PBL UPDATE

This newsletter is designed to celebrate ways 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.

Visit the PBL website

www.pbl.schools.nsw.edu.au

WANTED!

Examples of your school-wide expectations, rules and teaching matrix

Photos of school signs and PBL mascots to include in our galleries

If you would like to contribute to the website contact us at pbl@det.nsw.edu.au

PBL EXPO - NEWCASTLE

The successful PBL Expo was held in Newcastle on 20 November and attracted more than 400 visitors during the day from the Northern NSW border to the Central Coast. The Windale Public School choir set the scene by singing the National Anthem in the language of the Awabakal people and then in English. They followed up later with a performance of their own PBL School Song.

The Expo combined shop fronts as well as a variety of short presentations showcasing the PBL implementation of 70 schools. Exemplar schools as well as network coaches and facilitators were recognised with PBL awards. The event was a true celebration of what it takes to make PBL work: strong principal leadership, access to effective coaching support and energetic, creative PBL school teams who use a problem solving approach. Congratulations to the organisers, school teams and students who participated.
In September, Warialda Public School, in the Barwon Principals Network, held a fabulous PBL Open Day that started with a parade in the local streets and ended with a school social in the evening. They also had an inspirational visit from Megan Longhurst who featured on The Voice Australia in 2014.

Acting Principal, Pam Murphy writes...

“We continually face challenges - how we view them defines us! Do we choose to see the challenges as stepping stones or as obstacles? If we choose to see them as obstacles, then the challenges we face will be viewed as problems. A great deal of wasted energy can be spent on negatives … can’t do it; it won’t work; that’s too hard; it will take too long...

Warialda Public School however, chooses to see challenges as stepping-stones - opportunities that we have encountered for us to use, to "step on," ... so that we can achieve more, develop further and ultimately realise more of our goals! We build stepping stones for success.

It is clear to us at Warialda Public School that the introduction of Positive Behaviour for Learning has made significant positive changes to our school. PBL presents a broad range of whole school and individualised strategies for achieving important social and academic outcomes. PBL is based on effective teacher instruction and strategies but it is driven by school need and strategic directions.

A good school helps a child realise their strengths and encourages and challenges them to learn through those strengths. It is in the day to day process of reaching this goal that the ingredients for turning a good school into a great school come into play.”

An alliance of five Schools for Specific Purposes (SSP) recently joined together to access BOSTES registered Classroom Systems training. The idea was initiated by the PBL Team at The Ponds School who were keen to expand their implementation into the classrooms. They approached other schools in their local SSP alliance. William Rose School agreed to host the event and were joined by team members from Kurrambee, The Hills and Tallowood Schools. Supported by PBL trainers from the Macquarie Park Educational Services team, the participants had a productive two days.

Effective classroom practices and the systems needed to support teachers are relevant in all contexts. With input from the schools, the training delivered was tailored to meet their shared needs. It was a wonderful opportunity for the schools to share successful innovations and strategies used to implement the PBL framework and enhance student wellbeing in their unique settings.
**BULLY PREVENTION - CAMPBELTTOWN EAST PUBLIC SCHOOL**

Campbelltown East Public School (CEPS), in the Campbelltown Principals Network, recently used a combination of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and the development of a new Anti-Bullying Policy to hold a "mini re-launch" of PBL in the school.

Students were treated to a wonderful morning of "Commonwealth Games Action" with a range of sporting events enjoyed by all students K-6. The "Be Skilled Be Fit" organisation presented an Opening Ceremony of epic proportions with each team marching into the "stadium" to a fanfare of music/national songs. Twelve teams were presented to an assembled group of cheering community members.

As the teams began their events it was clear they were all highly engaged and motivated by the wide variety of activities they had to perform. Events continued for the morning session to the smell of a community sausage sizzle that provided a welcome boost to energy levels at lunchtime.

At the closing ceremony, the Ghanaian team were crowned Commonwealth Champions to the applause of an appreciative crowd.

As the children returned to their classrooms after a community lunch, the teachers delivered PBL lessons on the theme of bully prevention. Parents watched as brainstorming sessions provided answers to how bullying behaviours affect others and how the incidence of bullying at CEPS can be reduced.

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**THE GLENDENNING GRIFFIN**

Glendenning Public School (GPS), in the Nirimba Principals Network, has developed an updated PBL Recognition Rewards proposal and involved students in a competition to create a meaningful mascot. Their PBL coordinator, Tamiko Howard writes –

“Our rewards are to be based on our newly appointed *Glendenning Griffin* mascot. We are currently surveying students on our proposal, and look forward to feedback from our parents and carers.

*In traditional folklore a griffin is an amalgamation of a lion and an eagle. The characteristics associated in mythology align with our school’s core PBL values. Griffins represent strength, courage and leadership which fit with our *Respectful* value; the intelligence of both the lion and eagle connects to the *Learner* value. Their visual acuity can be linked to our *Safe* value by seeing and being aware of our surroundings. Griffins are also known for guarding treasure – which of course are all our priceless students and GPS community!*

*The winning entry was a joint effort from Stage 3 students, Ethan and Saad. Congratulations and thank you for creating such a thoughtful mascot!*

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**NEED A USEFUL TOOL?**

The *Self-Assessment Survey* (SAS - formerly the EBS) is a tool to gauge staff perception of systems and practices in school-wide, non-classroom, classroom and individual student settings. Staff identify aspects they consider in place, partially in place or not in place and indicate areas they think are priorities for improvement. Enter the tally on the excel spreadsheet to generate graphs that will show areas of strength and areas for improvement. Use this information to prioritise your actions to develop a plan for where to go next.

*SAS data – involves all staff in decision making which is essential for staff buy in and commitment.*

Follow the website links to download the latest versions of all the *PBL evaluation tools* including the *Self-Assessment Survey*.
A big thank you to the schools across the state for their contributions to this newsletter.

The 2014 Australian Association of Special Education’s (AASE) national conference, “Catching the Perfect Wave,” was held in Manly and featured many international and local speakers. Presentations focussed on evidence-based practice in schools. The NSW Department of Education and Communities, as a conference sponsor, was well represented at the conference. Among the international and local speakers was Catherine Bradshaw, the Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development at the Curry School of Education, University of Virginia. Prof Bradshaw discussed the significance of Positive Behaviour for Learning in enhancing student and teacher outcomes. She presented an outstanding keynote on cultural relevance and PBL, and an additional workshop on bully prevention in schools.

The evidence presented by Catherine reflected some of the core features of PBL, amongst them the importance of investing in systems that can produce long term school-wide benefits. In cases where the school environment has been successfully changed, specific benefits for new students seem to be emerging from the evidence. Cohorts of students that start school after PBL has been established as “the way the school does business”, seem to be benefiting from early intervention. Catherine’s desire to promote preventative approaches that achieve measurable student benefits was evident to all the conference participants.


CHIFLEY COLLEGE DUNHEVED SAYS IT WITH SIGNS

A new sign in the playground – Warilla PS

Howie is the PBL mascot from Hilltop Road Public School

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