Executive Summary – Keppel Sands SS

Date of Audit: 10 July 2013

Background:
Keppel Sands SS is a one teacher school with 14 students currently enrolled from Years P - 5. The school is located 36 kilometres east of Rockhampton on the coast in Central Queensland. The school uses a second teacher for one day per week to teach SOSE and art.

Commendations:
- There has been progress made since the previous Teaching and Learning Audit in the domains of An Explicit Improvement Agenda, Analysis and Discussion of Data and A Culture That Promotes Learning.
- The tone of the school reflects a school wide commitment to purposeful, successful learning.
- Classrooms are calm but busy and interruptions to teaching time are kept to a minimum
- The Principal and other school leaders have developed and are driving an explicit and detailed local school improvement agenda around reading and explicit teaching.
- The explicit improvement agenda is communicated in staff meetings, school newsletters, parent-teacher meetings and on the school website using a variety of formats to suit local needs.
- There is evidence of a school wide commitment to every student’s success and staff members of the school tell stories of significant student improvement in reading.
- There is evidence that the Principal and other school leaders view reliable, timely student data as essential to their effective leadership of the school.
- The Principal has developed a data collection system located in a central location, to assist in identifying student needs in reading, writing, spelling, mathematics and science.
- The Principal upgraded the school webpage to communicate the improvement agenda and to provide regular school updates.

Affirmations:
- The school is implementing the Department’s Developing Performance Framework as the basis for professional discussions with staff members around explicit instruction.
- The Principal provides opportunities for teachers to take on leadership roles outside the classroom.
- Teachers expressed that they were open to observing each other teach and giving and receiving feedback.
- The Principal is involved with the Rockhampton explicit instruction network focusing on feedback and the Keppel Coast cluster.

Recommendations:
- Research highly effective ways to provide feedback to students which guide the actions they need to take to make further improvements.
- Ensure all key learning areas (KLAs) have criteria sheets and exemplars for each year level and develop moderation processes to ensure a high standard.
- Develop whole of school higher order thinking strategies which are embedded within all KLAs.
- Further develop the whole school pedagogical framework to align with the school improvement plan, with a continued focus on numeracy.
- Develop teachers’ data literacy skills to monitor the effectiveness of their teaching and to review classroom and school practices.
- Support all staff members to use data to identify gaps in student learning, to monitor improvement over time and to monitor growth across years of school.
- Develop a school wide self-reflective culture, with coaching and mentoring and openness to critique by colleagues, which is reflected in the fact that teachers regularly invite leaders and colleagues to visit their classrooms to observe their teaching and to provide feedback.