St Peter Claver College 2010 Annual Report

Highlights and Achievements

In many ways 2010 at St Peter Claver College has been a place where students have achieved great things because they were encouraged and supported by other members of the Claver community. At Claver when we say to our students 'You Can Do it' we are unleashing an untapped power that is within each student to live life and live it to the fullest.

These were also the words that Jesus spoke not long after he performed a miracle by restoring a blind man’s sight. To a doubting and hostile crowd of elders Jesus said – ‘I have come that you may have life and have it to the full’ – It is also echoed in our 2010 College theme that was given to us by our Year 12 students at the beginning of the year - ‘Make Tomorrow’s Dream Today’ and we also hear it in Saint Mary MacKillop's inspirational words of action –‘Never see a need without doing something about it.’ It is a theme similarly reflected in the powerful plea of St Peter Claver – ‘we must speak to them with our hands before we speak to them with our lips.’ And again - St Marcellin Champagnat challenges us when he says ‘Let us not offend God, asking him very little – The bigger is our demand, the more we will be pleasing to God.’

All of us are called to exceed our greatest expectations – this is our resurrection story – this is our Catholic identity and in so many ways it has been witnessed again and again in 2010 because it defines the heart of what Claver stands for – that untiring, unbending and relentless belief that with Concern, Love and Justice – anything is possible.

A snapshot of the year includes;

... multiple sporting successes in Netball, Rugby League, Soccer and Futsal – to breathtaking performances on the stages and theatres across Brisbane and Ipswich in Dance, Drama and Music – The College Musical ‘Shout – The Legend of the Wild One’ comes to mind immediately as a major highlight in 2010 – another was the inaugural ART Showcase Night held recently where students in Visual Arts, Drama, Dance and Music showcased and performed their own creations. We saw ground breaking achievements in subjects like Mathematics where our Year 8 Team did so well in the Qld Mathematics Challenge as the number 1 school in our region. In 2010 Claver continued its standing as
an outstanding academic College with impressive results in NAPLAN and with a third consecutive year where we achieved the ranking of the number 1 secondary college in the Ipswich Region based on the OP results of our 2009 graduates. In 2010 Claver received national recognition as a school of excellence in supporting the educational outcomes of indigenous students in partnership with families and the community. We were among 14 schools to receive a national award from a pool of over 5200 schools.

2010 also saw the roll out of the 1:1 laptops for students. Claver was an early adopter in the Archdiocese to issue laptops to all Year 9 and 11 students last semester. Since the issuing of laptops we have seen a dramatic and positive shift in focus for many of our students. Teachers have also had to adjust how they are to meet the learning needs of students in a digital age – and they have risen to the occasion to make a genuine effort to ensure that laptops are used as worthwhile learning tools. Another notable initiative in 2010 has been the refinement of the Learning Engagement Action Plan (LEAP) to support students in their learning choices. Modelled on many of the tried and tested processes of our Responsible Thinking Classroom (RTC) – we’re finding that LEAP is having a positive impact on students’ attitude to their learning.

2010 also saw the launch of our new College uniform – and despite anxieties about a phase in over the next three years what we have seen is an enthusiastic uptake by students and families. The new uniform has been symbolically linked to our Marist connection with the introduction of the colour blue to add to the original green and gold. 2010 saw the changing of the guard with Chisholm House being victorious in both the Swimming and Athletics Carnival and More House taking out the Cross Country Carnival. I’m sure Fisher and Xavier House will have something to say next year as this year the overall standings were very competitive.

This year saw the College conduct an External Review as part of a legislative process that happens every 5 years for the College to be granted certification under the Qld Education Act. Four panellists were brought into the College to analyse documentation, interview College representatives and view our facilities in action. The College was commended for the authenticity shown by the College community to its vision and mission and to its Motto of Concern, Love and Justice. The panellists said that there is strong leadership shown at all levels to creatively meet the educational needs of the students. One of the panellists said that in many ways ‘Claver is a world-class school.’ Another panellist said ‘the ethos and ambience and work ethic at St Peter Claver created an immediate impression of an inclusive and student centred Catholic school.’ It is certainly high praise and reflective of the incredible commitment and dedication of the entire College community.

This year the College’s building program saw the construction of a Language Centre, the refurbishment of 4 Science Laboratories and prep room and major road works to address parking and
bus bay needs. Our insatiable appetite for building continues next year with the construction of a new Library. We also have plans to upgrade our tuckshop, ground and maintenance facilities and further enhancements to our hospitality restaurant. Once again these facilities have greatly enhanced the learning opportunities for staff and students.

In 2010 we saw the creation of new leadership positions to support areas of growth and development in the College. These include

- Year 9 and 10 Coordinator
- Yr 8/9 Science Coordinator
- Rugby League Coordinator
- College Promotion Coordinator
- Personal and Social Development Coordinator
- Business and Senior SOSE Coordinator
- Literacy and Numeracy Improvement Teacher
- Digital Online Coordinator
- Enrichment Coordinator

Next year we will add a new position to the list – Student Leadership Coordinator – who will be responsible for overseeing our new Student Leadership Structure.

In 2010 we have continued many of the initiatives from previous years such as Year Level camps, Claver Cares Van, Retreats, Ski Trip, the many Excursions, our indigenous dance troupe performances – renamed in 2010 as Karalbo Ngarii Dancers – meaning ‘joining together to Corroboree.’ Subject Competitions, Sport, Variety Night, Rugby League Awards Night and the Cultural Night to name a few.

These achievements underline that we are a community that encourages and celebrates success because we are inspired and lifted up by each other in a spirit of Concern, Love and Justice.

Diarmuid O’Riordan
Principal