Brisbane Catholic Education – Creation We Care – Educating for Sustainable Futures Update

It is with great pleasure that we share with you a number of initiatives in relation to the development of sustainable practices within BCE.

Creation We Care Portal

This term, a new look “Creation We Care” portal replaced the Environmental Sustainability website previously located in KWeb. The portal can be accessed from the “Creation We Care” link on the left-hand side of the KWeb opening page or by following this link. The portal provides access to useful resources to support planning and action in the area of sustainability. The portal will be our main method of communicating with you, with events and professional learning advertised through the “announcements” section.

Position Statement on Justice, Peace and Ecological Stewardship

Brisbane Catholic Education’s Position Statement on Justice, Peace and Ecological Stewardship, entitled “Creation We Care Educating for Sustainable Futures” has now been launched. Two copies of the position statement were sent to each school (via your Principal) and can also be accessed from the Creation We Care portal. Read in conjunction with the Justice Education Policy (Archdiocese of Brisbane, Catholic Education Council, 2012), the position statement is designed to assist school and office communities across BCE to respond through strategic planning and action to a call to create learning communities that teach for and witness to justice, peace and ecological stewardship.

Living Sustainably Prayers and Reflections

To coincide with the launch of the position statement, a prayer resource has been developed for use within our school and office communities. This resource has been designed to support opportunities to provide opportunities for staff to connect with God’s gift or creation through prayer.

Ten copies of this prayer resource were distributed to each school and office location, with electronic copies also available from the Creation We Care portal.

BCE 2014 Sustainability Conference

A very successful 2014 Sustainability Conference was held recently at St Stephen’s Primary, Algester. Our sincere thanks to principal, Steve Taylor, and all his staff for their hospitality and efforts in making this a successful conference. We soon hope to make available on the portal the presentations and resources used on the day.

Message Stick

Over tens of thousands of years, message sticks were commonly used by the First Australians as one means of communicating between different tribes or nations. Messages were painted and inscribed on a stick, which was then transported by hand, with the carrier acting as emissaries carrying messages of importance to other communities. A message stick including symbols representing community, networking and energy was recently distributed to all schools, symbolising a “transformer”, carrying a message to your community that if we hope, pray and work together, we can engender work that is effective in reducing our use of energy and its resultant impact on the environment.

2014 BCE Sustainability Challenge – Re-energise your community

Each year, we are challenging every school and office community to work towards sustainable practices in a particular area of focus. This year’s challenge to schools and offices is to research energy consumption, reduce energy usage by 10% and renew commitment to creation through ecologically and ethically sustainable practices in word and action. Further information about the challenge, including a short introductory film, can be accessed via the Creation We Care portal.
During Term 4 we will be asking schools to share their stories with us and we will share these more broadly across our community through the portal. We look forward to hearing your stories!

**Upcoming Professional Learning and Events**

A number of events including Professional Learning opportunities have been included in the Announcements section of the [Creation We Care](#) portal. These include:

- **Green Lane Clean Up Challenge**
- **APPA Breakfast Series – Leadership for Sustainability and Energy Efficiency** (presented by Sandi Middleton, Catholic Earthcare Australia) – Pacific Golf Club, Carindale, 7 am – 9 am, Wed, 27 August
- **Going Under – Calls for Justice from the Frontlines of Climate Change**, Friday, 1 August 2014, 6.30 pm – 9 pm, Caloundra Catholic Church.
- **2014 EcoForum Conference & Exhibition** Jupiters Casino, Gold Coast, Queensland - 29-31 October.

Visit the [Creation We Care](#) Portal for more information.