Craig Deayton—6 years ago a literacy program began at McKillop College. Sacred Heart College have begun this process in both Secondary and Primary Schools and both campuses. Programs are tailored to individual students. The main focus is on grades 5-10, however grades K-4 are included in the program. Below are the minutes of the P@F meeting.

Jacqui Lawless

• this is an assessment based program from K-10
• Groups are ability based
• Spreadsheet for tests to track learning and scores, are being developed
• So far 700 students have been tested and only 45 have been re-sat. Not perfect but very acceptable for the first year of application.
• February and November are the testing months.

Learning Program

1. Early—sounding out, playing with words and rhyme. Importance of home reading and word learning becomes apparent if missed out in Kinder. Some students arrive at school with very minimal oral language. Listening skills.

2. PEGS—Primary Enrichment Group. Grades 2-6 meet 3 times a week. They are ability based groups. Reading as well as activities and games.

3. Literate Practices-Grades 5-10. These are also ability based groups. Students are unaware of which group they are in (level). Different activities as mentioned below.

Levels of Literacy Program

Prerequisite—oral, needing help.
Decoding—may have reading problems, sight words, letter sounds
Transition—reading text, phonemic awareness, vocabulary building
Comprehension—understand what they are reading is critical for learning.
Strategies—monitor own comprehension, use texts for multiple social purpose
Students as Sacred Heart College will continue to be involved in regular literacy lessons.

Encourage your child to read aloud, then ask questions!

### LP Objectives

Literacy skills of vocabulary have decreased in recent years. Perhaps because we don’t communicate as much. Respond in a formal register. Elaborate sentences. Encourage this!!

Engage students to make them think.
Take control of their own learning.
Encourage attention and concentration. These are resources that drive thinking.

The Literacy Program consists of timetabled activities that target each of these skills necessary to aid and enhance reading and comprehension.

### Reading Link
- This group is for students well below the grade level.
- Students that find reading challenging
- Based on phonological awareness
- Old fashioned text with sounding words
- game rhyme or reason

### Oral Language
- Focuses on building vocabulary, expressing ideas and concepts and the social constraints on communication
- Using alternative words

### Mental Model
- mental models are proven to aid in comprehension.
- The purpose involves the ability to build an image in the head
- Show an image and draw a picture of that image
- Mental images are elaborated with more information

### Engagement in Ideas
- the purpose is to interact with text and ideas
- Importantly the aim is to think
- It is not just playing games and doing puzzles, but thinking

### Reciprocal Teaching
- is based on what good readers do, this includes predicting, working out new words, checking, understanding, asking questions and summarising

All students will be re-tested in November.

P @ F MEETING
Read aloud/Quiet Reading

• joy of stories
• Hear and practice reading
• Students are encouraged to bring a book to all LP lessons

Critical Literacy

Ask your child, what did you do today?

• read something and look for the hidden meaning
• Who wrote the text
• Who is the audience
• What techniques does the author use to get their message across

“Literacy is not a luxury, it is a right and a responsibility”

President Bill Clinton 1994

With thanks

The Parent and Friends committee would like to thank Craig Deayton, Jacqui Lawless and Louise Bender for their professional and information talk on the Literacy Program in our school. All parents and guardians that attended have all unanimously agreed all things we discussed and learnt go a long way to helping our children improve academically and socially.

Again we thank you.

Questions

Jacqui Lawless is more than happy to answer any questions. Please do not hesitate to ask her by email or contacting the school.

jlawless@shc.tas.edu.au

Telephone 6279 4090

The next P@F meeting will be held on Monday, 2nd August at 7.00pm in the Secondary Library.

We look forward to seeing you all there. Coffee and tea will be provided on the night.