

WELCOME

To our

AMAZING

MY SCHOOL

Project

Compiled by Room Eight, Year Six
St. Joseph's School, Busselton, Western Australia

Facts About Our School

The full name of our school is St. Joseph's School, Busselton. The motto is 'Education Through Christ'. St. Joseph's is a Catholic primary school and was opened in 1903 by the Josephite Sisters. We are the only Catholic primary school in Busselton. Last year, we celebrated one hundred years of Catholic Education in Busselton. There are four hundred students in our school and twenty-five teachers. The average number of students in classes is twenty-five students. Our school is kindergarten to year seven. The normal hours of teaching are from 8:45am to 3:15pm. Our recess is from 11:00am until 11:20am and our lunch goes from 12:25pm until 1:15pm. The average number of weeks in a term is ten weeks. School usually starts in the beginning of February and ends in the middle of December.

We have lots of extra curriculum activities including, music lessons

(flute, guitar, saxophone), choir, swimming carnivals, swimming lessons, athletics carnivals, winter sport carnivals, group singing lessons and book week.



Brief History of the Demolished School

Mother Mary Martina was the first principal of the old school, which was opened by Our Lady of the Missions in 1903. Her time spent there was from 1903-1906, a period of three years.

How often did the children go to church?

The children went to church every Friday.

Were there different classes in each room?

Yes, there were up to three classes in each room.



Mother Mary Martina: First Principal

What were the school hours?

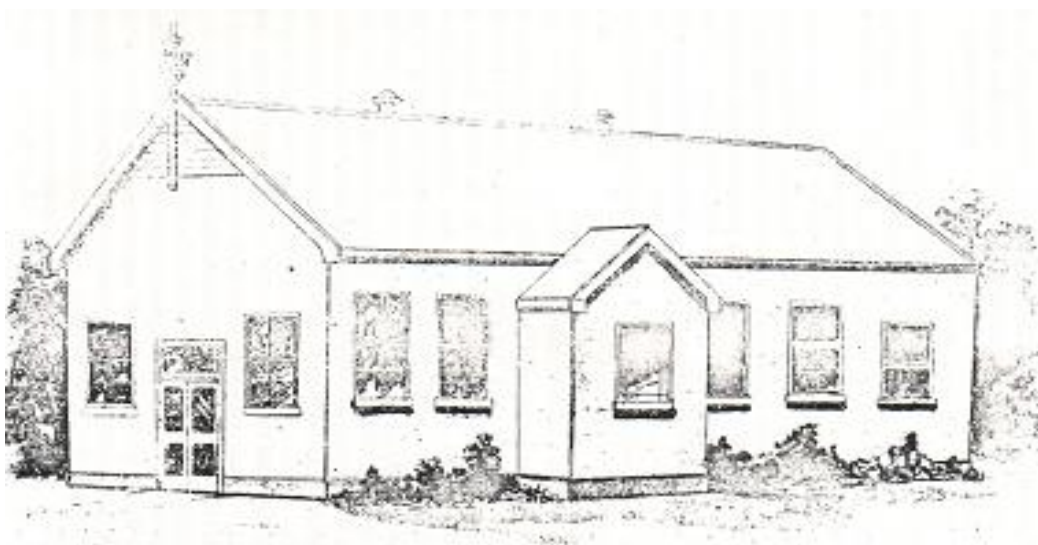
They were the same as today in primary school, but in high school, it was from 8.00am to 5.00pm, so that they could fit in all the subjects.

Were the subjects the same as what we learn now?

They were similar, but they did not have technology or library lessons. They only had music if they chose to do choir or learn an instrument.

Did they have mixed classes, for example, year sixes and sevens together?

Most classes and schools did.



The first St Joseph's School on Kent Street in Busselton



Playtime in the 1930s. (Photo reproduced with the permission of the State Film Archives.)

Children playing at the first St Joseph's School

St Joseph's School In 2004



This is the St. Joseph's School summer uniform



This is the St. Joseph's School sport uniform

At school, we have school masses and class masses at the Our Lady of the Bay Church. We have about four hundred children and twenty-five teachers. Our Principal is Sister Kathleen Hitchcock. Our school runs from Kindergarten to year seven. Kindergarten children attend Kindergarten on Tuesday's and Thursday's for a full day. Pre-Primary children attend Pre-primary all week for a full school day, to get into the same routine that years one to seven have. We have four terms in our school year and three uniforms which are our summer, winter and sports uniforms. In first and fourth term, we wear our summer uniform and in terms two and three, we wear our winter uniform. Each term, we have a sports day and each grade has a different day and we wear our sport uniform. We have specialists and they include L.O.T.E (Languages Other Than English), Art, Library and Music. We also have teacher's assistance for those who need more help than others.

Student Interview About Our School

Student One: A Boy

Which two teachers do you like the best?

Miss Barrett- Lennard and Mr Murphy.

Which year has been the best so far?

Year six.

Do you think the school uniform will ever change?

Yes, I think it will.

Which specialist subject do you like the best?

Music.

Student Two: A Girl

Which two teachers do you like the best?

Miss Barrett- Lennard and Mr Grace.

Which year has been the best year so far?

Year six.

Do you think the school uniform will ever change?

Yes, I think it will.

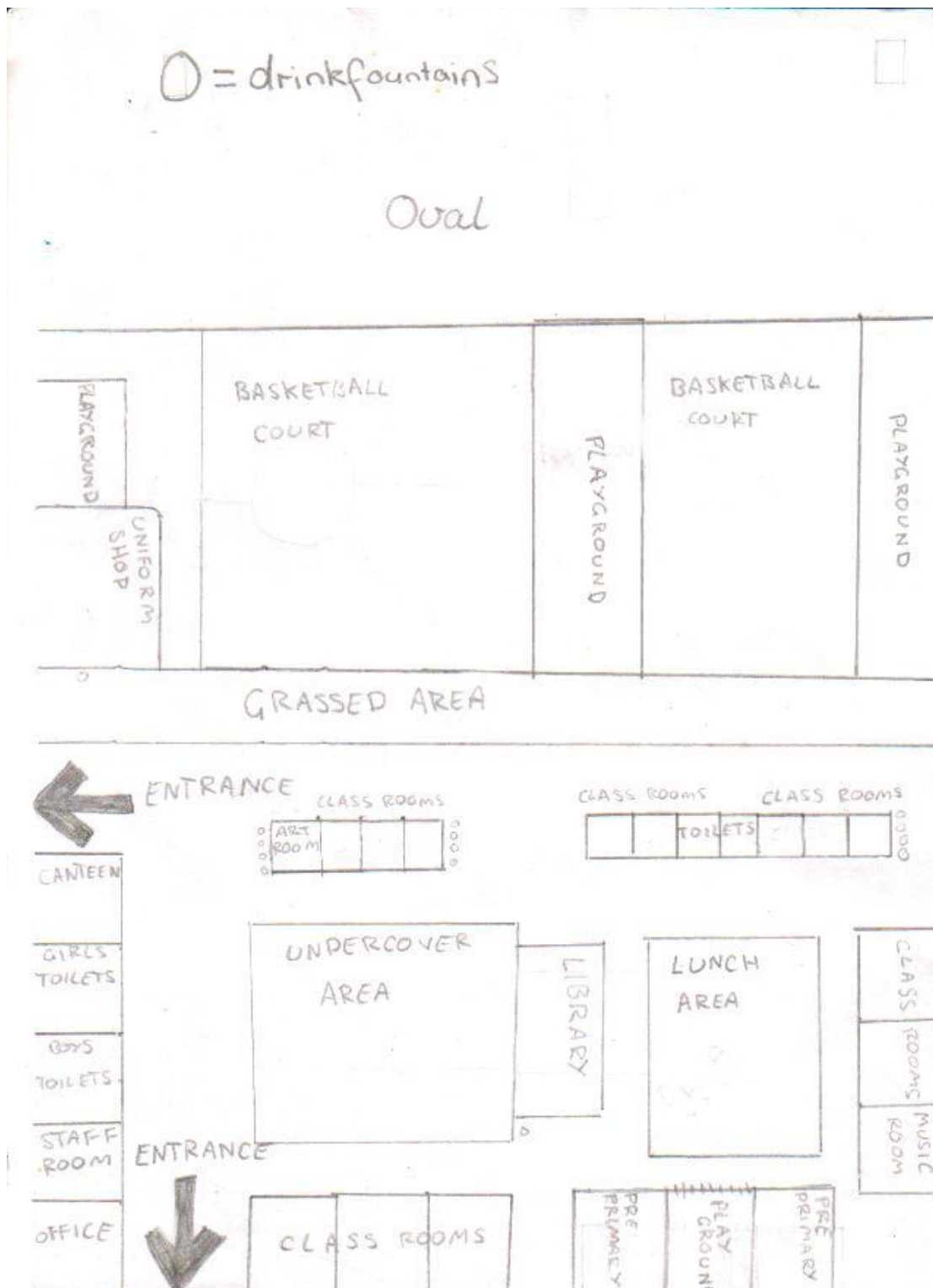
Which specialist subject do you like the best?

Art.



Interviews

Birds-eye View of St. Joseph's School in 2004.



Teachers

Teacher - Miss Claire Barrett-Lennard

What subjects do you teach?

I teach English, Mathematics, The Arts, Technology and Enterprise, Religion, Science, Society and Environment and Health and Physical Education.

When, where and how were you qualified?

I went to Edith Cowan University in Churchlands (Perth) and completed a Bachelor of Education: Primary Teaching degree. It takes four years and I completed it from 1997-2000.



Why did you choose teaching?

I chose teaching because I wanted to be in a job that I could share my interests and strengths, which would hopefully lead to a fun and fulfilling career. I loved Theatre Arts and English in high school and was good at these subjects, so I knew I would be a good communicator and loved interacting with other people. I was always a leader in high school and that taught me good time management and organizational skills. I knew I loved children and saw that my other interests such as music, sports, history and geography would be indulged if I became a teacher. I also was proud of my faith and knew I would find much satisfaction in teaching religion in a Catholic school. So, all this combined, it seemed obvious that my vocation would be teaching.

What are your likes of teaching?

I love interacting with the children and respect them for the unique individuals they are. I also like sharing the learning journey with the children and sharing and discovering more about our beautiful world. I love collaborating with other teachers and feeling that what I do (educating the next generation) is so important and valuable. I love meeting the parents, other community members, being part of the parish and being a part of a great community. I find it interesting because of the variety of subjects I teach. I love watching the children develop and get great satisfaction from the results I see because of the work I do for and with the kids. It's an amazing job, but its hard work!

What are your dislikes of teaching?

It is very hard work and there is a lot of pressure from many sources- your-self, the principal, the parents, the community in general. Its very tiring because you are responsible for everything you do and say at very single moment throughout the day. Its difficult because there is only one teacher to cater for thirty individuals academic, social, behavioural, emotional, physical and spiritual needs everyday. It takes a lot of energy, but you get sick easily being in the same room as thirty kids all day and germs spread easily in that kind of environment, so its hard to keep up the pace consistently over ten weeks. Finally, there is a lot of paper work and extra work to do besides teaching the children, so it's a very consuming profession.



Miss Barrett-Lennard cont.

Do you think having fun with your class helps them in work?

I do believe having fun with your class helps them in their work. Luckily, my classroom seems to be a happy place and I take great pride in this. Hopefully this reflects my personality and means I allow the children's personality's to come through too. I try to be relaxed, real and good humoured when I teach and try to relate concepts to the children's real world. I like to put the children's work on display to show them that I am proud of what they do and value their achievements. I allow them to talk to each other and love class discussions. I like to plan lessons that allow creativity and flair. I try to use a variety of teaching strategies and learning tools to cater for all intelligences and make it more interesting. Sometimes I dance, sing and do stupid stuff and I leap around the classroom, which sounds really strange, but the kids love it! I guess it builds teacher/ student relationships and we do all get along really well and I am so grateful- I love it!

What are your teaching methods?

I use a variety of teaching methods and it can be very different per program and learning area. For each learning area I teach (there are eight: English, Mathematics, Religion, Society and Environment, Science, Health and Physical Education and Technology and Enterprise and The Arts) I write a program per term. Sometimes the learning areas are integrated, so one program can be used for both. I write these programs based on the needs I see there are in the classroom that need to be addressed, interesting themes and topics that are worth exploring, as well as what I think will motivate the kids to do great work and learn a lot in the process. All these reasons benefit the children's learning.

Also, there are different methods I use if children are struggling. For example, I can send students to our support specialist, Helen Rabjones, on Mondays and Thursdays for an hour at a time. I can write individual programs for students that have specific needs and modify their tasks so they can achieve the outcome that is more appropriate for their level. Also, I evaluate and assess individually and the mark they get is a reflection of what the student has achieved and how they have progressed, not by comparing them to anyone else.

I make sure I use a variety of resources, learning tools, visual aids, provide enough time for the tasks to be completed and I am always available to be of assistance.

What sort of subjects do you teach?

The main subjects I focus on are English, Mathematics, Religion, Society and Environment, Science, Health and Physical Education and Technology and Enterprise and The Arts through integration. The only learning area I do not cover is L.O.T.E (Languages other than English) because I do not speak and have not studied another language and we have a specialist at our school that can cover this learning area.

Do the parents and children like your teaching methods?

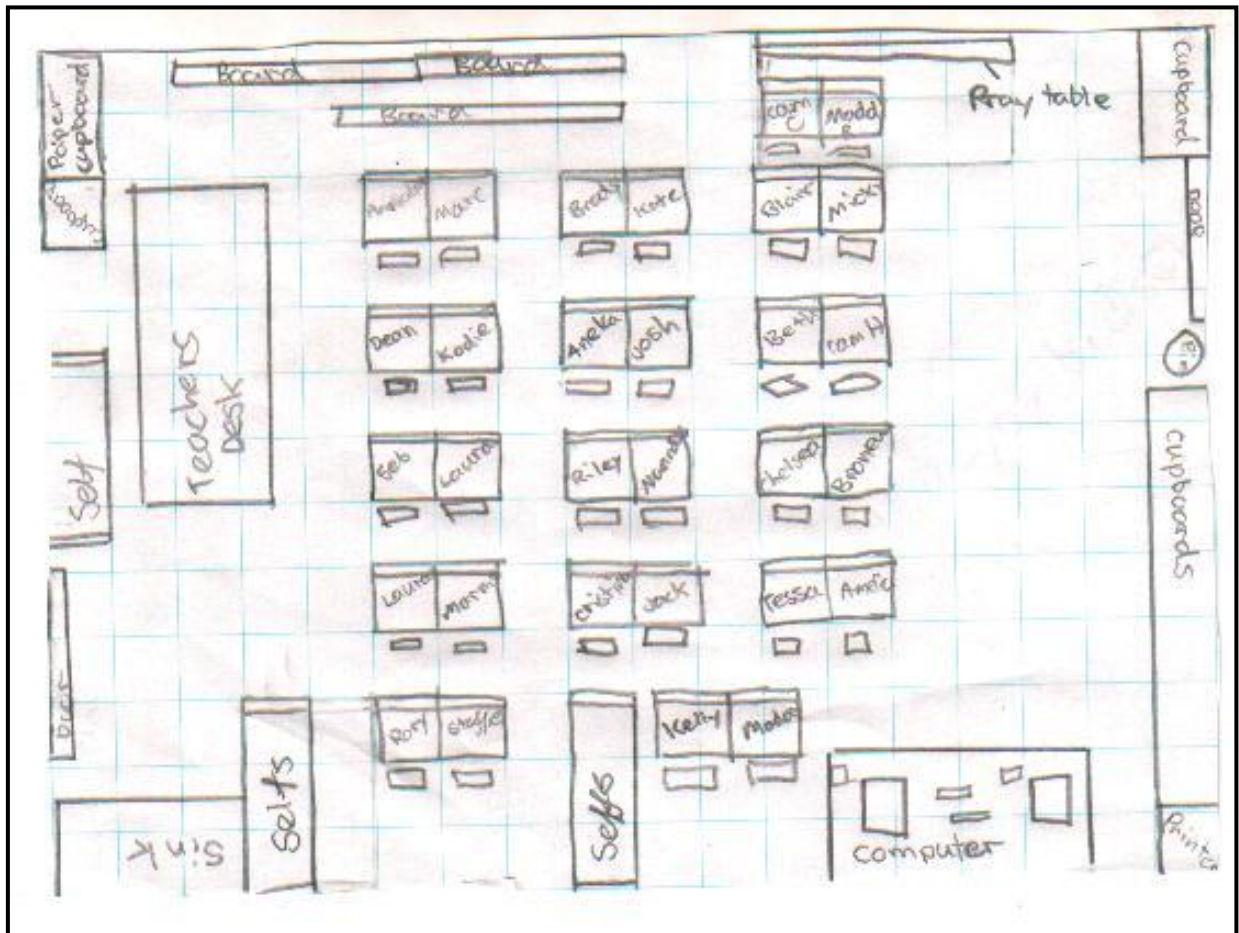
I feel that most of my children and parents are happy with my teaching methods. Every term, the parents have the opportunity to write to me about anything they want to let me know and the feedback is overwhelmingly positive- I am very grateful. The children in my class seem happy to come to school and participate enthusiastically in

Miss Barrett-Lennard cont.

all activities through out the day. We all seem to get on really well and the students are producing excellent work, so I am pretty sure everyone is happy!

Do you enjoy teaching the way you do, or do you want to change it?

I love interacting with the children and respect them for the unique individuals they are. I also like sharing the learning journey with children and discovering more about our beautiful world. I love collaborating with other teachers and feeling that what I do (educating the next generation) is so important and valuable. I love meeting the parents, other community members, being part of the parish and a great community. I find it interesting because of the large variety of subjects I teach. I love watching the children develop and get great satisfaction from the results I see because of the work I do for and with the kids. It's an amazing job even if it is hard work. But overall, I like the way I teach and am keen to keep learning new ways to improve my teaching, so I keep developing and progressing in my profession.



Miss Barrett-Lennard's classroom.

Miss Barrett-Lennard cont.

What are your class topics this term?

This term, our topics are Australian Government, Our Bodies Growth and Development and Christmas.

What do you do for the pupils to teach these subjects?

I can write a Society and Environment program with a variety of learning experiences, recourses, possibly an excursion and an assignment to learn more about the Australian government.

I can write a Religion program, give a homework assignment that integrates with art activities to learn more about our bodies, our identity and how we grow and develop over time.

I can write another Religion program, complete craft activities and read Christmas stories to indulge in the Christmas experience, among many other things.

Do you share these topics with another class?

The Australian Government topic is with the other year six class, as with the topic Our Bodies Growth and Development. The Christmas topic will be done with our buddy class, which is the year two group.

Do pupils enjoy the subjects?

If you write a good program, with interesting lessons, a variety of strategies, use different resources, do fun things, make things to take home, the kids should enjoy the lessons and therefore the subjects.

How did you think of the subjects?

In many different ways, for example, you can follow the religion units for year six, cover topics that are important for year six to learn (Government), look for current topical issues (the recent election), look for current festivals (Christmas) and ask yourself 'What is interesting for my kids to learn? What do they enjoy?' and 'What topics haven't already been done and where are the gaps in learning?'

How long do you teach the subject for?

The Government topic is a one-term program, the Body Growth and Development topic is for five weeks and Christmas is for the whole term.



Teacher- Mr. Tim Murphy

We interviewed our schools vice-principal, Mr. Murphy and this is what he had to say.

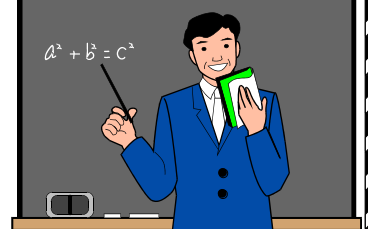
Mr. Murphy chose teaching because his father was a teacher. Mr. Murphy feels that he has always been good at relating to kids. He has coached cricket and hockey teams, so he thought teaching would be a good job for him.

Mr. Murphy started teaching twenty-five years ago! Teaching has pretty much been what Mr. Murphy expected, but he cannot believe he has been teaching for over twenty-five years! He says that teaching has changed and so have the kids- it was easier to teach twenty-five years ago! However, he still enjoys the challenge of teaching.

Mr. Murphy says he is not sure if he would do another job if he had the choice, because he says he never had the chance of doing wood work or manual arts like now, so he didn't know if he would be any good at it. Mr. Murphy says if he had more of a choice, he would have tried an occupation where he could use his hands, like an electrician, because he loves solving problems and science.

Mr. Murphy loves being a teacher because he likes preparing kids for life and he loves watching the kids grow from year one to year seven. His first year two class will be year sevens in 2005. He is proud that he has been a part of their life.

He says that the best thing about being a teacher is helping the kids grow and develop. Over his twenty-five years, he has probably influenced over seven hundred kids. Mr. Murphy also thinks the holidays teachers are entitled to are good.



The subject Mr. Murphy does is Technology and Enterprise. He likes the challenge of computers and it is easy to teach because all kids love it and it is great fun teaching computers skills.

Mr. Murphy teaches us at St. Joseph's School because he was teaching in Geraldton and there was a job for Assistant Principal advertised here. He applied for the position and got the job.



Teacher- Mr. Patrick McNulty

Do you think having fun with your class helps them in work?

I am absolutely convinced of this. You can't make everything fun, but I like to as much as possible.

What are your teaching methods?

Lots of student in-put, group work, discussion and games.

What sort of things do you teach?

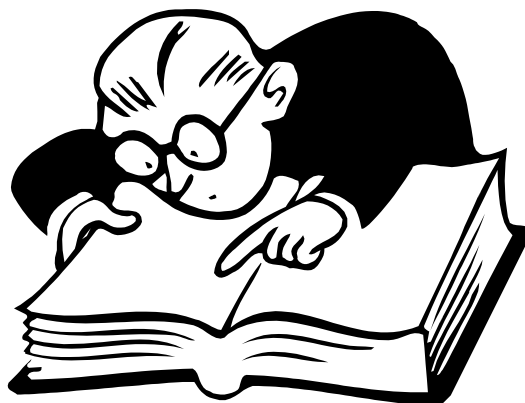
Lots of issues that concern young adolescents and preparing them for high school.

Do the parents and children like your teaching methods?

I hope so!

Do you enjoy teaching the way do you or do you want to change it?

I really love teaching the way I do and would not want to change.



Our School Principal- Sister Kathleen Hitchcock

How long have you been teaching?

I started teaching in 1975, so I am in my thirtieth year of teaching.

What do you teach?

I trained to be an Early Childhood teacher (Kindergarten to year two), but I have taught every year level from Kindergarten to year seven.

What is the most enjoyable thing about teaching?

The children!

Why did you choose to be a teacher (and principal)?

I chose to become a teacher because I wanted to help children to learn and enjoy learning. Like Mary MacKillop, I wanted to make a difference. I was appointed a Principal in 1982 and have been one ever since. I have continued to be a Principal because you are able to help all members of the school community.



Teacher- Mrs. Adele Ryan

What is your class topic this term?

Space and Christmas.

What do you do for the pupils to teach them these subjects?

Brainstorm space words, research facts, writing activities, art and craft.

Do you share these topics with another class?

No, we only have one class with year two students, but I would otherwise.

Do the pupils enjoy this subject?

Yes, they enjoy learning about the planets.

How did you think of these topics?

From the past year of teaching and library resources.

How long do you teach these subjects for?

We do six weeks of space and three weeks of Christmas.



The year two classroom

Teacher- Mrs. Angela Hegney

What is your class topic this term?

Our class topics this term are Oceans, Water Use and Sea Creatures.

What do you do for the pupils to teach this topic?

Our reading and reading group activities are based on these topics.

Do you share this topic with another class?

Yes, with the other year three class.

Do the pupils enjoy the subject?

Yes, they do enjoy a variety of activities on the same subject.

How did you think of these topics?

Miss Barnsby and I decide together our topics.

How long do you teach this topic for?

This term, we are sticking to the 'Oceans' topic for five weeks, then 'Christmas' until the end of the year.



The year three's hard at work



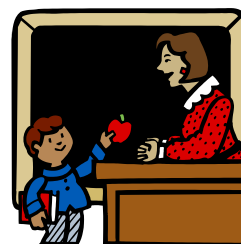
Working happily together

Teacher- Mrs Melinda Kartana!

This is the interview with Mrs Kartana, our Indonesian teacher and here are some questions and answers.

What do you teach?

Indonesian.



How long have you been teaching?

About four years.

Why did you choose to teach this subject?

Because my husband is Indonesian and I am interested in the language and the culture of Indonesia.

Do you have any other occupations?

Yes, I work in a Newsagency one day a week.

How old are you?

Thirty-one years old.

What age were you when you wanted to start teaching?

Probably about seventeen-years old.

What is the most enjoyable thing about teaching this subject?

Teaching is something I love.

Mrs Kartana is a fantastic and bright person. Some of the teaching strategies she uses are showing us DVD's about Indonesian culture and teaching us games that make us practice speaking the Indonesian language. At the end of the lesson, she gives the well-behaved people five hundred Rupiah (Indonesian money) as a reward, but it is just pretend money! Overall, she is a terrific teacher and we enjoy her teaching us a lot.



Teaching

Student Interview on Specialist Subjects

Blair D. & Kodie A.

How do you think Specialist teachers benefit your education?

BD-I think the specialists help people by actually getting right to the point and give as much time as possible to help them understand.

KA-By focusing on your weak spots of the learning areas you find difficult.

What do you enjoy about going to specialist classes?

BD-I only like the fact that you can do other subjects like cutting up animal parts.

KA- In Art, I enjoy doing colouring and drawing. In Library, I like how we learn about different things. In Music, I like how we learn different moves. In Support, its good how there are less people for the teachers to go to.

How is it different to being in your normal classroom?

BD-There is just less people and different work.

KA-There is no difference being in another classroom, it's just that there is only a few people for the teachers to teach.

What happens in a typical Support class?

BD-We do work, then we talk about it and help the people that get stuck.

KA-It is to improve our weak spots and to find out some strategies to help us.

Do you always get the help you need from specialist teachers? How do they help you?

BD-Yes, you do get the help you need because they explain it to make sure you know and everyone else knows what they are doing.

KA-Yes I do, because the teachers don't have to go around to as many students because there are only a few people in the class at a time.

What would you rate Art out of ten?

BD-Five

KA-Eight and a half



What would you rate Library out of ten?

BD-Eight

KA-Nine

What would you rate Music out of ten?

BD-Four

KA-Seven

What would you rate Support out of ten?

BD-Seven

KA-Seven and a half

What would you rate Indonesian out of ten?

BD-Ten

KA-Eight



Interviews with students from our buddy class

Do you enjoy having your buddy?

Rosie: Yes, I do.

Kristy: Yes, I like having my buddy.

Mitch: Yep.

Ellen: Yes.

Blake: Yes, I do.



Why?

Rosie: She's fun and nice.

Kristy: She is cool and nice.

Mitch: He's like my brother.

Ellen: Because she plays games with me.

Blake: Because he's funny and stupid.

What kind of things do you do with your buddy?

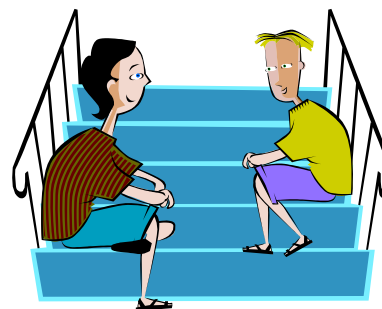
Rosie: I play games and have fun with my buddy.

Kristy: We talk and play.

Mitch: Play around.

Ellen: She helps me and plays with me.

Blake: We play fight and have a laugh.



What do you like doing with your buddy?

Rosie: Playing with her.

Kristy: Just being with her.

Mitch: Playing chasey.

Ellen: Drawing on the whiteboard with her.

Blake: Play fighting and running around.



From left: Kristy, Ellen, Rosie, Blake and Mitch.

Subjects Taught at Various Ages

The main subjects that are focused on here at St. Joseph's are English, Mathematics, Society and Environment, Science, Health, Physical Education, Technology and Enterprise, but the main subject in all year groups is Religion. Here at St. Joseph's, we follow the Catholic faith. In year three, it is the year you receive Eucharist and in year seven, you make your Confirmation. At the end of year six, the focus is to be ready for year seven, which means to be ready for the responsibilities year seven brings, to be able to take on challenges as they come and also be able to work at the level of expectation.

A Typical Mathematics Lesson In Year Six

Everyday after recess, we do a Mental Mathematics lesson and after that, we have what is called 'class discussion'. In 'class discussion', we talk about the problems we have had in that lesson, for example, someone might put their hand up and say, "I've had trouble with number five." The teacher then explains and shows how to do the question. We then do a page in a book called Rigby Mathematics. In Rigby Mathematics there are certain modules in the book. In each module, there is a different focus of learning, for example, Space, Measurement, Area, Perimeter and Problem Solving. There is a module review every two modules.

A Typical Language Lesson In Year Six

In our language program, we do one page a week in Complete Spelling and Everyday Grammar. Every term, we have a different focus. In term one and two we learnt to spell words by having spelling tests every Friday. In term three the focus was comprehension. Now in term four the focus is our grammar skills.



Student: A Boy

What is your favourite subject and why?

Sport, because you don't have to do school work and sport is fun with our teacher.

Does your teacher teach in interesting ways and why?

Yes, Miss B-L uses expression. If she didn't use expression, her lessons would be boring and no one would want to be at school. My teacher has fun in her teaching and she makes sure that her students have fun as well.

Do you like your teacher and why?

Yes, I do like my teacher, because she lets us have fun in our work at school and because, to me, she isn't really a teacher, she is a friend.

Do you have any dislikes about school and your education?

Yes, when teachers are dull and boring and when we have lots of homework and heaps of projects due in early.

Student Interview

Student: A Girl



What is your favourite subject and why?

I like English because I love spelling but I am not completely sure, I just enjoy it a lot.

Does your teacher teach in interesting ways and why?

Yes, the way she explains things in detail and she sometimes tells us a story to go with it. She's great.

Do you like your teacher and why?

Yes, she is the best. She is always exciting and you feel like she's not only your teacher, she is just like a stepmother or a great friend.

Do you have any dislikes about school and your education?

No, not really. Sometimes I may dislike an activity, but not often. I may dislike the time given, but I know I can get it in on time, plus the teacher would not give us time when she knew it was impossible.



Clubs & Achievements

This part of the project is about the clubs and achievements of our school. Firstly, we will explain 'The Eagle Cup.'

'The Eagle Cup'

'The Eagle Cup' is organised by the Football Development trust. It was a weekly event that happens one day a week for four weeks. This year, St. Joseph's School won 'The Eagle Cup', which was very exciting. This competition is different from the second event we will explain, which is the Winter Carnival.

The Winter carnival

St. Joseph's School is the only Catholic school in Busselton. St. Joseph's School used to be in the Government schools Winter carnival, but the carnival got too big and St. Joseph's were unable to enter after that. So, the non-government schools decided to organise their own carnival. This take place at the end of term two or early term three.

The Winter carnival this year was meant to be at the end of term two. Unfortunately, it had to be postponed to the first week of term three, because of bad weather. We finally held the carnival at the beginning of term three. In the Winter carnival, we played for St. Joseph's School in Australian Rules Football. There were four games and we won two of those games. The winter carnival was a one-day event and we played all the games in that day.

Carnivals and other activities when students can compete against and mix with students from other schools are really worthwhile. The students enjoy them and get a lot out of them.

What is the winter carnival?

The winter carnival is when all the Christian schools in the area go and play winter sports.

Why did we have the winter carnival?

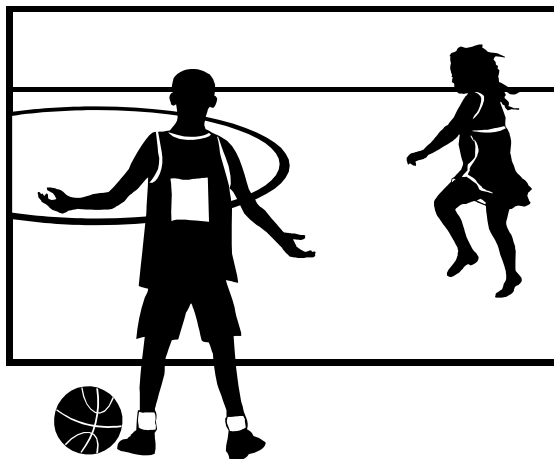
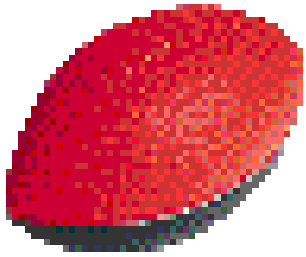
A few years ago, St. Joseph' School had a carnival with all the other schools. But since then, two new Christian schools have been built in Busselton. Because of this, we decided to have our own carnival with all the Christian schools in our region. Therefore, only the State School's still compete in the original carnival.

How did you make the winter carnival successful?

It took a while to contact and organise teams and dates, but all the Christian schools were very keen to have a carnival for their students. Now we have done it once, next year it will be much easier. You just have to make sure you have fixtures drawn up and someone to book the grounds. The students participated in a friendly way and with sportsmanship because the theme for the day was 'have a go and have fun'.

Who organized the winter carnival? Mr Murphy was the overall organiser, but there were co-ordinators for each sport.

*When was it on?
Thursday, 29th of August.*



The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Why do we have the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

So we can become a bigger part in God's family.

What is the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is when you confess to God a sin so he can forgive your sins.

How do we have Sacrament of Reconciliation?

We go to church and tell the priest a sin and say a little prayer.

When is the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

The first one is year four, and then the rest are every year.



Here are some students having the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Sacrament of Eucharist

How do we have the sacrament of Eucharist?

The people receive the body of Christ (bread) and blood of the holy one (wine).

What is the sacrament of Eucharist?

To be welcomed into God's family.

When do we have the sacrament of Eucharist?

Year three onwards.

Who organizes the sacrament of Eucharist?

The students, teachers, parents and Church parish.



Here are some year three students who have just had the sacrament of Eucharist