Principal’s Report – March 2012

Priority 1: Mission and Religious Education
- Year 2 – 7 students joined the parish community for the Ash Wednesday Eucharistic Celebration.
- Prep & Year 1 students participated in an Ash Wednesday Liturgy of the Word.
- During Lent students will be involved in a number of almsgiving activities including raising money for Project Compassion and Caritas. Lent is the focus of morning prayer rituals.
- Amanda Sheridan is leading a group to design and install a prayer garden for the school. This will be located to the left of the front path at school’s front entrance.
- Amanda Sheridan, Kate Houlihan and Susan Allison are working with Melissa Booth and Anita Lewis to apply for a community Arts grant. The project is focused on students creating and displaying permanent religious and secular images (on various walls around the school) that reflect our school story, charism and values. If the grant is unsuccessful, it would be great to see this project still happen. Fundraising and/or school budgets for 2013 may need to be considered.
- The Australian Indigenous garden (outside the library) will receive a plaque and appropriate signage shortly. This is an educational garden in which all plants are either used in Indigenous cooking methods or used in medicines.

Priority 2: Learning and Teaching
- The Curriculum team has drafted the St Joachim’s Vision for Learning & Teaching. It is still in its early stages however it is important to clearly articulate what we (teachers) believe about student learning and teaching pedagogies.
- In the school eNews Amanda Sheridan is providing regular updates regarding the Australian Curriculum. A parent forum will be held to present further information and to answer parents’ questions regarding the new curriculum.
- A School Wide Student Behaviour Support Team has been formed. Membership includes: Chris Thomas, Amanda Sheridan, Meg Jones, Susan Allison, Helen Boyle, Helen O’Mahony and Esme Brown. This is a 12 – 18 month process. The team’s main objectives are to:
  - Review the school rules
  - Review how the school rules are taught and reinforced
  - Begin to use BCE’s online database to record incidents
  - Use data to inform school based decision making

Priority 3: Professional Practice and Collaborative Relationships
- There has been ongoing consultation regarding the pick-up zones. A roster of parent helpers is being put together this week and should be distributed shortly.
- The P&F Executive, Parish Council representative, school staff representative, Brisbane Catholic Education Planning and Building managers, and the Pastoral School Board met to discuss the enrolment pressure of Catholics living within the parish boundaries. The outcome of the meeting is to begin gathering data about the implications of the school growth and to obtain community opinion. I met with a smaller working party to design a survey instrument. This will be sent out before the end of the term.
- The Blessing and Opening of the new facilities will take place on Tuesday 5 June 2012.

Priority 4: Strategic Resourcing
- The 2012 Annual Goals have been developed and approved by the school staff. These will be presented to the School Board at the March meeting for their endorsement.