

John Pujajangka-Piyirn Catholic School Evangelisation Plan

Our Mission Statement

At John Pujajangka-Piyirn Catholic School we are a community of adults and children who with the guidance from the Good Spirit work together through Two Way Learning to fulfil our potential, be educated for interdependence and experience the promise of New Life.



Who we are

John Pujajangka-Piyirn Catholic School is situated at Malarn, close to Lake Gregory (Paruku) in the Kimberley which is a remote area of Western Australia. The traditional owners of the land are the Walmajarri people and in 2001 it became Western Australia's first Indigenous Protected Area. While Malarn is set in the desert its close proximity to Paruku means that it takes in a vast desert wetland system of national and international significance with breathtaking scenery.

The school and community were both established in 1979. The Sisters of Mercy began the school and continued until 1994 when a lay principal took over. The school has two primary classes, a secondary class and a kindergarten with a total current enrolment of 40 students. There is also support given to the learning process through an ESL teacher. Targeting children's specific needs and providing for a variety of learning styles are given a high priority.

The local community hold a range of positions in the school including Aboriginal Teaching Assistants, Cultural and Language Advisors, Grounds people, Cleaners and School Committee Members. An education council operates and community involvement in the life of the school is encouraged at all times. Study opportunities are available for Aboriginal Teaching Assistants and community members through the school.

The school has a wide range of facilities and resources including a manual arts room, a home economics room, a library, basketball courts and spacious grounds.

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

School Community Vision

Goals

At John Pujajangka-Piyirn Catholic School we strive to :

- Be a place of receiving life through the Holy Spirit where the values of Jesus are taught and lived
- Live out the expression of the Catholic faith of the people of Mulan in union with the universal Church
- Offer a quality education which develops independence in life and learning and which allows each student to reach their full potential to make informed decisions about their life.
- Encourage and foster the relationship between school and community to create an environment where everyone feels respected, safe and able to participate in school life.
- Recognise the rights of each person and encourage individuals to recognise their responsibilities.
- Foster through the Two Way Learning process, an understanding and appreciation of the traditions and language of the Aboriginal and non – Aboriginal society.
- To be reflective thinkers who are constantly evaluating the needs of the community and responding to those needs in a concrete long term way.
- Foster a respect for other religions

Knowledge

The community of John Pujajangka-Piyirn Catholic School aims to guide and support its students in acquiring knowledge on a broad level of:

- Catholic beliefs and practices
- Numeracy and Literacy
- Aboriginal languages and culture relevant to this area

- Health and hygiene
- Skills to manage life
- Appropriate social behaviour according to the situation
- Other cultures
- Using critical thinking skills
- How people work by themselves and in groups
- Rules and laws and how they help us to live good lives

Values / Beliefs

- The healing power and love of God
- Given sufficient support, encouragement and time all children can succeed.
- Dignity of each person should be upheld in all circumstances.
- Forgiveness and reconciliation
- The community's views should be considered at all times in making school decisions.
- All people in the school community should feel valued and safe

Current situation in our school – The Sign of the Times

At our school we already have

- Children who identify with the Jesus story
- A strong focus on daily prayer as a class and as a school.
- An Aboriginal Studies program and a willingness to develop this further by focussing on language.
- A commitment to school liturgies and celebrating significant events on the church calendar as a school.
- A commitment to providing spiritual development for all members of the school community.
- Procedures and policies in place to encourage each individual to take responsibility for their actions and be able to exercise their rights
- Respect for the role parents play in their child's education
- An emphasis on meeting the literacy and numeracy needs of children.
- Strong relationships and support from the community.
- Improved attendance
- Staff and children from differing religious backgrounds
- The support of the Parish Priest and Church Leaders
- Use of the Curriculum Framework
- A holistic approach to addressing student's needs.

Through community meetings, Church leaders meetings and individual discussions some of the following issues were raised :

- That we should foster respect for all religions but also to remain strong in the Catholic religion on which the school was founded.

- That Ngarpu (God) and culture spirituality should go together.
- Children are prepared by the wider church community and their parents for the sacraments but the school still has a supportive roll in catechesis.
- That respect for each other and the range of languages used should be fostered.
- The issue of using kumantjayi in the school means that children don't need to hear all the English words they need to.
- To investigate developing a Walmajarri language program.

Pressures which we find difficult are:

- The way students physically express themselves in conflict situations
- Finding a balance between cultures in teaching and expectations
- Work ethics in the community
- Transience of staff/community
- Employment prospects at the community level.
- Expectations of community members vary
- Inconsistent attendance
- Having knowledge of issues for students but not always being able to impact on certain areas of their lives.
- Lack of ancillary staff
- Lack of care for the environment / classroom
- Some parent's attitude to attendance.
- Incorporating a variety of Christian and other backgrounds

Planning for the Future

The following is our plan for the next three years. Some activities have already begun and will be ongoing but others will be initiated throughout the next three years. While we are planning for the next three years we acknowledge that this is a working document and should be reviewed as we sustain our practice of being a reflective community and be open to God's word. As a result some things may be altered and the needs of the community change.

Activities already in place and ongoing

Primary Proclamation

Raise awareness of God's call through creation

- Creation stories
- Aboriginal Studies Program
- Recycle / Reuse program
- Bush Trips
- Natural / Man made unit of work
- Broome camp

Raise students' awareness of God's call through heart yearnings (God can help them to fulfil their potential in all areas of life)

- School liturgies at least once a term and on special occasions where appropriate
- Flag raising
- Behaviour management policy
- Having lessons in the community
- Strong Literacy and numeracy programs.
- Diagnostic testing to celebrate steps in learning path.
- Participation in Croc Fest
- Health programs (BBC, breakfast, hands and face washing)

- Increase children's participation in school liturgies onwards)
- Donate money from tuckshop to overseas missions
- Develop cross cultural understandings through formal meeting with parents

Students become aware of God's call through hope for salvation (Jesus Christ offers healing and forgiveness which draws us to God)

- Stop Think Do Program
- Insistence on students reconciling with each other and for inappropriate actions.
- Awards for attendance and self esteem.
- Through joint activities with the community we build up trust and understanding
 - Open days
 - Sharing of information
 - Using Cultural and language consultants from the community to teach children

How do we raise students' awareness of the Promise of the Kingdom of God?

- Reminding children they are good

- FLE program
- Providing access to the school for liturgical celebrations.
- Assembly prayer
- High expectations. A non acceptance of some things that are the norm but that conflict with Jesus' message
- Celebrations of achievements
- Rewarding positive behaviour
- Demonstrating respect for one another

Initiatory Catechesis

Creed / Thanksgiving prayer / Peace prayer

- Educate children about the significant events on the Christian calendar e.g. Lent, Easter, Pentecost and how it effects them personally
- Catholic traditions – feast day celebrations
- Grotto in the school
- Daily Prayer and Religious Education lessons
- Whole School Religious Education
- Visits by the bishop, parish priest and church Leaders
- Books available about the Jesus story.

Sacraments (celebrations of my Christian story and embraces all of liturgy)

- Work in liaison with the parish. Parents prepare the children and school supports them.
- Exposure to elements of the sacramental program through the R.E. program
- Feast day celebrations – John the Baptist, Assumption
- Daily prayer.
- Term masses

Life in Christ (1-3 commandments)

- Establish classroom rules and general practice
- Crucifixes and prayer table in each class
- Grotto and Statue of Mary in the school
- Celebration of feast days
- Work is displayed around the school
- Policy of respecting all people and their values and beliefs
- Respect for Sacred e.g. fostering respect for selves, prayer places
- Mass once a term at school

Life in Christ (4 – 10 commandments)

- Stop Think Do Program
- School practice of caring for school and personal effects
- Emphasis on children telling the truth particularly in a conflict situation
- Classroom resources are shared
- Respect for all aspects of individual's being
- Croc Festival
- Bullying policy
- School noticeboard at shop
- Active support for community during sorry time
- Backpack program

Prayer

- As a whole school pray once a day – this includes praying about issues affecting the community
- Daily in classroom
- Teaching children some of the formal prayers of the church
- Class prayers for mass
- Learning songs

Christian Witness

- Attending weekly liturgies
- Reflection day
- Children's liturgy
- Staff reflections at Easter time

- Staff prayer at meetings and briefings
- Respectful relationships
- Participation in cultural and social life
- Christmas concert

- Following up of incidents.

Activities which we wish to undertake in the future

Primary Proclamation

Raise awareness of God's call through creation

- Pray before going on bush trips (2006 onwards)
- Design units of work based around outcome statements for subject areas to ensure a range of creation aspects are included (2006 onwards)
- Continue to develop Aboriginal studies units of work for ongoing use in the the school (2006 onwards)
- Range of experiences e.g. Croc Eistedford, Secondary camp

Raise students' awareness of God's call through heart yearnings (God can help them to fulfil their potential in all areas of life)

- Celebrate National Sorry Day (2006 onwards)
- Improve delivery of FLE program with new regional funding (2006 onwards)
- Develop focussed teaching in RE (2006)
- Develop focussed teaching in all other curriculum areas (2008)
- Widen delivery of Arts Program to include more music/drama (2007 onwards)
- Raise flag to half mast when someone from community dies. (2006 onwards)
- Aspiration program (2006)
- Students take part in planning for Croc Fest (2006 onwards)

- Cross age activities such as buddy reading, sharing of writing. (2006 onwards)
- Clean up days (2005 onwards)

Students become aware of God's call through hope for salvation (Jesus Christ offers healing and forgiveness)

- Consolidate use of Kimberley Companion
- Set up activities with parents to inform them of programs such as Stop, Think, DO, approaches used in dealing with conflict, raising students self esteem as least once a term (2006).
- Maintain understanding of our respect for all other human beings and their beliefs and values while still maintaining our own Catholicity.

Initiatory Catechesis

Creed / Thanksgiving prayer

- Maintain use of school prayer(2006)
- Continue to obtain cultural artefacts for use in the school and develop an understanding of cultural symbols (2006)
- Use locally made religious symbols
- Deepen understanding of the Jesus story
- Develop understanding of how to and why we pray the rosary (2006)

Sacraments

- Ensure there is ongoing exposure to the sacraments through our R.E. program
- Make books about the sacraments using photos (2006)
- Purchase and make resources for sacramental programs. (from 2006 onwards)
- Incorporation of liturgical seasons into wider curriculum.
- Paraliturgies

Life in Christ (1-3 commandments)

- Create a garden and develop area around grotto has a special prayer place (2006 onwards)
- Create a calendar with students of the religious Feast Days to enable them to prepare more fully for these days (2006 onwards)
- Incorporate religious comparison study into curriculum (2007 onwards)

Life in Christ (4 – 10 commandments)

- Investigate a values based program for implementation in the classroom.
- Investigate the role of the psychologist in terms of behaviour management
- Develop students understanding of, 'Who is my neighbour'

Prayer

- ATA / community members lead prayer
- Expose staff and students to different types of prayer.
- Celebrate more paraliturgies
- Explore using more song in prayer.

Christian Witness

- Spend time with the community
- Follow up incidents
- Express the good of the students to parents