Wembley Primary School Review 2011 outcomes and strategic direction for the next four years…

Report from Julie Chandler, critical friend to Wembley PS and school reviewer in 2011.

Wembley Primary school underwent a school review in semester 2 of 2011. This was part of the rich accountability process that is required of every government school in Victoria. Many sources of information are used in order to have a rich conversation about our children’s learning, development and engagement. These include a breadth of data on student learning, input from students, teachers and staff, parents, school council and regional personnel.

Every government school is independently reviewed every four years in the areas of student learning, student engagement and well-being and student pathways and transitions. In other words, our schools are involved in a process that tells us how our school is going and how our children are going compared to schools with children and family populations just like ours!

In addition, depending on how well the school is perceived as doing (or not doing!) in these areas, there are different types of reviews. Most schools undertake a Continuous Improvement review; some schools are involved in a Diagnostic Review where more support is required and a handful of schools (per region) are seen as doing particularly well and therefore can choose a critical friend to undertake what is called a Negotiated Review.

Last year Wembley PS was one a small group of schools that were in the Negotiated Review category! I was invited as a critical friend to undertake the review process in conjunction with the school community. I am also an accredited school reviewer for the DEECD.

**Well, what happened at Wembley PS over the past four years?**

The picture is solid! Student achievement data is generally strong across the board in literacy and numeracy and is well over the state average and generally meeting the high bar set by the school for achievement. The students at Wembley PS are doing well and above expectations in many areas.

There have been some very strong outcomes across the school and there are also challenges. In 2010 76% of year 3 students were in the top two bands of achievement in reading in the country with almost half the students (49%) in the top band (Naplan is a national test). However, the 2011 year 3 outcome was not so strong and will be addressed. Year 5 reading writing and numeracy have all been strong and also improved significantly in 2011.

There was a general consensus that there is clear professional focused leadership across the school and high expectations of students, staff and leaders. The school has been relentless on improving teaching and learning and engaging students in their learning. There has been a strong focus on continuous professional learning for all staff. In fact Wembley PS leads the way in a range of research-based practices that improve teaching and learning in schools. There is a strong curriculum base that includes ICT, purposeful teaching practices and research-based instructional strategies! Teachers consistently use data and evidence to inform their practice!

The school survey data tells us that the students are highly motivated to learn and generally love school. The parent data tells us that they are generally pleased with the school and the staff data tells us that the teachers are dedicated and working extremely hard for the students.

**So what’s ahead over the next four years?**

Wembley PS will continue to improve numeracy and literacy across the school so that all students achieve the highest possible outcomes and this remains a number one priority. The school and all staff will be striving to have all students highly engaged in their learning through an exciting curriculum and 21st century approaches to learning and teaching, including ICT.
A detailed strategic plan has resulted from the 2011 review and informs the direction of the school over the next four years (2012-2015) and is available at the school.

It was a delight for me to be able to support the process of review in 2011. I strongly believe that the school is set to go from being great to being even better over the next review period.

Congratulations!

Julie Chandler