

Progress Report Strategic Plan July 2008

To achieve the goals of the Strategic Plan 2007-2011, the dedicated members of the Priority Working Groups have been operating under the guidance of the Implementation Working Group. The main tasks involved in meeting the objectives of the Strategic Plan include research from literature, experts and school visits as well as from extensive surveying of all in the Marist community; analysis of all the evidence collected; drafting of proposals to implement the recommendations; consultations with all in the Marist community and then finally the implementation stage. The following reports from the Priority Working Groups give details of the significant progress made in semester one of this year.

Priority Working Group 1 – Identity and Values

After a lengthy period of research and consultation, Priority Working Group 1 – Identity and Values has published a brochure outlining the **Core Values of the College**. These values Faith, Love, Justice, Compassion and Hospitality have been identified as the core values for the college at this particular time in its history as we embark on the Strategic Plan. They are by no means exclusive but do reflect our understanding of the gospels and Marist characteristics most pertinent to us at the present time. The brochure was distributed to families with the Semester One Reports. The next step of integrating these values into all aspects of college life will be the focus of work by staff. Staff have participated in a preliminary workshop to this end and the committee is in the process of collating the information received. We plan to disseminate the information through Heads of Departments and this will be used as the focus prayer and liturgy in the second semester. Research is continuing into the experiences of other schools in this regard.

One initiative that has grown out of this is the **Monday morning full school prayer** at the beginning of the day. During Term 3, members of the PWG1 will team up with a student to lead a prayer for the whole school across the PA system at the beginning of each week. It is hoped that their example will be taken up by other staff in Term 4 and lead to a more comprehensive sense of a praying community.

The committee is also looking at creative ways of presenting the values to the school community. Art classes will be invited to take part in contributing to the design of posters to advertise the values throughout the school. Various other ideas for banners and sculpture are being canvassed.

In Semester Two, the committee will also move into the research phase of the two other identified project areas: **Animation of Staff Spirituality and the Integration of Religious Education through the whole curriculum.**

Priority Working Group 2 – Learning and Teaching

Work has been continuing on a number of different areas within the learning and teaching area over the last few months. A large number of staff in the Junior and Senior school have been working on the **Year 4 – 8 Continuum** and the new Year 9 program, *Footsteps*. Part of this work has also included a revision of the timetable, especially for Year 9, to ensure that a structure is in place to deliver the necessary learning and teaching outcomes.

The final structure for the Year 9 program, *Footsteps* has now been determined. Staff are continuing to work on the course writing and on the design of the learning and teaching specifically for this age group. This includes:

- curriculum linked to all parts of the *Footsteps* program – including exploration/immersion
- connections made with the student's world
- options for student negotiated curriculum

The Year 4 – 8 Continuum has established a set of principles which will now be used to re-write courses and re-design learning and teaching. This is beginning with work on Year 4 to be implemented in 2009.

Priority Working Group 3 – Caring

The *Leader in Caring* group has had a very busy 12 months which culminated in the release of our first three discussion papers for staff last week.

Gathering evidence

Since July 2007 we have gathered evidence on our existing pastoral care and discipline approach by surveying students, parents and staff. While these responses were generally very affirming of existing policies and practices, they highlighted some areas for development.

The group also undertook a **literature review** (predominately on line). We did discover some useful papers and research reports, but we learnt that not a lot has been written in this area.

However our **visits to 13 schools** in 4 states yielded much information and ideas and generated great excitement among group members.

Bringing it all together

Over the last three months members of the group have prepared a number of discussion papers for staff based on our evidence gathering. We have prepared a **draft Pastoral care Framework** for the College, a draft **Charter of Caring** and prepared a set of proposals for '*Taking pastoral care to the next level* and developed a timeline for the next 18 months.

Last week we commenced a **consultation process** which will involve staff, parents and boys as we present our proposals to the College community. We look forward to feedback from the community over the next few months.

Priority Working Group 4 – Leadership and Resources

The Leadership and Resources Priority of the College strategic plan has four distinct Focus areas: 1) Leadership; 2) Finances; 3) Environmental Management; 4) Information Communications Technology

Leadership

A draft framework for leadership has been produced identifying the qualities and expected competencies of leaders at Marist College. These link with performance standards upon which College leaders can undertake self reflection and evaluation. This will facilitate professional learning and pathways for all present and future leaders.

Finance

Following a recommendation from the working group of parents and staff and the College Advisory Board, Marist College will establish a Foundation to fund Scholarships and Bursaries. The Foundation will also be a vehicle to undertake capital appeals for future major capital projects, to source bequests etc.

Environmental Management

Marist has committed itself to the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative (AuSSI), which is a partnership of the Australian Government, the States and Territories that supports schools to work towards a sustainable future.

The AuSSI is a whole-of-school approach, to improve the school's management of resources and facilities including energy, waste, water, biodiversity, landscape design, products and materials. A Sustainable Schools Coordinator will work closely with Marist to set measurable social, educational, environmental and economic outcomes and develop a school environmental management plan (SEMP).

ICT

The Federal Government's "Digital Education Revolution" has prompted the College to bring forward the development of the ICT Strategic Plan, in part, so that we may be in position to prepare applications to round two of the National Secondary School Computer Fund which opens this month.

An implementation plan that includes expected outcomes, strategies to deliver these outcomes, a timeline for key milestones and the associated budget will be finalised in the coming weeks.