ST. JOSEPH’S PRIMARY SCHOOL, NAMBOUR
STRATEGIC RENEWAL PLAN
Achievements 2013
Priority 1  Mission and Religious Education

Inspired by the example of the Samaritan of Luke’s gospel and the qualities of Joseph, the father of Jesus, St Joseph’s Primary School - is directed to the seeking of God,
- is centred on the development of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ,
- is committed to nurturing and promoting the religious life of the school, and
- is responsive to our cultural context.

Goals
The school community seeks the integration of life and faith by -
- Providing opportunities for all to look for God’s spirit in people, places and events and having the confidence to name God in what we see and do.
- Explicitly integrating Benedictine values in the development of policies and processes.
- Building capabilities of teaching staff to work in a contextualised phase of religious formation of students that is evidenced through a particularised Catholic expression of our beliefs (as distinct from values).
- Resourcing and implementing the new Religious Education curriculum that promotes knowledge, deep understanding and skills about the Catholic and broader Christian tradition.
- Nurturing the prayer life of individuals by seeking to enrich the school’s liturgical celebrations.
- Developing shared understandings of Catholic Social Teaching by linking practical responses with Christian outreach.

Achievements
Weekly staff prayer provided space and time for shared reflection of a loving God’s action in one’s faith journey and vocation as a Catholic educator.

Whole school ‘Moment of Awareness’ with the ringing of the midday Angelus Bell enabled the community to pause in the busyness of daily school life and reflect on God’s grace-filled blessings.

Participation in a three-day gathering conducted by our founders, the Good Samaritan Sisters on Benedictine Spirituality and the charism of their congregation enabled three members of the RE Implementation Team to enrich the school’s liturgies, policies and programs.

A staff retreat day titled ‘Revelation: Then and Now’ was facilitated by Kevin Treston and held at the church hall in Palmwoods.

The ongoing implementation of the new Religious Education Curriculum was facilitated by the APRE and staff’s RE Implementation Team.

Outreach to those in need, locally and globally including the Year 6’s communication and fundraising for students of St Joseph’s in Uganda.
Priority 2 Learning and Teaching

St Joseph’s Primary School strives to provide rich learning environments where pedagogy engages our diverse learners ensuring they develop the learning skills needed for living and working in the 21st century.

Goals

The school community seeks quality outcomes for each student by:

- Developing school-wide pedagogical practices that are data-informed and evidence based.
- Planning collaboratively using the Australian Curriculum as to provide an extensive sequenced context for learning to occur.
- Optimising student engagement in their learning through the use of formative assessment strategies.
- Empowering students to take ownership of their learning progress through the deliberative use of strategies that make learning visible.
- Prioritising school-wide processes that promote pastoral care, protection of students, student behaviour support and foster social and emotional wellbeing.
- Developing a strong culture of incorporating information, communication and learning technologies into teaching and learning practices.

Achievements

Professional learning workshops aimed at enhancing teachers’ understanding of the teaching of Grammar and Persuasive Writing were held. Planning with the Australian Curriculum was supported each term by conversations with BCE Education Officers and a Literacy Consultant, with staff observed teaching and given feedback so as to improve their pedagogical practice.

A school-wide pedagogical approach that is data-informed was introduced in the teaching of spelling, again with staff observed teaching and given feedback so as to improve their pedagogical practice.

The Reporting to Parents schedule was modified to include Student Led Conferences at the end of third term, where students shared their Learning Log/Goals with their parents and teachers.

The ‘Kids Matter’ framework was adopted with an Action Team of staff & parents established and training & planning completed for the launch of the first component early 2014.

A staff team continued to explore and prepare for the school-wide use of the ICLT learning management tool, LIFE.
St Joseph’s Primary School is committed to fostering an inclusive community where all are encouraged to contribute to enhancing the gifts and potential of all members of the school community.

Goals
The school community -

- Seeks opportunities for collaboration with parish and community personnel that continues to strengthen our shared mission.
- Provides safe, orderly, attractive learning & teaching spaces where individuals are known and valued and are encouraged to take risks with their learning.
- Supports the essential role of teachers and the importance of their continued professional improvement through implementing a professional learning framework that seeks to promote relational trust and strength-based professional development through personal goal setting & action planning, deliberate practice, and peer support & accountability.
- Seeks opportunities to forge close connections with the parent community so as to promote productive partnerships that enhance their child’s life and learning journey.

Achievements
Weekly meetings of the Parish Priest, Principal & APRE enabled information sharing and a forum for planning and reviewing of the various aspects of our shared mission.

Outreach within the Parish community included students celebrating the Eucharist with residents of a local nursing home as well as supporting the local St Vincent de Paul Chapter with their Christmas Hamper drive.

Providing safe and orderly learning & teaching spaces continued to be a priority with a particular focus on supporting students with Autism / Asperger’s / Anxiety. Key staff participated in an ‘Autism Friendly Practice’ project and then led a school-wide review of the strategies implemented to support these students.

Professional Learning goals were established by all teaching staff with support provided either individually or collectively, for their achievement.

Parent participation in the life of the school was sought in a variety of ways including as volunteers in the classroom, on excursions and/or in the tuckshop; attendance and participation in Parent-Teacher conversations and Student Led Conferences.
Priority 4    Strategic Resourcing

St Joseph’s Primary School will provide and equitably support a high quality, contemporary learning environment through its policies and processes.

Goals

The school community seeks to -

- Ensure decision making processes regarding resource allocation - fiscal and personnel - are collaborative, transparent and reflect accountability.
- Provide the appropriate level of resources that optimise student learning.
- Embed sustainable environmental practices in the organisational structures and processes of the school.
- Prioritise resourcing the professional learning plans of its staff.
- Access information and learning management systems that enhance student and staff engagement with learning, teaching and school operations.
- Ensure a Catholic education is not beyond the means of any family wishing to send their child/ren to the school.
- Provide contemporary facilities that are attractive, effective and well maintained.

Achievements

The school’s Strategic Renewal Plan 2012-2016 was launched after a process of consultation & review.

The School Board again took a leading role in the review of various Policy Guidelines including the school’s Homework Guidelines, which involved a process of research, drafting, consultation, review and launch.

The school’s annual budget review and subsequent auditing was again successfully completed, with priority given to professional learning & resource purchase identified in the school's annual Cyclical Review.

The school’s Fee Collection & Payment Procedures were reviewed by the School Board ensuring transparent and just processes that do not disadvantage any members of the school community.

The annual OH&S audit was successfully completed.

The school’s facilities were enhanced with the completion of undercover areas on the ‘second’ playground and the bitumening of the path to the ‘third’ playground.