Our 2009 school year, once again, has been a year rich in learning for all stakeholders. At the heart of our community is indeed our mission to foster a supportive and inclusive community where pastoral care is nurtured within the school, within families, within the Jesuit Parish, our Catholic school network and the wider community. J Time, or Jesus Time, on a Wednesday morning is the touchstone from which all heartfelt outreach is extended. Each Wednesday morning vertical groupings of P-7 students meet with an adult to reflect upon our Ignatian way of Loving Each Other, Loving Learning and Loving Jesus.

The Differentiated Curriculum and its implications has been a major driving force behind all learning. One particular focus has been the area of Reading. Staff have undergone a 12 hour training course highlighting the most successful research and practices in guiding the reading development of all students in our care. We also embrace Professional Learning Teams amongst our staff members. One such example is a team called, TELL – Teachers telling stories about learners in their care and sharing good practice. We have also experimented with strategies to assist us in coming to know our learners as soon as possible each new year. As a result we are introducing Digital Profiles in 2009 and introducing effective strategies for reporting to parents at various ways/means during the year.

St Ignatius School has continued to monitor, maintain and sustain all good practices and so our Jesuit and Mercy traditions are celebrated and promoted appropriately. This year we have had installed a large sign shared between the parish and school to highlight our charism and important events. Another significant event was the celebration of our Jesuit Wine Evening, dedicated to the memory of Patrick Briody and sadly one of the last happy occasions we shared with Father Norbert Olsen S.J.

The cultural side of our school has been richly enhanced this year with the introduction of compulsory instrumental studies for Year Five, and a compulsory speech and drama course for Year Four. Our Art Show, the Choral Festival, and Italian Day were also magnificent events. We have also introduced a Reconciliation Action Program and this vital action was highlighted by a visit from a former student, Bernard Fanning and a visiting indigenous performer. Each week our Physical Education Program has been enhanced by the PASS Australia Program. This is a program which provides pathways for Indigenous Youth from Marist, Ashgrove, St Peters’ Lutheran College and Brisbane Boys’ College. This program uses sport to provide unique mentoring and leadership programs for Australian youth who are most in need. All stakeholders embrace and benefit from this successful program.
The Information Technology Communication Learning Program has had exciting new additions with the introduction of Robotics to Year Six and an Electronic White Board to the Prep level. It is in our strategic goals for these exciting enhancements to continue to be built upon and become an integral part of all students’ learning.

The year is concluding with huge refurbishments which are a result of the Commonwealth Government Building Education Revolution Funding. As a result of these grants, the long term plans for the re-establishment of our Top Field will become a reality along with a new state of the art School Library/Resource Centre and Covered Outdoor Learning Area.

I have only been able to describe a snapshot of the 2009 year at St Ignatius School. These events, happenings, plans, dreams, goals, outcomes, celebrations and results are not possible without the dedication of a community who integrate faith, life and culture. I sincerely thank our students, our staff, our parents and friends, Father Peter Quin and the parish and extended community for Lifting up Hearts in all their endeavours and for their ongoing support of my leadership role at St Ignatius School.

May all your hopes and dreams be carried on eagle’s wings and be held in the palm of God’s hands. Rich blessings on you and yours this Christmas Season.

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