Positive Behaviour for Learning
Newsletter

PBL UPDATE

Across NSW PBL coordinators and officers have been working together to facilitate the implementation of Positive Behaviour for Learning in over 875 schools.

This newsletter is designed to celebrate how the PBL framework can work in a variety of contexts to unite school communities, enhance the wellbeing of students and positively impact on school climate.

Coming Soon!

One Day Conference
PBL: Wellbeing, Leadership and Engagement

with guest presenters from the University of Missouri

Coming Soon!

One Day Conference
PBL: Wellbeing, Leadership and Engagement

with guest presenters from the University of Missouri

The conference will be held in rural NSW and metropolitan Sydney. REGISTER NOW at your preferred venue using the MyPL link

Date: Wednesday 16 July 2014
Location: Dubbo RSL Club Resort,
Brisbane Street, Dubbo
MyPL- PBL: Wellbeing, Leadership and Engagement Conference (Dubbo)
OR
Date: Friday 18 July 2014
Location: Waterview Conference Centre,
Bicentennial Park, Homebush
MyPL- PBL: Wellbeing, Leadership and Engagement Conference (Homebush)

PBL CATCH-UP TRAINING

The move to one state, one system...
From Wollondilly to Wollongong, Penrith to Pittwater and beyond! PBL team members and new coordinators from a wide range of schools across the state attended a recent PBL catch-up training event. The event was held in western Sydney at Tradewynds Café, Nirimba. The training provided an opportunity for schools to share and network whilst developing their knowledge of PBL processes and reviewing the critical elements of PBL implementation at Tier 1 level.

“I found the entire course useful. I now have a comprehensive understanding which will allow me to better facilitate my school’s PBL team.” Participant comment

STAYING CONNECTED WITH PBL

Sustaining PBL over time requires a continual process of review and renewal. Willyama High School, located in the Far West Principals Network, has been implementing PBL since 2008. Recent consultation with the student body resulted in the decision to update PBL signage. An art competition, open to all students, was initiated. Art works were submitted and displayed in the hall. Students voted for their preferred art work by sitting next to the artworks they liked the best. The result is enhanced visibility and renewed student ownership of PBL.
**PBL STAR LAUNCH**

PBL was launched at *The Hills Sports High School*, located in the Nirimba Principals Network, after careful and creative planning. At the initial staff launch, teachers were briefed on the part they would play in the introduction of the concept of STAR to the students. STAR is the acronym that outlines the four key concepts *Safety, Tolerance, Achievement* and *Respect*. The plan was to progressively reveal the STAR symbol throughout the school with a competition and signage to generate interest and intrigue in the lead up to the whole school launch. SRC members appeared out of uniform wearing coloured shirts that seemingly went unnoticed by staff. Stars mysteriously appeared all around the school. A surprise assembly was called on STAR launch day with many students unaware of what was about to happen. The beating of drums signalled the start of The Hills High School’s STAR journey and regular classes were cancelled for a period and replaced with a fun-packed PBL Fair. Students were given ‘STAR’ tokens to exchange at food stalls or the chance to participate in a variety of tournaments including handball, basketball, table tennis, chess, bocce, ring toss and Wii Sports. Other activities included a photo booth and the very popular horizontal bungee. Prized extra STAR tokens could be earned by demonstrating the key expectations. Everyone agreed that the afternoon’s focus on SAFETY, TOLERANCE, ACHIEVEMENT and RESPECT was fun! Most importantly students and staff are united in the new direction The Hills Sports High School is taking to enhance a more positive learning environment for all.

**PBL AND THE EIGHT WAYS**

*Moss Vale High School*, located in the Wollondilly Principals Network, is in its third year of implementation.

The Aboriginal Education team at Moss Vale High received a Director-General’s Award for their community engagement project linked to PBL. Students worked with the local indigenous community to explore authentic Gundungurra tribal symbols. This inspired the creation of signage aligned to the 8 ways Aboriginal *Education model* and the core PBL values. The success of PBL at Moss Vale High is attributed to genuine staff commitment led by an effective PBL team. Implementation at the universal level has seen significant behavioural improvements as indicated by data. Scheduled lessons and assemblies ensure a continual focus on embedding PBL into school culture. The reward system has been updated to include VIVO, a motivating online recognition and rewards platform. PBL is one of the top priorities in the school’s strategic plan and is supported by the P&C, community donations and the school budget. PBL has strengthened links with the wider community through information sessions for parents and seminars with principals in the local Community of Schools. Stronger links have been forged with local schools - Moss Vale HS currently supports Robertson PS in a PBL coaching capacity. Current plans emphasise universals at a classroom level with classroom signage to incorporate the highly effective 8 ways images.

*“PBL has had an astonishing impact on our school... as a consequence there has been an enrichment of both our physical and emotional environments.”*  
Teacher comment
PUNCHBOWL PILOTS TAKE OFF!

After a big investment in time, effort and preparation, the start of 2014 saw the launch of Punchbowl Pilots to a very excited community at Punchbowl Public School, located in the Canterbury Principals Network. Momentum for PBL has been rapidly increasing. Whole staff commitment was achieved via: staff training, analysis of data, and numerous professional learning sessions. Three school-wide values were identified:

We are Learners  We are Respectful  We are Safe.

These values were thoroughly explored and identified in the development of their expectations matrix. Visibility was achieved by the creation of a PBL logo. An inclusive process was followed with each class collaboratively working to design an entry for the competition to choose a logo. Everyone voted to select the winning entry - a plane, making reference to the PBL concepts of aiming high to achieve academic and social success, as well as to the school motto of Learning Together. The winning class developed a presentation to launch the logo to the school community.

To maintain momentum important systems have been put in place. For instance, PBL has been added as a regular agenda item at all executive, stage and communication meetings to establish systems to support PBL implementation and consistent and effective classroom practice. Stage meetings have provided regular opportunities to focus on an explicit skill (selected from the Classroom Systems Checklist) for teachers to explore and practise, including self and buddy reflections on the identified skill. This has become a significant system feature and allows for regular professional dialogue and collegial support to maintain and improve practice.

Happy flying as you soar on your PBL journey!

CONNECTING SCHOOL WIDE PBL IN THE PRESCHOOL

A training package has been developed for implementing PBL in preschool settings. The training is aligned with the Early Years Learning Framework and the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care. Preschools are supported to connect school-wide systems with effective preschool practices.

For more information contact:-
Ann Eckert - Head Teacher PBL
ann.eckert@det.nsw.edu.au
Ruth Garlick - P-2 Initiatives Officer
ruth.garlick@det.nsw.edu.au
**NEED A USEFUL TOOL?**

Try the **Benchmarks of Quality (BoQ)** - A self-assessment tool for PBL Teams. Use the benchmark rubric to discuss your achievements. Enter the score to generate actions. Prioritise your actions to develop a plan for where to go next.

Access the BoQ package on the PBL Wiki using this link - [http://pblsupport.BenchmarksofQuality](http://pblsupport.BenchmarksofQuality)

Visit the PBL Wiki for PBL contacts, up to date data tools, fact sheets, information and more! [http://pblsupport.pbworks.com](http://pblsupport.pbworks.com)

---

**MATRIX REVIEW**

The school-wide matrix is your school’s social-emotional and behavioural curriculum.

**A social-emotional and behavioural curriculum**-
- Creates a vision of a successful student
- Allows us to proactively teach behaviours for success
- Communicates a positive message to staff about success at school
- Provides a framework to guide staff decisions about discipline
- Aligns staff through the use of consistent language
- Validates and supports individual teachers’ procedures and requests

It is essential that the matrix be reviewed annually.

**Questions to ask** –

1. Does it meet your current contextual needs?
2. Is the matrix being used as intended? That is, as a common language for teaching and reinforcing expected behaviour as well as correction.
3. Does it meet the OMPUA guidelines for defining specific behaviours?

Below is an example of a teaching matrix that includes a bully prevention routine for all settings.

**Expectations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Settings</th>
<th>All settings routine for bully prevention</th>
<th>Moving around the school</th>
<th>Playground</th>
<th>Cartoon</th>
<th>Assembly</th>
<th>Cyber space</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Be Respectful</td>
<td>Follow directions</td>
<td>Use respectful language</td>
<td>Take care of materials and school property</td>
<td>If you see disrespect</td>
<td>STOP. Interrupt and in civil respect rather than watch or join in. Interrupt and say “The answer is…”</td>
<td>WALK. WAIT. Walk away. Don’t be an audience. Invite people who are being disrespected to join you and move away. TALK. REPORT to an adult</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be Safe</td>
<td>Keep body to self</td>
<td>Be in the right place at the right time</td>
<td>Move safely</td>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>Keep to the left</td>
<td>Look where you are going</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be a Learner</td>
<td>Always do your best</td>
<td>Be prepared</td>
<td>Participate in school activities</td>
<td>Listen attentively</td>
<td>Follow teacher instructions</td>
<td>Arrive at class on time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BoQ data graph** – tracks progress over time

Access the BoQ package on the PBL Wiki using this link - [http://pblsupport.BenchmarksofQuality](http://pblsupport.BenchmarksofQuality)

Visit the PBL Wiki for PBL contacts, up to date data tools, fact sheets, information and more! [http://pblsupport.pbworks.com](http://pblsupport.pbworks.com)

---

A big thank you to the schools across the state for their contributions to this newsletter.