End of Year 2010 Report

Priority Area 1 - Religion and Evangelism

Goal: To continue to develop a deeper understanding of the Religious Identity and origins of St Rita's School community so as to build on the strengths of our school culture.

Achievements:

The strength of St Rita’s rich school culture reflecting Augustinian spirituality continued to build through the following experiences:

- Well organised and meaningful Leadership Assembly – written and led by Year 7 school leaders
- Enhancing staff expertise in liturgy preparation supported by APRE
- Appreciation of God’s creation through spiritually moving outdoor whole school liturgies in our environmental area (end of term and student protection week)
- Varied attendance at voluntary weekly staff prayer – a challenge for 2011
- Making connections with Mary MacKillop spirituality through celebration of sainthood

School and parish community development continued to evolve through a very successful Family Harmony Day in March and Community Fete in May. A collaborative partnership between the APRE and Parish Care and Concern group resulted in active Mini Vinnies group that has contributed to significant events highlighting local and worldwide social justice issues. Parish worship and attendance at Sunday Mass is encouraged.

Teachers have participated in external and school-based professional learning to improve capacity for teaching Religious Education. This has included a co-teaching experiences
with APRE, combining IC&LTs in teaching RE, understanding diversity and considering Muslim perspectives.

Ongoing spiritual formation opportunities for staff have been provided through first year participation in BCE Catching Fire program.

Priority Area 2 - Student Learning Outcomes

Goal: St Rita’s Primary school will work towards the development of curriculum which values quality learning and teaching with a focus on life-long learning

A main focus for 2010 has been preparation for implementation of a National Curriculum to be phased in from 2011-2014. APs and Curriculum Support Team have attended teachers National Curriculum forums, keeping teachers informed and contributing to national consultation process. Year 6 teacher is participating in BCE enquiry-based History project with emphasis on IC&LT.

Achievements:

Focus on continuous improvement in teaching of reading has resulted in:

- CST trained as trainer for First Steps Reading (to be implemented in 2011)
- CST providing instruction on use of PROBE to monitor reading development and inform planning for targeted reading strategies
- Introduction of EBooks to Prep – Year 4 by Teacher Librarian

Year 2 and Year 6 are currently participating in a Literacy and Numeracy project that has emphasis on data collection and responding to learning needs following analysis of data.

2010 NAPLAN results are very encouraging, indicating improvement within same cohort from 2008 to 2010. (Year 3-Year 5) and (Year 5-Year 7). St Rita’s has achieved above average results in most areas.

Priority Area 3 - Student Support

Goal: St Rita’s Catholic Primary school will work towards sustaining an environment where individual student needs are addressed in order to provide education for life.

Achievements:
Student well-being has been developed through co-ordinated and targeted programs well-supported by research that promotes social and emotional wellbeing. These have included – You Can Do It; Buddies Program”; Peer Mediation, Meditation and introduction of Blueearth for Year 4.

Our School Parent Network supported and funded programs that develop awareness and teach skills and practices to promote personal safety and protective behaviours including Bravehearts (P-3); Brett Lee’s Cyber Bullying sessions; One Punch Can Kill and Safety House.

Visits and presentations by Constable Nathan Vaughn and our Adopt-a-Cop, Constable Weekes have also provided informative learning on issues such as stealing, bullying and safety.

Individual students needs have been addressed with the cultivation of a team and strengths based approach, continuing to develop positive and respectful partnerships among home, school and allied professionals.

Teachers and School Officers have attended professional training in Functional Behaviour Analysis and Non-Violent Crisis Intervention. Plans are in place to take a whole school approach to review our Behaviour Support Policy and Procedures.

Priority Area 4 – Staff Support

Goal: St Rita’s Catholic Primary School will work towards a safe and supportive work environment fostering a vision for future growth and professional development for all staff

Achievements:

A model of professional learning for all staff has been offered in 2010 that involves the following:

- Whole Staff Development in recognising professional and personal strengths and identifying areas to self direct professional learning.
- Staff Professional Development in the BCE Code of Conduct and You, Managing Unreasonable Client Conduct and in Term 4, the implementation of The Enneagram.
- Peer coaching, co-teaching and professional reflection in teaching of grammar; spelling; writing; history; IC & LT, Religious Education, Blueearth Program.
- Self-directed professional learning promoted and approved in alignment with School Strategic Goals and current educational trends and issues.
Priority Area 5 – *Partnerships and Relationships*

**Goal:** *St Rita’s Primary School will cultivate partnerships and relationships which foster safety, support and a sense of belonging*

**Achievements:**

In 2010 we have built on strengths of partnerships within School Parent Network with highly successful community events such as Family Harmony Day, Community Fete, School Disco, and World Teachers’ Day Breakfast.

Our school’s participation in Wakakirri was an extraordinarily successful experience. St Rita’s was selected as a Brisbane Finalist and was recognised for “Best School in Public” (Heats and Finals), “Most Sustainable” (Heats), “Public Speaking” (Finals), and “Team Work” (Heats) awards. Overall at the Finals, St Rita’s was awarded second place.

Initiatives in student wellbeing have also been supported and funded through the SPN – Drug Arm, One Punch Can Kill, Cyber Bullying and Student Protection Week.

Our School Board has enjoyed a year of induction of four new parent members and new Principal. The dedicated work, commitment and support from Mrs Deborah Fox is recognised as she steps down from the role of Chair and long time involvement with St Rita’s.

Priority Area 6 – *Information, Communication and Learning Technologies*

**Goal:** *St Rita’s Primary School will promote the use of CLT’s in everyday activities*

**Achievements:**

Current allocation, distribution and placement of CLT resources are being reviewed to improve capacity for embedding CLT practices across all teaching and learning. A new model of support is being trialled utilising talents and expertise of current teachers with the view to extending expertise across all staff.

Priority Area 7 – *Resourcing Catholic Schools*
Goal: St Rita’s Catholic Primary School will advance the use of efficient, effective, equitable and sustainable practices.

Achievements:

Opportunities have been provided for staff and wider school community to increase their knowledge, understanding and management of school funding and budgeting processes.

This has included consultation with School Board and SPN in resource management, allocation and spending of school funds.

The BER Building Project commenced in June with the expectation to be finished by mid-February 2011. The project includes the construction of closed in multi-purpose hall and extension to the School Resource meeting to provide additional student learning areas and office space for learning support staff.

Priority Area 8 – Renewal and Quality Assurance

Goal: St Rita’s Catholic Primary School will encourage a “culture of continual improvement”

Achievements:


The report indicates that St Rita’s has willingly engaged with the internal school review process over the past 3 years. Review processes have been enhanced by a spirit of collaboration and participation by staff with parents and School Board actively engaged. The panel confirmed that the school is doing an excellent job with review.