

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT 2013

ST ITA'S School Board Annual General Meeting

DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

Major building projects were completed last year with grants provided by State Government funding. The school also contributed through an ADF loan of \$300 000. These facilities include an Administration Centre, Music, Drama and Visual Arts rooms and a piano studio, uniform shop and student amenities. The physical environment of our school is developing to align with the quality learning experiences enjoyed by our community.

In November 2012 we celebrated the Blessing and Opening of these facilities. The Most Reverend Bishop Brain V. Finnigan, the Honourable Kevin Rudd and David Hutton OAM, Executive Director Brisbane Catholic Education, were special guests at our ceremony. It was also wonderful to see many of the Ursuline Sisters, including Sr Ruth Durick, Provincial of the Ursuline Order in attendance. In our 93rd year we are proud to continue to be true to the charism of the Ursulines.

CURRICULUM

In 2012 there was a curriculum emphasis on familiarization of the new Australian Curriculum. Education Officers from BCE worked closely with our teaching staff to plan units of work using the English and History curriculum documents. This support will continue in 2013 and we will also begin using the new Mathematics curriculum. A new RE curriculum is being written by BCE and this will be implemented this year.

Four teachers participated in a peer coaching program to train as coaches and mentors. This program was highly successful with the focus being on the integration of technology within the curriculum. We intend to expand this program in 2013. From this experience a group of our teachers was invited to present to BCE colleagues at an ICT Showcase.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Our inaugural *Art by the River* event was a wonderful success showcasing the work of local artists and students of our school. Successful community events such as the Art Show do not occur without the strategic planning and hard work of a group of people who are passionate about our school. To the Art Show committee I offer my congratulations, appreciation and sincere thanks for a job well done.

Such a commitment requires family support and I acknowledge too their partners and children who so generously shared their family time so that the Art Show could be the success it was. This event enabled our community to come together in a spirit of cooperation, enjoyment and friendship. A success on many levels.

Our student art work received outstanding praise and is a reflection of the teaching expertise, dedication and enthusiasm of Ms Lina Tigani, our exceptional visual arts teacher. Two of our students from St Ita's were awarded places in the Brisbane Catholic Education 2012 *Prize For Art* Competition. Over two thousand entries were received from Catholic Primary Schools and thirty-one of our students were in the finalists' shortlist. This achievement is a reflection on the wonderful Visual Arts Program at St Ita's.

CONCLUSION

I thank sincerely the members of the School Board for the support that you have graciously bestowed on me and for your wisdom as we work together in partnership to make just decisions to not only move our school forward but also to retain and nurture those values that are an important part of the culture of our school. Thanks and appreciation are extended to Leanne Rodwell (O'Hare) for her significant contribution to the School Board during her term as Board member and as minute taker. Our best wishes go with Leanne as she leaves our St Ita's community after many years of active participation and support.

Maureen Thomas
Principal