Messages

Principal's message

The Annual School Report is an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of our School in 2008 and plan for the future in 2009. Our School has lots to be proud of thanks to the efforts of our staff, our students and our parent community.

Rylstone Public prides itself on offering a diverse range of educational opportunities for its students. Our students have performed to a high level in a variety of fields in 2008 demonstrating the talent possessed by many students.

I also acknowledge that the Annual School Report is an opportunity to evaluate our programs as we seek to improve the service we provide in our community. I would like to thank all who participated in this process.

I certify that the information in this report is the result of a rigorous school self-evaluation process and is a balanced and genuine account of the school's achievements and areas for development.

Alan Kerr
Principal

P&C and School Council message

The School Council oversees the corporate business of the School contributing to planning, policy development and evaluations of School programs. In 2008 the School Council revised the Student Welfare policy and updated the Parent Information Booklet.

The School Council also provided advice on the financial planning for the School with the safe and happy learning environment of Rylstone Public our main aim.

The P&C in 2008 undertook several fundraising ventures. These included catering for the ‘Great Escapade’ Bicycle Group in April as they travelled through Rylstone, having a food stall at the Australia Day award ceremony and conducting a scrap metal drive to raise funds for the purchase of musical instruments.

In 2008 the P&C donated funds to the School for the computer server, playground goalposts and Kindergarten readers.

The P&C continued to operate the school canteen and clothing shop with all profits being returned to support the education of the students.

Rachel Mann
School Council President 2008
P & C Vice President 2008

Student Representative's message

The Student Representative Council conducted a variety of activities in 2008.

The ‘Give Me 5’ program raised money that was donated to our local VRA, East Timor, the NSW Cancer Council, the World Wildlife Fund and our School. The SRC organised activities such as an animal parade, talent quest, sporting tabloid, Pancake Day and end of term barbecues.

Members of the SRC attended leadership days in Mudgee and Sydney and acted as hosts for the School Open Day.

SRC members also ran the Friday assemblies and donated funds for each class to purchase a supply of sporting gear for their own use.

School context

Student information

It is a requirement that the reporting of information for all students must be consistent with privacy and personal information policies.

Student enrolment profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student attendance profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>93.2</td>
<td>94.1</td>
<td>94.3</td>
<td>93.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>92.2</td>
<td>92.0</td>
<td>92.0</td>
<td>92.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>93.8</td>
<td>94.0</td>
<td>94.0</td>
<td>94.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Class sizes

In March 2003 the Government announced its commitment to publish primary class sizes in annual school reports in order to provide parents with as much local information as possible.

The following table shows our class sizes as reported at the 2008 class size audit conducted on Tuesday 25 March 2008.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roll Class</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total per Year</th>
<th>Total in Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KM</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2H</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2H</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4W</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4W</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6D</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6D</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Structure of classes
Rylstone Public School consisted of four classes in 2008. These were a Kindergarten class, a Year 1/2 class, a Year 3/4 class and a Year 5/6 class.

Staff information
It is a requirement that the reporting of information for all staff must be consistent with privacy and personal information policies.

Staff establishment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Teachers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Teacher Learning Assistance</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Librarian</td>
<td>0.536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4.836</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Staff retention
In January 2008 Mrs Julie Hook joined the staff at Rylstone Public. She replaced Miss Browne who was a temporary appointment. Mr Alan Kerr became Principal in April following the retirement of Mr Lee Wilson.

Staff attendance
Staff have access to leave entitlements such as sick leave. In 2008 the average daily attendance rate for staff, as determined by the Department, was 98.1%.

Teacher qualifications
All teaching staff meet the professional requirements for teaching in NSW public schools.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>% of staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree or Diploma</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Financial summary
This summary covers funds for operating costs and does not involve expenditure areas such as permanent salaries, building and major maintenance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of financial summary:</th>
<th>30/11/2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>33 368.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
<td>57 021.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>25 321.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
<td>23 453.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>2 759.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
<td>4 148.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income</td>
<td>146 072.39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching &amp; learning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key learning areas</td>
<td>8 721.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excursions</td>
<td>11 070.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extracurricular dissections</td>
<td>7 230.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>1 071.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training &amp; development</td>
<td>3 341.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>21 463.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual relief teachers</td>
<td>5 333.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; office</td>
<td>26 433.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School-operated canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>8 519.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>10 303.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust accounts</td>
<td>5 403.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital programs</td>
<td>5 372.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenditure</td>
<td>114 264.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance carried forward</td>
<td>31 807.69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A full copy of the school's 2008 financial statement is tabled at the annual general meeting of the School Council and/or the parent body. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.
School performance 2008

Achievements

Arts

- The School had many entries in the local Wollemi Children’s Creative Arts Exhibition with 26 students receiving awards for their art work.
- Eight students were able to receive guitar tuition by visiting guitar tutor, Mr Bob Burns.
- Two students, Amy van der Walt and Harry Hamilton attended the State Dance camp in July.
- Eight students had work displayed at the annual Cudgegong Learning Community Art Show.
- A learn to play recorder program was commenced in the 3/4 class.
- The school hosted the visiting performance of ‘Pick a Peck of Pickled Poems’ to develop drama appreciation.
- The whole school participated in the end of year concert ‘Dungeon of Doom’ which incorporated singing, dancing and drama.

Sport

- The school participated in the Premier’s Sporting Challenge in its inaugural year.
- The School entered teams in the Primary School Sports Association competitions in tennis, cricket, netball and soccer.
- 24 students attended the Zone Athletics Carnival in Mudgee with Eddie Mann, Jack Mann, Natasha Doyle and Donny Gatt qualifying for the Western Carnival.
- Four teams participated in the Mudgee Touch Day organised by Touch NSW.
- Eddie Mann represented the school at the State Athletics Championships in the 8 years 100 metres.
- The School hosted a Development Officer from Cricket NSW who ran a workshop for each class to develop cricketing skills.
- In the Mudgee Super 8’s Cricket competition, the Girls’ team was victorious overall and Boys played very well losing only one match.
- The School reached the semi-finals in the Portland Rugby League Knockout in both the 3/4 and 5/6 divisions.

Other

- Two students, James Keech and Sam Pateman attended the Western Region Debating Camp at Lake Burrendong to develop their debating skills.
- The School participated in the Premier’s Reading Challenge to increase literacy skills and promote attitudes to reading.
- The Together for Humanity group visited the school to promote cultural and religious understanding.
- Students in Years 3-6 participated in a three day Canberra excursion to complement work undertaken in H.S.I.E. lessons.
- The 5/6 class conducted a peer support program in Terms 3 and 4.

Academic

In the National Assessment Program, the results across Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 literacy and numeracy assessments are reported on a scale from Band 1 to Band 10.

The achievement scale represents increasing levels of skills and understandings demonstrated in the assessments.

Yr 3: from Band 1 (lowest) to Band 6 (highest for Year 3)
Yr 5: from Band 3 (lowest) to Band 8 (highest for Year 5)

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 3

- 69.3% of students came in the top four bands in Reading compared to 83.8% of the State.
- 77% came in the top four bands for Spelling compared with 88.3% of the State.
• 69.3% came in the top four bands for Grammar and Punctuation compared with 87.5% of the State.
• 92.4% came in the top four bands in Writing compared with 93.2% of the State.

**Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 3**

• 83.3% of students came in the top four bands for Numeracy compared to 89.4% for the State.
• All Year 3 students reached the minimum national standard for Numeracy.

**Literacy – NAPLAN Year 5**

• 89% of students came in the top 3 bands compared to 46% of the State.
• All Year 5 students reached the national minimum standard in Literacy.
• The School was above the state average in Reading and Grammar and Punctuation, equal to the average in Spelling and below in Writing.

**Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 5**

• The School scored above the State average in Numeracy.
• 100% of students scored in the top 4 bands compared to 79.6% of the State.

**Percentage of Year 3 students achieving at or above the minimum standard in 2008**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punctuation and grammar</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Percentage of Year 5 students achieving at or above the minimum standard in 2008**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punctuation and grammar</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Significant programs and initiatives**

**Multicultural education**

In 2008, Multicultural education was addressed with the following activities:

• A K-6 Multicultural Day was held where students came dressed in a variety of national costumes and participated in a day of activities. Teachers and parents ran activities on selected countries and students undertook activities such as cooking, painting and researching to gain an insight into a selected country.
• Students K-6 participated in the Country Women’s Association country of study program on Mexico.
• Students in the 3/4 and 5/6 classes studied China and the 2008 Olympics.
• In Library activities Japan was used as a country of study.
• Class 3/4 examined religions such as Buddhism and Islam as part of their unit of work on ‘Understanding Each Other’.
• Kindergarten students spoke about ‘being different’ in their unit of work ‘Being Me’.

**Progress in literacy**

The average growth evident by all Year 5 students was significantly above the State average growth in Reading.

**Progress in numeracy**

The average growth evident by all Year 5 students was significantly above State average growth.

**Minimum standards**

The Commonwealth Government sets minimum standards for reading, writing, grammar and punctuation, spelling and numeracy for years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

The performance of the students in our school in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy is compared to these minimum standards. The percentages of our students achieving at or above these standards are reported below.
Aboriginal education

Aboriginal education was addressed in the following ways in 2008:

- Kindergarten students unit of work on ‘Our Place’
- The Year 1/2 class studied concepts of Aboriginal education in their units of work titled ‘Understanding Ourselves’ and Local Places.
- The 3/4 class studied Aboriginal beliefs in their unit on ‘Understanding Each Other.’ Students read about Aboriginal customs and answered questions about the spirituality of Aboriginal people.
- The 5/6 class studied Aboriginal Art in their lead up to the Canberra Excursion. The motifs and symbols used in Aboriginal art were discussed and analysed.

Respect and responsibility

Respect and Responsibility was addressed in the following ways in 2008:

- A large number of students participated in the local Anzac Day parade and ceremony.
- The Peer Support program was operated by students in Years 5 and 6 for students K-4.
- Kindergarten students exploring what we have in common with their unit, ‘Being Me’
- A skill streaming and ‘APEEL’ program were conducted in the 1/2 class to improve peer relationships.
- 3/4 students participated in anti-bullying lessons.
- Year 5/6 undertook the ‘Listen Up’ personal development program.

Other programs

Music Education

- A visiting guitar teacher commenced in term 3 to provide individual guitar lessons to 8 students.
- The 3/4 class commenced a learn to play recorder program in term 4.
- In 2009 the School has organised for the music tuition program to be expanded with the goal being the establishment of a School Concert Band. The P&C have assisted with instrument purchases.

Progress on 2008 targets

Target 1

To improve literacy levels across the school with emphasis on grammar and reading comprehension.

Our achievements include:

- Year 5 students were above the State average in reading and grammar and punctuation in the NAPLAN tests.
- New reading resources such as a ‘Reading Box’ were purchased to improve student comprehension ability.
- Identified students received individual support from the STLD teacher at the School.

Target 2

80% of K-2 students will achieve Western NSW Reading benchmarks.

Our achievements include:

- The 80% target was not achieved.
- To address this, literacy improvement will be a major target for 2009. A home reading scheme will be introduced and teacher professional development will focus on improving literacy outcomes.

Target 3

To raise the standard of Mathematics K-6 through renewed focus.

Our achievements include:

- The purchasing of textbooks for all students K-6
- Subscription to the Mathletics computer program.
- Performance of the Year 5 students in the NAPLAN tests in numeracy.

Target 4

Students will demonstrate increased engagement with technology and continued skills development.

Our achievements include:

- Purchase of a computer server to link computers together and increase individual computer skills.
- Participation in the Mathletics program.
Key evaluations

It is a requirement for all NSW public schools to conduct at least two annual evaluations – one related to educational and management practice and the other related to curriculum. In 2008 our school carried out evaluations on Planning and Science and Technology.

Educational and management practice

In 2008 the area evaluated was ‘Planning’

Background

A questionnaire was developed to seek feedback from the school community on the issue of planning within the school.

Findings and conclusions

100% of parent surveys agreed that school activities were well-planned and implemented.

An overwhelming majority of parents felt that they were able to be involved in school planning decisions.

95% of parents were satisfied with the level of home-school communication.

Future directions

The school will aim to continue with a transparent planning process that reflects the needs of the students at Rylstone. Parents will continue to be consulted in relevant areas to continue a close home – school partnership.

Curriculum

The area for evaluation in 2008 was Science and Technology.

Background

A questionnaire was developed in consultation with the School Council and the following findings were made.

Findings and conclusions

100% of parents saw their child’s Science and Technology skills as improving.

100% of parents saw their children as being more confident in Science and Technology.

Parents felt that they were kept informed on their child’s progress in Science and Technology but they would also like to learn more about Science and Technology.

The staff were aware of the Science units but would like more inservicing and more resources to improve their teaching of Science and Technology.

Future directions

The school will continue to value the teaching and learning of Science and Technology and aim to ensure that sufficient resources are made available for this to continue.

Parent, student, and teacher satisfaction

In 2008 the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school.

Their responses are presented below.

- 100% of parent responses agreed that:
  - The school was well connected to the community and welcomed parent involvement.
  - Parents were encouraged to contact the school to discuss any concerns.
  - A wide variety of extra-curricula activities were offered.
  - School activities are well planned and implemented.

- There was a high level of agreement that the school was attractive and well resourced and that it promoted a healthy lifestyle.

- 75% agreed that fair discipline existed at Rylstone Public School. A new Student Welfare Policy will be distributed to all families in 2009.

- An overwhelming majority of students saw Rylstone Public as a place they like to come each day.

- Students saw the work they completed as being beneficial for their future and an overwhelming majority enjoyed the work they completed.

- 100% of students indicated that the teachers took an interest in them and treated them fairly.

- 100% of students were proud to be students of Rylstone Public, being trusted by other students and staff.

- The majority of teachers were satisfied with their employment at and communication within Rylstone Public.

- All staff were satisfied with the ‘tone’ of the school and the level of professional development offered.

- There was a high level of satisfaction with home-school communication by the staff.
• All staff were happy with the physical resources of the School.

Professional learning

Professional learning activities in 2008 included:

• Three teachers being trained as Austswim Learn to Swim teachers to improve the quality of swimming instruction at our School's swimming school.

• One teacher attending a two day inservice on the operation of the new electronic whiteboards.

• One teacher attending a percussion inservice using the program to develop enhanced music teaching skills.

• Our STLD teacher attended regular meetings to keep updated about new programs.

• The School Principal was a committee member for the Western Primary Principals Association Conference in Mudgee and attended the Australian Primary Principal’s Association Conference in October in Sydney.

• Our School Administration Manager became a trainer for other school office staff in the new enrolment procedures.

School development 2009 – 2011

Target 1

To increase by 25% the number of students reaching minimum growth in Writing.

Strategies to achieve this target include:

• Inservicing of staff in the marking procedures of NAPLAN.

• Explicit teaching of the different Writing genres in context.

Our success will be measured by:

• Student growth from Year 3 to Year 5 in Writing based on the NAPLAN results.

• Teacher feedback on the relevance and value of training in Writing.

Target 2

80% of students reach stage appropriate outcomes in Numeracy.

Strategies to achieve this target include:

• Implementation and use of a consistent textbook across all grades at the School.

Our success will be measured by:

• Results of students in Semester One and Two reports.

• Performance of students in NAPLAN tests.

Target 3

85% of students respond positively in Quality of School Life Questionnaire.

Strategies to achieve this include:

• Quality teaching practices implemented to engage students in their learning.

• Consistent feedback provided to students to enable academic improvement.

Our success will be measured by:

• Responses of students in the Quality of School Life Questionnaire.

About this report

In preparing this report, the self-evaluation committee has gathered information from evaluations conducted during the year and analysed other information about the school's practices and student learning outcomes. The self-evaluation committee and school planning committee have determined targets for the school's future development.

Mr Alan Kerr – School Principal

Mrs Rachel Mann – School Council President

Ms Karon Grant – School Council Staff Rep.

School contact information

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Mudgee Street, Rylstone NSW 2849
Ph: 6379 1404
Fax: 6379 1532
Email: rylstone-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Web: www.rylstone-p.school.nsw.edu.au
School Code: 3025

Parents can find out more information about Annual School Reports, how to interpret information in the reports and have the opportunity to provide feedback about these reports at: