

PEARCEDALE PRIMARY AS A PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY.

We were extremely fortunate to become involved in a Pilot School Program to become a
'Professional Learning Community.'

We have accessed this Pilot Program through 'Hawker Brownlow Professional Learning Solutions.'

We were lucky enough to be one of five schools in Australia to be involved in this fantastic program which is based on the work of Rebecca and Richard Dufour. The Dufours are the founders of the Professional Learning Community movement in the United States, which has seen amazing results in improving students achievement levels in hundreds of schools across America.

It will take us at least 3 to 4 years to become an accredited 'Professional Learning Community'

In order to be accredited we need to show continued improved student achievement levels over at least a three year period.

Today we would like to help you to understand two things.

1. What a Professional Learning Community is?
2. Why we chose to be involved in this program?

The very essence of a **'Professional Learning Community'** is a focus on and a commitment to the learning of each student. The core mission of a PLC is to ensure not simply that students are taught but to ensure they learn.

"It is collaboration of teachers, administrators, parents and students who work together to seek out best practices, test them in the classroom, continuously improve processes and focus on results." Rick Dufour 2002

It is based on the belief that all students can learn. It means providing quality curriculum, researching interventions for students who are not learning and seeking enrichment for students who need extending.

This is not to say that here at Pearcedale Primary we have not always been concerned and worked hard to maximise student achievement, it is just a very focused, structured and logical approach to student learning that celebrates all the good things we are doing but allows us to collaboratively improve learning opportunities and achievement levels of our students.

We have always been very proud of our school and over the years we have worked very hard to continually improve what we do. We chose to become a PLC as we believe that our school can be more effective and that significant school improvement will impact teaching and learning and will impact the lives of our students.

A Professional Learning Community is based on three Big Ideas.

These are.....

- A focus on Student Learning
- A culture of Collaboration
- A focus on results.

All of our Grade Teacher Teams are known as Professional Learning Teams (PLT'S).

All teams work together to ensure that all of the children in their grade level are involved in the best learning environments. This means teams of teachers together looking at appropriate curriculum, student achievement data, effective teaching practices, appropriate interventions and extensions for students. There is a shared responsibility for all students in a year level , not just for the students in their grades.

A big part of being a PLC is ongoing research into optimising the learning for our students. As a result of being a Professional Learning Community over the last twelve months we have researched and implemented many new programs which are having a huge amount of success. Some of these programs are LEXIA Reading Program, V.C.O.P Writing Program, and The Phonemic Awareness Program.



Thanking you, Regards.

Annie Mackenzie (On behalf of the PPS Leadership Team)