Manor Lakes College

Background

Manor Lakes College, located in Wyndham City Council, is a school specifically designed to offer students the very latest in educational facilities. Approximately 440 students attend classes in prep to year 7. Over the coming years the school will grow to include years 8 to 12.

Situation

The school wanted to create a program that would encourage families to become more involved in their child’s school community and see the school as an integral part of their community. The school also wanted to assist families increase their knowledge of schooling and parenting skills and experiences.

What did you do?

In 2009 the school established a Parenting Information Program, the purpose of which was to:

1. Enhance and foster parents’ knowledge/confidence and develop their parenting skills
2. Developing skills that enhance the social, emotional and physical wellbeing of their children.
3. Improve communication, understanding and confidence in staff/programs at MLC
4. Provide resources e.g. beverages and food, equipment (photocopying, dvds, etc)

The Program aimed to give families the opportunity to participate in parenting sessions which would assist them in developing skills and enhance their children’s wellbeing. The parenting sessions, held throughout the year, include guest speakers that talk to parents on various topics such as the importance of home reading.

The Program also used a variety of mediums to distribute information about activities happening at the school. Family involvement was encouraged in the traditional method of distributing information by including a regular “parenting ideas” section in the school newsletter.

In conjunction with Open Mornings and Open Days, the school holds information nights that provide families with advice on new ways to find out information about the school, such as through the school web-site.

Results

The school believes the program will build children’s confidence and assist in building relationships with their families and the school community.