

## From the Executive Director of Schools

It is a very busy time for our Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta as we prepare for the final stages of NSP projects and the design phase of P21 and SLC programs.

The P21 program is well underway with the announcement of another 14 diocesan primary schools that will receive funding under under round three.

Another P21 milestone was reached with the first groundbreaking ceremony in the diocese was recently held at St Monica's Primary, North Parramatta.

NSP is also travelling well with a significant number of projects completed and many are nearing completion.

Meetings have also been coordinated for the four secondary schools participating in the SLC program to refine designs for the new language learning facilities.

Thank you to all the school communities and the Project Genesis team who have worked quickly and effectively to make the most of this opportunity for our schools.

Yours sincerely,



Gregory B Whitby  
Executive Director of Schools



## UPDATE

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**Edition 3, September 2009**

## Update from the news desk

### Primary Schools for the 21st Century

- The Minister for Education, Julia Gillard has announced round three for P21 program in which 14 diocesan primary schools will each receive up to \$3 million each to construct and refurbish major infrastructure in schools such as state-of-the-art libraries, multipurpose halls and contemporary learning spaces.
- 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.
- The first P21 project in the diocese has commenced at St Monica's Primary, North Parramatta following an official ground breaking ceremony.

### National School Pride

- All 76 schools in the diocese have now been approved for NSP funding and each school will receive funding of up to \$200,000 to upgrade minor infrastructure around the school such as the refurbishment of buildings and learning spaces, installation of wireless internet and upgrades to power supply.
- Most NSP projects have commenced and all projects 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

- Four diocesan secondary schools will receive funding under the SLC program.
- Clare Catholic High, Hassall Grove; Cerdon College, Merrylands; Patrician Brothers' College, Blacktown; and St Paul's Catholic College, Greystanes will each receive \$1.97 million to build new language learning centres.

## Project Genesis in brief

<b>National School Pride</b>	
Projects approved	76
<b>Primary Schools for the 21st Century</b>	
Projects approved	54
Projects commenced	1
<b>Science &amp; Language Centres in 21st Century Secondary Schools</b>	
Projects approved	4

## What is happening in our schools?

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

### Primary Schools for the 21st Century (P21)

A ground breaking ceremony was held on 5 August at St Monica's Primary, North Parramatta; the first school in the Parramatta diocese to begin work under P21.

St Monica's received over \$2 million in funding to build a much-needed multipurpose centre that will benefit the whole school community and allow access to a range of high quality and contemporary learning tools for students.

Greg Whitby, executive director of schools and former student at St Monica's, told the school community that he had waited 50 years to see the old buildings replaced by modern learning spaces.

'It's an exciting time for your school community,' said Greg. 'These learning spaces will help support the work of your teachers in providing relevant learning opportunities for you.'



L-R: Equiset team (in orange); executive director Greg Whitby; Bishop Kevin Manning; principal Michael Hopley; Hon. Julie Owens MP; and Tanya Gadiel MP.

### National School Pride (NSP)

St Margaret Mary's Primary, Merrylands has completed the first stage of a \$200,000 enhancement project as part of the NSP program. The funding was used to resurface the playground with artificial turf to ensure a safer environment for the students.

Principal Carmel Agius said she was delighted to see the reaction of the students when they were able to play on the new turf. 'It has given our students safer play areas and provided them with opportunities to explore various forms of recreational activities,' said Carmel.

'Our newly surfaced area has given us another space where children who choose to, can enjoy quiet games during lunch as well as an outdoor area for educational activities during the school day.'

The next stage of the project will see the resurfacing of another playground area, refurbished student amenities and the construction of a covered outdoor learning area.



The new turf covered playground funded by NSP program at St Margaret Mary's Primary, Merrylands.

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

Clare Catholic High, Hassall Grove will receive \$1.97 million to build a new language learning centre under the SLC program.

Clare Catholic High is situated in the Mount Druitt area where the population is culturally and linguistically diverse with over 184 countries and 156 languages represented. Currently the school has 760 students of which 70% come from language backgrounds other than English so there is a strong interest in the study of languages.

The new specialist language learning centre will provide students with access to modern technology and multimedia equipment supporting a range of learning and teaching strategies.

The flexibility of the spaces will also allow for group presentations and performances associated with the cultural aspects of language study.



Modern language facilities will cater to the diverse needs of students at Clare Catholic High, Hassall Grove.

## Partner Profile

Equiset is a highly respected Australian-owned building and construction company, with over 35 years experience in creating some of Australia's most iconic buildings and public places. The company was established in 1998 as a member of the Grollo Group and has adopted the group's principles, ethics and philosophy of building for quality and endurance.

Equiset will be working on two P21 projects in the Diocese of Parramatta; St Monica's Primary, North Parramatta and Sacred Heart Primary, Westmead. Equiset has the knowledge and experience of operating in a variety of environments all of which have specific needs and requirements.

'We look forward to our partnership with Parramatta diocesan schools during the Building the Education Revolution initiative,' said Joseph Harp, director of Equiset.

'We believe that the construction of high quality educational establishments will lead to the highest learning outcomes for every student and build a strong educational foundation for the future.'

For more information visit [www.equiset.com.au](http://www.equiset.com.au)

## Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes Update

The Building the Education Revolution initiative is progressing well in the Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes. Most of the National School Pride projects are either completed or nearing completion with majority of projects being finalised during the upcoming school holidays.

St Augustine's Primary, Narromine has recently completed their NSP project. The government funding enabled the school to repaint and recarpet some of the buildings and learning spaces. The playground was enhanced with new paving and landscaping and covered outdoor learning areas have also been constructed.

St Augustine's will also receive funding under the Primary Schools for the 21st Century (P21) program to build a modern library and contemporary learning spaces.

Jan Colmer, principal at St Augustine's Primary said the developments would not have been possible without the government grants which were available just at the right time.

'With the increase in enrolments over the past few years we have struggled to provide adequate library facilities and separate special needs areas for group work,' said Jan. 'This will be a perfect opportunity to make the necessary changes to our classroom structures to allow for expansion.'

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



*New covered outdoor learning areas*



*Newly landscaped playground*