



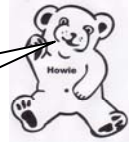
Curriculum Chatter

No. 8 2006

STUDENT LEARNING AND STANDARDS

Victorian Essential Learning Standards

What's
Happening?



This week we are sending home with the newsletter, a booklet that contains information for parents about the new approach from Prep to Year 10 in Victorian schools. The Victorian Essential Learning Standards (also known as VELs or the Standards) is a new curriculum and standards policy for all Victorian schools. The booklet contains examples of the new standards, explains types of programs that students may participate in at school, and describes experiences that Victorian students will have from Prep to Year 10.

Copies of *Introducing the Victorian Essential Learning Standards*, a brochure for parents has already been sent home to you in 2005.

It is important to note that "The standards for student achievement do not prescribe any particular curriculum. Nor do they constitute the totality of the program that students will receive. Rather, they indicate what is essential for students to know and be able to do at different levels. It is then up to schools and teachers to choose the curriculum that best helps students to meet these standards, while addressing broader student interests and needs."

Introducing the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA)

The VCAA develops curriculum and assessment for all Victorian students from Prep to Year 12. In Years Prep to Year 10, the VCAA develops:

The Victorian Essential Learning Standards – which is being progressively implemented in schools from 2006 to 2008.

The Achievement Improvement Monitor (AIM) – a testing program which provides an indication of how well literacy and numeracy skills of students are developing. Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students across Victoria undertake the testing. The results provide information which is used to plan new programs and a useful source of feedback and guidance to students, parents and teachers. Our recent 2006 results indicate our Year 5 student cohort is significantly above both state and like school benchmarks in both English and Maths which is extremely pleasing.

Each school uses the curriculum provided by the VCAA to work out the best way to organise its teaching and learning program, taking into account government policies and the school community's priorities, resources and expertise.

Our school is already using the standards to report against in our portfolio assessment and our current reporting program. We use an integrated approach incorporating the inquiry process to deliver our curriculum throughout the school.

The new report card will be implemented during 2007 and our teaching staff will receive professional development to assist them in understanding and using the new software involved. During this time we will also make available information that clarifies the changes in reporting to parents so that you will also be able to understand new system. We will not be changing our current reporting format until June 2007.

Further information is available at the following website where you can also download or read online both the parent brochure and the booklet

<http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au/parent/intro.html>

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