

Council of International Schools

Last year we officially became a member of the Council of International Schools. This was attained following a visit from Ray Davis, regional accreditation officer. Membership in CIS now allows the school to access the full range of CIS programs and services, these are listed on the website www.cois.org, including collaboration and networking opportunities with international educators around the world and the pursuit of international accreditation. This internationally recognised process will provide external validation of our work and provides us with an opportunity to improve the quality of education offered at the school, through a rigorous process of self-examination. Here are some extracts from the membership report:

- *The school has a well articulated Strategic Plan which supports the school's Vision to motivate students 'to become active life-long learners who develop respect, compassion and understanding for their role as international citizens' The school utilises the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program to support this Vision and encourages a very wide range of activities both within the formal curriculum and support activities to foster international and intercultural understanding amongst the students of the school.*
- *It was evident to the Visitor that the school community of McKinnon Primary School views membership of CIS as bringing with it considerable positive outcomes. The Visitor was impressed with the strong commitment to school improvement and with the school's overall focus on the continuous improvement of learning across all areas of its operations.*
- *The guiding statements commit the school to providing international and inter-cultural experiences for its students and this commitment is reflected throughout the school.*
- *The school's curriculum is exceptionally well organised and documented and is subject to constant review and improvement.*
- *Recent review by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development praised the school's curriculum organisation and documentation. Similar praise was made in the report of the IB Pre-Authorization visit in April 2010.*
- *The School's Vision Statement is explicit in its commitment to developing international citizens. The learning opportunities provided to students both through the PYP and related learning practices provide a wide range of international and inter-cultural learning experiences for its students.*

The school plans to seek CIS accreditation in the next two years. The accreditation process involves several stages starting with a preliminary visit. A Preliminary Visit of three to four days is carried out by one or two CIS representatives, including a CIS Regional Accreditation Officer. The purpose of the visit is to ascertain the school's readiness to undertake the Self-Study and to clarify the accreditation process to the school community. The visitor(s) will discuss each Accreditation Standard under Sections A–G with the Principal and other key teaching and support staff members. Presentations to explain the accreditation process will be made to all staff as well as to representatives of the School Council, the Parent Body and the Student Leadership group.

The Preliminary visit will take place from the 20th -23rd August, 2012

As part of this visit we are inviting parents from the school community to join a steering committee to learn about CIS, collaborate to recognise strengths, discuss issues, reflect on challenges facing the school and help to develop improvement strategies to overcome these challenges.

If you are interested in joining the CIS steering committee, please see Natalie Rose.

We are delighted to have gained membership to the Council of International Schools and look forward to starting the accreditation process. These are exciting developments that can only benefit the learning experience of the students who attend McKinnon Primary School.