

School Performance Information

General School Profile

John Pujajangka-Piyirn Catholic School is situated at Mulan, close to Lake Gregory (Paraku) in the remote East Kimberley. It 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 began the school and continued until 1984 when a lay principal took over. The school caters for 4 year old Kindy children up to Year 10 and has an enrolment of around 45 students. There are currently 3 classes; Kindy - Year 2, Year 3 - Year 5 and Year 6 through to Year 10. With a 100% Indigenous enrolment, many of the children are transient and the attendance fluctuates a great deal.

The local community hold a range of positions in the school including three Aboriginal Teaching Assistants, a Canteen Manager and a Groundsman/Cleaner. Various local elders are very 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 technology is widely used and all classes have access to the internet as well as interactive whiteboards.

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 of learning.

Teacher Qualifications

The teaching staff comprises of

- Four non-indigenous staff- including the principal. Four female, one male.
- Reading Recovery Teacher. (Terms 2 and 3)
- All teachers have a minimum of Bachelor Degrees and several have Post Graduate Degrees in Psychology, Library, and Educational Administration.
- Three Aboriginal teaching Aides

Attendance

This is the biggest issue relating to raising the standards of the students. Many students and parents do not take attending school for granted and there are many students who do not attend regularly. In 2009 the attendance level was around the 45% mark which has a huge impact on the students' achievement. The school is committed to improving this by actively encouraging school attendance by making the school a safe, warm and encouraging environment and a place they want to come to. This is impacting greatly in the younger years and is still a 'work-in-progress' for the older students.

The school rewards those students with a good attendance record by giving prizes and awards, special events, excursions and extra responsibilities.

Naplan

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

Parent/ Student Satisfaction

As the whole non-indigenous staff was new in 2010, the level of school satisfaction is something that we are monitoring closely. According to anecdotal evidence and the rise in school attendance that seems to be occurring, there seems to be a very good level of satisfaction within the community and will be something that we continue to monitor and improve on.

Post School Destinations

As we are in a very remote part of Western Australia, we encourage students to enrol in a number of boarding schools in Western Australia and the Northern Territory. Students who remain at J.P.P School are encouraged to work with training in various community positions. In 2011 students will be encouraged to attend the new Trade Training Centre based in Balgo with courses in Construction, Engineering, Hospitality and Horticulture being offered.