



LUTHERAN PRIMARY SCHOOL WAGGA WAGGA

SHAPING OUR FUTURE

2008 – 2010

1. OUR IDENTITY

1.1 Mission Statement

The Mission Statement of the Lutheran Primary School is:

"To provide a caring, Christian environment in which the congregation, teachers, parents and students actively collaborate to ensure every child is provided with the resources and opportunities to reach their potential in spiritual, intellectual, physical, cultural, social and emotional areas of their lives."

1.2 Aims

- 1.2.1 To help children come to know of Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour.
- 1.2.2 To provide for each child, a wide range of experience and activities, which will stimulate a continuing interest in learning.
- 1.2.3 To provide a Christian atmosphere where each child is individually encouraged to develop his or her God given talents.
- 1.2.4 To promote an atmosphere, in which learning is valued, excellence is encouraged and honest effort is recognised and praised regardless of academic capabilities.

The School's Mission Statement highlights the desire to provide a caring Christian environment built on partnership with our community to serve the needs of our students.

The School is committed to providing a complete but distinctive education, and to express this in loving service to others. Thus, the School seeks to prepare its students for a life of service in the family, in their vocation, in their church and in their community.

Students are encouraged to develop an active living faith, a commitment to a life of service to others and a positive self-concept as well as to fulfil their physical, spiritual and creative potential and expand their individual talents. It is anticipated that they will learn self-discipline and how to achieve effective relationships.

1.3 Core Values

1.3.1 A Christ Centred School

Because Lutheran Primary School Wagga Wagga is a Christian school owned and operated by Bethlehem Lutheran Congregation we share in the mission of the Christian church expressed by our Lord in John 20:21; *"As the Father has sent me, I am sending you;"* Matthew 28:19, *"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit;"* and Mark 16:15, *"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."* Our foremost desire, therefore, is to make and keep the mission of Jesus Christ central in all aspects of every school activity, both inside and outside the classroom. Our aim is to help people grow and go in Christ.

1.3.2 A Christian Community

Everyone associated with our school - students, staff and families - is God's creation and therefore equally precious. This essential truth is expressed in our school via our intention to live as a microcosm of the Gospel: a worshipping community where all involved with the school both share and experience God's forgiveness in Christ; and where the contribution of each person is encouraged, valued and appreciated. Our aim is a school characterised by genuine Christian community; a school permeated by Jesus Christ and his love.

1.3.3 Servants and Service

Through practice of the Christian model of servant leadership (Matthew 20:26-28) our school endeavours to prepare and equip students and others for the good of the greater community in which they are to take their place and use their God given gifts in service to others to the hour and praise of God.

1.3.4 Excellence in Education

Our school is committed to academic excellence. We are also committed to planning and providing a broad curriculum, which will contribute to the development of each student's uniqueness and cater for a wide range of abilities including giftedness. We also strive to support our staff through appropriate remuneration, favourable working conditions and opportunities for training and professional development.

1.3.5 Facilities and Resources

Our aim of achieving excellence extends to the facilities and resources our school provides, within the means available, for the entire school.

Our core values and beliefs permeate all School activities. These core values are founded on the centrality of the Gospel, the worth of the individual and the importance of relationships, service to others, the pursuit of excellence, respect for the environment and a sense of community.

2. SCHOOL CONTEXT OVERVIEW

Lutheran Primary School is located in a well established residential area of Wagga Wagga. In the eyes of the community Lutheran Primary School is well regarded for its academic standards, its sense of strong but fair discipline and a community focus with caring relationships between staff and students.

The foundation of these strengths is the application of the Christian values of the school into daily experiences for students, their families and staff.

Enrolments have consistently being maintained in excess of 95% of capacity. Applications for Kindergarten enrolment each year exceed positions available. Due to the transient nature of the local community enrolments fluctuate by up to 10 students during the school year.

Under the current class size structure introduced in 2003 (K to 2 – 25 students, 3 to 6 – 28 students), six additional places become available in Year 3 each year as to 56 Year 6 students leave and 50 Kindergarten students begin. Expressions of interest for enrolment in Kindergarten for the Years 2009 and beyond is strong.

Our school is well serviced by the local bus companies with over 150 students travelling daily via buses. This is usually at no cost to parents as bus travel is subsidised by the NSW Government for the majority of students.

The school has maintained quality amenities and a high level of resources for staff to access. The spacious grounds and well resourced classrooms are a feature of the school. It is noted that the classroom and facilities structure are beginning to require a higher level of maintenance as they age.

As we serve our community through Christian Education we remain committed to continuing to provide excellence in all we do.

To maintain our strong standing in the community Lutheran Primary School will need to continue to be informed and lead developments in the following four areas identified in the 2007 School Improvement plan:

- Educational programs
- Ministry and Care
- Finance, Facilities and Grounds
- School Community and Communications

This focus will enable us to continue to remain true to our motto to “Learn and Grow in Christ” providing quality Christian Education at an affordable fee level.

3. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

The quality and integrity of the learning experience for students is a key priority for our school. To maintain a high standard of student learning the classroom environment is developed as the core learning environment. The school intends to continue to review and adopt as appropriate research to improving student learning.

3.1 Student Learning Statement - reviewing, developing and sharing our Statement of Beliefs about Student learning.

3.1.1 Development of our Statement of Student Learning enables us to have a clear basis for reviewing, evaluating, discussing and debating educational questions in our school.

3.2 Review the role of information communication technology as a tool for student learning

3.2.1 The school currently provides access for student learning using ICT largely through the provision of a computing lab. Progressively digital cameras and data projectors have been purchased.

Action: Investigate

- Interactive whiteboards;
- Online learning resources;
- ipods, mobile phones, video technology;
- Mobile bank of laptop;
- Remote access to school network;
- The Classroom ICT coordinator position to be established.

3.2.2 To resource teachers access to technology as a teaching tool staff have been provided with laptops, access to data projectors and a wireless network environment.

Action:

- a) Remote staff access to school server;

3.3 Develop appropriate integration of key learning areas into units of work

3.3.1 The curriculum continues to be crowded with access to an ever increasing quantity of knowledge and information. Students' learning is enhanced when they have opportunity to delve deeply into topics. At the same time the foundational literacy and numeracy skills remain a focus.

Action:

- In 2008 a Student Learning coordinator will develop a rationale and framework for the development of integrated units of work across Key Learning Areas.
- The whole school understanding and focus on the teaching of Literacy will be developed by the Literacy Co-ordinator.

3.4 Develop and implement a rigorous professional learning plan process for all staff

3.4.1 A well supported and knowledgeable staff is essential to facilitate student learning. A process to identify with staff areas for development and provide resources for professional learning will be developed.

Action:

- A process for the extension of the New scheme Teacher mentoring program will be developed.
- To provide planned quality professional learning opportunities to support learning plans.

3.5 Develop the network of community support services available to our students and their families

3.5.1 To enable student learning to occur to the highest level there are times when additional support outside the expertise of school staff is required.

Action:

- Develop partnerships agreements for the referral and support of students and families to professionals including psychologists, speech and occupational therapists.
- Explore assistance funding to families requiring specialist support.

3.6 Complete implementation of the Lutheran Education Australia's Christian Studies Curriculum Framework and integration of Lutheran Lifelong Qualities for Learners

3.6.1 In a Lutheran School Christian studies is a core component of the school. The implementation of the CSCF provides a relevant focus for learning about God through Christian studies.

Action:

- Co-ordination of the CSCF implementation for our school and subsequent resourcing and support for staff by the Christian Studies coordinator.

3.7 Review the provision of specialist key learning area staffing

3.7.1 To support the classroom as the core learning environment in which students experience rich tasks specialist areas to be staffed will be reviewed.

Action:

- test our existing staffing structure against the student learning statement and integration of KLA's when developed.

4. MINISTRY AND CARE

4.1 Enhance our existing Peer Support, Buddy and Seasons for Growth programs

4.1.1 Building strong, supportive and safe relationships in the school enables the school to support student. The proactive teaching of social skills will be enhanced.

Action:

- Deputy Principal's role redefined to enable the development of social support programs for students.

4.2 Continue to provide and seek to enhance our existing care coordinator programs

4.2.1 Building community and partnerships is fundamental to the aims of the school. The care coordinators program since its inception has provided valuable support in caring for families in need and building relationships between families. This program will be further enhanced.

Action:

- Role and procedures for care coordinators to be documented and reviewed.

4.3 Explore and develop programs and information to enhance the building of families and their relationships

4.3.1 To support students we will develop programs, activities and opportunities for families to be supported in raising their children. In a complex world support will be given to build strong families.

Action:

- Provide information nights, materials on parenting and methods for parents to network.

5. FINANCE, FACILITIES AND GROUNDS

5.1 Develop a revised school master plan focusing on the provision of quality classroom learning environments specialist facilities, efficient administration areas and spaces for ministry and community activities.

5.1.1 To enable the school to meet its stated aims the physical environment needs to be developed to provide the facilities required.

Action:

- Master plan to reflect the future directions of the school.
- Building program developed and implemented.

5.2 Maintenance of existing facilities

5.2.1 Existing facilities need to be developed and maintained to maximize their suitability to the school.

Action:

- Complete electricity, heating, cooling, fencing and grounds upgrades.

- Develop maintenance cycles.

5.3 Develop and review long term financial planning

5.3.1 Sound stewardship of the schools resources is essential to enable the school to meet its stated aims. Adequate income needs to be generated without decreasing the affordability of our school to our community.

Action:

- Develop, adopt and implement budget models
- Develop baseline KPI's. to assist in decision making.

5.4 Develop communication strategies for the schools short and long term financial position and annual budget

5.4.1 Shared understanding from all in the school community builds community.

Action:

- Examine methods for effective communication and participation by the school community in the budget process.

6. SCHOOL COMMUNITY AND COMMUNICATION

6.1 Develop and enhance the use of technology as one avenue of communication with our community

6.1.1 In a changing world the availability of technology as a tool for communication potentially changes the way our school community communicates.

Action:

- Development of the schools website to allow remote access and member login.
- Investigation of modes of electronic technology for school communication.

6.2 Revise and develop communication strategies of the school ethos, values and programs

6.2.1 Shared knowledge and understanding throughout the school community enhance unity of purpose and direction. The ability to communicate our core ethos and its implications to our school community is essential.

Action:

- Holding of information nights, forums and development of electronic communications.

6.3 Strengthen the home school partnership through communication of student activity and learning

6.3.1 Student learning is a core activity of the school. Sharing knowledge of what and how students learn is highly desired.

Action:

- Review current methods for communicating student learning and explore options such as learning portfolios for students.