**Director’s Message**

The CEOM continues to lead, support and serve our schools as vibrant Catholic learning communities. A focus of the strategic planning process currently being undertaken is looking at the kind of student we need to nurture to assist them in making their contribution to society. Consultation with parents as key stakeholders in Catholic education, has provided valuable insights to inform the process.

Thank you to all school communities that have assisted at this crucial time in Australian politics to ensure the government and opposition at Federal and State government levels understand the funding needs of Catholic schools. I encourage school board members to use the information and support material provided for school communities to engage in the election cycle with local members of parliament.

The CEOM is offering two evening forums in coming months, giving parents an opportunity to obtain insights into two key aspects of Catholic education: the Catholic ethos of the school and parent engagement to benefit learning outcomes. Parents of children from both primary and secondary schools will benefit from these forums.

With best wishes

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**2010 Twilight Forums for parents**

The forums are designed to enhance your understandings and contributions to schools and the learning outcomes of all students.

**Register now** with the assistance of the school principal.

Details on <www.ceomelb.catholic.edu.au> on School Boards Page under 'Professional Learning for school board members'

Contact Patricia Palman on 9267 0228 or <ppalman@ceomelb.catholic.edu.au> if you have any queries.

**EMBRACING OUR CATHOLIC IDENTITY**

*How can your school community explore and celebrate the distinctive Catholic identity of your school?*

**Thursday 9 September**
6.00pm–9.00pm
Treacy Conference Centre, 126 The Avenue, Parkville

A key function of all school boards is to promote and support the Catholic ethos of the school. This forum will assist you in identifying the nature of Catholic identity in your school and how you as board members and parents can support, nurture and encourage the Catholic ethos in your school and community.

**PARENT ENGAGEMENT**

*A vital partnership with schools in the education of children in Catholic schools.*

**Thursday 7 October**
6.00pm–9.00pm
Treacy Conference Centre, 126 The Avenue, Parkville

Research shows that where there is effective parent engagement, the quality of schooling improves, students enjoy more satisfying educational experiences, and communities are strengthened. This forum aims to assist schools, families and school communities to explore and develop sustainable, enriching and supportive relationships to enhance the learning outcomes of students.
Building better boards
What is good policy?

School boards are often requested by their principal to assist in the review and development of policies for the school. In undertaking this task it is important that school board members keep in mind what is good policy.

Policy is a guiding principle designed to influence decisions and actions. School policies directly or indirectly improve the learning, development and wellbeing of students.

Good policy
• creates value and benefit for the students, staff and parents in the school;
• states clearly what are the proposed outcomes and the reasons for which it is needed;
• provides a framework for achieving the outcomes and for the development of rules and procedures;
• is aligned to CECV or CEOM policies as relevant;
• reflects school strategies, goals and values
• is based on rational, comprehensive quantitative and qualitative data;
• is concise;
• is written in plain English;
• is clearly communicated and widely understood;
• is monitored, evaluated and reviewed on a regular basis.


Reflect and consider
Board principles in action

Taking time to reflect on the principles that guide how a board operates, and planning for the development of all board members is a key activity of a school board.

Has your school board asked the question: Are the teachings of Christ as encapsulated in the mission and values of the school reflected in the processes and procedures of the school board?

For example,
• How are school values such as inclusiveness and respect for each person reflected in the school board’s protocols and meeting procedures?

• Are values such as co-operation and teamwork reflected in the school board’s approach to discussion and advice giving?
• Are the key principles of the school’s guiding charism being honoured by the school board and used to form board members?
• Is your school prayer used by the school board at meetings?

Share your success story in the November issue of the newsletter

We would like to publish your success story in the November 2010 edition of Board Business.

What could other boards learn from your board experience? Share your story with other school boards.

By 1 November 2010, please forward your school boards success story or strategy to Patricia Palman <ppalman@ceomelb.catholic.edu.au>.

Victorian Catholic Schools at a Glance 2010

The publication Victorian Catholic Schools at a Glance 2010 presents a useful snapshot of statistics related to Catholic schools in Victoria. At a Glance provides a concise and accessible overview of school enrolments, numbers of staff, numbers of schools and details of new and closed schools. The publication can be downloaded from the CECV website <http://www.cecv.catholic.edu.au> in Publications/Statistical Bulletins.

A broader range of Victorian Catholic school data is presented in the online publication Statistical Snapshot. This publication is also accessible on the CECV website in Publications/Statistical Bulletins.

Useful websites
Catholic Education Office Melbourne (CEOM) <www.ceomelb.catholic.edu.au>

Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) <www.cecv.catholic.edu.au>

Victorian Catholic Schools Parent Body (VCSPB) <www.vcspb.catholic.edu.au>

BoardWorks International <www.boardworksinternational.com>