

From the Executive Director of Schools

The planning stage for P21 and SLC building projects has been a crucial time for our schools in delivering on the Australian Government's Building the Education Revolution program.

The decisions we have made regarding the design of spaces will affect, not only the learning and teaching opportunities for our schools, but also the impact of the buildings themselves, for generations to come.

In planning and designing our learning spaces we have maximised their environmental performance and sustainability. The new learning spaces will include energy efficient lighting; the capacity to manage sunlight and heat; natural heating, cooling and ventilation; as well as water efficient appliances.

As responsible global citizens, our Catholic schools are keen to ensure we are proactive in reducing our impact on the environment, while not compromising on the provision of effective and flexible learning spaces to support the best learning opportunities for our students.

We look forward, in 2010, to the completion of many of these projects and I thank the Australian Government, on behalf of our school communities, for their investment in education and our children.

Yours sincerely,



Gregory B Whitby
Executive Director of Schools



UPDATE

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Update from the news desk

- News updates, floorplans, concept designs and photos are available to view on the Project Genesis website at www.parra.catholic.edu.au/projectgenesis

Primary Schools for the 21st Century

- In total, 54 primary schools in the Parramatta diocese will each receive between \$850,000 and \$3 million in funding to build contemporary libraries, multipurpose halls, learning spaces or covered outdoor learning areas
- Construction of P21 projects has commenced at 22 primary schools
- There have been 335 design meetings for P21 projects to date and two design development workshops

National School Pride

- All 76 projects have commenced and are on track to be completed by the December 2009 deadline for round one projects, and February 2010 deadline for round two projects

Science and Language Centres in 21st Century Secondary Schools

- There have been 30 design meetings for SLC projects, including one design development workshop
- Designs have been approved for the \$1.97 million language learning centres at St Paul's Catholic College, Greystanes; Patrician Brothers' College, Blacktown; Cerdon College, Merrylands; and Clare Catholic High School, Hassall Grove
- Construction for these projects is set to commence early in 2010

Project Genesis in brief

National School Pride	
Projects approved	76
Primary Schools for the 21st Century	
Projects approved	54
Projects commenced	22
Science & Language Centres in 21st Century Secondary Schools	
Projects approved	4
Projects commenced	0

What is happening in our schools?

Profiled here, are some of the Project Genesis developments in progress.

Primary Schools for the 21st Century (P21)

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary, Seven Hills recently began construction of its P21 building project. The school received \$2.5 million under round two of the P21 program to construct a new library and refurbish the existing library into new learning spaces.

The vision for the library is to create a space for all members of the school community, with design features that bring in natural light and connect with outdoor learning spaces.

The library has been designed in zones to allow greater flexibility and to suit various learning experiences. The 'storytelling zone' will feature an amphitheatre where students can share stories, present their work or perform in front of an audience. The 'reading zone' will have comfortable furniture that will encourage library users to enjoy a book alone, or with a friend. The 'research zone' will house the non-fiction books as well as an interactive whiteboard and technology to support research. A small recording booth will also be available for students to use when creating podcasts or movies.



National School Pride (NSP)

St Joseph's Primary, Schofields has recently completed its \$125,000 upgrade as part of the NSP program. The school has used the funding to refurbish the Kindergarten and Year 1 learning spaces.

The 'cottages', as they are referred to by the school community, have been transformed into contemporary 21st century learning spaces. The dividing walls have been opened up to make the spaces more flexible. Different learning settings have been created in the room which allow for small group work, a shared prayer space and a main area where the students can sit together. The walls have been painted in vibrant colours and the flooring in the new wet area matches the colours of the walls.

The new spaces are well-lit with natural sunlight as many of the external walls have been replaced by glass. A new interactive whiteboard has also been installed for students and teachers.



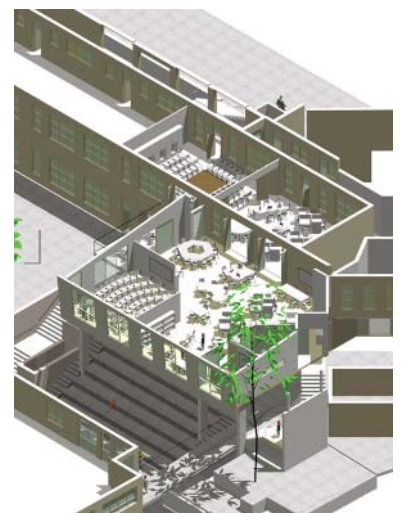
Science and Language Centres for 21st Secondary Schools (SLC)

The design for the \$1.97 million language learning centre at St Paul's Catholic College, Greystanes (right) has recently been approved.

The new language learning centre will be comprised of flexible learning spaces that can be used as a classroom, library, studio, workshop or theatre. The layout will allow for whole group, small group and individual work and the furniture can easily be moved into various configurations.

There will be ease of access to a range of language resources such as technical equipment, computers, interactive whiteboards, data projectors, videoconferencing facilities, MP3 players, digital video cameras, microphones and recording equipment, as well as language-specific resources such as software and curriculum materials.

The centre will also provide learning spaces for complementary activities supporting language learning and cultural understanding, such as art and cooking activities.



Partner Profile

With over 80 years experience, Thorn Lighting has enjoyed a long history in the Australian market, particularly in the provision of efficient lighting solutions for schools. Thorn's focus is to help deliver a comfortable learning environment for students and provide an energy efficient solution that benefits the school in the long term.

Thorn Lighting has been selected as a preferred lighting supplier for Building the Education Revolution projects in the Parramatta diocese and will be supplying lighting solutions in many of our schools.

Thorn Lighting is located in Wetherill Park in western Sydney and offers a wide range of Australian made light fittings and other reliable products using innovative materials, optics, lamps and gear.

Their approach to lighting design is based on a results-oriented program that allows them to offer greater energy efficiency and a reduced carbon footprint.

For more information visit www.thornlighting.com.au

Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes Update

NSP and P21 projects are progressing well in the Wilcannia-Forbes diocese. NSP projects are on track to be completed by the deadlines and construction works for most P21 projects are set to commence shortly.

St John's Primary, Trangie has recently completed the development of a new playground as part of the NSP program. The school grounds have been transformed from a plain dirt surface to a turf covered garden setting where the students can relax and reflect in their breaks. A new synthetic court has been built that will be used for netball, basketball and handball, and the existing oval has been top dressed to assist natural grasses to grow back following the drought.

Pam Cruickshank, the principal of St John's Primary said the whole school community is very excited about the new playground and sporting facilities.

'The playground has been completely transformed. The children will now have a grassed area with some outdoor seating in amongst a garden of drought resistant and sensory plants,' said Pam. 'It is now a more pleasant place to be and the students and staff have been very excited about the changes and very appreciative for having received the funding.'

St John's has also been approved for P21 funding that will allow the school to build a contemporary multi-purpose hall to be used as a learning centre, as well as for indoor PE activities, school performances and meetings.

The Parramatta diocese is proud to assist the Wilcannia-Forbes diocese in the development and management of their building projects.



Shaded areas have been provided



Laying the top dressing of the oval



Newly landscaped playground

www.parra.catholic.edu.au/projectgenesis

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