Teaching students to count is fine but teaching them what counts is imperative…*Daphni Clifton*

It’s almost June already and so I write to update you on the progress of the **School Improvement Goals (SIP)** for 2015. As you would recall from past correspondence, the SIP goals are drawn from data, staff feedback and parent and student input. The Leadership Team is committed to supporting the staff to ensure that our goals are achieved. As parents, the team acknowledges that it is very important to ensure that the progress of our goals is reported to you. You will find the strategies implemented during the first half of this year outlined below. I truly value that you are the first and most important educators in your child’s life and sincerely acknowledge the privilege that you share with the School in raising your child to be a Catholic, empathetic and well informed citizen.

**Our Mission** goal is to give the students opportunities to deepen their relationship with Christ.

- Students are praying the Examen daily with a focus on the Pope’s messages in *The Joy of the Gospel*. *Staff report that the students are more settled during play periods and more focussed during the middle session of the day.*
- Weekly meditation and yoga are strategies for the students to ensure some quiet time to connect with the Creator. *Students are keenly participating in the lunchtime offering of meditation and report to staff that one strategy for calming down is to quiet their ‘bad’ thoughts.*
- Outreach opportunities (Gardening Club, knitting circle, Mini-Vinnies etc) to encourage the students to connect to issues impacting the world (and most especially, the local environment) where they can make a difference. *Students are asking for more opportunities to be involved in activities and initiatives which will benefit others and /or are focussed on environmental change.*

**Our Learning and Teaching** goal is to continually strive to improve academic outcomes in Mathematics and English:

- A dedicated and non-negotiable block of time each day for English and Mathematics. *Every student is guaranteed an uninterrupted daily English and Mathematics Block.*
- All staff members have undergone professional learning in offering high quality learning experiences in Writing strategies. *Weekly Instructional Walks show that all staff are implementing Guided Reading and Guided Writing strategies. Student Running Records and writing samples are showing a significant improvement in knowledge, understanding and creativity.*
- Weekly professional learning in stage groups with Kinder-Year 2 focussed on Writing and Years 3-6 on EMU strategies to support the understanding of Mathematics concepts. *Student tracking data clearly demonstrates that the strategies staff are using are improving student understanding. This data is submitted to the Catholic Schools Office on a regular basis. The number of vulnerable students across Year 1 has halved over the last 3 years.*
- A continued emphasis on providing students with access to Extending Mathematical Understanding (EMU) small group work. There are currently five EMU groups running across Years 1 and 2. *Last week*
a celebration of the achievements of the student’s who’ve undertaken this program was held. CSO highly commended the school on the significant improvements.

Our Pastoral Care goal is to assist students to develop the skills of resilience to improve their engagement with their learning:

- Combining of the Positive Behaviours for Learning (PBL) and KidsMatter teams to form the Wellbeing Team who meet twice each Term. The PBL team reported a significant drop in the number of physical and verbal incidents.
- Review of both the Pastoral Care and Anti-Bullying Policies with student and parent input
- Greater leadership involvement of the Student Leadership Team. Students now collaborate to organise school tours, run assemblies, and lead school prayer and liturgies and give input into school policies and procedures.
- Workshops to support parents of anxious children, parents with a child starting school, and the fitness afternoon sessions. Evaluations of these initiatives indicate a high level of parent satisfaction.

Whilst these are the three major goals, the School is also working towards:

- Full implementation of the new Science syllabus
- Continued support for robotics, chess, public speaking and sports
- A deeper focus on Creative Arts across K-6. This includes the lunchtime Art Club, Music for Kinder- Year 3 and Choir.

I also note that, following parent input, a Homework Working Party has been established. This party currently consists of staff members and will be extended to include parent and student representatives.

The Wellbeing Team (formerly the PBL and KidsMatter teams) will meet to begin a review of both the Pastoral Care and Anti-Bullying Policies. The student leadership team and parent representatives are joining this team to assist with this very important review.

If you have any questions or would like to contribute your ideas to any of the above, please drop me an email at sblm@dbb.catholic.edu.au.

Many thanks for your continued and valued support

Luanna Fletcher

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**St Brendan’s School Improvement Plan 2015**

**SIP Overview**

**Mission**

To deepen students’ relationship with Christ.

**Background data:**

Students reported on the positive benefits of praying the Examen daily and how this is deepening their understanding of having a relationship with Christ.

**Targets:**

To immerse all students in ‘Joy of the Gospel’.

**Learning and Teaching**

To continually improve academic outcomes in Mathematics and English.

**Background data:**

Student data supports staff to implement strategies to support point-of-need.

**Targets:**

Continue to ensure student data drives learning and teaching.

**Pastoral Care**

To develop the skills of resilience to improve student engagement.

**Background data:**

PBL & KidsMatter is having a positive impact on student wellbeing.

**Targets:**

To build student capacity for becoming self-directed learners.