Principal’s Forward: 2014 at a Glance

The 2014 school year was characterised by continued growth in demand for services and diversification of program offerings. The Centre delivered a record number of education programs for a record number of students resulting in an 80% increase in the number of hours of instruction provided.

A key priority for 2014 was to refine current programs and develop new programs with a focus on science, geography and history. These new programs attracted a number of new client schools that have subsequently booked again for 2015. The new programs account for 55% of the 170 programs booked for 2015. By end of 2014 the Centre has reached 78% of capacity indicating that schools value the current suite of programs on offer.

A second challenge for the Centre was to maximise the use of the Centre’s new marine vessel “Inspiration” and we achieved an aspirational target of 100 days on the water delivering education programs with a further 25 days working with community groups and staff training. The Centre invested $17,600 to increase the capacity of the vessel from 38 to 64 persons which will increase income. Meeting the $90,000 annual costs to operate and maintain the vessel will be an ongoing challenge for the Centre.

Other successes for the 2014 school year include:

- Relocated 4 shelter and compost sheds, established a new shade area, installed kitchen gardens, and commenced the development of natural play and learning areas within the grounds.
- Expanded the number of partnerships with community organisations to enhance student learning
  - Theatre in Education programs in partnership with National Parks and Wildlife Services
  - Brisbane School of Distance Education science extension programs
  - Dunwich Museum and indigenous presenters
  - Wynnum Historical society
  - Community bird watching groups
- Trialled new client teacher survey instruments to inform teaching practice
- Finalist in Queensland Healthy Waterways Awards for Mangrove Watch Program in Partnership with Whites Hill State College
- Upgraded Centre Website.

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<tr>
<th>Explicit Improvement Agenda 2014</th>
<th>Not Started</th>
<th>Started</th>
<th>Achieved</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>1. Centre programs to be aligned with the Australian Curriculum with a focus on Science and History</td>
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<td>2. Deliver Systematic Curriculum</td>
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<td>3. Using data to reform teaching practice</td>
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<td>4. Continue to develop productive partnerships</td>
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<td>5. Enhance instructional leadership and workforce capability</td>
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<td>6. Improve 21st Century organisational capability</td>
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Service Delivery

The growth in service delivery exceeded expectations. A total of 32004 hours of instruction were delivered through 185 excursion programs, 79 pre-post excursion visits to the classroom and 8 Centre based specialist support programs for at risk students.

A total of 6878 individual students participated in excursion programs with 60% of students (4242) participating in pre excursion activities while 23.5% of students (1643) were provided with the opportunity to extend their learning through post excursion reflection activities in the classroom. State Schools account for 77% of the Centre’s service delivery with non-state schools accounting for 23% of client groups.

The majority of schools (61%) accessing the Centre’s services are located in the Metropolitan Region with 37% of clients from the South East Region and 2% from the North Coast and Darling Downs South West.

Centre staff also delivered 1185 hours of instruction to 449 members of the wider community through community events, professional development and certification courses.

Partnerships

The Centre’s facilities continue to be utilised by a number of groups outside of mainstream service delivery including:-
- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS).
- TAFE Certificate IV Education Support Teacher Aide Course
- Metropolitan Region Behaviour Services and other Community Service.
- Principals’ and HOC cluster meetings
- Community service groups
- Help Enterprises

Other partnerships include:-
- Mangrove Watch which sees students from Whites Hill State College being mentored by community volunteers and scientists in monitoring the health of Moreton Bay ecosystems.
- The Wynnum Manly Schools Education Alliance (WMSea) Young Leaders program and Whites Hill Cluster of Schools Dunwich Museum and Wynnum Historical Society
- Qld Wader Bird Society volunteers
- Individuals volunteering from the community
Organisational Capacity:- Human Resources

A number of new staff members joined the team during 2014 and this has provided the Centre with an increased number of people readily available to support ongoing programs. All teaching staff and non-teaching staff will continue in 2015 with a change to the Principal position for 2015. A permanent Principal will be appointed during Term 2 of 2015. The increased demand for services limited opportunities for staff to undertake professional development activities about teaching and observe peers during the year there was however, a significant increase in investment from 15% to 23.5% of the Centre’s core grant and time for individuals to undertake specific organisational and safety training to meet legislation.

The centre developed and implemented a new visiting teacher survey to seek feedback about curriculum, teaching and learning outcomes. The data collected indicates a very high level of satisfaction across all areas of the survey in relation to the capacity of our staff to deliver high quality programs. A key strategy for 2015 is to adapt and embed teacher staff performance and development planning processes using the National Standards for Teaching Practice.

Moreton Bay EEC Staff 2014

Teaching Staff
- Teaching Principal Band 7
- 3 FTE Teachers
- 0.2 FTE teacher purchased

Non-Teaching Staff
- Admin Officer – AO2 (0.97 FTE)
- Cleaner (11.75 hours)
- Unit Support Officer (1 FTE Purchased)
- Boat Officer (0.6 FTE Purchase)

Indigenous Staff
- NIL

Total Number of Staff
- 7 teaching staff and 5 support staff

Professional Development

Total expenditure on Professional Development during 2014 was $8958.00 (26.5% of Core Grant)

Development Focus Areas
- Elements of Shipboard Safety Training – new Staff
- Statewide Outdoor and Environmental Education Centre staff conference
- Staff induction new facilities
- ICT – Use of iPads in an Outdoor & Environmental Education context
- Mandated – e.g. First Aid, EQ updates
- Training of new teaching staff in programs and Heritage Interpretation
- Mindfulness Training
Finance:-
The Centre’s 2014 end of year financial situation continues to be strong with a residual of $212,000 for the beginning of 2015. Of this amount $40,000 is targeted funding for the O&EEC Principals Alliance, $15,000 emergency maintenance funding for the Centre’s vessel and $15,000 for planned facilities maintenance.

The key challenge for the Centre is to maximise income from the Centre’s marine vessel to offset operational costs. In 2014 the operational and maintenance exceeded income by $410,000. Increased fees for 2015 will generate additional income however the purchase of support staff is the main expenditure item moving forward.

Facilities/Grounds:-
The major focus in the Centre facilities development was the relocation of 4 shed structures from Port of Brisbane, kitchen gardens and shade structure. These facilities have provided a number of additional learning areas to support programs.

Another development has been the installation of a range of natural learning areas including a pond and waterfall to support student learning.

A key partnership that has been developed during the year has been with Help Enterprises who provide a willing workforce who volunteer their time to assist with grounds maintenance. The Wynnum State School provide access to grounds equipment and consumables to assist with ongoing grounds and garden maintenance.

Resourcing:-
The Centre invested $9200 in curriculum resources to enhance student learning outcomes. A key focus area has been the purchase of the range of scientific equipment to support marine science programs on the Centre’s new vessel. The Centre also invested $17,600 to increase the capacity of the marine vessel from 38 to 64 persons. This will enable for a greater level of income in 2015 onwards.

There was additional expenditure of $2700 to improve ICT connectivity and student access to mobile devices.