OVERVIEW

The Australian Government recognises that Literacy and Numeracy are the essential foundation skills that allow young people to achieve at school, go on to further learning, and participate fully in society and work.

The Smarter Schools National Partnership focuses on the key areas of teaching literacy and numeracy, stronger school leadership and the effective use of student performance information to identify where students need support. This will lead to improvements in literacy and numeracy outcomes for all students, with a priority focus on those primary aged students most in need of support.

Further information is available for schools through the government’s Smarter Schools’ website: http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/Programs/SmarterSchools/Pages/default.aspx

The CEO Sale’s own website has just been relaunched. The Smarter Schools National Partnerships initiatives will be a key feature within the website. The information contained through these updates will be embedded into the website, allowing for more regular updates to be shared across the diocese.

ReTh!nk: Aspirant Principals
(VIP Initiative 1)

The Aspirant Principals met for two days during the last School Holidays to formally launch into the program. The two days were held at the Sebel Heritage at Chirnside. In total, there were approximately 53 participants from the four dioceses across Victoria.

Sale was well represented with 16 participants (12 from primary school settings and 4 from secondary school settings). All 16 participants have reported that the course is very worthwhile. They are looking forward to working on the next phase of their project, and then the shadowing later on in the year. They are supported by their School’s Educational Consultant.

Contact:
Primary:
Central – Paul Lomas (5622 6616)
West – Vincent Carr (5622 6631)
East – Mary Howlett (5622 6615)
Secondary – Rosemary Copeland (5622 6611)

Building a Performance and Development Culture
(VIP Initiative 1)

The Performance and Development Culture projects are being developed now being implemented in schools across the diocese. Schools are forming and using the model of Project Teams to drive the focus of building the performance culture. Projects include:

- Building an inquiry approach to student learning
- Independent and responsible learning
- Dependency to Empowerment
- Surface Thinking to Deep Thinking
- Abstract to Action
- Building effective learning environments

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

Data Literate Leaders
(VIP Initiative 1 & 2)

Planning and preparation is underway for the commencement of this initiative in Semester 2, 2010. The initiative is targeted at Principals of all Schools. Information will be forwarded to schools in the second half of Term 2.

Contact:
Liz McQuade-Jones (5622 6609)

Pathways Into Teaching
(VIP Initiative 6)

The CEO, Sale is working in partnership with Monash University to develop a one day program for Indigenous students from Years 8 – Year 12. This day will focus on the value of education in building life choices. The day is being planned for the end of term 2 or early in term 3. More details will be forthcoming in the weeks ahead.

Contact:
Linda Mullett (5622 6623)
Rosemary Copeland (5622 6611)
External Coaching
(VIP Initiative 2a)

The Learning Pathways Team (LPT) have undertaken further learning in preparing to work as External Coaches to support identified National Partnerships Schools apply the learning of the Oral Language 3-5 and the EMU 3-5 PD. LPT Cluster Officers are currently working with Project Leaders to support Teachers transfer rich learning into their classroom setting.

Contact:
WEST: Cath Briant (5622 6658)
CENTRAL: Tamina Taylor (5622 6661)
EAST: Phil Rebbechi (5622 6646)

Family School Partnership Convenors
(VIP Initiative 10 & 11)

Anne Speakman has been working with principals and staff as schools prepare to welcome Family-School Partnership Convenors into their rich and diverse communities. Four positions across the Diocese have been advertised, and we anticipate appointments throughout May.

Principals and members of the CEO Sale staff will participate in a Family-School-Community Partnerships Forum to be held in Melbourne on May 6 & 7. All Victorian dioceses will come together to share this learning activity with the purpose:

- To provide an overview of the Smarterer Schools National Partnerships (NP) agenda, with particular focus on two initiatives from the Catholic Implementation Plan (CIP):
  - Initiative 11: Enhance the capacity of families to be engaged in learning.
  - Initiative 12: Enable and strengthen school, community/business partnerships to maximise learning opportunities and outcomes to extend schools.

- To provide an opportunity for school leaders to explore the role of family-school-community partnerships in enhancing school improvement and maximising student learning outcomes.

- To provide an opportunity to discuss the future directions of the NP Family School Partnerships initiative.

Father Joe Caddy (Chairperson Catholic Social Services Australia & Executive Director, Centacare Melbourne) will be a guest speaker, followed by workshops focusing on “Engaging Community through Dialogue” with Dr George Ottero (The Centre for Relational Learning).

Contact:
Anne Speakman (5622 6606)

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

EMU 3-5
The third day of the EMU 3-5 Professional program was held on 16 April. Schools are enthused to plan for students’ learning through the application and analysis of the MAI (Mathematics Assessment Interview). Teachers explored effective open-ended strategies to meet the needs of learners in their class.

The remaining EMU 3-5 day is planned for:

| TERM FOUR: |
| Day Four: 8 October, 2010 |

Principals should be present for this final day of the EMU 3-5 program.

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 6661)
EAST: Phil Rebbechi (5622 6646)

Oral Language 3-5
Hugh McCusker facilitated Day 3 of the Oral Language 3-5 PD. Hugh followed on from the theoretical framework presented by Dr John Munro, to plan for application in the language-rich environments of our Years 3 and 5 classrooms.

The remaining Oral Language 3-5 day is planned for the end of Term 2:

| Day Four: 24 June, 2010 |

Contact:
WEST: Cath Briant (5622 6658)
CENTRAL: Tamina Taylor (5622 6661)
EAST: Phil Rebbechi (5622 6646)

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

Reading Recovery intervention
Reading Recovery continues to be a core method of Literacy intervention across the Diocese. The diocese is fortunate to have Deirdre Thompson (as the Reading Recovery Tutor) supporting the training of four new Reading Recovery Teachers in schools identified through the National Partnerships.

Contact:
Deirdre Thompson (5622 6641)

Extending Mathematical Understanding (EMU) intervention
Seven Teachers from across the Diocese are training as EMU Specialist Teachers. They have completed three days out of the seven planned training days in preparing to implement the program.

Carole Livesey is now supporting the implementation of EMU across the Diocese, coordinating training and Continuing Contact. Carole will be visiting all EMU Specialists throughout the year, to ensure the authenticity and effectiveness of the EMU intervention.

Contact:
Carole Livesey (5622 6605)

In the future “…there will be standards, including public, human, business and ethical ones, but there will no longer be educational standardisation. There will be targets, and these will be even bolder because dedicated professionals will identify them together. There will be hard work and persistence, but not pointless drudgery. There will be greater support for the education profession, but not unconditionally. Accountability will be our conscience, not our Grand Inquisitor. And our children will be the deposits of learning, generosity and humanity through which we invest in the future.”

(Thorgarves and Shirley, 2009)