I am pleased to report on the 2014 school year. It was a successful year in each of the domains that the school seeks to operate effectively in. Energised by the challenges of the rural setting, our school seeks to provide an opportunity for every student to develop to their full potential. We are well supported by the school and parish community. Below is a summary of the achievements of the St Joseph’s School.

**Faith & Religious Education**

**Mission, Vision and Values**
Throughout 2014 staff reviewed our Mission, Vision and Values. It was finalised and set in place for the 2015 school year. This document represents a shared understanding of why we exist as a school and what our goals and aspirations are. The document is deeply embedded in Catholic values and traditions and permeates our school life.

**Catholic Education Week**
All 13 schools in our diocese participated in Catholic Education Week in Week 4, Term 2. Our school took part in a number of events to celebrate this week which included Port Pirie Switches Off, Coin Line Fundraiser, Launch of New Website, etc. This will be a yearly event.

**Project Compassion**
Our St Joseph’s community raised money for Project Compassion throughout Lent. Our school raised over $600 which is a great effort for our small community.

**Sports for Justice**
The Sports Day was celebrated in the name of ‘Sports for Justice’, which acknowledges the hardship that families around the world are enduring in the face of major sporting events (eg. Olympics and Soccer World Cup).

**Assistant Principal: Religious Identity and Mission (APRIM)**
Bec Fahey led our school community to develop our Catholic identity in her second year as APRIM. She worked with staff on faith formation and supported them with strategies and practices for religious education teaching and learning.

**Mass & Liturgy**
Less than 20% of our students identify as Catholic. However, the Catholic values and traditions our school is committed to clearly resonate with parents in the Peterborough community. It is important that we continue to embrace, teach and celebrate our Catholic values. Throughout 2014 all classes planned and participated class Liturgies celebrating a variety of themes. Children attended Eucharistic celebrations which included Ash Wednesday, St Joseph’s Feast Day, Mary Mackillop Feast Day, Chrism Mass and Graduation Mass.

**Mary MacKillop Day**
Students and staff celebrated Mary MacKillop’s feast day with our neighbouring Josephite schools at Jamestown and Gladstone. Our school hosted the event. The day started with Mass and then students rotated through a range of fun activities.

**Sacraments**
Two students received the Sacrament of Confirmation late in Term 2. Bishop Greg and Fr Leon led the parish community in this special Eucharistic celebration. Most people returned
to the school hall after the Eucharistic celebration to share a supper together. Well done to Bec Fahey who organised the event and Bianca Moses for preparing the candidates.

**Diocesan Pastoral Plan**

The Diocese of Pt Pirie has recently launched its Pastoral Plan for 2014 – 2017. Our school will use this plan to inform some of its own strategic directions over the next 3 years. Staff have had the opportunity to briefly look at this document but will explore it in more depth in the near future.

**Operation Christmas Child**

Bec initiated Operation Christmas Child and our school participated in this project to show our care and compassion for children living in poverty stricken countries. Each class (and the staffroom) filled two shoeboxes with gifts and then sent them off to be delivered to a child at Christmas time.

**Notre Dame College Visit**

Each year we are privileged to have a group of Year 11 students visit us from Notre Dame College in Victoria. They visit our school as part of their Remar program. Remar is a school-based youth ministry which operates in Catholic schools in a number of countries. In Australia it is coordinated out of the Marist Centres in Melbourne & Sydney, offering students in Years 10, 11 and 12 an inspiring and engaging way to live out gospel values. It has four areas of focus:

- Evangelisation and faith development
- Personal development and leadership formation
- Strong experience of being a part of a community
- Social justice, ministry and service to others.

Notre Dame College have been visiting our school now for 8 years so we have built up a strong relationship with the staff and students from their school. In the Term 2013 school holidays I decided to ‘return the favour’ and visit them in their home town of Shepparton, Victoria. I travelled to Shepparton to attend the Graduation Ceremony of students who visited St Joseph’s in 2013. I had the privilege of visiting their school for two days and meeting the principal, John Cortese, and many other wonderful staff. Over the past 8 years Notre Dame College have donated over $10,000 to our school community and many hours of work and service. I believe it to be important that we continue to foster and promote the relationship between our two schools.

**Learning National Partnerships – Communities Making a Difference**

Our involvement in the CMaD project over the past 5 years has delivered more than $290,00 funding to our school and has culminated into a number of big and small changes for our school. Some of these positive changes include:

- *The physical environment of classrooms*
- *Expectations of teachers, parents and students*
- *Implementation of the Walker Learning Approach across all year levels*
- *Increased parent involvement*
- *Improved assessment and reporting strategies*

It is expected that the benefits of our involvement in this project will continue to bear fruit in the coming years even though the funding has now finished.
3 Way Conferences
3 Way Conferences were conducted in Term 1. This was a new approach to parent/teacher interviews which involves the student more in the process. The students present aspects of their learning with work samples giving parents and teachers the opportunity to ask questions and affirm their achievements.

Twilight Sports Day
St Joseph’s School Sports Day seems to be an event that attracts many members of our school community. It was another success in 2014 with a good turn out from parents and friends. Students participated in good spirit by demonstrating great sportsmanship and enthusiasm. We received very positive feedback from the parent community about the day.

SAPSASA
A number of students tried out for SAPSASA events and represented our school in Adelaide for sports such as tennis, cricket, soccer, athletics, football and netball.

Camps & Excursions
Camps and excursions are still a priority for class teachers. They provide extra-curricula learning opportunities for students. The R/1/2 class travelled to Bundaleer Forrest for a day trip. The 3/4 class journeyed to Adelaide and engaged in a variety of educational experiences and the 5/6/7 class travelled to Iron Knob to engage in a variety of team games and activities. The highlight of the camp was the high ropes course and the laser skirmish.

NAPLAN Testing
Our children in years 3, 5 and 7 participated in the NAPLAN Testing. Results were sent out to parent late in Term 3. Due to our small numbers in each year level the results are not always indicative of major trends or patterns. We are pleased with the students’ progress. The NAPLAN Tests provide our school with one set of data each year. We also collect and analyse other student learning data on an ongoing basis to plan teaching and learning for all students. These tests provide useful data for individual achievement in comparison with national results and are a means of identifying particular needs at each Year Level. They are, however, one mode of assessment in the overall learning program and St Joseph’s School uses a variety of assessment strategies.

Gr8 People
Each student completed a Gr8 People self-assessment in Term 1 and 3 which was commented on by the teacher and principal and then sent home to parents for further comment. This is another tool that we have introduced in working towards providing parents with more information about their child’s learning at school.

Enrolment Numbers
Student numbers reached 56 during 2014. We continue to work closely with the Kindergarten to create better ‘pathways’ for new enrolments at our school. This seems to be paying off with a good number of new enrolments over the past 2 years. Reception enrolments in 2015 will be slightly higher than usual due to the single intake. This will recalibrate itself in 2016.

Community & Culture
Our school has a strong presence in the local community. It is involved in a range of community celebrations and events such as:

- UCW Families Week Celebration
- Remembrance Day
- ANZAC Day Outdoor Cinema Night
• Christmas Pageant & Tree Festival
• Premier’s Reading Challenge Parade
• PHS Transition
• OPAL

Our staff and students were also involved in a variety of school based events which involve members of the broader community such as:
• Kindergarten Transition
• Ride 2 School
• Walk Safely to School Day
• Nude Food Day
• Pekina Leadership Camp
• Harmony Day
• Catholic Women’s League Celebration
• Father’s Day Football Match
• Scholastic Book Fair
• School Social at PPS

Restorative Justice
Bill Hansberry visited our school in Term 1 to conduct several workshops on Restorative Justice. Each of our classes engaged in a workshop which the students enjoyed. The staff also participated in a 2 hour professional learning experience. Approximately 20 – 25 parents attended a parent workshop which received positive responses. This approach fits very well with our school’s Catholic values and educational philosophy. I look forward to continuing our learning and development in this area throughout the year.

Social Media
We continue to receive positive feedback about our Facebook page. Over 240 people follow us online. We have started to share more videos and pictures on the page and have a strong presence on social media in Peterborough. Some of our posts have reached over 2000 people.

P&F Quiz Night
We had a great turn out for the P&F Quiz Night. Over 90 people attended the event which was held in the Hall. The event raised over $900 for our school.

East of the Ranges Choir Performance
Chris Malycha and Bianca Moses travelled to Port Pirie to support the choir students perform at Keith Michell Theatre with about 150 other students from the Mid North. Thanks to Chris Malycha who organised the students and prepared them over the past 6 months. The choir will continue in Term 4 performing for local community groups.

Parents & Friends
The Parents & Friends Committee continue to have success running the Kids Café one day a week providing a sausage sizzle for lunch orders. This is a good fundraiser for our school. Furthermore they had great success with other fundraisers such as:
- Sports Day
- Quiz Night
- Kyton’s
- Mary Mackillop Day
- etc
Resources

Building & Refurbishments Project
One of the school’s major achievements for 2014 was the completion of the renovation and refurbishment of the main building. This saw updates to the front office, teacher work areas, library, staff room and student learning spaces. This project was self-funded by the school and cost approximately $290,000. The official opening and blessing will be held in Term 1, 2015.

Strategic Plan
In the Term 4 of 2014 the staff and School Board were consulted about the strategic directions of the school for the next 3 years. These consultations will culminate into a document which will support the school in its work for the foreseeable future.

New Webpage
A new school website was launched in Term 2. This website was updated and is more user friendly for staff and families.

Staffing
- During 2014 Sandy Mitchell retired after 27 years of service to our school. Her time and contributions to our school were acknowledged with a gift at a school assembly.
- Louise Green took maternity leave in Term 4 and was replaced by Nicole Schwidder for a term.
- Bianca Moses was successful in winning a position in Adelaide after two years at our school.

Photocopier
The current lease arrangement for our photocopier has expired. We have negotiated a new lease agreement with Fuji Xerox through the Catholic Education Office. We have been able to negotiate a lower copy rate for black/white and colour copies over a 48 month lease period.

Principal’s 5 Year Appraisal Process
The school community engaged in this process and received positive feedback about the ongoing work of the school. All members of the school community had the opportunity to contribute. The constructive feedback that was provided will help shape future directions and learning for Damian and the school community.

Professional Photographer
In Term 1 a professional photographer spent ½ a day at our school taking photos for our new website and other promotional material. The photos have been used on our new website and to promote our school throughout the community.

Logo
We engaged a graphic designer to make some minor adjustments to our logo. This was needed in preparation for the new website. The graphic designer also provided new logos for letterheads, uniforms, etc. These will be implemented over the course of the rest of the year. This will assist with brand consistency throughout or school community.

Professional Development
Staff are engaged in professional development opportunities in an ongoing basis. Teaching staff were supported by the Communities Making a Difference (CMaD) project to develop
our literacy practices throughout the school. The funding for this project comes to an end in 2014. Other professional development included:

- Spelling PD
- OHS&W Risk Assessment Training
- Walker Learning Approach Study Tour
- Professional Readings
- Mission/Vision Staff PD
- Whole Staff engaged in onsite PD around continuous school improvement
- Principal Consultant Visits
- Key Literacy Teacher PD
- Special Education PD
- Speech Pathologist PD
- Educational Psychologist PD
- National Partnerships CMaD Network Day
- First Aid & Mandatory Notification Training
- Religious Education PD – PRIMA
- Bursar – Finance PD