Dear St Joseph’s School Community

It has been a privilege to serve the Saint Joseph’s School Community as Principal since 2010.

I have always found it a joy every day as I visit classrooms and school events and see students doing “all the good they can” by “striving for excellence” and “making a difference” in everything that is offered by St Joseph’s School in the religious, academic, cultural and sporting domains. The many visitors that come to the school continuously comment how blessed we are with our students when they see them fully engaged in a vibrant learning community. Our students are always described as being true ambassadors for the school whenever they represent St Joseph’s School.

It is important that we continue to celebrate our successes and everything that makes St Joseph's School a wonderful school in the twenty first century. We have a rich community with many talents that need to be treasured. Some of our families that have been connected with the school for a long time and we have new families that join our community and add to the richness that makes St Joseph's School a special place.

St Joseph’s School continues to enjoy a spiritual and pastoral relationship with the Parish Community. The spiritual dimension of students have been developed and nurtured by our faith related activities that we have been involved in this year. We are blessed to have our Parish Priest Father Pavol and Assistant Priest Father Emmanuel who have engaged with St Joseph’s School Community and added their own richness to the evangelisation of all members of our community. We have celebrated beautiful Masses such as Saint Joseph’s Day Mass, the Sacrament of First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation Mass which was celebrated by the Most Reverend Donald Sproxton, Auxiliary Bishop of Perth.
Founder’s Day Mass and celebrations in 2013 was a tremendous success. We had a beautiful Mass that was followed by an assembly where Sister Anne Marie and her brother, Brother Joe Hughes inspired everyone present with stories of life at St Joseph’s School, when we had the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Apparition and the Marist Brothers present. This year we celebrate 124 years of the sisters and 65 years of the brothers being involved with St Joseph’s School.

St Joseph’s students have actively participated in the Bishop’s Religious Literacy Assessment, NAPLAN, WAMSE Assessments, the Australian Mathematics Competition and the da Vinci Decathlon. Staff have consulted more with CEO Consultants on the analysis of the data and ways to improve our student performance. I am delighted with the significant improvement in our results for the Bishop’s Religious Literacy Assessment, NAPLAN and WAMSE.

Students at St Joseph’s School have competed with a competitive spirit and a sense of fairness in many different sporting and cultural activities this year. The Primary Choir excelled at the AVAS Eisteddfod, Dowerin Field Day and the Performing Arts Festival in Perth. The Year 6 Retreat and Camp, the Year 10 Outdoor Education Camp and the Canberra and Melbourne Tour were a highlight for many of our students. Some very spirited secondary students also participated in the twenty four hour Relay for Life Cancer Appeal during the rain at the Joondalup Arena again and are a true inspiration to us all.

In terms of Quality Catholic Schooling we have completed four components in 2013 on Engagement with Parish and Church, Vision and Mission, Cultural Diversity and Accountability. Staff have been active in a variety of professional learning opportunities such as the Cultural Immersion Program and “In the Champagnat Way” with the Marist Mission and Life Formation Team. We have also worked collaboratively with Sacred Heart Catholic School Goomalling, St Mary’s School Merredin and St Joseph’s School Southern Cross on the Australian Curriculum, integrating ipad technology into the curriculum and Kagan Cooperative Learning strategies. Staff have attended more professional learning individually and I was delighted that members of the Leadership Team as well as our Board Chair attended Marist Conferences this year. The aim as always is to assist us in our teaching to engage every student at St Joseph’s School more in their learning in a Catholic School Community.

Thank you to the St Joseph’s School Community for the support that you continue to give to our school. We are truly blessed to have a parent community who are so giving. As a Parish Pastoral Council, P& F and Board, we have worked collaboratively to ensure that we plan for the present and future of St Joseph’s School. As we continue to work on our strategic plan, I would especially like to express my gratitude to the members of the Board for working tirelessly on ensuring that we have a strategic plan and for continuing to work collaboratively on achieving our goals and actions. Our Board Chair Mrs Kathryn Egerton-Warburton has been an inspiration as she continues to strive for excellence for St Joseph’s School.
I would like to thank the Leadership Team of Mr Johnson, Mr Izzard, Miss Dempsey, Mr Gargano, Mrs Booth and Mrs Parnham, here tonight for working collaboratively on achieving our goals and for all their inspiration in assisting all members of our School Community to achieve success. My sincere appreciation also goes to our Executive Assistant Mrs Marie Chomiak for the huge support she gives to me as principal and the support she gives to staff, students and parents at St Joseph’s School.

I have been truly blessed to work with a staff who are committed, hard-working and pastoral in their care of students and continue to live out our mission of “Centred on Jesus Christ, we inspire and nurture our students to reach their full potential in a Catholic School Community”.

I would like to finish with our beautiful Saint Joseph’s School Prayer:

Dear Lord
We ask you to bless St Joseph’s School Community.
We pray that you guide us to be just and to see, listen, speak and act like St Joseph.
May we be inspired by our Founders to be the best that we can be.
May we always keep Jesus at the centre of all we do.
Saint Emilie Pray for us
Saint Marcellin Pray for us
Saint Joseph Pray for us
Amen.

Yours in Christ

Kevin Sheehy
Principal
St Joseph’s School Northam