Principal's Report – June 2014

Priority 1: Mission and Religious Education

• We continue to pray for the St Joachim’s students who are currently involved in the HPMG Sacramental Program.
• A number of staff are involved in a spiritual formation program facilitated by Brisbane Catholic Education. These staff members receive specific formation resources that support continuing spiritual formation – in prayer, in justice outreach, in spiritual reflection, study and retreat opportunities.
• Micah Projects – our relationship with Micah Projects and Brisbane Common Ground continues to flourish. On Friday 20 June we will hold our first ever St Joachim’s Sleep Out to raise awareness for the need to support those most vulnerable in our community.

Priority 2: Learning and Teaching

• The school has purchased 15 new Mac Book Airs to support the learning and teaching of all students.
• Prep – Year 2 classes now have 5 iPads each to use in their literacy/numeracy rotations. More iPads are available through the library.
• St Joachim’s will hold a Stay Smart Online Week commencing Monday 16 June. Ms Donna Vine will facilitate class sessions, and parents will be asked to read and sign the St Joachim’s Cyber Safety Use Agreement for Students. This agreement outlines effective practices that can assist the school in providing a safe place to learn in an online environment.
• Mrs Amanda Sheridan will be facilitating two parent education sessions focused on understanding the reporting practices in the Australia Curriculum. These will be held on Tuesday 17 June (6pm – 7pm) and Thursday 19 June (8.45am – 9.45am).
• The school has purchase new home readers to the value of $6000. Thank you to the P&F who have donated $3000 to this expenditure.

Priority 3: Professional Practice & Collaborative Relationships

• An enormous thank-you to Mrs Natalie Arnold, the fete committee and all parents who assisted in this year’s fete. A record $41 000 profit will go a long way in improving learning and teaching at St Joachim’s.
• Brisbane Catholic Education Marketing Team assisted the school to update the marketing material. A professional photographer provided images for the new website and school brochures.
• Chris Thomas, Amanda Sheridan and Donna Vine attended EduTECH® Conference.
• EduTECH® is Australasia’s largest annual education technology conference and exhibition. In 2014, EduTECH® hosted 9 conferences, 8 masterclasses and 5000+ attendees.
  o EduTECH® was a fantastic opportunity to learn about what’s happening at the leading edge of new technologies and how they are transforming education.
  o The conference also provided the great opportunity to make contact and learn about practices in other countries. EduTECH® also confirmed that St Joachim’s is moving in the right direction when it comes to learning and teaching.

Priority 4: Strategic Resourcing

• St Joachim’s School Master Plan:
  o New shade sail for the Early Years Area will be installed soon.
  o Plans are currently being drafted for the new Years 2 – 4 playground.
  o The school’s architect has costed the new playground at approx. $40 000.
  o Thank you to the P&F who have kindly donated $22 000 to this project.
  o The final location of the playground is still being negotiated with Fr Joe and the parish.