This is the first of a regular newsletter I will be circulating to tell you about developments in our exciting new school, including curriculum, staff and our Select Entry Accelerated Learning (SEAL) program.

In this edition I want to introduce you to the thinking that’s gone into the design of its buildings.

A school is much more than bricks and mortar, but this building is special. Because it’s new, we’ve been able to build-in the absolute latest educational technologies. Even more importantly, we’ve been able to design it around our school’s values, philosophies and priorities. This means that our school will be one that opens itself to the community to draw on our strengths, that encourages creativity across wide artistic and cultural fields, and that provides the right environment for hard work and high-level academic achievement.

Let me give you a few examples.

Community values
Incorporating recycled materials, indigenous flora, and natural light and ventilation, our buildings and grounds will reflect our community’s belief in environmental sustainability. The interior will be distinctive, with contrasts of ‘funky design’, cosiness and dignity that will make local children feel at home and respect this as a serious place of learning. The exterior will send a message to the community about our pride and confidence as a place of knowledge.
Creativity
This is a school that will take art and culture seriously, with the feel of part artistic studio, part cultural centre. It will feature a drama facility with a sprung floor to encourage dance, a music studio that will emphasize classical accomplishment, design and graphics studios for contemporary arts, and even a teaching kitchen to help us find the real master chefs of tomorrow. On every wall and space, our students will be surrounded by paintings and sculpture. Our stunning new gymnasium and our amphitheatre will be places for plays, public speaking and gymnastics. Opening onto Gasworks Park, we intend to watch and learn from leading Australian artists.

Academic achievement
Ultimately, we’re about academic excellence. Our commitment to the hard sciences in particular will be reflected in fully equipped science and mathematics labs. A spectacular high-ceilinged library will set the tone for the school’s academic culture – it will be the place to be seen, a place for study and writing, perhaps rivalled only by the school’s own student café. All of our new buildings will, of course, be set in a prized inner-city location that provides bay and city views to inspire teachers and students alike to achieve their ambitions.

Steve Cook
Foundation Principal

If you would like further information or to be included on our mailing list, please contact Tania Scaramozzino on scaramozzino.tania.s@edumail.vic.gov.au or 0408 367 359