Good Practice: Sharing the data at Williamstown North Primary School

Williamstown North Primary School has developed a great way of sharing their data with their school community. Using the AIM data, Parent Opinion data and Attitudes to School data as a basis for discussion and analysis, school council and the school leadership team identified a number of key issues that the school needed to address. Each of the separate data sources was brought to the school council meeting with:

- key issues identified
- identification of a range of strategies that could be implemented to address the identified issues.

School councillors were then able to ask questions relating to the data and to their understanding of both the data and any school related issues that might have impacted on the data. The community liaison sub-committee then drafted a series of articles for the weekly newsletter that clearly explained:

- the data source (e.g AIM, Parent Opinion, Attitudes to School) and why it was being measured
- key findings from the data
- what the school was going to do.

These newsletters were then included in the school newsletter over three consecutive weeks.

Feedback from the school community indicated that they appreciated being included in the communication loop and were reassured that the school was using the data to identify and address the issues.

One of the newsletter items is reproduced below.
SCHOOL COUNCIL REPORT: 2005 ATTITUDES TO SCHOOL SURVEY RESULTS

In last week’s Newsletter we outlined the school’s AIM results for 2005 and how school council and the school leadership team are responding to the data.

An additional area of concern this year has been the Attitudes to School Survey results which were also down in 2005 after very good improvement in 2004.

The Attitudes to School Survey is a relatively new measure introduced by the Department of Education three years ago. It is completed by all Year 5 and 6 students. In undertaking the survey the children are asked to respond to a wide range of aspects related to classroom teaching and how they are feeling about school.

Findings

The survey results for 2005 were below ‘State’ mean in all aspects except Connectedness to Peers and Student safety.

What are we doing?

1. Ensuring that in Years 5 and 6 best practice Middle Years Strategies are embedded in our Year 5/6 Program.
2. Developing a Year 3 to 6 Teaching Strategy for our school.
3. Giving an increased focus to English and Mathematics teaching in Years 3 to 6.
4. Increasing Teacher Professional Learning Program.
5. Developing a school wide Student Well-being Program.

We will continue to keep parents informed about the Year 5/6 Program and the strategies as they are developed in 2006.