

Saint Joseph's Parish School Murgon

Annual Report 2007

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The town of Murgon is situated in the South Burnett region approximately three hour's drive from Brisbane. There is a long history of pastoral development (cattle and cotton) of the area and until its closure earlier this year the Meatworks was the largest employer in the town. Tourism and Wineries are also important industries in the region.

There is a rich Indigenous presence in the area, and Indigenous culture is a feature of the Saint Joseph's community. A number of families from Cherbourg (7 Kilometres away) send their children to Saint Joseph's School.

Enrolments

The current enrolment is 181 children from Prep to Year Seven. There was a small intake into prep this year (6 children) due to the inaugural year of Prep and the revised birth date for eligibility. It is expected that from 2008 the intake will be back to the norm of about 16 – 20 children. The enrolment of 57 Indigenous children is the largest enrolment of Indigenous children in the Brisbane Archdiocese.

Curriculum

The curriculum follows the Outcomes Approach to education mandated by the State Government. Reporting to parents and the community is also in accord with directions from both Federal and State Governments. The special emphasis this year has been the area of English, and staff have undertaken considerable in-service in this area during the year.

Religious Life of the School

Faith development is at the heart of all we do here at Saint Joseph's. Prayer and Religious Instruction based on the guidelines from Brisbane Catholic Education are a daily feature in all classes. The Parish Priest, Father Dan Redhead visits the classes on a regular basis and also attends to the pastoral and sacramental needs of the staff and children. Members of staff are involved with the Sacramental Preparation Programmes for Reconciliation, Holy Communion, and Confirmation. Special Feasts of the church are celebrated liturgically and in other ways, and the school buildings are named to reflect the various religious traditions in the school. Special celebrations were also held for National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week

Staff Development

Staff are constantly seeking to further their knowledge and skills through in-service both locally and regionally. The Professional Development Days at the commencement of the school year looked at goal setting, and the development of the new Strategic Renewal Plan 2007 – 2011. Other full Staff Development Days included work on the English Syllabus, Personal and Social Development Education, the Peer Support Programme, CTJ combined with SBCC, St Joseph's Gaynday, and St Pat's Nanango. Eight staff undertook training to be facilitators for the Seasons for Growth Programme (Grief and Loss). Six staff participated in the three day Sharing Our Call Programme on Marist Spirituality. Spirituality Twilights were held on Lent, Mother Teresa, and All Saints and All Souls.

Extra Curricular Activities

The following extra curricular activities are available for the children:

- Netball and Rugby League Teams
- District representation in Swimming, Cross Country, Athletics, Netball and Rugby League
- Choir
- Excursions
- Camp – Year 6
- Major Excursion for Years 6 & 7 bianually
- Enrichment Group
- Girl's Club (Craft)
- Active After School Programme

Community Involvement

The school is involved with the community when appropriate. The choir sings at nursing homes, Anzac Day, the Murgon Show etc. The school participates in the local Anzac Commemoration, and this year won first prize for the Murgon Show School's Display. A number of children participated in the Jump Rope for Heart Programme, and collections for the missions are held regularly.

Parents are always welcome and encouraged to assist in the school. They do this through a variety of ways including:

- Parents & Friends Activities
- Tuckshop
- Classroom and Library Support
- Sports days and activities
- Excursions
- Liturgies

All parent and community volunteers were in-serviced with regard to the volunteer code of conduct and other government requirements.

Funding and Special Projects

Again this year we have benefited from Federal and State Government funding, and this has allowed a number of special programmes to run in the school to support children

thought to be 'at risk'. These programmes addressed skills in literacy and numeracy as their main focus. In addition, a grant was received from Tarong Energy to support Indigenous children in years 6 & 7 in order to give them the best opportunity for success in High School. This programme included a cultural aspect which allowed the year 6 class to spend a two day/overnight camp at Barrambah Environmental Centre, and also funded the construction of a Dreaming Garden.