

St Joseph's School Manildra

**Loftus Street
MANILDRA NSW 2865
Ph: (02) 6364 5177
Fax: (02) 6364 5383
Email: www.sjsman@netwit.net.au**

2009



**ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL MANILDRA
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY**

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ABOUT THIS REPORT

St Joseph's School Manildra is registered by the Board of Studies (NSW) and is part of a system of schools managed by the Catholic Education Office (CEO), Bathurst. The CEO, Bathurst is the 'approved authority' for the Registration System formed under Section 39 of the NSW Education Act 1990.

The Annual School Educational and Financial Report for this year provides the school community with reliable and objective information about school performance measures and policies, as determined by the Minister for Education (NSW) in conjunction with requirements of the Minister for Education Employment and Workplace Relations.

This Report also outlines information about initiatives and developments of major interest and importance to the school community during the year, and the achievements arising from the implementation of the school's Annual Development Plan.

Accordingly, this Report demonstrates accountability to the school community and the CEO Bathurst.

This Report complements and is supplementary to school newsletters, yearbooks and other regular communications. This report will be available on the school and CEO websites by 30 June 2009 following its submission to the Board of Studies.

Further information about the school or this report may be obtained by contacting the school on (02) 6364 5177 or by visiting the website at www.cabonne.biz/manildra/schools-primary.

Principal

Date

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Caregivers

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Manildra is registered by the Board of Studies and is part of a re-organised system for schools, managed by the Catholic Education Office Bathurst.

On behalf of all involved in our school community, I am happy to present the 2008 Annual School Report that provides information about St Joseph's School's activities and performance over the past year.

This report is a legislative requirement under the Education Amendment (Non-Government Schools Registration) Act 2004. The report has been prepared based on information you have had throughout the year through the school's Newsletter and the results of various external assessment methods including the NAPLAN results.

It demonstrates our accountability to the Catholic Education Office Bathurst and other regulatory bodies.

Our Vision, inspired by Blessed Mary MacKillop, is that all children who leave our school have a positive sense of community; they have an appreciation of and respect for themselves as valuable people; that they have respect for other people and the world in which they live; that they have been given the opportunity to attain their academic potential and are aware that learning is a life-long experience.

Following the example of Blessed Mary MacKillop the Mission of our school community is to create a learning environment where children feel the love of Jesus, whilst developing at their own pace and cognitive level.

The staff of St Joseph's, the Sisters of St Joseph, with the Parish Administrator, Father Philip Filby and under the direction of the CEO Bathurst and the leadership of Diocesan Director, Mr Peter Hill, today seeks to continue to meet the educational and spiritual needs of students in their primary School years from Manildra and the surrounding district.

The welfare of each child and their families, as well as the development of a deep sense of community, is recognised as the shared responsibility of the priest, staff, students and parents of the school.

Ninety percent of students are baptised Catholics.

Contacts

Sisters of St Joseph's Convent Molong:	02 6366 8188 (P) 02 6366 9147 (F)
Presbytery Molong:	02 6366 8010 (P) 02 6366 9401 (F)
St Joseph's School Manildra:	02 6364 5177 (P) 02 6364 5383 (F)
St Joseph's School Email:	sjsman@netwit.net.au

PARISH PRIEST SUPPORT MESSAGE

In the brief time in which I have been associated with the students of Saint Joseph's, I have been suitably impressed with their general demeanour, the sense of community and of course, their dedication to matters religious.

Through the guidance of the Principal, teachers and support staff, the school is certainly attuned to the life of the Church. Not only is there the physical reality of the Church building which serves as a reminder of these matters, but also the liturgy and other celebrations associated with the life of the school are certainly well prepared, diligently rehearsed and carried out with care, devotion and enthusiasm. In all this work, the school is to be congratulated.

I leave it to others to speak of the various sporting events in which the children participate and in which they have gained no little success. In all these matters, they are well supported by families and friends; all this augurs well for the ability of the school to build on the Josephite-inspired traditions of the past eighty years.

Trusting these considerations will be kept in mind in any evaluation of the importance of the school to the students as also to the local community, as a living presence of the spirit of Christ as so admirably continued in the Josephite tradition. I commend the above to your consideration.

Rev Fr Philip Filby
Molong Parish Administrator

PARENTS & FRIENDS (P & F) ASSOCIATION SUPPORT MESSAGE

On behalf of St Joseph's Parents and Friends Association, I welcome the opportunity to express our support for such a vibrant and enthusiastic school.

The Parents and Friends Association play an active part in raising funds for countless projects both large and small.

We raise money to provide many useful resources including, air conditioning, carpet, library books, outdoor shade, fencing, computers etc, which aid in the development of the school's impressive learning environment.

These fundraising ventures show our commitment to our children's educational requirements and St Joseph's School.

Dan Simmons
President P & F Association

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SRC) SUPPORT MESSAGE

We are grateful for the teachers, students, parents, grandparents and friends for supporting our successful school.

We thank the teachers for being there when we need them the most, and the students for being well-mannered and helpful at all times. Also we thank the parents for supporting the school in all areas, especially in Working B's around our school and the new school hall.

Our Religious Education is learning about Jesus and sharing what we learn every day at home and at school.

The Student Representative Council (SRC) gives us a chance to be responsible students, to be role models for other students, to raise money for extra resources in our school and to help make our school a happy one.

Year Six SRC

Joshua Amberge, Montana Brown, Mikahlia Grant, Dallas Lander, Grace Press, Emma Regan, Zachary Reimer, Darcy Simmons, Madeline Troth, Shania Wright

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

St Joseph's School Manildra is a Catholic School which forms part of the Molong Parish. It is a place of quality learning and teaching where young people are supported in developing their awareness and acceptance of their personal strengths in the Catholic tradition.

St Joseph's has a rich tradition of prayer and liturgy.

Faith formation for students and staff include; School Masses, Retreats, School Prayer; Christian Living Camp and events that encompass our whole school living our 'Mission Statement'. These events include Assembly, Singing for Seniors, Mission Appeals, St Joseph's Day and Anzac Day.

Pastoral Care is the responsibility of everyone in the school community. Teachers, parents, support and ancillary staff and especially students are just some of the groups who contribute to Pastoral Care.

They are continually encouraged to act in accordance with Christian Values and be sensitive to the dignity of each person.

Students in Year Two are prepared for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist and Confirmation in Year Six in collaboration with the parents.

Liturgies are held regularly to celebrate Sacramental Celebrations and the Liturgical Year of the Church. The Graduation Mass concludes the year and allows us to celebrate as a school community. During this Mass our new Kindergartens are welcomed and blessed.

Our School song entitled "All For You O Heart of Jesus" is sung at Masses and school assemblies and flag raising ceremonies.

Two Sisters of St Joseph, Sr Ann Morrisson and Sr Kathleen English assist with the Sacramental preparation of both students and parents and are involved with the liturgical life of the Parish.

SCHOOL FEATURES

St Joseph's is a small Diocesan Catholic Primary School situated in a rural community in the Central West of NSW. St Joseph's was established in 1928 by the Perthville Sisters of St Joseph to provide Catholic education for the growing community.

The school consists of three composite classes;

- ♦ Infants Class K, 1, 2
- ♦ Primary (Lower) 3, 4
- ♦ Primary (Upper) 5, 6

On completing Year Six the children further their education at local high schools in Orange at James Sheahan Catholic High School or Molong High School.

ENROLMENT POLICIES & PROFILES

On the school census date of 5th August 2008 our school enrolment was 46.

Gender Balance: Female Students 24 and Male Students 22.
Student Enrolment: Enrolment is expected to remain stable in 2009 at around 40.
Classes: St Joseph's has 3 composite classes.

Priority of Enrolment

- Catholic children of practicing Catholic parents.
- Non-Catholic children whose brothers and/or sisters are presently enrolled in the school.
- Non-Catholic children whose brothers an/or sisters once attended the school.
- Non-Catholic children who are enrolled at a Catholic school in another Parish.
- Non-Catholic children of practising Christian families who are prepared to allow their children to take part in all religious activities at the school
- Cases of special need. Special consideration may be given to children with disabilities to the extent to which the school is able to meet their needs. In this regard, the policy of the Catholic Education Office is to be observed.

Enrolment Procedure

School Enrolment Policy and Application Form can be accessed from the School Office.

The enrolment procedure for new children follows this process:

1. Each June/July the school advertises for enrolment applications for Kindergarten the following year.
2. Application forms are to be given to interested parents.
3. Applications, references and copies of Baptismal/Birth Certificates are forwarded to the school.
4. In consultation with the Parish Priest, applications are listed in order of priority.
5. Parents may be interviewed by the Principal.
6. Parents informed of the enrolment decision.

Structure of the School

St Joseph's is a single stream school and the class numbers are:

* Kindergarten:	5
* Year One:	5
* Year Two:	4
* Year Three:	4
* Year Four:	9
* Year Five:	11
* Year Six:	8 (With 1 Indigenous Student)
Total Students:	46
Total Non-Catholic Boys:	2
Total Non-Catholic Girls:	1

St Joseph's maintains an agreed non-Catholic ratio in each class.

The full text of school enrolment policies may be accessed at the School Office.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE & RETENTION

The average student attendance rated at the Catholic Education Office during 2008 was 93.5%.

SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Support is provided for the delivery of high quality curriculum, with all staff knowledgeable about emerging national curriculum and the national statements of learning through Catholic Education Office inservice and learning programs.

Inservice this year was aimed at Science and Technology and English. The use of Learning Technologies are embedded in classroom practice to enhance student outcomes.

Schools are supported by the Catholic Education Office and the Board of Studies with innovative and proactive approaches to curriculum provision, which responds to the diverse needs of learners. We strive to ensure the programs are effective, efficient and accountable.

Core curriculum subjects are in line with the Board of Studies requirements include:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| * English | * Science & Technology |
| * HSIE | * Maths |
| * Creative Arts | * PDHPE |
| * Religious Education | |

STUDENT PERFORMANCE IN NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM IN LITERACY & NUMERACY (NAPLAN)

Literacy and Numeracy

It was pleasing to see significant growth in scores from Year Three to Year Five in both aspects.

All scores in 2008 NAPLAN are higher than State and Diocesan mean scores. I feel that this reflects good quality teaching practices by staff at St Joseph's. Small numbers of students in particular year groups have significant effect on scores.

Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 around Australia sat the NAPLAN Tests in May 2008. Individual students reports were provided in September 2008.

The test results provide information about student achievements in literacy and numeracy.

YEAR THREE

Overall Literacy	State Mean	Diocese Mean	School Mean
2006	418.0	427.9	443.2
2007	424.0	426.1	444.7
2008	419.5	428.5	481.5

Overall Numeracy	State Mean	Diocese Mean	School Mean
2006	409.0	420.5	390.5
2007	407.0	411.5	391.4
2008	409.6	418.5	509.5

YEAR FIVE

Overall Literacy	State Mean	Diocese Mean	School Mean
2006	499.0	500.4	474.9
2007	501.0	507.0	515.1
2008	497.4	502.4	525.6

Overall Numeracy	State Mean	Diocese Mean	School Mean
2006	491.0	489.5	484.2
2007	495.0	499.6	512.7
2008	489.1	495.4	521.9

National Minimum Standards

In 2008 the Commonwealth Government set minimum acceptable standards for Reading, Writing Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy for each grade tested through NAPLAN. These are referred to as 'national minimum standards' and replace the 'national benchmarks'.

The percentages of students in this school achieving the national minimum standards are reported below.

	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Year 3	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Year 5	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING & TEACHER STANDARDS

Professional Learning & Staff Inservices

- Gifted & Talented Workshop
- NAPLAN Inservice
- Strategic Management Plan (Principal)
- Special Ed Inservice (Speech)
- Digital Education
- Sports Council Meetings
- Special Ed with Janine Kearney
- Beth Shea AASC Inservice
- Liturgy Workshop with Fr Caprio
- Maths Workshop with Brian Tickle
- Religious Sacrament Meetings
- Speech Pathology with Anne Burns
- Assault Training Inservice (All staff)
- Indigenous Games Inservice
- Science Inservice – “Primary Connection” with Chris Derwin
- BOS K-6 Assessment Policy
- Voice Care with Chris Derwin

The total number of days in professional learning activities for 2008 was 28 days.

The average expenditure per teacher on professional learning for 2008 was \$8,400.00.

Teacher Standards

The following table sets out the number of teachers on this staff who fall into each of the three categories determined by the Board of Studies:

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS	NUMBER OF TEACHERS
1. Those having formal qualifications from a recognized higher education institution or equivalent.	4
2. Those having graduate qualifications but not a formal teaching qualification from a recognized higher education institution or equivalent.	0
3. Those not having qualifications described in 1 or 2 above but have relevant successful teaching experience or appropriate relevant knowledge.	0

TEACHER ATTENDANCE & RETENTION

The Retention of teachers is very stable, with no change to the make up of staff in the last twelve months.

The average teacher attendance rate during 2008 was 97.79% and average teacher retention from 2007 to 2008 is 100%.

SCHOOL POLICIES: STUDENT WELFARE, DISCIPLINE, COMPLAINTS & GRIEVANCES

Student Welfare Policy

The full text of the school Student Welfare Policy may be accessed in the School Office.

Bullying

All people in the school have rights which others must respect. They must respect the rights of others. They have the responsibility to respect the authority of teachers, parents and community members in and out of school. The school monitors on a daily basis in and out of the classrooms.

The full text of the school Bullying Policy may be accessed in the School Office.

Discipline Policy

Corporal punishment is expressly prohibited in this school. The school does not sanction administration of corporal punishment by school persons and non-school persons, including parents, to enforce discipline in the school.

The full text of the school Student Welfare Policy may be accessed in the School Office.

Complaints & Grievances Policy

Our school has both a desire and a responsibility to ensure that high standards of conduct are maintained by staff and students at all times and that complaints are managed and resolved fairly, efficiently, promptly and in accordance with relative legislation.

Aims:

1. To provide a harmonious, positive and productive school environment.
2. To resolve complaints fairly, efficiently, promptly and in accordance with relative legislation.

Under normal circumstances complaints and grievances can be noted in the Complaints Register and directed to:

- the School Principal
- any other Staff member
- Parish Priest
- The Catholic Education Office in Bathurst or Dubbo.

Complaints and Grievances School Policies may be assessed from the office.

Please note that the school's P & F organisation does not play an official role in the complaints and grievances practices employed in the school.

The P & F constitution may be assessed from the CEO Policies and Procedures Manual available from the school office.

The full text of the school Student Welfare Policy may be accessed in the School Office.

SCHOOL DETERMINED IMPROVEMENTS & TARGETS

Achievements

- * Built a covered walkway at the entrance to the school.
- * Installed air conditioning to new Hall.
- * Have installed three new Interactive White Boards in each Classroom with up-to-date teaching programs installed.
- * Replaced all drought affected trees in the playground.
- * Sprayed for spiders and had all buildings checked for white ants.
- * Conducted the new 'Active After School Communities Program'
- * Purchased new sporting equipment.
- * Refurbished sports shed.
- * Fenced off the internal road and sporting areas.
- * Partial painting to exterior of school building.

Goals for 2009

- * Construct a new Library off main classroom block to house computers, new book shelving, quiet area for reading and a sick bed for unwell students until parent/guardian arrives.
- * Refurbishing wall lining, joints and painting to interior of Hall.
- * Installing bird wire to roofing of the Hall.
(2009 NSP Program-Federal Government Grant)
- * Refurbishing original primary classrooms.
- * Repairing shadecloth to covered areas.
- * Contain all computer and electrical cords under floor.
- * Painting and maintenance to all school buildings.
- * Renew aging carpet to main classroom block, office and extend through to new library.
- * Erect a double gate to boundary fence for all heavy vehicles.
- * Erect western security fence and gates.
- * Build a platform and safety gate outside the side roller door to the Hall.
- * Build a storage shed to house maintenance equipment and tools etc.
- * Re gravel, roll and grade internal school road.
- * Construct a sensory garden in front of the new Hall.
(All above covered in NSP Program-Federal Government Grant)

INITIATIVES PROMOTING RESPECT & RESPONSIBILITY

Respect

Students are taught the importance of treating others with consideration and regard and respecting another person's point of view.

The following initiatives are used to promote respect for others:

- **Building Social Skills**
In emphasising standards of politeness, which develop the skills and dispositions of students, so they can enact particular values as individuals, within and beyond the classroom.
- **Merit Awards**
Children are acknowledged for their values which reflect our Mission Statement, in whole school assemblies.
- **SRC Awards**
Year Six SRC present awards to their peers for explicit values observed in everyday school life and an "Aussie of the Month" award.
- **Weekly Newsletter**
Students are acknowledged for showing respect in the weekly Newsletter.
- **Catholic Schools' Week**
Students assume the role of hosts to the parents, friends and community.
- **Grandfriend's Day**
This is a special day for St Joseph's where the children put on a Mass /Liturgy and Morning Tea and invite grandfriends in the community to join in and feel part of the school.

Responsibility

Students are taught to be accountable for one's own actions, resolve differences in constructive, non-violent and peaceful ways, to contribute to society and civic life and to take care of the environment. Strategies include:

- **Clean Up Australia**
Involved with "Clean Up Australia".
- **Anti-Bullying Program**
Anti-social behavior management issues are addressed through the whole-school approach Bullying program.
- **Class Errands**
Children take messages between classes and the office.
- **Assembly**
Children take turns in organising and running whole school assemblies and daily flag raising.
- **Friday's Jobs**
Every Friday the children come together, each taking on particular areas to maintain the presentation of their school.
- **Community Events**
The children join in community events such as, Christmas Carols, Anzac Day, Australia Day, Annual Show, CWA Speeches and International Day.
- **Community Deeds**
Each year for Seniors Week children sing and mime to entertain the seniors in our community. They put out and bring in garbage bins for elderly people in the Lions Club units. They invite community members to special Masses/Liturgies to involve them and make them feel needed.

Student Representative Council (SRC)

Year Six students meet weekly to organise fundraising, identify areas of concern with their peers and OH&S issues, organise fun activities for specific celebrations, eg Easter Hat Parade and Christmas Disco. At the beginning of each year they organise a Buddy system where senior students are then responsible for ensuring the younger child is safe and happy. They conclude their meeting by awarding points for "Aussie of the Month" to students they deem worthy of recognition for Christian living.

PARENT, TEACHER & STUDENT SATISFACTION

Parents

Parents have agreed that they always experience a friendly, welcoming, family atmosphere at St Josephs. Parent/Teacher interviews ensure the culture and practice of consultation with parents is strengthened.

They value the Christian teachings and the genuine care and concern shown by teachers and staff to each individual student, who in turn displayed an eagerness to learn and had developed confidence, honesty, respect and empathy with others in this stable environment.

Most importantly the parents expressed their satisfaction at the excitement, pride and enthusiasm shown in all aspects of the school and community life.

Teachers

Teachers reported that they felt a sense of belonging to a supportive team with the student being the main focus.

They experienced enjoyment in sharing the lives of the children as well as playing an integral part of their education and development as they watched them grow in the love of God.

Visiting Casual teachers always express pleasure, when asked to visit our school, invariably commenting that St Joseph's is a warm, loving and caring community with a unique welcoming atmosphere, and polite, happy non-aggressive students.

Students

The students have relayed their gratitude towards the school and teachers for the caring, sharing and gentleness shown and experienced all the facets of learning and growing into the person they want to be.

The students have collectively praised the teachers for giving them a sense of confidence and pride in what they do and for showing them leadership and how to listen to others.

The students very much appreciated the teaching of good manners, hardworking ethics and the sharing of tasks with friendliness and kindness.

Students excerpts in their own words

My School Shania

I love and enjoy seeing all the happy faces walking down the path, some with books, posters, maps and other fun stuff that I know the students would enjoy in the fun weeks at school. The school is filled with electric firing atmosphere and the teachers are a crack up and easy going. They make your learning easy in every different way. But if I had to round it off to what I liked the most I would say, my friends, my class, and the fun I have learning in all sorts of beaut ways and the teachers are the very best of all.

I love this school and everything that comes with it, the work, the stress, the tiredness and sometimes lack of energy. But the fun, excitement, bubbly friendship, smiles and love is whats' best about my school.

Thoughts about my School Darcy

I love the friendly faces that smile and brighten up my day, the staff, the teachers that look after us in the classrooms and out. The technology is astounding and the whiteboards are always fired up ready for each day. Our sports representatives are amazing triumphing new heights but I can't forget all the fun we've had fundraising for the equipment in around the school.

Our School Maddy

Our School makes people feel happy and everyone has a smile. People to greet you as you arrive and awesome friends. Our teachers are brilliant and we learn so much, with new technology. The school is small but the hearts are big.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT (2008)

Catholic Schools are accountable for all monies received. Each year, the Catholic Education Office, Bathurst submits to the Commonwealth Government a financial statement on behalf of the 34 primary, central and secondary schools. In addition, the financial accounts for each school and for the Catholic Education Office are audited annually.



