

SCHOOL RENEWAL PLAN

2008 – 2012

BROAD STRATEGIC GOAL: PRIORITY 1

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION and EVANGELISING MISSION

St Mary's will be a community that makes a difference to each member, and to our world, through authentically living, teaching and celebrating the mission of Jesus.

Our Goals for 2008

We intend to:

- Further develop the quality and effectiveness of learning and teaching classroom religious education.
- Provide ongoing opportunities for faith development and growth in spirituality for students, parents and staff.
- Develop the religious life of the school through recognising the charisms of our founders and the faith backgrounds of our students.
- Strengthen staff, parent and parish community understanding and support for the school's Catholic identity and role within the mission of St Mary's Parish.

Our Actions for 2008

- Encourage participation of students in liturgical celebrations especially in the singing and prayer responses .
- Continue to develop a Catholic culture in the school through the use of religious objects and visual representations of Catholic icons.
- Roster each class to lead the school community at Assembly at least once a year.
- Lead the Parish community in the weekend celebration of the Eucharist once a month.
- Provide staff inservice focused on incorporating a wider variety of religious music into prayer and ritual within the school.
- Organise for classes to celebrate the Eucharist with residents of St Mary's Hostel monthly, on a rostered basis.
- Review the Religious Identity and Culture component in the Internal Review process.
- Focus on the life of Mary in our teaching and learning of religion throughout May, in order to identify with her as the model for our school life and culture. Recite the Angelus each day during May as a whole school.
- Continue to provide resources for each class to prepare a sacred space in the classroom.

BROAD STRATEGIC GOAL: PRIORITIES 2 & 6

TEACHING AND LEARNING INCORPORATING ICT

St Mary's will provide active and engaging teaching and learning experiences that allow all students to achieve to their potential through experiencing success in their learning.

Our Goals for 2008

We intend to:

- Strengthen the continuity of teaching and learning approaches to enhance the engagement of all students as they journey through our school.
- Develop inclusive, comprehensive and quality curriculum, assessment and reporting processes.
- Use data and evidence-based processes to inform learning and teaching in order to improve student performance.
- Plan for and resource the integrated use of technology in classrooms.
- Continue to develop online processes that enhance communication within our school and our school community.
- Develop intra-school moderation practices that support and enhance the ongoing development of competency of teacher judgement.

Our Actions for 2008

- Investigate the philosophical understandings that guide teaching and learning at St Mary's and align with BCE Learning Framework.
- Collaboratively develop the school's Vision for Learning
- Develop a bank of writing samples with annotations for use by teachers, to indicate the standards appropriate to each level in alignment with the QSA Essential Learnings and Standards for writing.
- Collaboratively develop a school-based Mathematics Program (Prep – Yr 7) together with a specialist consultant from QUT.
- Implement "Fun with Construction" into the Senior Primary Centre to enhance our school-based Mathematics program.
- Invite Eva De Vries from QUT to facilitate a series of Maths workshops with our teachers to assist us with writing a whole-school Maths program.

BROAD STRATEGIC GOAL: PRIORITIES 3,4,and 5

PASTORAL CARE

St Mary's will embrace programs and strategies that promote a welcoming, caring and supportive school environment for students, parents, staff and parish members, and that strengthen partnerships and relationships between our school, parish and the wider community.

Our Goals for 2008

We intend to:

- Develop whole of school procedures and programs for student protection, personal and social development and behaviour support.
- Further develop school strategies to support the contemporary needs of students at risk.
- Implement classroom practices that are responsive to the strengths and needs of all learners.
- Provide pastoral support to all members of the St Mary's community.
- Provide professional learning to support staff members' professional growth and to enhance school strategic priorities.
- Ensure a safe, productive and healthy workplace.
- Effectively partner with our parent community in school improvement processes.
- Develop collaborative partnerships with Catholic schools in the Ipswich area.

Our Actions for 2008

- In collaboration with the School Board collaboratively write a Health and Safety Policy for our school community.
- Commence a review of the current provision for Learning Support at St Mary's.
- Commence a review of the whole school Student Behaviour Support Plan.
- Seek parental input into Validation process.
- Support beginning teachers through the mentoring processes in place in the school.
- Acknowledge achievements of staff and students through liturgies, assemblies, the newsletter, local press and at Staff Meetings and Awards Night.

- Invite specialist practitioners to speak to staff i.e. Speech Therapist, Guidance Counsellor and Autistic Ass'n rep.
- Continue close association with the P & F, working on school projects e.g. undercover area, improvements to school grounds
- Acknowledge the assistance of our parents/carers in the classrooms and all areas of school life at the assembly and end-of-year morning tea.
- Continue with our community involvement in
 - the ANZAC dawn service at Woodend
 - supporting the Ipswich Hospice Care, St Vincent de Paul and Caritas
 - the organisation of the Maths Team Challenge competition for our District
 - Student Leadership team Induction Day
 - inviting RAAF, Church and civic representatives to participate in our school ANZAC service.
- Promote relationships with our school families through Grandparents' Day, Parent Information Nights, Fete, Orientation Day.
- Participate in the CTJ process with Goodna Catholic school.
- Support St Mary's and St Edmund's Colleges by welcoming work experience students into our school.
- Participate in the Ipswich Catholic Primary Schools Swimming Carnival.
- Host students from Atomi Gakuen School in Japan, in partnership with St Mary's College.
- Organise a class buddy system within the school.

BROAD STRATEGIC GOAL: PRIORITY 7 and 8

ORGANISATION, ADMINISTRATION AND RENEWAL

St Mary's will put in place measures that will assist us to be a self-renewing, well-managed Catholic school that is open and transparent to the wider community.

Goals for 2008

We intend to:

- Ensure resource planning is aligned with school strategic renewal plans.
- Manage our school's financial resources in order to provide high quality Catholic Education.
- Comply with government reporting regulations.
- Create an environment where renewal and quality improvement are continuous.
- Promote and encourage environmental sustainability in policies and practices.

Actions for 2008

- Upgrade all computers within the school.
- Continue with plans to expand the use of ICLT within the school curriculum by providing access to additional computers for use by students.
- Install data projectors in some teaching areas within the school.
- Collaboratively develop the School Renewal Plan for 2008-2012.
- Continue with the upgrading of our undercover multi-purpose area.
- Complete the installation of air-conditioning in all teaching areas throughout the school.
- Upgrade two classrooms within the Senior Centre.
- Investigate the condition of the building in the Senior Centre in order to plan for future maintenance.
- Develop a new school website.
- Install water saving devices on all taps in the school in compliance with Council regulations.
- Promote our school in the wider community through the media.
- Allocate PD funds for a consultant to work with our staff on developing a whole-school Maths program.
- Employ someone on a traineeship to assist with day-to-day computer problems.
- Participate in the CTJ process with Goodna Catholic School.
- Support St Mary's and St Edmund's Colleges by welcoming work experience students into our school.
- Continue with the tradition of celebrating School Year Opening Mass with staff from St Mary's and St Edmund's Colleges.