



St Michael's Catholic Parish Primary School

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Dear Parents

Thank you to the parents who were able to attend our School Environment Management Plan (SEMP) Consultation Workshop last Thursday. Please see below important information that was shared at the workshop as well as how you can take part in the consultation process.

Overview of SEMP Parent Consultation Workshop

School Improvement Plan

At the workshop we outlined how the SEMP aligns with our school improvement plan (SRI). This year our goal in the area of Catholic Life and Religious Education is to **establish highly visible practices and activities which maintain motivation for and deepen commitment to environmental stewardship**. To move towards achieving this goal we have: established a team of staff and students (Leaders of Living the Faith) who are responsible for facilitating the implementation of the plan; researched strategic planning for managing school environments; staff reps have visited schools and attended meetings to gather information on how schools are responding to the Pope's encyclical *Laudato Si'*. We have enlisted the services of a landscape architect (provided by the CEO) who has created the first draft of a proposed Landscape Concept Plan; a team of parents have accepted the invitation to share a parent's perspective throughout the process; staff have been provided with the opportunity at our recent Staff Spirituality Day to unpack *Laudato Si'*, view the proposed Landscape Concept Plan and have been invited to share their feedback. Senior student representatives have engaged in learning about *Laudato Si'* and have also viewed the draft plan. The Leaders of Living the Faith student team will be involved in designing ways to collect feedback from students. We are also liaising with Fr Ken on how we can involve the Parish in the process.

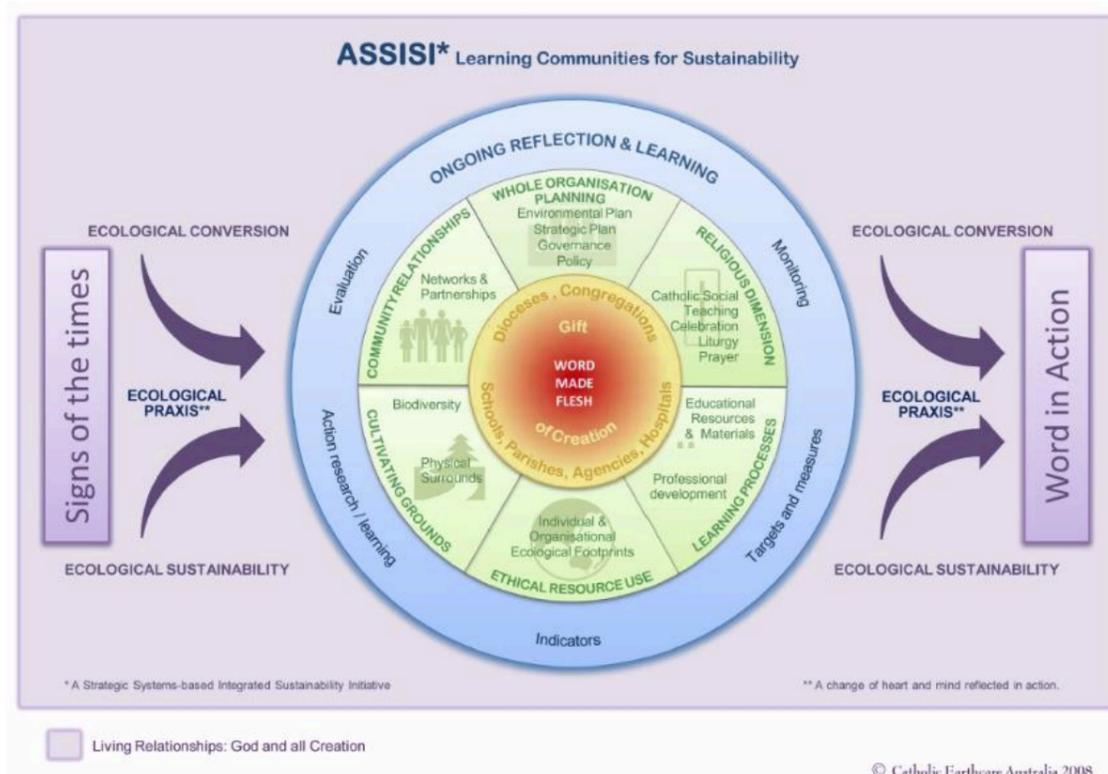
Laudato Si'

Beth Riolo (CEO Special Project Officer) unpacked Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*, a key document that underpins the SEMP. An encyclical is an important message the Pope writes and the expectation is that it is actioned by Catholic organisations around the world. Our system of schools has been called to respond to the Pope's encyclical. You can view a short video on the 10 main messages of the encyclical here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a_lqFTYLc_4 or a student friendly version at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o3Lz7dmn1eM>.

ASSISI Framework

Beth also explained the ASSISI (A Strategic Systems-based Integrated Sustainability Initiative) Framework which provides us with guidelines to support us, at the local level, when developing our school's SEMP. See below a diagram which outlines the 6 components of the framework:

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Proposed Landscape Concept Plan

The landscape architect presented the first draft of the proposed Landscape Concept Plan including spaces for outdoor learning, active play and quiet reflection, as well as compliance and governance requirements that need to be considered followed moving forward.

What do you think?

At St Michael's we value consultation, it shapes our thinking, it informs our decisions, it frames our future. Parents are invited to share feedback about the proposed Landscape Concept Plan by completing a survey which will be sent out via the Skoolbag app. The survey will ask you to share your ideas about what is currently planned for each area as well as provide an opportunity to add any new ideas for consideration.

The draft landscape plan is available to view in the school foyer until Wednesday 7th June. If you are unable to be at school between now and 7th June during school hours, please request a copy of the plan by contacting the school office. (Please note the plan is subject to copyright and therefore cannot be reproduced). Throughout the consultation process it is important to keep in mind that while all ideas and feedback is valued, our decisions are framed by the principles of Laudato Si', the ASSISI framework and of course, compliance requirements.

What are the next steps?

- The Leaders of Living the Faith (Staff team) will collate feedback from the surveys using the ASSISI framework as a guide, check in with the student team and parent reps and make some recommendations. These recommendations will start to inform our SEMP including the next draft of the Landscape Concept Plan. Further consultation may be required.
- The SEMP will then be shared with Fr Ken, the School Leadership Team and appropriate personnel at the Wollongong CEO for feedback.
- The SEMP will be completed (including the final version of the landscape plan), areas prioritised for actioning and the school community informed.

We encourage as many families as possible to complete the survey, so that we have a wide range of perspectives represented and we can all share in the future vision for our school.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at school if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Kirra Calvert

Religious Education Coordinator

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