students are learning”.

We have continued to learn so much as a staff and we are very excited to continue with our “21st
Century Learning" methods. We continue to evolve and focus on whole school culture and attitude. With this, parents have embraced and supported the number of changes with the way things are being done in the classrooms - they look different, students work with Learning Agreements, Discovery Time and Inquiry Based activities, the ongoing philosophy of THRASS in our English program and with Mathematics being more hands on and open-ended. Overall this style of learning aims to enhance problem solving and critical thinking skills. We have shifted from the traditional style of teaching and learning. Staff are working as teams and a whole school approach has been established with consistent philosophies and practices. We are going to continue with our positive shift in teaching and learning styles which will best meet the needs of our students. The changes we have made have been based on contemporary research and observations of best practice of other schools. The changes are also supported by research from the world’s leading education reformists such as Sir Ken Robinson. Our overall goal is to educate for the future and to provide opportunities for the children of today. I need to again acknowledge the fantastic efforts, commitment, dedication and support shown by all our staff. They continue to be challenged with the increasing demands and expectations but their willingness and professionalism has been outstanding.

We are a proud KidsMatter school which believes that the social and emotional needs of children are equally as important as their academic needs. Basically children learn best if they are happy and feel safe. Together with our Mark Le Messurier Social Skills Program we have established a positive wellbeing focus. I wish to thank and acknowledge the KidsMatter Action Team for their ongoing commitment to this very important framework for our school.

One of the most significant events of the year was certainly the end of year Concert. As I addressed the whole community, the sight of the crowd before me captured what St Joseph’s School is all about. Staff, parents and students coming together as one, where school and family have worked together in the tradition of Saint Mary of the Cross Mackillop. I must sincerely thank all parents, carers, community members, businesses and students who volunteered their time, provided donations and helped with organisation. The night exceeded all expectations and I must also acknowledge our wonderful staff. We are very fortunate to have wonderful staff who are willing to ‘go the extra mile’ for our students, providing them with a full and varied enrichment program.

We were very fortunate to have acclaimed book author, Ali Gray, visit our school. She provided all our students with fantastic reading workshops which were engaging and meaningful. Our Year 3/4 students were guided through their project and were treated to the most amazing real life and meaningful learning opportunity. I wish to express and share my sincere gratitude and thanks to all staff, parents and community members who helped in any way. What was again evident was the true community spirit that was alive and well in our school. This was a wonderful experience for our students and staff.

We were excited to have Australian Hockeyroo player, Karri McMahon, visit our school to speak with the students about her recent success at the World Hockey Championships. Karri highlighted how she was touched and inspired by letters received from Mr Reeks’ 3/4 class encouraging her to do her best and wishing her good luck for the competition.

The introduction of the Single Intake enrolment process introduced in 2014 proved very successful for our school. St Joseph’s continues to strive for excellence in all that we do. The feedback from the parents whose children were in the Reception transition stage indicated that St Joseph’s enjoys an excellent reputation in the wider community and that they were very pleased with our Transition Program. During the program we initiated Kindergarten visits by our Year 6 students who will became the buddies of our new Reception students. This proved very successful and will be extremely beneficial during the Transition Program. We thank Gale Hanson (Director) and the wonderful staff at Renmark Children’s Centre who made the visit so successful. It is affirming, as
Principal, to know that what we do with children and young people to improve their learning and wellbeing is effective. With 42 students starting in 2015 and already having 26 enrolment applications for 2016, we have a bright and secure future.

We consolidated our whole school direction with Teaching and Learning and continued with our One Note Data Tracking Tool. We have set this up to record, analyse and monitor student progress. We have established a profile of each student and track their progress during their time at St Joseph’s.

The most important consideration when initiating change with culture and learning is the positive support and relationship of parents/carers. For change to be successful we all need to be working as one. This is certainly the case at St Joseph’s and I must acknowledge and thank a wonderful parents/carers community for their support, encouragement and endorsement.

We continued to share our learning and celebrate successes in positive and meaningful ways including our outstanding coloured Newsletters, student centered Assemblies and Star Student Awards. Together with our interactive and engaging Konnective App, we provide many opportunities to communicate and share with our community about the many wonderful elements of our fantastic school.

**VALUE 4 – RESPONSIBLE USE OF RESOURCES:**

We continued to take pride in our school surrounds, buildings and resources and worked hard at maintaining high standards. Ongoing oval and school maintenance, regular computer and technology upgrades and general painting and cleaning were all completed during the year. We believe that these developments provide a positive environment that will ultimately enhance learning outcomes.

I am very proud of our financial management that has allowed us to provide excellent resources for our children and families. We have strategically budgeted our funding from State and Federal Governments and have continued to maintain a healthy overall balance. We are mindful and cautious moving forward especially with the effects of the Single Intake enrolment procedure.

Communication with our community continues to be an important focus at St Joseph’s and we are pleased with the success of Konnective, our new mobile app. Our aim is to have more families access this effective and visual form of communication. Together with our engaging newsletter, website, SMS ability, school sign, noticeboard and regular class notes we truly provide many opportunities for families to be kept informed.

I wish to thank all members of our Buildings and Maintenance Committee who willingly contribute to ongoing requirements around our school. Nothing is ever a trouble for them and they have been so valuable over many years. They are very proud to have the school in a manageable state that requires minimal attention from them. It is because of all their hard work in the past that we can enjoy the excellent environment we have today.

We continued to offer extra services of support to our community through our Centacare Counseling services which again proved extremely valuable to many of our families.

We also committed to our Allied Health approach to accessing services at our school. During the year we were fortunate to again have Occupational Therapists and Speech Pathologists on our site. The overall aim was to establish a whole school approach that would up-skill our staff and develop a sustainable structure to support our Special Education Program. This model of support has been very successful and allows us to professionally work through the needs of all our students.
SUMMARY

I wish to offer my best wishes to Tom Knauer who won a position in Loxton Lutheran School, Mat Haslett who has won a position in Adelaide and Rachel McLeod who is taking maternity leave. I acknowledge their contributions to our community.

Whilst it is important to acknowledge the challenges, changes and new initiatives that have taken place in 2014, it is also important to talk about the daily interaction of administration staff, teachers and students that is at the heart of the education process. It is the everyday work of our staff that makes St. Joseph’s Parish School a great learning place. I thank them for their understanding, patience and professionalism that they show. I believe that this community is fortunate and blessed in having a team of highly professional, committed and caring staff who give diligently of themselves in the interest of Catholic Education. I believe that I too, have been blessed to be able to lead such a community.

As I reflect and review, a true sense of pride, satisfaction and accomplishment has been felt. I can’t speak highly enough of each of you as members of the St Joseph’s School Community. Our support for each other and the care for the students have been evident by all. We have all demonstrated a genuine respect and responsibility for what it means to be involved in a Catholic School.

I sincerely thank you all for your support, commitment, respect and dedication throughout this entire year. I have embraced and enjoyed 2014 as a Principal only because of the fantastic team that has been around me. I feel very privileged to be part of this amazing community.

In this Annual Report, I draw attention to the following information which provides more detail about our school profile, events, programs and activities from 2014.

School Profile:

Introduction
St Joseph’s school has a proud history beginning in 1918 with a pioneering work of the sisters of St Joseph. We are a Catholic parish school which continues to value the Josephite tradition of learning and spiritual ideals. The Catholic environment is central to our school. We offer a nurturing community where children will be valued and respected, God is named and recognised and gospel values are lived out in daily life.

The Socio Economic Score for St Joseph’s is 87.0.

Student Profile
The following information describes our student body totaling 198 students in 2014:

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<td>28</td>
<td>24</td>
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Indigenous students: 3
Students from families with background in languages other than English: 21

Student Attendance
The average student attendance rate for the school during 2014 was 94.6%. School attendance rates by term are shown in the following table:

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<tr>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th>Term 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>95%</td>
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Student attendance rates per year level are shown below:

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<th>YEAR 1</th>
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<th>YEAR 3</th>
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<td>REC</td>
<td>93%</td>
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Parents are required to provide a written explanation for any student absences, as well as having the opportunity to contact the school office by phone. There are well-established school practices in place that require staff to follow up any unexplained absences. Each year a number of our students travel interstate and overseas for extended periods of time to visit relatives.

**Staff Profile**

Our staff consisted of:

- Teaching staff: 16 teachers making up 12.9 FTE
- ESO staff: 9 ESOs making up 4.8 FTE

**Teacher Attendance and Retention Rates**

The average teacher attendance rate during 2014 was 97%. This figure does not include teachers on planned long service leave or maternity leave.

The teacher retention rate from 2013 to 2014 was 95%.

**Professional Learning**

All staff have been engaged in professional learning throughout the year. Much of this learning has been completed on pupil free days, however, there are times when teachers are absent from the classroom to engage in professional learning.

The major professional learning initiatives engaged in were:

- RE and Spirituality
- Thrass Professional Learning
- Development of Curriculum Learning Areas
- Australian Curriculum - Integration
- Wellbeing through the Kids Matter and “What’s The Buzz” Social Skills Program

All staff at St Joseph’s School are appropriately qualified, many of them being equipped with postgraduate qualifications. Several staff are currently studying for Graduate Certificates in Catholic Education.

The following applies:

- Bachelor of Education – 68%
- Diploma of Teaching - 13%
- Grad Dip Education - 13%
- Masters of Teaching - 7%
- Grad Cert - 33%

In 2014 we will continue to encourage all staff to engage in Professional Learning.

**Faith and Spirituality:**

The School Leadership Team and the staff have continued their outstanding ministry within the School, supported by Fr Steve and Father Medard who provided outstanding ministry within the liturgical and spiritual life of St Joseph’s School. Their friendship and support enable us to build a vibrant faith community for our students. During the year several students celebrated the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation and Eucharist.

All members of our community participate in daily prayer in the classroom, regular whole school Masses and other major liturgical events such as Mary, Mother of God’s Birthday, St Joseph’s...
Feast Day, St Mary Of The Cross Feast Day, Ash Wednesday, Assumption and Remembrance Day celebrations.

We continue to use the Crossways and Made in the Image of God programs to develop Religious Education programs and appreciate the support of parents on focus groups associated with these programs.

At a whole school level and at each year level we continue our ‘outreach’ programs with the students being involved in raising funds for Caritas (through Project Compassion), Catholic Charities, St Vincent de Paul Mini Vinnies and the Mary MacKillop Foundation.

**Learning:**

Curriculum is defined as all that is planned by a school and it is the formal curriculum that remains our core work at St Joseph’s School. This year, staff used the Australian Curriculum for planning in all Curriculum areas. There is still more development of the curriculum to be undertaken but, when finalised, it will give more specific guidance to what should be the minimum content required at a specific year level.

Our Years 3, 5 and 7 students undertook the NAPLAN testing in Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy. The overall picture for the past three years is illustrated below and comparisons with like schools can be accessed on the My School website provided by the Federal Government.

**NAPLAN Analysis Year Three students 2014:**

**Summary:**
This was the first experience in NAPLAN for year three students and their results were mostly as expected. The year three group consisted of 22 students, with 20 students sitting all NAPLAN tests. Each student therefore held a weighting of 5% in each of the portions of the NAPLAN. In comparison to the 2013 NAPLAN results, a decrease of one unit can be seen in the Mean Scores as Proficiency Band (MSPB) for Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy. Reading and Writing have both remained the same. Other data that needs to be considered when looking at these results includes reading level of participants, learning needs students’ ability to participate unaided, and the lack of experience of the year 3 students of a test format.

**NAPLAN Analysis Year Five students 2014:**

**Summary:**
The year five group consisted of 24 students, with 22 students sitting all portions of the NAPLAN. Four of these students are on adaptive education plans. Each student held a weighting of 4.55% in all portions of the NAPLAN. In comparison to the 2013 NAPLAN results, a decrease of one unit can be seen in the Mean Scores as Proficiency Band (MSPB) occurred in Reading, Spelling and Grammar and Punctuation, down from a six to a five. In Writing and Numeracy the Mean Scores as Proficiency Band (MSPB) stayed the same at 5. This cohort experienced our lowest Year 3 NAPLAN scores two years ago and the results are indicative of this.

Their individual progress has been encouraging. 78% of year 5 students showed medium to high progress in Reading and 79% of year 5 students showed medium to high progress in Numeracy – which indicates students have progressed more rapidly in general between testing in year 3 and year 5 in comparison to all students Australia wide. Other data that needs to be considered when looking at these results includes reading level of participants, learning needs students’ ability to participate unaided and the difference in curriculum that occurs state to state.

**NAPLAN Analysis Year Seven students 2014:**
Summary:
The year seven group consisted of 30 students, with 29 students sitting all portions of the NAPLAN. Each student therefore held a weighting of 3.44% in all portions of the NAPLAN. Three students are on IEPs and a further two are adaptive education students. In comparison to the 2013 NAPLAN results an increase occurred in the Mean Scores as Proficiency Band (MSPB) in Reading and Grammar and Punctuation, up from 6 to 7. Spelling, Writing and Numeracy Mean Scores as Proficiency Band (MSPB) were stable.

88% of year 7 students showed medium to high progress in Reading and 100% of year 7 students showed medium to high progress in Numeracy – which indicates students are developing at a very good rate in between testing in year 5 and year 7.

Overall Analysis of St. Joseph’s School Renmark 2014 NAPLAN results

Year 3:
Reading:
86% of students achieved above the National Minimum Standard, with 80% achieving band 3 and above and 55% achieving band 5 or above. Students struggled most with understanding Narrative texts and achieved best with Information texts. Although overall our average was below the National Average, removing the bottom 3 students’ scores results in our average being well above the National Average.

Writing:
95% of students achieved above the National Minimum Standard, with 90% achieving band 3 and above. Students struggle the most with the text structure and paragraphing. It has been reported that this year’s writing was very difficult compared with previous years and this is reflected in our school average. Although overall our average was below the National Average, removing the bottom 3 students’ scores results in our average being above the state average and comparable to the National Average.

Spelling:
91% of students achieved above the National Minimum Standard, with 80% achieving band 3 and above. Although overall our average was below the National Average, removing the bottom 3 students’ scores results in our average being comparable to the State Average. We are confident that the use of THRASS will show improvement across the school in this area.

Grammar and punctuation:
91% of students achieved above the National Minimum Standard, with 75% achieving band 3 and above. Although overall our average was below the National Average, removing the bottom 3 students’ scores results in our average being comparable to the State Average.

Numeracy:
100% of students achieved above the National Minimum Standard, with 75% achieving above band 3. Although overall our average was below the National Average, removing the bottom 3 students’ scores results in our average being above the State Average and comparable to the National Average. Space was an area of strength, while Measurement, Chance and Data is an area in which improvement is needed.

Year 5:
Reading:
92% of students achieved above the National Minimum Standard, with 73% achieving band 5 and above. Students struggled most with understanding Narrative texts and achieved best with Information texts. Although overall our average was below the National Average, removing the bottom 3 students’ scores results in our average being comparable to the State Average. Students struggled most with understanding Narrative texts and achieved best with Information texts.

Writing:
83% of students achieved above the National Minimum Standard, with 78% achieving band 5 and above. Students struggle the most with ideas for their persuasive writing and vocabulary. It has been reported that this year’s writing was very difficult compared with previous years and this is...
reflected in our school average. Although overall our average was below the National Average, removing the bottom 3 students’ scores results in our average being above the state average and comparable to the State Average.

**Spelling:**
100% of students achieved above the National Minimum Standard, with 82% achieving band 5 and above. Although overall our average was below the National Average, removing the bottom 3 students’ scores results in our average being comparable to the State Average.

**Grammar and punctuation:**
79% of students achieved above the National Minimum Standard, with 59% achieving band 5 and above. This is an area that this cohort struggled with in the Year 3 test and an area which still needs more attention for these students.

**Numeracy:**
92% of students achieved above the National Minimum Standard, with 78% achieving band 5 and above. Algebra, Function and Patterning was an area of strength, while Measurement, Chance and Data is an area in which improvement is needed. Although overall our average was below the National Average, removing the bottom 3 students’ scores results in our average being comparable to the State Average.

**Year 7:**

**Reading:**
100% of students achieved above the National Minimum Standard, with 62% achieving band 7 and above. Students showed good results in Information and Narrative texts. Students showed greatest weakness in Poetry texts. Our school average was well above the State and National Average in all areas of the reading assessment.

**Writing:**
83% of students achieved above the National Minimum Standard, with 31% achieving band 7 and above. This was the area of greatest struggle for this cohort. It has been reported that this year’s writing was very difficult compared with previous years and this is reflected in our school average. Spelling and Sentence Structure were areas of greatest strength. Vocabulary was the area that needs the most improvement.

**Spelling:**
97% of students achieved above the National Minimum Standard, with 69% achieving band 7 and above. Spelling results showed a positive result when students were told what word to correct, with most students performing above average. When students had to identify the incorrectly spelt word they had more difficulty, particularly with three and four syllable words. Our school average was well above the State and National Average.

**Grammar and punctuation:**
93% of students achieved above the National Minimum Standard, with 55% achieving band 7 and above. Although overall our average was slightly below the National Average, removing the bottom 3 students’ scores results in our average being above the State and National Average.

**Numeracy:**
100% of students achieved above the National Minimum Standard, with 62% achieving band 7 and above. Although overall our average was slightly below the National Average, we were above the State Average, and removing the bottom 3 students’ scores results in our average being above the National Average. The strand of Space showed the greatest average ability and the strands of Measurement, Chance and Data and more complex and abstract Number questions need to be given more attention in Mathematics as these were the areas identified as having greatest need.

#### Year 3

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<td>2014</td>
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#### Year 5

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<th>Grammar and Punctuation</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Again in 2014, St Joseph’s students participated in the Riverland Combined Choir with choir members from Years 4, 5, 6 and 7. We also held our end of year Concert and participated in community events such as Carols in the Garden.

A major goal in 2014 was to support as many students as possible to participate in and enjoy sport and cultural activities in our Extra-Curricular program. This year our individual and collective successes have been numerous and while we have been delighted at these successes, we have been particularly proud of the positive sporting attitude shown by our students which was highlighted in SAPSASA involvement.

St Joseph’s School delivers far more than the standard curriculum. Students in 2014 participated in fundraising activities for a number of charities and were involved in co-curricular programs with other district schools which included sport carnivals, the performing arts, camps and leadership camps.

Students were given numerous opportunities to reach out and support those in need with the school’s involvement in Project Compassion, Catholic Missions, Caritas and St Vincent de Paul.

As a Catholic school we have continued to focus on opportunities to evangelise. The older students were involved in a Leadership Program culminating in a workshop day, Young Leaders Forums with other schools and a camp at Woodhouse in the Adelaide hills.

Recognition of individuals and groups occurs at Parents and Friends meetings and through the newsletter. We also acknowledge the following:-
1. Class Assemblies are held every three weeks.
2. Celebrations and achievements are also a focus of these assemblies.
3. Student leaders/school captains have held various roles this year including: welcoming and taking visitors and new enrolment families and children on tours, public speaking and, participating on behalf of the school community at invited and sporting events. All students are encouraged to
have a go and are trained and supported to prepare and present, especially in school and class Masses.
4. Community responsibilities are shared amongst students; watering plants, care of resources and care of sports equipment are all weekly tasks for which students of all ages are responsible.
5. Students initiatives are encouraged. Proposals are prepared and presented to staff for consideration. eg. Year Seven student t-shirts, Challenge Cup activities and fundraising activities.

**Programmes:** Reading Recovery, Rainbow Reading.
**Catholic Culture:** Liturgies, Masses, Retreats.
**Arts:** Easter Plays, School Performances, Private Instrumental instruction of piano and guitar.
**Extra Curricular:** Sports events, Young Leaders Day, Excursions, Harmony Day, UNI NSW Competitions, Camps.

Many of our learning activities were able to be shared with parents during welcome evenings, open days, assemblies, parent-teacher interviews as well as informal meetings between parents and teachers. We will continue to open our school and classrooms to others with many visitors from other schools, and the Catholic Education Office of SA, coming to observe learning in action at St Joseph's. They are always very complimentary of our learning and wellbeing initiatives.

In 2014 St Joseph's was involved in a range of national competitions particularly in the areas of literacy, numeracy, science and ICT.

**Wellbeing:**
Wellbeing is a key strength of the St Joseph’s community. The level of care, concern and genuine love members of the community have shown towards one another has been outstanding. This is no more clearly witnessed than amongst our staff that go way above and beyond the call of duty to pastorally care for our students and families.

Wellbeing is integral to the learning process and a learner will engage readily with their learning when they are in an optimum state of wellbeing. In 2014 we have a lot to celebrate in this area focusing on continuing to build a positive school community that is inclusive of all and where ‘every face has a place’. KidsMatter is an initiative designed to improve the mental health and wellbeing of our students as well as provide greater support for any students experiencing mental health difficulties. A structured and consistent Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) program has been implemented across the school from R-7. This has allowed for staff and students to use consistent language and phrases when dealing with issues relating to Social and Emotional Learning. These programs have been supported by teachers, school counselor, and ESOs. We also continue to work in partnership with families and members of the wider community in order to support students.

**Parent Survey**
During Semester 2 of 2014 a Parent Satisfaction Survey and a KidsMatter Parent Survey were distributed and the results were collated. These surveys are part of our reporting requirements for the Learning Assistant Act (2004). Parents were invited to reflect on the level of satisfaction with school activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Dissatisfied</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
<th>Very Satisfied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The standard of Catholicity expressed in the school</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The opportunity to meet teachers</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The educational focus</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Communication</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Community Activities</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progress of Child</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The school has a fantastic community atmosphere. Everyone is made to feel welcome.
The parent involvement on many levels was fantastic! The activities offered as Community
Events are inclusive and welcoming.
I love how all students, religious or not, are taught to respect themselves and others to
become good people.
“Child’s Name” teachers are very approachable and make themselves available to talk to
when needed.
Lots of fantastic and various opportunities to learn.
Really enjoy Konnective as a working parent, as it allows me to view their day.
Since the introduction of SMS and Konnective I feel even more informed. I hope the school
diary continues to be used as a communication tool.
The new report format was easy to understand and informative.
We love seeing work and progress that is being done.
Welcome night was good but a little rushed.
My kids have had a range of positive learning experiences.

Staff Survey
During Semester 2 of 2014 a Staff Survey was distributed and the results were collated. This
survey is part of our reporting requirements for the Learning Assistant Act (2004). Staff were
invited to reflect on the level of satisfaction with school activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I like coming to work at St Joseph’s School Renmark.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am growing as a professional at St Joseph’s Renmark.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am kept informed about decisions that are made.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel comfortable approaching colleagues with questions or problems.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel valued and respected at our school</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff has access to a variety of Professional Learning opportunities.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student Survey
During Semester 2 of 2014 a Student Satisfaction Survey was completed by all students and the
results were collated. This survey is part of our reporting requirements for the Learning Assistant
Act (2004). Students were invited to reflect on the level of satisfaction with school activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reception –Year 2</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Statement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel safe and happy with my teachers</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My teachers care about me</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If I have a problem I can talk to my teacher</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I like St Joseph’s</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have friends that care about me</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year's 3-7</td>
<td>Never</td>
<td>Not Often</td>
<td>Sometimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My teachers help me do my best</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers treat students fairly</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The school is well maintained and looks nice</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I like coming to St Joseph’s</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Joseph’s always tries to improve</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students at St Joseph’s are friendly and welcoming</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Resources Management:**

Enrolments at St Joseph’s remain consistent which has allowed our funding to continue to resource our school to provide the best education and care for our students. Mrs Karen Trenwith and the Finance Committee are to be commended on their management of resources.

**School Income:**

Broken down by funding source:

- School fee income $175,182
- Other/Private income $162,419
- State Government Recurrent Grant $400,672
- Australian Government Recurrent Grant $1,410,448

**Total Recurrent Income** $2,148,721

- Capital fee Income $19,341
- Total Capital Income $25,750

**Total Income** $2,193,812

**Community Participation and Public Relations:**

We acknowledge the collective student body of St Joseph’s as a vibrant, energetic group of students who bring us much pride and joy. It is a pleasure to see so many of them trying each day to be the best person they can be. Thank you to the families of our School. The support of our parents and carers is greatly valued and appreciated. I especially acknowledge all those who have helped in numerous ways throughout the year in classes, on excursions, during class activities, at school celebrations and events and at various fundraising activities.

The P&F and School Board members work hard at building community. We thank Emma Warner and the P&F community, Kieran Johnson (chair of School Board) and Louis Curtis (chair of Buildings and Maintenance) for their untiring efforts to ensure ‘things happen’ at St Joseph’s.

We need to continue to work together to support the development of our students and community.
The staff at St Joseph’s is an outstanding and committed group who spare no effort in working to provide the very best for our students. It is an honour to be a staff member in this school and I thank each and every staff member for their work throughout the year.

Please find the following reports:

- Report from President
- Report from Chair of School Board
- Report from Chair of Parents and Friends
- Report from Work, Heath & Safety
- Report from Student Leaders

Don DePalma
Principal
24 February 2015

President’s Report:

After twenty-two years of richly blessed and active ministry in the Port Pirie Diocese I was given the graced opportunity to have a time of rest and renewal during a five month sabbatical during the second half of 2014. It has been an amazing and exciting journey; the chance to realise a long-term dream of honouring, in print, the life of my great mate and mentor, Fr. Bill Edwards.

One of the fruits of these months is a Desk Calendar containing one of Fr. Bill’s spiritual treasures for each day of the year. I simply want to share with you a few of these treasures for your personal reflection and as nourishment and encouragement for your own journey as you begin a new year of life and learning at St. Joseph’s School, Renmark.

For Parents
You know the secret your children need … LOVE them whatever. Become expert at that! Challenging the young to love God and give to others is a massive task. But we should never tire in our efforts.
Be a ‘listening’ ear for the young … help them to talk out their hurts and fears.
May you find ways and opportunities to increase the faith of your children.
The most important thing that the parents of the young, who have gone off the tracks can do, is to continue to show lots of signs of love.

For Teachers
Sow seeds of goodness and holiness in the heads and hearts of the young. When talking to the young use words that build up the confidence they need to have in themselves, in God and in their family.
When you get the chance, pray often for young people. Their needs are many.

For the Young
Your mum and dad must have been made of fantastic stuff to have produced you. Battles rage about whose turn it is to do the dishes. But dishes are a constant reminder to be grateful for our daily bread.
Be a friend to everyone and especially to anyone who doesn’t seem to be getting a fair go.
Be aware of the dangers of ‘bad company’. Our lives are in many respects a reflection of the company we keep.

There have been many highlights in 2014. The Fund My Idea Project was an energetic community initiative and has resulted in several fantastic additions to the School in the interactive outdoor learning area and mural.
As a Parish Community our region has embraced a new model of pastoral care with the formation of the Our Lady of the River Parish in August. Our St. Therese of the Child Jesus Church celebrated its ninetieth anniversary. Might I record my gratitude to everyone who has been part of the rich story and grace-filled journey of St. Joseph’s School, Renmark in 2014. I am especially grateful to Mr. Don DePalma for his outstanding leadership of our School during these past four years. Might I also congratulate Mrs. Susan Frawley on her appointment as Assistant Principal, Religious Identity and Mission for 2015. This marks my tenth and last year ministering in the Riverland. It has been a joy and an immense privilege to spend such a length of time amongst you. Your prayers, support, care and friendship have been special gifts in my life. I commend to you Fr. Paul Bourke who has been appointed as the new Parish Priest of Our Lady of the River Parish. May our Lord richly bless our School Community and your families in the year that lies ahead and may our patrons, St. Joseph, St. Mary of the Cross and St. Therese inspire our efforts to lead the young to know and love Jesus.

Fr. Stephen Ardill
Moderator, Riverland Catholic Parishes
16 January 2015

Chairperson’s Board Report:

It is again a great pleasure for me to present my Chairperson’s report on behalf of the school board for St Joseph’s School 2014.

St Joseph’s School has had another excellent year building on the foundations of quality Catholic Education whilst working in partnership with staff and parents.

This year saw the inaugural implementation of the new national Standard of single intake which gave the School Board and staff challenges to enable a smooth transition of students, teaching staff and other resources, and to remain fiscally responsible with the changes that this new model would bring. Directly relating to the impact that single intake will have on the current funding model. As a result of both the board and staff efforts, this has been well planned for and was adapted with success.

21st Century Learning continues to be a focus across the school, with the teaching staff developing resources to assist with this. There has also been some minor building works that has complemented this learning style, opening up classrooms to create dynamic learning spaces.

The literacy program THRASS is also continuing across the school with benefits of a school wide program being evident. Other good academic achievements are also being seen in line with the Australian Curriculum.

2014 also saw recognition for Mr Reeks’ efforts with Academy Award Winner Mr Dean Semmler by being named ‘Event of the Year’ by the Renmark & Paringa Council at the Australia Day award ceremony. Mr Reeks continued this trend by getting children’s author Ali Gray to also visit the school children.

Fund My Idea got the entire school community together to get a small idea out of imagination and into reality with fantastic results. This was personally opened by Minister Geoff Brock late in the school year.
KidsMatter has again been busy with continued education of staff and students, focusing on the wellbeing of our students. This year has also seen the implementation of several KidsMatter awards which get presented at assembly. These awards are nominated and driven by the students. The KidsMatter action team consists of – Tony Luxton, Amy Thompson, Chantel Johnson & Sharlene Martin.

The entire school environment is again looking fantastic with great assistance from the Building Grounds and Maintenance Committee and other school community members, with plans in the pipe work for future developments. Special thanks must go to the unseen countless hours that both Kym Binder and Louis Curtis provide in this area.

The Parents and Friends Community has again been productive, continually working hard and holding their very successful school events. Special mention to Mikalya Luxton, Emma Warner, Sarah Haslett, Larissa Bright and the entire P&F community.

I also need to acknowledge the incredible work that both Jeff McDonald and Karen Trenwith do with regards to our school’s budget and finance.

In concluding, I would like to thank my fellow board members for their ongoing contributions and efforts over the last year, and also to the sub committee’s that work tirelessly in the background to keep St Joseph’s moving forward.

The St Joseph’s school board and staff continue to look for ways to give our students experiences inspired by faith, develop positive relationships with families and continue to develop exemplary learning opportunities.

Many Thanks.

Kieran Johnson
Chairperson
February 2015

Parents & Friends Report:

The P & F have had a very rewarding year contributing significantly towards supporting the school to make St Joseph’s Renmark the best place for our children to learn and grow.

Parent and community support for St Josephs has continued to build with all school events well attended and amazingly a $20,000 Fund My Idea State Government grant was won via a community voting process. This money was used to paint a wonderful outdoor learning area and magnificent wall mural project which a group of parents helped to design and manage.

It is fantastic to see so many parents and carers willing to help support their child’s school in a variety of ways and a huge thank you goes to everyone who has put up their hand and contributed in some way. The welcome night, quiz night, shared lunches celebrating significant days, open day, ‘coffee and chat’ mornings, father’s day breakfast, ladies pamper night and end of year raffle and concert were all particularly successful and resulted in some fun celebrations, a good amount of funds raised and relationships developed and strengthened.

The P&F fundraised over $5,000 in 2014 predominantly from the PCCU Community Lottery, a strongly supported and fun quiz night, and end of year raffle and concert. These funds were directed back into the school community via the purchase of garden club equipment, hot cross buns, postage expenses for 40 shoeboxes of love, the online footy tipping competition prizes, welcome gifts of children’s bibles and cards for new students and free BBQ dinners and food for
the various events held. Each of the 9 classes were given $100 to spend on Christmas celebrations and in 2015, each class gets $200 to research, plan and budget for a proposed class purchase.

Another significant undertaking of the P&F was the organisation and planning of a playgroup at the school for current families with preschool children. This wonderful addition to the school will commence in term 1 2015 and has been made possible by the volunteering of current parents Emma Warner and Julie Slagter to run it.

A special thank you goes to the P&F committee for their decision to contribute to the school in that manner and especially to Adrian Hunt for his donated time and expertise in designing and building a chicken coop, and Emma Warner for her fabulous organisational and secretarial efforts.

*Sarah Haslett*
For the P&F Committee
December 2014

**Work, Health & Safety Report:**

Catholic Safety, Health & Welfare SA implemented a new on-line Task Manager to simplify and streamline the duties, procedures and responsibilities of WHS Co-ordinators. Once again, Jayne Ryan, WHS Consultant from Adelaide CEO provided support and advice when required.

New staff were inducted and brought up to date with trainings, policies and procedures. Risk Assessments were conducted for the numerous and varied school activities that take place on our school grounds. Emergency Fire Drills and Lock In Procedures continue to be practiced and implemented along with reporting of any Risks, Hazards and New Misses. Work Place Inspections, Procedure Verifications, Electrical Testing and Tagging, Plant Register and Plant Risk Assessments, Substance Control, Volunteer & Contractor Registers and Staff Training Records were all on going controls and measures which were developed, updated and implemented at various stages throughout 2014.

In conclusion, St Joseph’s School Renmark is an extremely safe ground and community for our students and staff to be at daily.

*Sue Lyons*
WHS Co-ordinator
December 2014

**School Captains Report:**

Being School Captains has been a great privilege. We have enjoyed the responsibility and talking at assemblies very much. Even though at times it has been a lot of work it has always been enjoyable. Showing leadership can sometimes be difficult and challenging but being school captain has taught us discipline and self-respect. We have enjoyed the opportunity to develop better leadership skills and confidence. We thank the school for the opportunity to lead them with pride.

Good luck to next year’s school captains. We hope they enjoy the same experience that we did.

*Emmy Haslett and Mitchell Cant*
School Captains
December 2014