In 2009, Augusta Park Primary School’s focus was heavily on improvement of student outcomes in Literacy and Numeracy. At the same time, we recognised the need to support our students in learning better social skills that would allow them to behave more positively in classrooms and in the yard.

Our NAPLAN results were vastly improved on those from 2008, except in Year 7. Several groups of students showed better than average growth from 2008 – 09: e.g. our Year 4 students averaged a 30% improvement from their Year 3 results (this represents an average growth of 1.6 years per student over the past 12 months) and in Year 5, 97% of the students achieved higher than the National Minimum Standard (compared with 69% for Year 5 in 2008). More information about our NAPLAN results can be found in the school’s 2009 Annual Report.

Clearly, the work done by staff on improving the teaching and learning of literacy and numeracy across the school is paying off. We have employed a number of consultants to help us build our knowledge and skills in these areas and our school Coordinators – Deb Halligan, Jonathon Seindanis and Rachel Black – provided their colleagues with lots of hands-on assistance in planning quality classroom programs.

For 2010, our priorities are to:

- Put into place a whole-school approach to the teaching of Literacy, that will also cover the use of non-fiction texts in other subjects like Science and Mathematics. We will have a target for improvement in our NAPLAN results in Years 3-7 and through tracking students’ progress with our school data base, we will be working to make sure that every student makes at least one year’s growth in Literacy for the year. Deb Halligan will again take the role of Literacy Coordinator R-7.
- Continue to improve our teaching of Mathematics across the school. Melinda Ellis will be the school’s Numeracy Coordinator and part of her role will be to assist a group of staff in setting up high quality Mathematics programs for other teachers to use as a model for improvement. Melinda will also assist with our new Numeracy Intervention Program, Quicksmart, being coordinated by Fiona Williams and Andrea Razorback. Mathematics consultants George Booker and Michael Ymer will visit again during the year to help us extend our understanding of mathematics teaching and learning.
- Improve the wellbeing of our students through a newly structured student services area. We have brought the School Counsellor, Aboriginal Education Teacher and our Aboriginal Community Education Workers together as the ACE (All Children’s Education) Team. The role of the service is to support students and their families – in particular, they will assist students in engaging more successfully with classroom learning. The school will be involved in a Federal program known as ICAN (Innovative Community Action Networks) and we are looking at how this program might help us better meet the needs of some of our students who find learning at school really difficult.
- Continue with our Targeted Intervention program. Deb Halligan’s other role in the school is to work with a team of skilled SSOs to provide Literacy Intervention for Year 1-4 students who, with support, could be developing their Literacy skills at a faster rate. Deb will also continue the excellent work she did in 2009 with training SSOs and tutors who work directly with students in Literacy learning.
- Implement a quality Science curriculum across the school. Raman Bhangu has been appointed as the school’s Science Coordinator for 2010 and her role will be to work with the Region’s Primary Science and Mathematics Strategy Coordinator to implement the Primary Connections programs in classes at Augusta Park.
- Support our students in learning to use Higher Order Thinking Skills (e.g. Creative and Critical Thinking). Our Teacher-Librarian, Anne Kenny, will use the Resource Centre as a Thinking Hub and work alongside classroom teachers to build the thinking capacity of students so that they can be more creative and effective thinkers in their classrooms.
• Ensure that students in the Early Years (R-2) are involved in high quality programs that give lots of opportunities to build their Literacy skills through Oral Language, Structured Play and explicit learning in reading and writing. Rachel Black, as the school’s Early Childhood Coordinator, will again provide support to staff with this. She will also team up with the Directors of the local Kindergartens to make sure that our new Reception students are getting quality transition experiences as they begin school.

• Our School Counsellor for Terms 1 and 2, Rhiannon Robinson, will provide support for staff in the planning and putting into practice of good Health teaching and learning activities – there will be a major emphasis on the DECS Child protection Curriculum, along with social skills programs, including Skillstreaming.

Staffing

A number of teachers from 2009 are no longer on the staff in 2010:

• Jonathon Seindanis has been appointed as Assistant Principal at Elizabeth North P.S.
• Yiota Seindanis has been appointed to teach at Elizabeth South P.S.
• Glenys Buchanan has retired.
• Heather Fuss will be teaching at Augusta Park Kindergarten.
• Hayley Campbell has been appointed to Willsden Primary School.
• Krystle Gertig will be teaching at Port Augusta Secondary School.
• Sam Lawrence has won a position at Nicolson Avenue P.S in Whyalla.

New staff for 2010:

• Glenda Edwards and Lyn Grant are continuing with us.
• Liam Fawcett (Yr 3/4/5), has come to us from Melaleuca Park P.S in Mt Gambier.
• Lachlan Sigut (P.E) has come from The Pines P.S in Adelaide.
• Danielle Smith (ACE Team) has come from Bradshaw P.S in Alice Springs.
• Kym Bishop is a newly graduated teacher.

We look forward to an even more successful year in 2010. In particular, we hope that all Governing Council positions can be filled so that the Council can take an active role in the direction of the school.

Kym Brown
Principal
February 2010