

Primary Report

HOP Report 2009

This year has been one of many blessings from our Lord, as well as one of much activity throughout the Primary Department. This year we said farewell to the Sadler family for 12 months as Scott travelled overseas to experience teaching in the United Kingdom. God blessed us greatly with Mrs Jenny Winnington taking Mr Sadler's position for the run of the academic year. We also said farewell to Mrs Ruth Cahill on has taken Maternity Leave. While it was sad to lose the services of Ruth, we were overjoyed at the arrival of Ruth's and Nathan's baby girl, Abbagail Grace. In Mrs Cahill's place we welcomed back Mrs Jill Rasmussen who will be Ruth's Maternity Leave from 2009 through to mid-2010. During the first semester, we were blessed with having the services of Mrs Tania Edwards as our Junior Primary P.E. teacher. Unfortunately, she was not able to continue with this in the second semester. Again, the Lord provided for our needs and Mr Shane Byrnes was appointed as the Junior Primary P.E. teacher for the remained of 2009. Our students are enjoying the variety of physical activities and developmental fun with him.

Our academic program grows positively throughout the Primary department. This year, Mrs Trudy McLeod was appointed the LEM Phonics Coordinator for the Primary. She has taken on this very important role with enthusiasm and skill. The teaching staff are appreciating her professional advice and skill in this area. Trudy has also reorganised the LEM Phonics resources across all grades. This year, the College undertook a two-year program called "Sustained Interventions – Building Capacity" – an innovative pilot program initiated to use high yield Literacy strategies in Reading Comprehension. A team was formed consisting of Mrs Valissa Bauer, Mrs Jenny Winnington, Mr Tom Douglas and Miss Vicki Whittle. The focus of the work was with the Years 5 and 6 students and consisted of a Literacy Block of uninterrupted time where students were placed into Reading groups. During this time, high yield teaching strategies are employed and students' progress is tracked utilising a data wall. Throughout the last 2 terms, strategies such as a "Reading Show Bag" and "Literacy Circles" are being employed to increase the skill and understanding levels of students. High yield comprehension strategies such as:

Understanding words, Finding information, Inferring, Summarising, Predicting, Sequencing, Point of view and purpose, Cause and effect, Fact or opinion, Concluding, Identifying the main idea, Finding similarities and differences, are being undertaken. This program is to be extended in 2010 to include Years 5 to 7. Our Years 1 and 2 have also been involved in a similar program which focuses upon Writing.

In the latter part of the year, the staff conducted much discussion with regard to the teaching of Numeracy. For 2010, it is our expectation to run Numeracy blocks throughout the Primary using high yield strategies. Years 5 to 7 will also be taking on a technology-based mathematics enhancement program called "Mathletics". Students will be able to test their skills and speed against students across Australia and, in fact, internationally as well. We are very excited about the potential this has for our students. It has been very exciting to see the introduction of Interactive White Boards across every classroom in the Primary. These powerful teaching tools coupled with the new initiatives in literacy and numeracy will greatly enhance to opportunities for learning in the Primary School. The Curriculum Committee continues to work well under the leadership of Mrs Rosalee Morris as the Staff continues to use the QSA Learning Essentials in their planning, Assessment and Reporting. Mrs Trudy McLeod and Mrs Stuart Thornton are the Primary representatives on that team. Bundaberg Christian College continues to be a leader in this area. Our students have wonderful opportunities to experience a diverse array of events throughout the year which include Sports Days, Swimming, Athletic and

Cross Country Carnivals, visiting shows from the Queensland Arts Council, Theatre-in-Education and School Performance Tours and the Life Education program. The Music program continues to provide our students with first class opportunities in a wide variety of performance groups such as the Concert Band, String Orchestra, and Choirs. This year, for the first time, we offered 2 Primary Choirs – a Junior Choir for Years 2 to 4; and a Senior Primary Choir for Years 5 to 7. I would be remiss not to mention the contribution to our assembly by the Brass Ensemble who play the National Anthem and Happy Birthday. There are not many schools that I know of that have this kind of accompaniment for a Primary Assembly.

Thank you Liam, Quirino, Stephen and Malcolm.

One of special "new" events this year was the Junior Primary Water Fun Swimming Carnival held at the Bundaberg Swimming Academy Centre. This year, the carnivals were split into age-appropriate groups with the Years 4 to 7 being held at Norville Pool. By splitting these carnivals, the events could be tailored to the needs of the students. Both Carnivals ran very smoothly thanks to the organisation of Mr Howard for the Junior Carnival and Mr Rathjen for the Senior Carnival. In both events, the staff were greatly assisted by our parents.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Primary Captains and Vice Captains for their work in Primary School throughout the year in supporting the student body and the Primary Staff. Mariah, Xander, Anna and Fletcher has shown strong, positive leadership skill development and have led by example and in a most humble manner. I would also like to thank Mr Peter Edward in his role as Deputy Head of Primary. It is a privilege for me to work among such a skilled staff and to be loyally supported by a fellow brother in Christ as Peter Edwards. I would like to express my appreciation to our Principal, Mr Mark Bensley, Head of Secondary, Mr Chris Hayden, Mrs Rosalee Morris, Deputy Head of Secondary and our Bursar, Mr Evan Keune. They make a formidable team. Their encouragement and support to me has been highly valued and appreciated. I thank parents and students for your support, friendship and encouragement as I work for the Lord in His place, Bundaberg Christian College.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Ray Yates
Head of Primary

