

SPECIAL ADVERTISING FEATURE

Catholic Schools Week May 1-7

Leadership's a priority

CATHOLIC Schools in the Broken Bay diocese are taking the professional development of their principals and teachers to the highest level with an educational leadership program that has proven to have a big impact on students' learning.

The diocese launched its Leading Learning strategy in January this year with a gathering of more than 260 principals and teachers from 43 primary and secondary schools in the diocese.

‘This partnership will generate confidence for parents that our schools are on the cutting edge in improving student outcome ,

The centrepiece of the strategy is a partnership with the University of Auckland's Centre for Educational Leadership, which is internationally acclaimed for its innovation in school leadership development.

The partnership is partly funded

by the Australian Government National Partnership on Improving Teacher Quality. Dr Tony Bracken, assistant director for School Improvement for the Diocese of Broken Bay Catholic Schools Office, said the partnership would bring real benefits to principals, teachers, students and

parents. "Research tells us that it is the quality of the teacher that has the greatest impact on student outcomes," he said.

"This partnership will generate confidence for parents that our schools are on the cutting edge in improving student outcome through a focus on stronger leadership."

Dr Bracken said that while the program initially engages with principals, it goes right through to recognising the teacher as leader of learning in the classroom.

A series of forums and workshops has been planned for the next two years, at Diocesan, cluster and school levels, and a special program has been developed to support beginning principals.

"The work of a principal can be very complex in today's social and educational environment. The right support for those new to the role of school principal is critical, and our Catholic school system has a strong focus on building capacity and resilience in our leaders."

Pupils primed to unleash their inner performer



MASS OF VOICES: Pupils rehearse for this year's choral spectacular, described as a magnificent experience.

PUPILS at Catholic primary schools on the North Shore will unleash their inner performer when they take to the stage later this year in a musical spectacular for the Australian Arts Alive (a3) Choral Festival.

The innovative program of music and movement workshops will culminate on September 12 in a musical production at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School, Waitara.

It will involve all 1,000 pupils in years 5 and 6 from each of the Catholic primary schools in the North Shore Community of Catholic Schools.

Sue Host, principal of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Catholic School in West Pymble, said the a3 program, run by the Australian School for the Performing Arts, would be a magnificent experience for pupils and teachers.

"To have the expertise of the members of the Australian Girls Choir come and in-service the staff and then work with the children across the term to develop a repertoire of choral songs for a concert, is a wonderful opportunity," Mrs Host said.

"For the children, the opportunity to perform on stage and to learn skills in both song and movement is exciting. Who knows, if kids really take to it, they might take it further and participate in similar programs outside of school.

"Also, the experience of everyone working together towards the staging of this big choral festival, as part of the North Shore Cluster of Schools, really broadens their perspective."



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Diverse Opportunities and Achievements during Term 1

- Congratulations to our First X1 Cricket team winning the prestigious MCC Shield. The Girls Open Water Polo Team. And to our National competing triathletes.
- Thousands of dollars has been raised by our students to help those affected by flood and other natural disasters in Australia and around the world.
- We farewell our International visitors from Germany and Japan.
- Congratulations to our Debaters and Public Speakers, a fantastic start to the year.
- 'Playathon' event with outstanding musical performances by our students, staff and parents.
- Thanks to our active and vibrant Parent network.
- Preparations continue for our Tasmanian Band Tour and Germany Cultural Tour.



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