



# **John Pujajangka-Piyirn Catholic School**

## **School Performance Information 2013**

### **General School Profile**

John Pujajangka-Piyirn Catholic School is situated in Mulan, close to Lake Gregory (Paraku) in the remote East Kimberley. Mulan sits roughly half way between Broome and Alice Springs, about 340 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 4 year old Kindergarten children up to Year 10 however we do not have any students above Year 9 and has an enrolment of around 40 students. There are currently three classes: Kindy -Year 1, Year 2 -Year 5 and Year 6 through to Year 9. With the exception of one child of a teacher we have a one hundred per cent indigenous enrolment. Many of the students are transient and the attendance fluctuates a great deal throughout the year.

The local community hold a range of positions in the school including three Aboriginal Teaching Assistants, a Canteen Manager and a Groundsman/Cleaner. The Elders 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. Computers are widely used to support teaching and learning and all classes have access to the internet as well as interactive whiteboards. All students have access to iPads and notebooks. John Pujajangka-Piyirn 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

In 2013 the school staff comprised of

- Five non-indigenous staff-including the Principal and Reading Recovery /Support teacher. Four female, one male.
- All teachers have a minimum of Bachelor Degrees and several have Post Graduate Degrees in the fields of Psychology, Early Childhood, Library, Reading Recovery and Educational Administration.
- The Aboriginal Teaching Aides (all female) do not hold any formal qualifications.

## Attendance-2013

<u>Year Level</u>	<u>Attendance Rate</u>
Kindergarten	Due to the small numbers in each class the overall class % has been calculated
Pre-Primary	
Year 1	
<b>K-Yr 1 Class</b>	<b>76.5%</b>
Year 2	
Year 3	
Year 4	
Year 5	
<b>Yr.3-5 Class</b>	<b>77%</b>
Year 6	
Year 7	
Year 8-9	
<b>Yr 6-9 Class</b>	<b>69.5%</b>

In 2013 the enrolment was between 35- 40 students and the attendance level was around 74%. This was up on last year's 65% due to a concerted effort to improve the attendance rate. The Senior Class rate went from 60% to 69.5% largely due to a camp we planned to Melbourne in mid Term 3. Students from Year 5 and up were invited if their attendance from Term 2 to mid Term 3 was a minimum of 80%. It was noted that the attendance rate in Yr 6-9 during Terms 1 and 4 was was 67% and terms 2 & 3 was 73%.

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 and extra responsibilities.

## **Naplan**

Some of our students are working at the benchmark level expected for their age in Reading, especially in Years 1, 2 and 3 where students have had the opportunity to go through the Reading Recovery Program. We recognise the importance of Reading Recovery and the great improvement it is making and we are committed to continuing with it in the future.

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

## **Parent/ Student 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 four 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.

These surveys demonstrated that parents and students felt that the school provided a high level of student engagement with strengths in the teaching of social skills and facilitating connectedness with peers. They felt the school was a safe place and one that encourages students to improve. We continue to work on fulfilling the School Community Partnership Agreement and to involve the community whenever possible in the running of 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 attend one of the boarding schools in Western Australia or the Northern Territory that offer places for Indigenous students. Several students were accepted into LaSalle College Perth on scholarships but unfortunately, due to distance, home sickness, family reasons and isolation some students refuse to return after holidays. This is an ongoing issue that we are continually working on and we are encouraging all students to go down to Perth when they reach Year 8/9. The more students attending will hopefully relieve some of the issues of isolation and home sickness. 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 and over to attend. A “bus”, generally a troop, travels to and from Balgo to collect students for the Trade Training Centre each day.

## **School Income**

Please go to the following link for details- <http://www.myschool.edu.au>