Religious Education Department Meeting June 10 2014

**Present**: Cathy, Michelle F., Claudia, Gabrielle, Laura, Cher, Scott, Paul M. Harry, Donna, Tarita, Carla,

**Apologies**: Lee, Rachel, Megan

Meeting opened 3:10pm

1. **Prayer:** Pentecost

*Source of light, from whom every good gift comes, send your Spirit into our lives with the power of a mighty wind,* *and by the flame of your wisdom*

*open the horizons of our minds.*

1. **Professional learning**: Tarita and Donna commented on their REAP experience. Both found it worthwhile but full on. Tarita is hoping to try some new approaches to prayer with her year tens next term. Donna found working with the new curriculum very useful. Harry reported back on his introduction to Judaism with Professor Peta Goldberg. He learnt new things about Kosher food and Judaism generally from a Christian perspective.
2. **Accreditation:** Cathy reviewed the different types of accreditation and showed where information could be found on the KWeb <https://kweb.bne.catholic.edu.au/EmployeeServices/Accreditation%20and%20Recognition/Pages/Teacher-accreditation.aspx> . Staff were reminded that to gain full accreditation to teach religion in a Catholic school you need to complete four units of religion at university. REAP can count for one unit if you complete the assessment tasks and there are scholarships available from BCE who are very generous in their support of teachers. RE units are also required if teachers want to move into leadership roles. Twilights this year with an RE focus would contribute significantly to their hours. Staff were encouraged to update their learning logs to reflect their professional learning over the last five years ready to upload to iLearn.
3. **Assessment:** Staff used the checklist supplied by Nella to critique their assessment tasks for term 2. Additionally they cross referenced against the achievement standards from the RE curriculum P-12. They did this whilst eating lots of lollies. Cathy will collate the information and feedback to the group.

A discussion was then had about non submission of assessments. Cathy handed out the Assessment policy and highlighted the College responsibilities. Cathy brought up the point that teachers shouldn’t be getting to the draft due stage before noticing that students were not working in class and that the earlier the intervention the better. If however the draft is not handed in on time then school policy is to contact parents. Cathy asked that teachers talk to the students about their non- submission to find out why and then to tell her and check with Year Cos before contacting home to make sure that it is prudent to do so. Gabrielle pointed out that this is the only responsibility of the year cos and that it is the curriculum coordinator’s responsibility to manage with the teacher to get the work done. Michelle pointed out that the year cos do get inside info from Marg too about special consideration and home circumstances.

Letters home are available and need to be signed by APRE. This process at draft stage is to be encouraged so that carers/parents are aware and can support us.

Non- submission is a level 2 behaviour however and issuing of post school consequences should be approved by the year co and the subject coordinator.

Cathy encouraged staff to remind students that the point of assessment is to provide important feedback for students about their learning and that it shouldn’t be seen or used as a punishment. Need to work on making sure that all assessment tasks are high quality and use a variety of techniques.

1. **Reporting.** Cathy handed out the RE reporting comments and a discussion was had about changes for semester 2 to reflect elements of the achievement standard following her discussion with Margaret Connors Education Officer RE. Gabrielle raised the point that there is a low number of characters available to write the comment and that it might be difficult to construct comments to reflect the specific achievement standard and effort within the character limit. Cathy will look into this.
2. **Validation of the RE program:** Cathy relayed her and Lee’s experience of the validation twilight. She showed parts of the REV powerpoint and highlighted the purpose of the validation. She asked the question of whether staff were supportive of the idea of attempting validation of the program this year. Scott asked why they wouldn’t be and Cathy highlighted the work to be done in constructing new units of work in years 7, 8 and 9. She outlined the plan to get that done working with Lee, Gabrielle and Lee for term three and her plans with Rob in the primary including the mapping task in Monday’s staff meeting next week. She also shared Lee’s comments that she thought that we were already doing a lot of what will be required and this was reaffirmed as they went through the power point. Cathy highlighted the vision for RE and identified that St Francis is already working with the new Curriculum focussed on a growth mindset, quality learning and teaching and aligning with the religious life of the school. Staff were supportive of the process.
3. **CTJ** **:** Cathy highlighted the CTJ (consistency of teacher judgement) process that will include RE this year in October and that she will get more information at the twilight on the 23rd June. She outlined the scripture focus and the need to focus on the study of core (mandated) texts in each year level in term 3 using the three worlds of the text. She issued resources that contained core texts and support materials from BCE and showed staff how to search for materials using the theological background search. She reminded staff that Catholics do not take scripture literally and that the purpose of studying scripture is to make meaning of the text. She highlighted Lou Schouten’s support in sourcing and supplying biblical tools to support this. Cathy told staff that the first meeting in term 3 will be a practical meeting where they will be led through a scripture analysis task using the three worlds of the text.
4. **Metacognition** Finally Cathy invited staff to encourage students to reflect on their learning in term two. She shared Lee’s reflective process work sheet that invites students to think about their thinking and learning.

Meeting closed at 4.25pm

Meeting dates and times for term three

Thursday Week one 17th July

Tuesday Week eight 2nd September