

From the Executive Director

Welcome to the first Project Genesis eNewsletter, keeping you up to date about what is happening in our schools.

With most of the NSP round one projects underway, the Federal government recently announced the results of round one of the P21 program and we are pleased that 13 of our schools have been successfully approved to date.

Quality learning and teaching is enhanced and supported by contemporary learning environments and this funding will allow our schools to build or refurbish spaces that are relevant and flexible to the needs of today's learners and their teachers.

We are on track to meet the government's timeframes and our schools are working to maximise the learning opportunities created by the Building the Education Revolution initiative.

We look forward to keeping you informed as Project Genesis unfolds.

Yours sincerely,



Greg Whitby
Executive Director of Schools
Diocese of Parramatta



UPDATE

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Edition 1, June 2009

Update from the news desk

Primary Schools for the 21st Century

- The Minister for Education, Hon Julia Gillard MP has announced that 410 New South Wales schools will receive over \$640 million in funding under round one of the Primary Schools for the 21st Century (P21) program.
- Submissions for 13 primary schools in the Diocese of Parramatta have been approved in round one and will utilise the funding to build contemporary libraries, multi-purpose halls, learning spaces or covered outdoor learning areas.
- There have been 154 design meetings with 54 schools for the P21 program. There are only 3 schools that are yet to have their final P21 design meeting.

National School Pride

- NSP applications have been submitted for all 76 schools; 53 applications were submitted and approved in round one.

Science and Language Centres in 21st Century Secondary Schools

- Initial meetings have been held for each of the 17 schools submitting applications. Second meetings have been held for 11 of these schools.
- Applications for 17 secondary schools will be submitted at the end of May for the SLC program.
- Minister Gillard has announced the composition of a five person National Assessment Panel for applications under the SLC program.

Project Genesis In Brief

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| National School Pride | |
| Round one (projects approved - to date) | 53 |
| Round two (projects submitted - to date) | |
| Primary Schools for the 21st Century | |
| Round one (projects submitted - to date) | 26 |
| Round one (projects approved - to date) | 13 |
| Round two (projects submitted - to date) | 15 |
| Round three (projects to be submitted) | 13 |
| Science & Language Centres in 21st Century Secondary Schools | |
| Projects to be submitted (due end of May) | 17 |

What is happening in our schools?

We have profiled three school development projects that have been approved.

Holy Family Primary, Emerton

Holy Family Primary, Emerton will receive \$2 million in government funding under the Primary Schools for the 21st Century program to build a multi-purpose hall designed to meet the specific needs of the culturally-diverse local community.

The parish site on which the school is built is of significance to the local Aboriginal communities, and the integrated design is attuned to the local culture. Design features include strong links from indoor to outdoor learning spaces and the adoption of energy saving principles such as low energy lighting and other electrical fittings, passive solar design, lightweight material with high insulation qualities and water harvesting capacity.

The multi-purpose hall will provide a more appropriate gathering space for students, parents and the wider community. It will be a place for parent and community groups to hold meetings and adult learning classes.



St Nicholas of Myra Primary, Penrith

St Nicholas of Myra Primary, Penrith will receive \$125,000 to renew the school grounds as part of the National School Pride program. St Nicholas of Myra Primary is a school with a long and proud history in the Penrith area. The school and parish were established in 1852, one of the oldest in the Sydney area.

St Nicholas of Myra Primary has been developed in separate stages and the school has been built on two sites with the classrooms being separated from the rest of the school and parish by a gated road.

The school grounds are small and in the middle of Penrith's CBD so there is little space to extend. The government funding will be used to resurface part of the playground to a softfall area and extensively landscape the school grounds including a reflection garden to create a beautiful outdoor space where students can play and learn.



Holy Family Primary, Granville East

The school classrooms at Holy Family Primary, Granville East will be given a contemporary 'face-lift' to meet the school's 21st century learning needs with the \$2.5 million funding they will receive as part of the Primary Schools for the 21st Century program.

The smaller, traditional classrooms will be redesigned to follow contemporary learning and teaching principles. The new spaces will be engaging and adaptable spaces to accommodate the different types of learning taking place.

The new library will have café style doors that will open out onto a Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA). The library has been designed to allow for learning in various modes and group sizes; facilitating a closer connection between the library and the classroom. It will allow students to move around the various learning environments to suit the particular learning task and allow students to have regular access to information.



Partner Profile

PMDL Architecture, a leading Sydney and Melbourne based architecture firm, has been commissioned by the Diocese of Parramatta to design and oversee some of the BER projects in our schools.

Established in 1994, by principals Andrew Pender, David Morris, Peter Doddrell and Scott Lamb, PMDL continues to grow, currently with a team of over 30 people.

PMDL Architecture has extensive experience with education facilities projects and have demonstrated a thorough understanding of the link between architecture and pedagogy.

The Diocese of Parramatta has worked with PMDL on a number of school projects in the past including the educational master planning of Xavier College, Llandillo; St Columba's High, Springwood; Parramatta Marist College, St John's Primary, Riverstone; and St Mary's Primary, Rydalmere.

With their expertise in creating stimulating and creative learning environments, we look forward to working with them in our schools. Some of their P21 projects include the construction of multi-purpose halls at Chisholm Catholic Primary, Bligh Park and Our Lady of the Rosary, Kellyville; the construction of a library at St Anthony's Primary, Girraween; and the construction of classrooms at St Bernadette's Primary, Lalor Park.

For more information visit www.pmdl.com.au



St Mary's Primary, Rydalmere



Xavier College, Llandillo

Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes Update

The Diocese of Parramatta is very pleased to be assisting the Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes with preparing and submitting their BER applications. Of the 18 primary schools in the Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes, 17 applications have been submitted and approved in round one of the National School pride program and applications for 9 schools were submitted in round one of the Primary Schools for the 21st Century program; of which 8 were approved.

St Laurence's Primary, Forbes, will receive \$2 million in round one of the P21 program to build a new multi-purpose facility and learning space. The school is considered quite modern and has previously been upgraded to provide a suitable 21st century learning environment. However, the existing hall dates back to World War II and has been deemed 'beyond repair'. The design of the new hall will complement the existing infrastructure and provide a space where students can enjoy a range of activities from indoor sports to stage productions and school assemblies and the wider community can participate in after-school activities.

'Our community will benefit greatly from the new facility' said principal Miss Carolyn Matthews. 'It will provide a comfortable gathering space and the opportunity for diversified teaching and learning to occur with ease. The P21 grant is enabling us to take our school into the 21st century.'




Entrance of St Laurence's Primary



Existing corrugated iron school hall

www.parra.catholic.edu.au/projectgenesis

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