Principal’s Report – September 2014

Priority 1: Mission and Religious Education

• Micah Projects and St Vincent de Paul
  - Extremely successful Micah Projects Moonlight Magic Dinner Dance. Thank you to the P&F who donated to this great cause.
  - Year 6/7 students transported the vegetables grown in the Environmental Garden to Brisbane Common Ground.
• Liturgies and Prayer Rituals held this term:
  - Catholic Education Week
  - Feast of St Joachim and St Anne
  - Grandparents’ Day
  - St Mary of the Cross Mackillop Feast
  - Feast of the Assumption Mass
• Our prayers continue for those children in our Parish who celebrate the Sacrament of Penance this month.

Priority 2: Learning and Teaching

• Ngutana-Lui (meaning ‘to teach’)
  - We will host visitors from Ngutana-Lui on Wednesday 17th September.
  - Ngutana-Lui, an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Studies Centre, is a part of Brisbane Catholic Education that provides opportunities for students, their teachers and others to increase their awareness, knowledge, understanding and respect of the cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
  - The purpose of the Centre is to foster and encourage reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Australians.
• Enrichment Program has continued in Term 3.
  - Teachers nominated students from their classes for the following activities, including Brainways Programs:
    ▪ Creative Writing – held at Birkdale State Primary School
    ▪ Mathematics – held at Birkdale SS
    ▪ Science – held at Birkdale SS
    ▪ Visual Arts – held at Birkdale SS & a group at St Joachim’s.
    ▪ Dance – held at St Joachim’s.
    ▪ Theatre for Confidence – held at Birkdale SS
• Teacher Professional Development this term has been focused on the learning and teaching of reading and writing.
  - The Curriculum Team is developing a school framework for the teaching of reading. This framework will draw on the research from Edith Cowan University (WA) and Flinders University (SA), specifically the “Big Six of Reading”.
• Each classroom teacher will be released from class for one day to plan learning and teaching sequences. Mrs Sheridan & Mrs Randall, as Curriculum Support Teachers, will assist the teachers.
• Health and Physical Education activities this term:
  - Auskick (AFL sessions)
  - School Athletics Carnival
  - Zone 2 Inter-School Athletics Carnival
  - Years 4 to 7 Sports Gala Day
  - Goal-a-thon and Skipping Club
Priority 3: Professional Practice & Collaborative Relationships

- Chris Thomas, Donna Vine and Kylie Hansen (parent representative) met with Scott McClement from Brisbane Catholic education. Scott is a Senior Service Management Officer: Learning and Collaboration, and will assist the school to develop an online Parent Portal.
- All teachers, and a substantial number of school officers, received their Apply First Aid certificates in August.
- Teachers met with teachers from St James’, St Agnes’, St Elizabeth’s and St Sebastian’s to continue sharing professional practice; and partake in a Professional Development session on the new Religious Education Curriculum.
- *Parent Education Forum: Reading* held in August. Excellent attendance rate and good feedback.
- *Parent Education Forum: 1 to 1 Program* to be held on Thursday 18 September.
- Father’s Day Breakfast
  - Well-organised event with a great attendance rate.
- St Joachim’s *Outside School Hours Care* facilities will be blessed and opened on Wednesday 10th September.

Priority 4: Strategic Resourcing

- 1 to 1 Program fully costed and approved by the Pastoral School Board.
- The School Board, at the October 2014 meeting, will approve the 2015 School Fees.
- St Joachim’s School Master Plan.
  - Stage 2 of the Master Plan will include the following:
    - New Administration building;
    - New Arts Centre;
    - New Learning Support Room;
    - New Media Arts Room;
    - Library extension;
    - New upper primary classroom;
    - New student amenities (toilet block for the older students); and
    - Associated external works including the extension of the retaining wall on Emma Street.
- It is anticipated that Stage 2 development will begin in December 2014 and is likely to be completed by November 2015.