OVERVIEW

The Smarter Schools National Partnership initiatives continue to progress well across the Diocese of Sale.

The Smarter Schools National Partnership Annual Report of the achievements of 2009 has been completed by the CECV, DEECD and ISV for submission to DEEWR. National Partnerships Schools will also be reporting against National Partnerships, including a brief insert in their Annual Report to the community. The Catholic Education Office will be supporting schools to develop this inclusion.


The newly re-launched CEO, Sale website will include regular updates about the Smarter Schools National Partnerships initiatives as they are rolled out across the diocese. Any school with a “good news” story to share from their involvement in a National partnership activity is most welcome to submit it for inclusion on the website. Contact Liz McQuade-Jones (CEO, Sale) for more information.

ReTh!nk: Aspirant Principals
(VIP Initiative 1)
Sixteen candidates across the diocese are proceeding with plans to take part in the Aspirant Principals program, offered through the Teacher Quality National Partnership. The initiative that will commence with a two day workshop, during the School holidays, on April 8-9, 2010.

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

Building a Performance and Development Culture
(VIP Initiative 1)
Eleven Primary Schools across the Sale Diocese are proceeding to engage with the Performance and Development Culture initiative. Four Secondary Schools have expressed interest in the process. Each school is at a different stage of readiness, most still in the planning stages.

A Performance and Development Culture is:
- A working environment that enables teachers to teach as well as they possibly can
- Focussed on building Teacher Knowledge through professional reflection and ongoing learning
- Quality Leadership that pervades effective organisations
- Guided by professional values and expertise
- A culture of continuous improvement

The focus of the Catholic Education Office is to support schools individually, tailoring workshops to meet the needs of their specific projects. Schools will be encouraged to share their new learning with other schools across the Diocese as the project progresses.

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

Data Literate Leaders
(VIP Initiative 1 & 2)
Further advancement has taken place to ensure that this course will be offered to Principals in the Diocese of Sale over the next two years, commencing Semester 2, 2010 and concluding in Semester 1, 2011. The course being developed will support schools to better understand how to use multiple types of data to improve teaching and learning, exploring best practices as well as the challenges and rewards of using data wisely.

The accreditation of the course through a tertiary institution is still being negotiated.

Contact:
Liz McQuade-Jones (5622 6609)

Pathways Into Teaching
(VIP Initiative 6)
Through this initiative, our endeavour is to encourage indigenous students to pursue their education with more passion. We aspire for greater school attendance in order to improve results for students.

Progress is being made on the preparations for a one day seminar (for 2010) to be conducted for indigenous students from Year 6 – Year 12 in the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Sale.

Discussions are in progress between the CEO, Sale and the Indigenous Officer from Monash University. We aim to have senior students visit the university, and speak with Indigenous students enrolled there. The date has yet to be settled, but we are hoping for late Term 2 / early Term 3.

Contact:
Linda Mullett (5622 6623)
Rosemary Copeland (5622 6611)
External Coaching
(VIP Initiative 2a)
CEO School Services Staff have now completed four days of training to support schools in approaching change and optimising Professional Learning. The Learning Pathways Team will undertake further training in early April, to directly support schools in adopting a Coach the Coach model. This training will support NP schools undertaking the Literacy or Numeracy off-site Professional Development (VIP 2b) for which they are eligible. The LPT Coach will be working with each school’s Principal and Literacy or Numeracy Leader (or Project 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 focusing on using PLT structure to build the capacity of Years 3 & 5 teachers.

Contact:
WEST: Cath Briant (5622 6658)
CENTRAL: Tamina Taylor (5622 6600) – from 3 May
EAST: Phil Rebbechi (5622 6646)

Literacy / Numeracy off-site Professional Development
(VIP Initiative 2b)
EMU 3-5
Nine of the fourteen NP Schools have commenced the first two days of the EMU 3-5 Professional Development days. Dr Ann Gervasoni (ACU) is 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 two remaining EMU 3-5 days are planned for:

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<th>TERM TWO</th>
<th>TERM FOUR</th>
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<td>Day Three: 16 April, 2010</td>
<td>Day Four: 8 October, 2010</td>
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Principals should be present for the final day of the EMU 3-5 on the 8 October.

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)
CENTRAL: Tamina Taylor (5622 6600) – from 3 May
EAST: Phil Rebbechi (5622 6646)

Oral Language 3-5
Seventy teachers from fourteen schools have completed two of the four Oral Language 3-5 Professional Development days. Dr John Munro presented 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 two remaining Oral Language 3-5 days are planned for:

| Day Three: 13 April, 2010 | Day Four: 24 June, 2010 |

Contact:
WEST: Cath Briant (5622 6658)
CENTRAL: Tamina Taylor (5622 6600) – from 3 May
EAST: Phil Rebbechi (5622 6646)

Family School Partnership Convenors
(VIP Initiative 10 & 11)
A local mini conference was held on March 18 at Catholic College, 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 available evidence and research to commence building the foundations of the project.

The available positions of a Family School Partnership Convenor will be advertised from the start of Term 2. These 0.5FTE positions will be available in:
- St Kieran’s, Moe
- Sacred Heart, Morwell
- St Vincent de Paul, Morwell East
- St Joseph’s, Orbost

Contact:
Anne Speekman (5622 6606)

Student Intervention and Support:
Reading Recovery and EMU
(VIP Initiative 9)
The Smarter Schools National Partnerships provides resourcing for NP schools to run intensive intervention for students performing below the minimum level. This resourcing includes the provision of training to ensure that all schools have adequate staffing to run effective intervention programs.

Reading Recovery intervention
Four teachers across the diocese have commenced their training as Reading Recovery Teacher, according to the DEECD Guidelines. Each of the National Partnerships targeted schools are utilising an allocation of funding to allow them to “top-up” existing funds and employ a Reading Recovery Teacher to run the program at a 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 from Term 2, 2010. The first cohort of seven teachers to be trained by Carole, commenced their training on the 25 February.

Each of the four targeted Low SES Schools are utilising 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:
Carole Livesey (5622 6605)