Birchwood School Reflective Summary for Milestone 5

During the previous two years staff have been able to take part in one on one professional learning run by the eLearning Lead Teacher. All teachers were released twice a term to develop their understanding of eLearning at their level. This proved very successful and overall teachers developed a higher level of skill and confidence and this transferred into the classroom programme. At the start of 2011 we had five new teachers in our school bringing a variety of eLearning strengths and needs. As we are not running one on one sessions this year we are introducing other ways of running professional learning with a focus on how this will be continued beyond the end of the contract. We have a high level of resourcing (data projectors/IWB's, cameras, laptops in every classroom and a pod of 16 laptops that roves) so it is important to continue to up-skill our staff so these are used effectively and improve student engagement and achievement.

2011 eLearning Focus
1. Continue to develop teacher capability through professional learning opportunities
2. Develop an eLearning team within our school to focus on sustainability
3. Maintain a high standard of resources

How?
1. Continue to develop teacher capability through professional learning opportunities
At the beginning of the year all new teachers were offered the chance to attend a meeting to look at the basics of working within our school server and using the available resources. The eLearning Lead Teacher is running fortnightly professional learning sessions after school focusing on blogging. During 2011 we would like to extend our use of blogging to connect home and school and share student learning. We will also develop a set of guidelines for blogging and commenting in an educational setting. This all leads into the digital citizen focus within the cluster.

The four teachers with IWB's are meeting once a month to share something they have been doing with their IWB in class. This is a good opportunity to problem solve technical issues as well. These teachers have also attended professional learning days with ActivInspire this year.

The eLearning Lead is released 0.1 this year. This time can be used by the Lead Teacher or other staff to take part in professional learning opportunities.

All teachers will be able to attend cluster wide professional learning including walkthroughs, Genius Cafe. We currently have one teacher taking part in the Kidz Cannes Film Festival.

2. Develop an eLearning team within our school to focus on sustainability
Although we currently have an eLearning Team we would like to change the way it works. The focus is on how we can continue to offer our staff professional learning, improve our use of eLearning in the classroom programme and maintain our connections with other schools in the cluster when the contract finishes. It is a small team at the moment but we hope to include some of our new staff later in the year.

3. Maintain a high standard of resources
Within our sustainability plan we will look at our current resources and establish a buying plan to maintain a base level of resources in our school and classrooms. This will also include items that we currently do not have and staff are interested in using within their programmes for example iPads, iPods.

Alongside these three areas there is the additional and major focus of ensuring students are using eLearning tools to enhance their engagement, understanding and achievement at school. We have looked at how to measure this and have used a student survey (modified from a survey from Tahunanui School) to gather data on student access to eLearning tools at our school to begin with. This will give us a starting point to develop some strategies to ensure a high level of student access. We will have these survey results by the middle of Term 2 and will repeat the process during Term 4.

As a result of Tony Ryan's visit during Term 1 our inquiry model has changed and this is currently being trailed in the school initially through an individual class inquiry focus and in the second part of Term 2 through a school wide focus on energy. This is being developed alongside our new curriculum that has been developed during the last two years.

Leaders Stories
Anna Fitchett - eLearning Lead Teacher
- Due to our change of approach to professional learning my challenge is to engage teachers before or after school rather than during class time. I am also looking into how we can include short examples of best practice within our current meeting schedule.
- As a teacher with an IWB I am taking part in the IWB meetings and finding ways to use it effectively in the classroom programme. This is an ongoing process.

- Leading the eLearning Team in developing our sustainability plan is another new challenge. Bringing in new people and setting up effective systems to maintain the successes of the last two years is the goal.
- Developing my understanding of digital citizenship is a focus this year. I will focus on this within the context of blogging and extending student understanding of our cyber safety agreement.

Chris Herrick - Principal

- For Birchwood School, professional learning and development has been a significant focus and has incorporated several different 'strands' of support. For the first two years of the eLearning Contract we engaged the support of Sue Ashworth from eTime (Christchurch) and together we developed the **Birchwood Curriculum**. This development was supported by Kim Donnelly-Greep who took on the role of Curriculum Implementation.
- In 2011 as we begin to embed our practice and implement the curriculum we developed, the focus is on sustainability. To support this process we have been in a fortunate position of being successful in a number of PLD contract applications. In 2011 we will receive support from:
  - eLearning Cluster continues
  - Jacqui Clayton - MOE funded through Learning Media
  - Nick Major - UC Education Plus
  - Sue Pryde - Itinerant teacher of Maori
  - Incredible Years - MOE funded involving all junior school teachers

  The challenge for the Leadership Team in the school is to successfully co-ordinate and focus this high level of support. In brief the roles will be as follows:

  eLearning Cluster - as above as documented by our Lead Teacher
  Jacqui Clayton - curriculum implementation with a focus on literacy
  Nick Major - critical friend - provide support for the leadership team (individual and collective)
  Sue Pryde - continue work related to Ka Hikitia
- Running along side the above developments is the focus on Improving Student Achievement through improved assessment and reporting to parents practice. This involves Paul Butterworth, our Assessment Leader, leading the development of National Standards and aligning them with our current practice.
- It is important for the reader to understand the complexity of PLD at Birchwood in order to fully understand the way the eLearning Cluster has 'driven' our development and has empowered leaders from within the school to accept leadership roles and to keep focused.
- eLearning is now becoming embedded in our practice, in the way children learn, in the way teachers 'teach' and in the way leaders lead. Student and teachers

engagement in learning through eLearning has certainly increased and through the survey in 2011 we will hopefully be able to prove and quantify that.

- For me personally, one challenge remains in place, what difference has eLearning made to student achievement at Birchwood School. The obvious response relates to increased levels of engagement and indirectly the eCompetencies of the teachers. For me, this is the question we must answer in 2011.