

**MARY IMMACULATE CATHOLIC PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL, EAGLE VALE
PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION
PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**



FEBRUARY 23, 2021

It is with a great sense of positivity and possibility that we commence a new year after the challenges of 2020. Our school enrolment has now reached over 500 students. I want to acknowledge the efforts of the outgoing 2020 P&F Executive and pass on my thanks from the school community for the initiatives led in the most challenging of circumstances during 2020. It was gratifying to see the commitment to building community and the creativity the Executive team embraced in order to raise funds for the benefit of our most important people ~ our students.

Religious Life

- We have celebrated the beginning of our new school year through staff attendance at a special Mass that commenced our Staff Development Day on January 28/2. I thank Father Slawek for his heartfelt welcome and for blessing the year ahead for all the educators at Mary Immaculate.
- Conscious of the need to adhere to COVID directives at both a system and state level.
- Our Year 6 leaders were acknowledged at a special Leadership Mass.
- Due to numbers students and staff attended two separate liturgies for Ash Wednesday Mass on Wednesday 17th February.
- Opening School celebrations will be part of Catholic Schools Week and will incorporate a mass for students in Years 4-6 and a liturgy for students in Years 1-3. Kindergarten and Year 5 will be involved in a special Welcome liturgy celebrating the buddy program.
- Grateful for the support of P&F who have provided families support on behalf of the parent community through Compassionate Support Program.
- Week 6 celebrating Catholic Schools Week.

Learning and Teaching

- Kindergarten students have commenced, and our community has been enriched by not only these new families but by a number of new families of the students who have joined other grades. It was wonderful that the P&F Executive members were able to organise a welcome cuppa as parents left after dropping their children off for the first day in their official class.
- Staff will continue to be involved in the Professional Development focus in the areas linked to our 2021 Priorities
- Parents of Years 1-6 have had the opportunity to attend a Meet and Greet sessions last week to support the concept of partnership between home and school.
- Kindergarten Meet and Greet sessions are being conducted this week.

- Awards – commenced student assemblies led by Year 6 team – students receive Values Awards. Merit awards are distributed weekly at a grade level by class teachers.

Staffing

- Our staff has been enriched by the appointment of new staff members –Andrew Astill (4Blue + ML2), Hollie Wulf (2Blue), Alister Marshall (4 Gold), Alyssa Galvez-Salonga (Leadership Release 1Blue/4Blue)
- Chris McInerney continues in his role Diverse Learning Leader and a Diverse Learning Support Teacher (Claire Brooks) form our Diverse Learning Team along with Lillian Del and group of School Support Officers who will be providing support in classrooms directed by class teachers or engaged in delivery of school-based interventions such a MiniLit, MaqLit, Quicksmart
- Continued additional support provided by the CEDoW – Nicole Martin supporting the needs of EALD learners.
- Successful in an application for one of the 2021 CEDoW Lighting the Way Projects. Project is centered upon building teacher capacity to enhance oral language development and transfer skills into writing – focus on Kinder/Year 1. Also involves building teacher capacity to identify and provide intervention for speech and language disorders. We have contracted the expertise of Nicole Couret (Speech Therapist) who will work with teachers Emma Biviano and Jaimie Mammone who are leading this project and supporting student intervention delivery.

Sport - must be run according to COVID guidelines – confined to sole usage of venue, no parent spectators

- Competitive Swimming Carnival successfully took place on Friday 12/2.
- Western Region team will compete Wednesday 3/3
- Grateful to MTCC for allowing us to use their grounds for our Cross Country which will be undertaken on Wednesday 24/3. Age groups to be transported to the site and back in age divisions – 8 years and over. Allow selections to be made for our School Cross Country team to compete at Diocesan level.

Other

- Site works during the holidays – recarpeting Primary block, interior painting of toilets and new sinks, shelving in classroom areas. Lighting in Block 4 and additional drainage works have also been approved for a capital grant from CEDoW.
- Due to number restrictions on site Welcome BBQ has not been undertaken
- Sr Colleen has commenced Breakfast Club which operates Monday-Thursday – growing in popularity among students. Grateful for donations sent in by both staff and parents.
- Still awaiting confirmation regarding additional proposed building project.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Our school will be involved in the Cyclic Review Process this year. (this was postponed last year)

School priorities for 2021 include –

1. Mission & Catholicity The school community will reconnect with the Vision, Mission and Values of the school so that they are well known and understood and underpin all directions and priorities. This will be supported by involvement in the formation experiences – Educating With A Mission Lens	2. Mission & Catholicity Highly skilled and committed staff deliver quality Religious Education, supported by the use of storytelling, so that all students are engaged.	3. People & Culture By the end of 2022, active role descriptions for all members of the leadership team will be developed, communicated and enacted, in order to support all staff in driving improved student learning outcomes.
4. Learning & Teaching (i) Whole school approach to effective writing assessment and instruction are implemented and embedded (ii) Professional development is focussed on building collaborative, deliberate and reflective teachers.	5. People & Culture By the end of 2021 the Case Collaboration Learning School processes will be operating regularly, clearly documented and understood by all staff.	6. Learning & Teaching All Kindergarten students will participate in Play Based Pedagogy. Oral language development will be a priority for all students, with a particular focus in Kindergarten and Year 1 to support transference to Writing.

General Business

Cashless Canteen update – all paperwork has been sent to the provider – technology equipment purchased, awaiting training for staff.

P&F SUPPORT REQUESTED

New Bubblers + Refill station – Primary Block = \$6,500 – quote to be confirmed + installation
(Current bubblers are not efficient and require constant repairs)

Reading Materials - \$5,000

Online Reading subscription - \$5,000

