

**School Advisory Council Meeting Update**

Dear Parents,

The School Advisory Council (SAC) had its first meeting for the year on Wednesday 21st February. The purpose of the SAC is to offer guidance and support to the school leadership team in the decisions they are making to enhance our school.

To keep the parent community up to date with improvements and changes that are happening, the SAC will provide an update to parents after each meeting. To this nature, please find below the pertinent items that were discussed at the first meeting for 2024.

**Curriculum Update**

*Behaviour*

The Leadership Team and Staff have begun implementing aspects of Behaviour Curriculum. The areas that the school has started with are:

* Building Connections
* Entrance Routines
* Exit Routines

Already positive feedback has been reported of these new processes that have been introduced which enable children to focus more on their learning as they know where they will sit, how they are to move around the school and how/when they can enter/exit classrooms. It has taken away social and mental pressure and has bought a calmness to the school environment.

*Mathematics*

Prep to Year 2 teachers are participating in a program called ‘Teaching for Impact in Mathematics’. This is derived from a partnership between Melbourne Archdiocese of Catholic schools, OCHRE education and Teach Well. OCHRE are a not for profit organisation who work with a community of teachers to develop a comprehensive library of evidence based, quality assured curriculum linked lessons and resources. Holy Family are part of the first cohort of teachers and leaders to participate in this partnership. Currently a program of this nature is being developed for Years 3-6.

*Literacy*

Three new programs have been introduced in the last year and continue to be built on this year.

* **UFLI** is a Prep-2 spelling program has seen great results in engagement with the students and the prescriptive way they learn to spell.
* **PhOrMes** is a Years 3-6 spelling program focusing on comprehension, reading and writing
* **DIBELS** is an assessment program which students used in the first few days prior to the term beginning to see where they are currently at and assist teachers in creating learning groups.

**Parent/Teacher Communication on Learning**

There has been a change this year in communication between teachers and parents. The following will be implemented:

* Term 1 and 3 – Face to Face Interviews
* Term 2 and 4 – Written Reports
* There will be ongoing feedback via SeeSaw which is a platform that provide continuous visibility into the student's learning journey. Teachers are currently being trained in this platform and parents will shortly have access.
* Fortnightly Level Newsletters – the survey that was completed last year showed that parents found these newsletters important resources so they will continue in 2024.

**International Students**

Six students from China were welcomed for two weeks to experience school in Australia. This was the first visit of this kind to our community and provided a wonderful opportunity for our students to learn and grow in their understanding of other cultures. There may be more opportunities for this to occur throughout the year as it was determined it was a positive experience with benefits both financially and socially to the school. This will only occur where there is appropriate space in classrooms.

**2025 External Review**

Holy Family will undergo the External Review Process in 2025. This will set the Strategic Plan for the next four years.

**Parish News**

Fr Justel informed the school that he has been officially appointed as the Parish Priest of St Mary Magdalen's, Jordanville. This will be on top of his role of Parish Priest at Holy Family. An assistant priest has also been assigned to the parishes and he will join Fr Justel shortly in ministering to the pastoral needs of both parishes. Fr Justel asked for the school’s patience and understanding over the coming months as two these two parishes come together.

The next SAC meeting is scheduled to be held in May. If you have further questions or concerns regarding the above information, or other thoughts to improve our school, please feel free to contact a SAC member at any stage throughout the year.

Kind Regards,

***Holy Family School Advisory Council***

Julie David (Principal) Eithne King (Deputy Principal)

Fr Justel Callos (Parish Priest) Mark Petersen (Parish Representative)

Nicole Mardell (Parent Representative) Daniel Trettel (Parent Representative)

Stephanie Wood (Parent Representative) Amelia Younane (Parent Representative)