In 2008 the St Brigid's community has worked to consolidate structures and procedures designed to enhance partnerships within and beyond the school community. Learning and teaching have remained a focus, with Early Years and Middle Years phases working to address the specific needs of the children in those phases of learning. The Key Learning Area of Mathematics has been a priority, with plans put in place in 2008 for extensive review and rewriting of the School Mathematics Programme in 2009. The unique Catholic ethos of St Brigid's has been highlighted this year through School Board Activities and introduction of the new Brisbane Catholic Education Religious Life of the School Guidelines.

Our Catholic Identity

Goal:

An emphasis will be placed on increasing and complementing the religious imagery in the school environment in order to express the Catholic identity of St Brigid's.

Achievements:

- In 2008 the staff has completed an audit of current religious imagery in the school.
- Student work in Religious Education has been displayed in the office foyer during 2008.
- As part of our Internal School Review process the religious identity of the school has been articulated by the School Board.
- Plans are in place for 2009 to involve the children in the creation of new artworks to complement current works and to express their understanding of what it means to be a member of St Brigid's Catholic community.

Goal:

The learning teams will develop new initiatives to enhance the students' religious experiences as appropriate to the developmental phase of the student cohort.

Achievements:

- This year the teaching staff has met together to plan liturgies for their classes. The children have had the opportunity to select songs and write prayers for these liturgies. This has allowed the children to express their understandings about God and worship.
- The staff has participated in experiences of and reading about Christian meditation. This will allow teachers to share another form of prayer with students in 2009.
Learning and Teaching

Goal:
St Brigid’s teachers will develop strategies to improve students’ higher order thinking and reading skills.

Achievements:
• Our Teacher Librarian has compiled a list of resources in our library that can be used to support the development of higher order thinking skills. The list includes background information about higher order thinking and reading skills and links to websites.
• A display of the current resources is planned for early 2009 to highlight the topic for staff as they begin to plan for the new school year.

Goal:
St Brigid’s will develop and implement a comprehensive gross motor program to support early learning development in grades P-3.

Achievements:
• The children in the Early Years phase have been involved in a gross motor programme throughout 2008. The activities are designed to enhance development of muscle control and co-ordination.
• Teachers in the Early Years phase are working with the PE teacher to document the programme.

Goal:
St Brigid’s will place a whole school emphasis on the teaching and learning of mathematics in 2008 with the aim of monitoring the specific approaches to teaching maths which need to be specifically addressed in 2009 and onwards to continue to improve student standards.

Achievements:
• The Mathematics Committee has met to decide on direction for the design of a school based mathematics document. The area of Numeration has been selected as the first to be addressed.
• Core content has been tagged to each year level and strategies for highlighting mathematics within the curriculum for parents and students have been devised.
• A special advisor will be invited to work with the staff at the beginning of 2009 to provide a broad understanding of the concepts taught in this strand of maths. Homework ideas for this strand will be tied to the topic and standardised across all year levels.
Planning and Renewal

Goal:
In 2008 the administration team will lead staff through developing personal and professional goals in alignment with the school strategic renewal plan.

Achievements:
- Staff worked together at the start of the year to identify areas for school development in 2008. Staff members have assisted the Administration Team to plan for ways to achieve those goals.
- The staff has worked through a personal-professional goal setting process in 2008. Meetings were held with the Principal at the beginning of this year to share those goals and discuss plans for reaching the goals.
- Review time has been set aside to allow staff to chart progress and identify areas for support.

Goal:
St Brigid’s will set up three learning teams designed to foster professional collaboration among year levels in order to promote participation.

Achievements:
- Learning teams have been successfully established this year. Staff review of the teams has been positive. Team meetings have allowed teachers to share ideas and strategies relevant to the phase of learning in which they teach.
- The structure has provided the opportunity for staff members to take on more formalised leadership roles within the community. Decisions regarding each learning phase have been made by those working in the area, allowing teachers to take the lead in areas in which they have expert knowledge.

Supportive School Environment

Goal:
All teaching staff will be in-serviced in the behaviour management plan in order that they provide a positive learning environment for all students.

Achievements:
- A common language has been developed to allow clear understanding of behaviour expectations for community members. Students have a shared knowledge of the steps in the school behaviour management plan and understand the consequences of inappropriate choices.
- The peace wheel was introduced to give students a range of strategies to manage conflict situations.
Supportive School Environment

Goal:
St Brigid's will promote a safe environment for all students by ensuring that staff are current with child protection strategies and practices.

Achievements:
- All staff participated in professional development designed to ensure all are familiar with current strategies for child safety and protection.
- The Bravehearts programme was provided for children in the lower school to remind them about ways of keeping themselves safe.

Partnerships

Goal:
St Brigid's will take the position of lead school in the Jambe project which is designed to promote reconciliation between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous peoples across the Nerang community of schools.

Achievements:
- Parent and toddler groups have been established within the community of schools.
- Students across all schools and year levels have participated in a range of activities designed to promote reconciliation and greater knowledge of indigenous culture.
- A parent support group has been established with visiting experts supporting parents to re-enter the workforce.

Goal:
In 2008 the school board will meet to create a formal advisory body for parents to participate in formulating school policy.

Achievements:
- The Board has completed formation activities and published several documents reflecting the special character of St Brigid's and the importance of relationships within the community.

Goal:
St Brigid's will participate in a transition program with St Michael's College to share best practice and streamline the transition between primary and secondary education.

Achievements:
- Year seven staff were involved in an exchange/observation programme with St Michael's College this year, with the aim being a common understanding of the challenges involved in the transition between primary and high school education.
- Sharing of units of work with St Michael's has allowed both schools to minimize the gap between years seven and eight.