Director’s Message


Directions is a major statement about the vision, mission and values of Catholic education in the Archdiocese, as well as the priority areas for action in the next five years. It was developed following consultation with selected principals, parish priests and parents, and with Catholic Education Office Melbourne staff.

Directions is a platform or starting point for planning for all of us involved in the important work of educating children in the Catholic tradition: school and parish communities, religious orders and the Catholic Education Office.

The CEOM has used Directions to inform and guide our Strategy Plan 2011-2015. Directions is an important statement which I strongly encourage you and your school community to use in informing your school’s planning. Directions is available on the CEOM website <www.ceomelb.catholic.edu.au>.

Stephen Elder
Director of Catholic Education

CEOM Twilight Forum 19 October 2011

CHOICE VALUES AND YOUR SCHOOL’S REPUTATION

Recent research provides valuable insights into the factors that influence parental decisions about choosing a Catholic education for their child.

This forum provides you with an opportunity to hear about this research and think about how your school community can use the findings of this research to enhance the reputation of your school.

CEOM Marketing Coordinator, Adam Pearce, will provide insights into recent Catholic school choice research and the implications for school marketing.

Panel members from primary and secondary schools in the Archdiocese of Melbourne will share their experiences of how they promote their school within the local community.

Who should attend: Board members including parish priests, canonical administrators, principals and parents

When: Wednesday 19 October 2011
Where: Treacy Conference Centre, Parkville
Time: 6.00pm to 9.00pm

Registration is free. Refreshments will be provided.

Please email Patricia Palman <ppalman@ceomelb.catholic.edu.au> or seek the assistance of your school principal to register online on the CEVN website <http://cevn.cecv.catholic.edu.au> through IPLS.

CEOM Board resources

Resources to assist with documentation for school boards and for induction of new members is now available on the CEVN website <http://cevn.cecv.catholic.edu.au> at the Parish-School Boards page under School Improvement.
Building better boards

SCHOOL – PARISH – COMMUNITY
The relationship between the parish and the parish primary school in the provision of Catholic education is crucial to the faith development and learning outcomes of students, the enlivening of parish life and the development of community. It is important that schools and boards:
- recognise, develop and maintain fruitful relationships within the parish
- recognise the role of the school in the overall mission of the parish
- recognise the contribution of parish to school
- understand relationship of school to parish
- play an active role in the life of the parish, including the education of all within the parish.

Reflect and consider

COLLEGE – ALUMNI – COMMUNITY
Informed, interested and influential alumni bring added value and strength to a college in its pursuit to build and maintain its presence and contribution to Catholic education and the community.

Consider the following when establishing or maintaining an alumni association or group:
- the purpose of the alumni e.g. promotion; skills sets, experience and expertise; mentoring; fundraising; potential board members
- awareness of the alumni in the college and community
- strong leadership, planned direction, and commitment of resources e.g. administration, databases, website, events, communication, information packs; newsletters
- linked databases to maintain relevant records
- alumni activities/awards/programs aligned to college strategy to maximize potential value add
- benefits to be made available to alumni
- the measurements of success and analysis of results
- feedback, review and modifications

New website on Catholic school funding

The NCEC has launched a website on Catholic school funding <www.fundinginfo.catholic.edu.au>. It plays a constructive role in explaining the facts and figures of Catholic education and the important role it plays in this country, are available to help inform your school community.

Seminars for parents

A range of topics relevant to the parents of students in Catholic primary and secondary schools is presented in various school locations.
See the CEO website <www.ceomelb.catholic.edu.au> at the Parents page or contact Shirley O’Sullivan on 9464 5225 or email <shirley@stclaresthomastown.catholic.edu.au>.

Victorian Catholic Schools Parent Body (VCSPB)

There is a need for replenishing of the VCSPB, especially this year as long serving members will be retiring. We have inducted three new members in the last 12 months and seek further expressions of interest from parents who are either serving or have recently served on their school education boards. Vacancies exist as follows:
- Melbourne Eastern Region - Expressions of interest are invited for current vacant positions.
- Melbourne Northern Region - Expressions of interest are invited for one current position and for two positions becoming vacant in 2012.
- Melbourne Western Region - Expressions of interest are invited for one vacant position.
- Sandhurst Diocese – Expressions of interest are invited for one vacant position.
- Sale Diocese – Expressions of interest are invited for one vacant position.

If you are interested, please see the VCSPB website <www.vcspb.catholic.edu.au> and contact the VCSPB secretary <secretary@vcspb.catholic.edu.au> for more information.