OVERVIEW

The Smarter Schools National Partnership initiatives are progressing well across the Diocese of Sale.

The Victorian Implementation Plan (VIP) has now been accepted and signed off by the Hon. Julia Gillard (Deputy Prime Minister) in the last week. An Annual Report of the achievements of 2009 is currently being developed by the CECV, DEECD and ISV for submission to DEEWR, due in March.

Each of the Primary Schools in the diocese has completed their school’s Literacy / Numeracy element of the Annual Improvement Plan. The completion of this plan (particularly for NP Schools) is one of the milestones of the VIP for February, 2010. NP Schools will also be reporting on their participation in NP activities through their Annual School Reports. More information will be given to schools as it becomes available.

ReTh!nk: Aspirant Principals
(VIP Initiative 1)

At the end of 2009, aspiring Principals across the Diocese were invited to apply to take part in this initiative. There was an outstanding response with seventeen candidates attending an information session in November, 2009, thereby expressing interest to undertake this course in 2010.

Current planning is underway for the launch of the initiative that will commence with a two day workshop April 8-9, 2010.

Contact:
Primary – Paul Lomas (5622 6616)
Secondary – Rosemary Copeland (5622 6611)

Building a Performance and Development Culture
(VIP Initiative 1)

Nine schools across the Sale Diocese have expressed interest in participating in the Performance and Development Culture initiative. Each school is at a different stage of readiness, most still in the planning stages.

Work has been done to provide support materials to assist schools in deciding if they are ready to work through the formal accreditation process. Three phases of the project have been identified.

The focus of the Catholic Education Office is to support schools individually, tailoring workshops to meet the needs of their specific projects. These workshops include opportunities to develop both the student learning and Performance and Development aspects of these projects. Schools are also aware that they are part of a larger learning community and will be encouraged to share their new learning with other schools across the Diocese.

Contact:
Primary – Jo Oder (5622 6647)
Secondary – Sam Franzl (5622 6654)

Data Literate Leaders
(VIP Initiative 1 & 2)

The Data Literate Leaders course will be conducted for Principals in the Diocese of Sale over two years, commencing Semester 2, 2010 and concluding in Semester 1, 2011.

The program is currently being developed, to be presented locally and face-to-face. Negotiations are underway with a number of universities to ensure that the course meets academic requirements for accreditation towards other study.

The course is based on the premise that Principals need to be able to use data to make informed decisions that will advance student learning.

Contact:
Liz McQuade-Jones (5622 6609)

Pathways Into Teaching
(VIP Initiative 6)

Glenda Arthur has been appointed through CECV as an Academic/Life Coach to support Koori Education Workers who undertake studies to complete Associate Diplomas in Indigenous Education (ACU, National). Three KEWs across Victoria have commenced this study, with the support of the Coach. Feedback indicates that this is a positive initiative.

It is hoped that Sale will be represented in this group in 2011. Schools should start planning for this now.

Contact:
Linda Mullett (5622 6623)

“Whole-system reform is possible, but it must be tackled directly. There are no single factor solutions... The only way to get whole-system reform is by motivating and mobilizing the vast majority of people in the system.”

External Coaching (VIP Initiative 2a)

CEO School Services Staff have undertaken the first two days of training to support schools in approaching change and optimising Professional Learning. There are two further days of training that will take place next week.

Learning Pathways Team (LPT) members are applying this training to support NP schools undertaking the Literacy or Numeracy off-site Professional Development (VIP 2b) for which they are eligible. They will be working with each school’s Principal and Literacy or Numeracy Leader to develop a plan for the project as it relates to the school’s context.

This initiative provides the opportunity to assist teachers to transfer the learning acquired through the EMU 3-5 and Oral Language 3-5 PD days. The LPT “Coach” will support the Lead Teachers to apply the learning to the practice of the classroom, particularly focussing on using PLT structure to build the capacity of Years 3 & 5 teachers.

An outline of this initiative will be sent to NP schools in the coming days.

Contact:
WEST: Cath Briant (5622 6658)
CENTRAL: Carole Livesey (5622 6605) – Term 1 only
EAST: Phil Rebbechi (5622 6646)

Literacy / Numeracy off-site Professional Development (VIP Initiative 2b)

EMU 3-5

Nine of the fourteen NP Schools are undertaking the EMU 3-5 Professional Development days. Dr Ann Gervasoni (ACU) will be facilitating each of these sessions. Teachers will be using the Mathematics Assessment Interview (MAI, formerly ENI) results of their classes to plan for learning over this course.

The EMU 3-5 sessions will run over four days:

| Day One: 11 March, 2010 | Day Two: 12 March, 2010 |
| Day Three: 16 April, 2010 | Day Four: 8 October, 2010 |

Principals of these schools would be most welcome to attend all four days. However, the Principal’s presence is particularly required at Day 4 (8 Oct).

A follow-up day will be held in 2011, for Principals and Numeracy Lead Teachers of these schools (tentatively, 18 March, 2011).

Contact:
WEST: Cath Briant (5622 6658)
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EAST: Phil Rebbechi (5622 6646)

Oral Language 3-5

Five of the fourteen NP Schools, along with nine other schools are undertaking the Oral Language 3-5 Professional Development days. Dr John Munro will present the first two days, with Hugh McCusker facilitating Days 3 & 4. Teachers will be using the ToRCH test results of their classes to plan for learning over this course.

The Oral Language 3-5 sessions will run over four days:

| Day One: 22 March, 2010 | Day Two: 23 March, 2010 |
| Day Three: 13 April, 2010 | Day Four: 24 June, 2010 |

Contact:
WEST: Cath Briant (5622 6658)
CENTRAL: Carole Livesey (5622 6605) – Term 1 only
EAST: Phil Rebbechi (5622 6646)

Family School Partnership Convenors (VIP Initiative 10 & 11)

Four Schools in the Diocese are eligible to participate in this initiative. Anne Speekman has been appointed as the Diocesan Coordinator of the project and has commenced work with those schools. Planning is underway to prepare for the appointment of a Family School Partnership Convenor by June, 2010.

A local mini conference is planned for March 18 (the venue is to be confirmed, but will be in Sale), for the Principal and School Leaders of the schools to engage with CEO staff and commence formalising the project, with a clear focus on using the evidence-base to build the foundations of the project.

Contact:
Anne Speekman (5622 6606)

Student Intervention and Support: Reading Recovery and EMU (VIP Initiative 9)

Reading Recovery intervention

The National Partnerships initiative allows for another cohort of teachers to train in Reading Recovery in 2010. Four teachers have been selected according to the DEECD Guidelines and will commence training in the first weeks of Term 1, 2010. A number of schools will have more than one Reading Recovery Teacher employed at the school.

Each of the National Partnerships targeted schools has an allocation of funding to allow them to “top-up” existing funds and employ a Reading Recovery Teacher to run the program for up to 0.5FTE allocation.

Contact:
Deirdre Thompson (5622 6641)

Extending Mathematical Understanding (EMU) intervention

Carole Livesey commences in the role of the Extending Mathematical Understanding (EMU) Professional Learning Leader in Term 2, 2010. Negotiations and agreements are in place between the CEO, Sale and the Australian Catholic University to be able to run and oversee the EMU Training Program across the Diocese. Due to the need to establish EMU in some schools, training of seven teachers commences on the 25 February.

Each of the four targeted Low SES Schools have an additional allocation to top-up funding allowing them to offer EMU intervention for up to half a day, 5 days a week (up to 0.5FTE).

Contact:
Deirdre Thompson (5622 6641) – Term 1
Carole Livesey (5622 6605)