



# **John Pujajangka-Piyirn Catholic School**

## **School Performance Information 2012**

### **General School Profile**

John Pujajangka-Piyirn Catholic School is situated in Mulan, close to Lake Gregory (Paruku) in the remote East Kimberley. Mulan sits roughly half way between Broome and Alice Springs, about 300 km south of Halls Creek. The closest communities are Balgo, to the East, and Billiluna, to the North. The traditional owners of the land are the Walmajarri people and in 2001 the land became Western Australia's first Indigenous Protected Area.

The school and community were both established in 1979. The Sisters of Mercy were invited to set up the school and continued here until 1984 when a lay principal took over. The school caters for co-educational 4 year old Kindergarten children up to Year 10 and has an enrolment of around 40 students. There are currently three classes: Kindy -Year 1 (changed from K-2 after term 1 after increased numbers), Year 2 -Year 5 and Year 6 through to Year 10. With a one hundred per cent Indigenous enrolment, many of the children are transient and the attendance fluctuates a great deal throughout the year.

John Pujajangka-Piyirn Catholic School is committed to the concept of Two Way Learning that respects and fosters the traditional Aboriginal languages and culture of the area whilst also enabling children to learn Standard Australian English. This is encouraged through the school curriculum that is implemented by the teachers with the help of the Aboriginal Teaching Assistants and the community.

The local community hold a range of positions in the school including Aboriginal Teaching Assistants and a Canteen Manager. The Elders of the community are encouraged to be involved with the school, conducting cultural and language lessons.

The school has a wide range of facilities and resources including a manual arts workshop, home economics room, library, covered basketball court and spacious grounds. ICT is widely used to support teaching and learning and all classes have access to the internet, PCs, interactive whiteboards as well as iPads.

John Pujajangka-Piyirn Catholic School encourages all students to fulfil their potential and to live their lives according to the Gospel values and their Aboriginal culture to develop strong, healthy bodies with a love for learning.

More details regarding the school are available by logging onto the school website [www.jppmulan.wa.edu.au](http://www.jppmulan.wa.edu.au)

## Staff and Qualifications

The school staff comprises of

- Five non-Indigenous staff-including the Principal and a part-time Reading Recovery/Support teacher. Four female, one male.
- All teachers have a minimum of Bachelor Degrees and several have Postgraduate Degrees in fields such as Psychology, Applied Linguistics, School Librarianship, Reading Recovery and Educational Administration.
- The Aboriginal Teaching Aides (all female) do not hold any formal qualifications.

## Student Attendance-2012

| <u>Year Level</u>       | <u>Attendance Rate</u>                                          |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Kindergarten            | 66%                                                             |
| Pre-Primary             | 62%                                                             |
| Year 1                  | 70%                                                             |
| <b>K-Year 1/2 Class</b> | <b>65%</b>                                                      |
| Year 2                  | 79%                                                             |
| Year 3                  | Only one or two students enrolled for the majority of the year. |
| Year 4                  | 74%                                                             |
| Year 5                  | 83%                                                             |
| <b>Year 2/3-5 Class</b> | <b>69%</b>                                                      |
| Year 6                  | 72%                                                             |
| Year 7                  | 53%                                                             |
| Year 8                  | Only one or two students after the first semester               |
| Year 9/10               | Only one transient student                                      |
| <b>Year 6-10 Class</b>  | <b>60%</b>                                                      |

In 2012 the attendance level was around 65% which, while not ideal, is an improvement on previous year's results. This is still below what is expected and is something that we are constantly addressing. The school is committed to continue to improve these figures by actively encouraging and expecting students to attend school unless there is a legitimate reason for being absent. Transience is a major factor in the changes to attendance and can be affected by the weather, cultural issues, celebrations, family funerals and even when sporting carnivals are held. We are part of the tri-border attendance initiative and have started to keep electronic records of attendance and post these on the Maze database that will be monitored by the three states, systems and the Catholic Education Office. We also encourage school attendance by endeavouring to make the school a safe, warm, positive and encouraging environment, a place the students want to come to.

The school has a breakfast program as well as providing a healthy and nutritious recess snack and a substantial cooked lunch to encourage attendance. We also reward those students with a good attendance record by giving prizes and awards, special events, excursions, camps and extra responsibilities.

## **NAPLAN**

Some of our students are working at minimum standard, although most of them are working below the minimum standard expected for their age group. This is something that is of great concern to us and we are working towards reaching and exceeding this minimum target.

*Please refer to the detailed description of our Naplan results on the John Pujajangka-Piyirn School site on the My School Website.*

## **Parent/ Student/Teacher Satisfaction**

The school is continuing to make in-roads to improving relationships with the community. With a stable leadership and experienced staff now in place we are striving to build this relationship and over the last three years there has been a very positive trend to bring the community and school closer.

We now have regular Parent & Friends Meetings, the clinic comes to the school on a regular basis to talk, examine and to address any areas of health concerns, several Elders are encouraged to attend the school on a weekly basis to conduct cultural lessons and the parents have been involved in a series of surveys and community meetings facilitated by the CEO in Perth and Broome. This survey demonstrated that parents felt the school provided a high level of student engagement with strengths in the teaching of social skills and facilitating connectedness to peers. We continue to work on fulfilling the School Community Partnership Agreement and to involve the community whenever possible in the running of the school.

In the 2012 Quality Catholic Schooling survey, teachers indicated both a high level of respect for their students and a high level of confidence in their teaching.

The same survey also indicated that students felt that the Catholic 'feel' of the school was important and that compassion and social justice were strengths, and this was demonstrated in their responses to their behaviour within the school.

## **Post School Destinations**

As we are one of the most remote schools in Australia, we encourage students when they reach Year 8 to enrol in one of the boarding schools in Western Australia or the Northern Territory that offer places for Indigenous students. One student was accepted into LaSalle College Perth as a boarding student and another moved to Darwin to study further. Students who remain at J.P.P School are encouraged to work by training in various community positions. The Kutjungka Trade Training Centre opened in Balgo in 2011 and we encourage students 14 years 9 months and older to attend. There is an issue regarding transport to and from Balgo and this is hindering the attendance rate. This is an area that needs to be addressed in 2012.

## **School Income**

Please go to the following link for details – [www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au).