The Smarter Schools National Partnerships have presented a reform agenda that has been challenging and rewarding at all levels of schooling across the diocese. Throughout 2010, much learning has evolved within and across the profession of teaching. Some of this learning is evidenced in practice and is able to be measured. However, so much more is evidential within schools – and much of this is expressed qualitatively through learning conversations in staffrooms.

In embracing the reform agenda, the diocese has actively sought opportunities to engage in and extend partnerships. The Celebration of Learning will be a gathering of professionals from schools in our diocese, who have themselves actively engaged in the reform agenda – and wish to share their learning. Others, who have been keen to learn from those engaged in the initiatives, are also invited to come along and learn alongside them. This is a significant event to connect with others, share professional practice and build learning within a diocesan Community of Learners.

The Celebration of Learning is planned to deepen the learning of professionals, through sharing and reflecting on practice and growth.

If you wish to be involved and share your learning within any of the initiatives listed within this regular diocesan update, please contact the people responsible below. If you are interested in attending, please register on the website: https://inservice.ceosale.catholic.edu.au/

ReTh!nk: Aspirant Principals
(VIP Initiative 1)

Planning is underway for a Round 2 intake of aspirant Principals to engage in this course in 2011. Expressions of Interest close this Friday (8 Oct). Successful candidates will be notified in the following week, by the 15 October.

Contacts
Primary: Central – Paul Lomas (5622 6616)
West – Vincent Carr (5622 6631)
East – Cath Briant (5622 6658)
Secondary: Rosemary Copeland (5622 6611)

Building a Performance and Development Culture
(VIP Initiative 1)

Supporting teacher learning is one of the greatest investments of time and resources that schools can make as a way of improving student learning. Let’s take a closer look at one school that has been involved in the Performance and Development Culture initiative to see how they are exploring ways to improve and promote teacher learning in their school.

A closer look at Trinity (Narre Warren South):

A constant challenge for leadership teams in schools is how we can allow teachers time to work collaboratively and effectively together to reflect upon their work within classrooms. At Trinity, this year, we have focussed on developing professional conversations during Professional Learning Teams. We have used our focus of Inquiry learning as the central theme of PLT’s but the conversations have moved more from what we do to how we are doing it. The focus of planning and PLT conversations has shifted from discussions about isolated activities to the skills and strategies that we want to develop in our students allowing them to be better learners. When we develop the “learning power” of students these skills are then applicable to a variety of different learning contexts. Teachers are becoming more confident in supporting each other, sharing not only the challenges that occur within the classrooms, but the “o-ha” moments and celebratory times when we think – they really are getting it!

Contact:
Program
Primary – Jo Osler (5622 6647)
Secondary – Sam Franzi (5622 6654)
Readiness
Primary:
Central – Paul Lomas (5622 6616)
West – Cath Briant (5622 6658)
East – Mary Howlett (5622 6625)
Secondary: Rosemary Copeland (5622 6611)
Dorethea Mununggurr, a Year 7 student from Mary MacKillop College, Leongatha attended and reports on the event.

On the 2nd of September some Indigenous kids from our College went to Warragul for an ‘Indigenous Hip Hop Fun Day’. There were 3 hip hop dancers whose names were Billy (Sundance), Mike (Puppet) and Megan (Barramundi Girl). Firstly, Billy, Mike and Megan showed us some hip hop moves and dances and we all loved it! After that we introduced ourselves to each other.

After we had a get to know each other session, we learnt to dance hip hop. This included a warm up activity followed up by a dance battle of boys against girls. For lunch we had pizza. After we filled our hungry stomachs, Megan told us a story about her time at high school. She told us not to be shy and said that when you dance you forget about everything and everyone around you and not to worry about how you look!

We would like to thank Mrs Barrance and James Wearne for finding out about the day and taking us. We really had a great time.

Pathways Into Teaching

(VIP Initiative 6)
The Deadly Dreamin’ event has been hosted across the diocese, involving our Indigenous students (Years 6-12) from across the Diocese. These days promoted the value of schooling.

Contact:
Linda Mullett (5622 6623)
Rosemary Copeland (5622 6611)

Literacy / Numeracy

off-site Professional Development

(VIP Initiative 2b)

EMU: 3-5
The remaining EMU 3-5 day for 2010 is planned for:

TERM FOUR: Day Four:
FRIDAY 8 October, 2010
Principals should be present for this final day of the EMU 3-5 program.

The day will be facilitated by Dr Ann Gervasoni (ACU)

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

Family-School Partnership Convenors

(VIP Initiative 10 & 11)

The purpose of a school is to help a family educate a child
(Don Edgar, 2003)

A school is a community and is part of a community. Children and young people live, learn and grow in communities where strong affiliations and personal connections can make a powerful impact on their sense of belonging, self-worth and attachment.

Our Family School Partnership Convenors (FSPCs) are using an open inquiry process to build community and stimulate learning and leadership in our schools.

The Dioceses of Sale and Sandhurst partnered to host a Professional Development Day for our combined Family School Partnership Convenors. Dr George Otero facilitated the day on the 19 August.

George is an educational consultant who was born and raised in New Mexico. He has worked as a teacher, educator, international consultant, social entrepreneur, and author. Through his work new ways for schools and communities to secure equity, inclusion, and social justice have emerged leading to transformations in relationships. His work in transforming schools is done one at a time by clarifying the issues and problems within the context of their communities.

Contact:
Anne Speekman (5622 6606)

The following are some comments from our four Family School Partnership Convenors

- I was able to communicate, listen and feel confident that the “doing” would be successful.
- The George Otero day (Interdiocesan PD) was fantastic PD. It showed us that it can be done – I feel refreshed!
- Several teachers have stated that they feel I am making a difference to the school.
- I feel like I have better communication and sense of belonging when I meet up with the FSP team.
- The parents who have been receiving assistance are very appreciative and are showing more signs of confidence and involvement at the school.
- The fact that the role of the FSPC is evolving is a positive thing as it means that people’s talents and where each school is at are being taken into consideration. The alternative is everyone working to some bureaucrat’s idea of what will work!!
- Our discussion on the whole concept of FSP was excellent. Our look at the ‘Catholic Mission’, our relationship in supporting parents, what we know about family school involvement ...
- I had some positive feedback from a number of staff members stating they felt they better understood the initiative. One terrific response spoke of me “handing out lines (fishing) to staff so that they could connect with the parents and create a positive partnership”.

Dorothea Mununggurr, a Year 7 student from Mary MacKillop College, Leongatha attended and reports on the event.

On the 2nd of September some Indigenous kids from our College went to Warragul for an ‘Indigenous Hip Hop Fun Day’. There were 3 hip hop dancers whose names were Billy (Sundance), Mike (Puppet) and Megan (Barramundi Girl). Firstly, Billy, Mike and Megan showed us some hip hop moves and dances and we all loved it! After that we introduced ourselves to each other.

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We would like to thank Mrs Barrance and James Wearne for finding out about the day and taking us. We really had a great time.