Welcome to the first edition of *St Columba’s Curriculum Matters* for 2011. After much anticipation surrounding its release in December, we are now able to share with you information relating to ...

## The Australian Curriculum

### Background Information

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) is responsible for the development of the Australian Curriculum from Foundation* to Year 12. Two key references have been used to guide the development of the curriculum documents, namely:

1. the *Melbourne Declaration on Education Goals for Young Australians*, and
2. the *Shape of the Australian Curriculum*

ACARA has identified three broad phases of curriculum development:

- **2008-2011** – development of the Australian Curriculum for English, Mathematics, Science and History
- **2010-2012** – development of the Australian Curriculum for Geography, Languages and The Arts
- **2010-2013** – development of the Australian Curriculum for the remaining areas identified in the *Melbourne Declaration*

The Foundation to Year 10 Australian Curriculum content for English, Mathematics, Science and History is now finalised and St Columba’s (along with other schools around Australia) has a full year to become familiar with the Curriculum before formal implementation begins in 2012.

### Implementation of the Australian Curriculum in Queensland

“In June 2010, Minister for Education and Training Geoff Wilson announced that the State, Catholic and Independent school sectors had agreed on a staged approach to the implementation of Phase 1 of the Australian Curriculum F(P)–10 in Queensland. For F(P)–10, schools will implement the Australian Curriculum in English, Mathematics and Science in 2012 and History in 2013.” (QSA, November 2010)

### Implementation of the Australian Curriculum at St Columba’s School

St Columba’s staff will devote time in 2011 to familiarisation with the new curriculum, following careful consideration of what our *Vision for Learning* embraces. Essentially, as a community, in **2011** we will:
✓ Pursue the goal of developing a common Vision for Learning that is current, and through which teachers feel supported and confident in their implementation of the Australian Curriculum. We will know that we have been successful in achieving this when we actively use the Vision (document) to inform / guide our planning and decision making.

✓ Focus our Professional Learning on the learning areas of English, Maths and Science – the curriculum intent and content, and the implications for each year level and across the school. (This could well involve an audit of current programs and consideration of adjustments necessary in preparation for future implementation, as well as engaging in some areas of the Australian Curriculum as far as teaching is concerned.)

✓ Continue to plan, teach, assess and report using the Queensland Studies Authority’s Early Years Curriculum Guidelines and maintain the focus for key learning areas on the Queensland curriculum.

In 2012, the key curriculum references we will draw from to inform our planning, teaching, assessment and reporting for English, Mathematics and Science will be the Australian Curriculum. For all other learning areas, the key sources will remain the same as at present. 2012 will further be a year when we focus part of our professional development on the learning area of History (with the view for implementation in 2013), plus whatever else is ready from the Australian Curriculum perspective.

Education in Australia is in exciting and challenging times as we transition towards our developing Australian Curriculum. The staff at St Columba’s is committed to engaging in comprehensive preparation for full implementation, as we strive for quality teaching and learning which best suits the learning needs of our students.

*The term Foundation Year has been used as a nationally consistent term for the year of schooling prior to Year 1 for the purpose of the Australian Curriculum. It does not replace the equivalent terms used in states and territories – Kindergarten (NSW/ACT), Prep (QLD/VIC/TAS), Pre-primary (WA), Reception (SA) and Transition (NT). (from http://www.acara.edu.au/curriculum/curriculum.html)

For more information...

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References:
http://www.bne.catholic.edu.au/Pages/default.aspx
Queensland Studies Authority (November 5, 2010) Australian Curriculum Latest

Don’t forget to check out the electronic copy of St Columba’s Curriculum Matters, together with past editions and additional information on our school web site...

www.stcolumbas.qld.edu.au