St. Mary’s Parish AGM Meeting  2 May 2010

Principal’s Report

Curriculum Development
In the area of Religious Education, an online facility was developed to provide an effective means of communication. This facility also is used to provide resources for the teaching of Religious Education.

Professional Development was provided
- through input sessions at PLT Meetings in the areas of planning, assessment and Faith Formation
- Andrew Chin presented a workshop/concert for staff and students using music to reflect on the message of Jesus
- Elio Capra presented two evenings for families and staff on “Sacraments in our Lives”
- Brendan Hyde presented sessions for P-2 teachers through the Godly Play approach to bringing scripture alive in the classroom

Survey Results indicated that staff behaviour had increased from 65 to 75, parent behaviour on the Catholic Culture survey increased from 72% to 78% and student behaviour improved from 75% to 78%

In the area of Literacy
- work focused on developing a whole school approach to the teaching of writing and spelling.

In the area of Numeracy
- work focused on developing a P-6 curriculum overview and a planning format was introduced for classroom use.

A Team of teachers attended the “Inquiry Minds” project over a number of days and a
- whole school understanding was established which has lead to the development of some exciting and challenging Units of work.
- Personal and Interpersonal learning was specifically incorporated into units of work
- Thinking routines have been embedded into teaching Units.

In the area of Student Wellbeing
- the Restorative Practices approach was further embedded in our approach to working in the area of student behaviour management
- there was a focus on Values Education. Each Term a specific value was taken as a focus for working with students - these being Respect, Responsibility, Resilience and Reaching Out.
- We participated in an AGQT Project with neighbouring Primary schools and Loyola College. The focus of this project was on “Transition and Engagement.” Yr 6 students were involved in 3 Transition mornings at Loyola College and staff was in-serviced on approaches to assist students from Yr 5-8 to become more engaged in their learning. A student focus group attended a day with other Primary school students discussing “how learning can be meaningful” from a student’s perspective.
School Based Professional Development

- Lyn Watts worked with Staff on creating a Positive Classroom Environment and on Student Engagement
- Jane Plunkett worked with staff in a coaching role in the area of Writing
- A professional development day was held at the Ian Potter Centre where approaches to ‘Thinking Routines’ were explored.
- A Cyber safety evening was held for parents
- Elearning sessions were held where all classes and Curriculum Leaders established Myclasses pages as a learning tool
- Staff attended a Zone closure day where “Team Building” was the focus of the day
- Maths and Literacy PLT’s provided avenues for further teaching learning

Results from SRC Survey Data using NAPLAN Data showed that all scores in Maths and Literacy, other than Yr 3 writing, improved on the scaled score from the previous year.

Leadership and Management

- Written documents were developed for protocols and professional expectations. A staff Motto was developed which states ‘Together We are Making a Difference’.
- Interactive Whiteboards were installed in the Senior classrooms. Others have been purchased for the new learning spaces along with 60 mini Laptops. Purchase through $75000 contribution from Government Grant received in 2006

Results from the SRC Survey showed that Team work increased from, 68 to 81. Role Clarity rose from 68 to 78 and Professional Growth from 59 to 70. Supportive Leadership went from 65 to 78

Community

- Throughout 2009, active participation within all groups in the School Community grew. Strong Committees in relation the school Advisory Board, the Parents’ Association, OSHC Program (which is still locally operated) and attendance at Working Bees continued to be positive throughout 2009.

Other Matters

- A String Music Program commenced with Loyola College
- A Compassion Day was held in October and money raised was sent to Fr. Terry Kean to assist with relief work in the Philippines
- We were successful in obtaining funding through the School Focused Youth Services to the amount of $10,500 to conduct the MAT Program in 2010
- Work has progressed on the building of 12 new classrooms and it is anticipated that these learning spaces will be ready for use in June. Cost will come in on budget of $3,000,000 (BER Funding)
- The William Street Car Park and extension to the school Oval is underway and should be completed in the next few weeks. This is being funded through the National Schools Pride (NPS) component of the BER funding ($200,000) Total cost will be $210,000.

Helen Anderson
PRINCIPAL