

Community Consultation- St John the Baptist Maitland

St John the Baptist Maitland is a K-6 catholic primary school that participates fully in the life of the local parish. It presently has an enrolment of 270 students and will grow to a full two stream school (400+ students) within two years. Fr Paul O'Neill (PP) with assistant priests Frs. Joyce and Camillus are responsible for the six parishes of the Chisholm region. St John the Baptist's last school evaluation reflected a high functioning school where innovative and progressive pedagogy were strong elements of the improvement agenda.

The community place great trust in their principal to promote Gospel values and to work in community with the local parish. The school draws from families of a variety of socio-economic and educational backgrounds. A high priority is given to the continuation of strong academic goals, careful planning and the pastoral nurture of students, parents and staff members. The community is seeking a leader who can promote a clear vision and educational purpose and has high level skills in leading curriculum and pedagogy. They seek a person of spiritual depth and one who leads by word and action.

With this in mind, the community priorities the following for the attention of potential candidates.

LEADING CATHOLIC IDENTITY

St John the Baptist is first and foremost a Catholic School. It will display to the community values and attitudes espoused in the Gospels. The Principal of the school should have the capacity to:

- Articulate regularly the vision and mission of the school to all community members
- Be a positive role model displaying commitment to their faith
- Promote the spiritual development and formation of staff and students
- Enhance the relationship between the school and parish

LEADING TEACHING AND LEARNING / DEVELOPING SELF AND OTHERS

The Educational Leader of the school needs to be dynamic and challenging regarding curriculum planning and implementation. They should be open to new pedagogies and promote rigorous academic challenges to both students and teachers. They need to promote high standards and seek to be involved in strategies that build the capacity of staff members. As the leader of learning the Principal will be:

- A strong leader of learning who embraces contemporary pedagogies and the embedding of technology into the learning

- Encouraging of the professional development of staff (linking to school improvement) and active in their own professional learning
- Collaborative in relation to school/ curriculum planning and school resourcing
- Model and articulate teacher standards that provide vibrant and challenging discussion and action

LEADING MANAGEMENT OF THE SCHOOL

The management and organisation of the school encompasses leadership development, community partnership, human resources and the stewardship of resources within the school. Positive leadership in these areas will ensure the smooth running of the school and promote positive relationships and a fair and just workplace. With this in mind, the principal should be:

- Skilled in planning for ongoing school improvement (Strategic Planning and Annual planning)
- Model calm, reflective, communicative yet decisive practices
- Welcoming and invitational
- Supportive of students, staff and family wellbeing
- A skilled and willing communicator who is able to listen attentively, delegate effectively and monitor consistently

ENGAGING AND WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY

Principals develop and maintain positive partnerships with students, families and carers and all those associated with the local parish and the broader community. With this in mind the principal will:

- Work with the parish and the broader community to maintain a strong school profile
- Engage with P&F to provide information, support and vision while supporting their input, critique and regular feedback
- Be an advocate for the school in the community

The consultation groups spoke of the need for a welcoming, flexible, empathetic and approachable leader, one who engages the parent body and has a strong sense of community. They spoke of their need to be welcoming and inclusive and having a strong presence that promotes the school and parish in the broader community.