2010 Annual School Report
Gundaroo Public School

NSW Public Schools – Leading the way
Our school at a glance

Students

In 2010 Gundaroo Public School ended the year with 81 students. There were four classes as follows:

Kindergarten 17
Year 1 /2 21
Year 3 /4 25
Year 5 /6 18

Staff

Gundaroo Public School had five full time staff members in 2010. This included four classroom teachers and a full time School Administration Manager (SAM). Gundaroo Public School utilised three part time teachers for Library, Support Teacher Learning Assistance (STLA) and Release from Face to Face teaching (RFF). We also used one Teacher’s Aide (School Learning Support Officer – SLSO), one General Assistant (GA), one cleaner and numerous support staff including officers from District Office.

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

Significant programs and initiatives

SmartStart

Gundaroo Public School, once again, achieved an outstanding SmartStart health and fitness profile in 2010. In fact it was reported, in the media, by the SmartStart team that Gundaroo is the fittest school in their data base. Our cardiofitness is second to none.

The school average results for both males and females were well above the SmartStart database peer average in each of the SmartStart physical fitness areas. This was achieved through a continued program of targeted teaching and demonstration. This was consolidated further by the SmartStart team who gave us a whole day of free instruction to further improve our results, specifically in the children’s muscular strength. They did this because they hold us up as the model school. More fitness equipment was ordered, on their advice, to enable work on those aspects of fitness in the 2011 school year.

Rostrum Public Speaking

Gundaroo continued the proud tradition of public speaking by competing in the annual ACT and south west regions of NSW Rostrum public speaking competition. Every child from Kinder to Year 6 entered the competition. Class heats were run to determine school finalists and were well supported by the parent body. The competition, within the school, is so intense that Rostrum always sends three adjudicators, instead of one, for our school final. Thomas Francis, from Year 6, won the school final and went on to the ACT quarterfinals held in the ACT. Here, Thomas managed to gain third place in a highly competitive field. This was an excellent outcome.

The children continue to use their public speaking skills throughout the year at assemblies and in many other situations.
Famous Person Study

At Gundaroo we run a weekly study of a famous person. The children find this very interesting and we have found that their general knowledge is improving at a great rate. The categories we often choose from are great artists, musicians, sportsmen and women, politicians, scientists and inventors. We studied famous people ranging from Van Gogh to Douglas Bader, Joan of Arc to Margaret Preston.

Rotation of Classes (R.O.C.)

A new initiative in 2010 was the introduction of a different rotation of CAPA, including Science activities. All classes rotated through a seven week cycle of art, music, drama and science experiments. Each cycle concluded with an assembly for performance or to display work. The children loved all of these sessions because they were high interest subjects done in a short time span. Our assemblies at the culmination of these rotations were extremely well attended by parents.

The final rotation culminated with an evening “cocktail party” which included an art show, a science demonstration, dramatic performance and music.

Messages

Principal’s message

Gundaroo Public School is situated in an ideal location, surrounded by a rural community and only 40 kilometres from Canberra.

The school has a strong community focus and adheres to its motto of “Working Together”. The staff and parents are working together to teach each child the basic skills, to develop each child to be socially adept, to encourage each child to strive for personal excellence and to promote a caring attitude towards others and the environment.

In 2010 Gundaroo certainly did well in teaching each child the basic skills. 100% of children in Year 3 achieved above the national benchmarks in every single subject area tested. Year 5 achieved the same great results, with the exception of reading, where 92% achieved above
the national benchmark. All of our results were in the higher bands of achievement except for spelling. The school intends to focus on improving spelling outcomes, from K – 6, in the 2011 academic year.

Our excellent Peer Support program helps all children, from Kinder right through, in becoming socially adept. The structure is very supportive of the younger children as they get “buddied” with older peers for a variety of school activities. This system is also very helpful when the school goes on excursions as there are more than just the teachers looking out for correct behaviour, manners and the needs of all the children.

We encouraged children to strive for excellence by providing extension work in all classes; providing children with the opportunity to enrol in Gateways courses; and giving all children, 3 – 6, the opportunity to enter a variety of academic competitions on offer. We had a huge success in the ICAS tests with 40% of participating students achieving a Credit, Distinction or High Distinction.

Our guitar group and our rapidly expanding band were two areas promoting excellence in music. We also joined in the Queanbeyan District Choral Festival and Performing Arts Festivals in 2010. These two events extended the children’s experience in singing, playing in the orchestra pit, dancing and acting.

In 2010 the excitement of the Building Education Revolution (BER) gripped Gundaroo as the foundations were laid down for a hall to be built.

I wish to thank the parents and the P & C for their positive support, both moral and monetary, in 2010. The P & C helped the school enormously by helping to fund an additional storeroom to be incorporated into the building before it began. This useful, and much needed space, has been seamlessly added into the hall building project to allow a purpose built area to further support teaching programs in this facility.

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.

Sue Kominek, Principal

P & C message

I have had the privilege of being the P & C President at Gundaroo Public School in 2010. This year’s P & C committee has been a fantastic team and their patience and good humour, along with their tireless effort, has been a great asset for the school. We are proud to have raised funds for the school with events including grape picking, the quiz night and catering for the District Cross Country.

This year we contributed to art equipment, educational books, science equipment, musical instruments and other smaller items such as garden improvements. We commissioned new play equipment for the “bushes” area of the playground, which will be installed in the 2011 school year. In addition we made a contribution of $20,000 towards the new school hall, due to be completed in 2011, to add storage for our band equipment. Fundraising will continue next year, particularly as we will need to fit-out the new hall.

As well as fundraising, the P & C has quietly campaigned to improve the safety of children walking or riding to school. On the P & C’s request, Yass Valley Council undertook a traffic study and will be installing new posts to mark a safe crossing point. Next year the P & C will continue this focus by coordinating a “Slow Down in our Street” program which will involve the school and many other Gundaroo community groups.

I would like to thank everyone involved for their hard work and kind support throughout the year. Gundaroo Public School has strong parental participation and the P & C also benefits from the support provided by the school staff.

We welcome new families to 2011 and say farewell to those who are leaving. The P & C is planning two new events in 2011, and these promise to be successful as fundraisers as well as building on Gundaroo Public School’s already strong sense of community. I encourage all parents to become involved with the P & C and wish everyone all the best for the years ahead.

Juanita Kitson, P & C President
School Captain’s message

2010 was a great year at Gundaroo Public School. Some of the highlights of the year were the 5/6 camp at Mogo, where we got to pan for gold; the Leadership Conference in Sydney; and the Fruit and Veggie dress up day for Stewart House, where one student dressed up as a Roman Centurion because he was a Caesar Salad!

I really enjoyed being in the band with kids from Years 2 to 6. Almost half the kids have joined and we sound fantastic!

Nick Parry and I were the School Captains and the whole of Year 6 made a good leadership team. Most of us have been together for seven years so it will be sad leaving to go to High School. I wish next year’s captains all the best and hope they have as much fun as I had.

Kate Kitson, School Captain
Management of non-attendance

Student non-attendance is monitored daily by the classroom teacher and administrative staff. A sign in and out book is kept in the office foyer. We request parents write in this book or ring the office to report any absences. The HSLO (Home School Liaison Officer) regularly checks class teachers’ rolls and records kept by the administrative staff, for recurring patterns, for too many absences or for unexplained absences. Should there be a pattern of absences or too many occurring, the child and/or the parent will be advised of the shortfall and asked to rectify the situation. In 2010 this proved to be successful in reducing such non-attendance.

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 2010 class size audit conducted on Wednesday 17 March 2010.

<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>Year K/T</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1/2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1/2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3/4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3/4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5/6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5/6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Structure of classes

Because of the high number in Years 3/4, the low number in Years 5/6 and a wonderfully large double classroom with a computer lab attached, we decided to combine 3/4/5/6 and team teach that group.

Retention to Year 12

At Gundaroo we offer the children a variety of activities and personnel to keep the children stimulated, motivated, challenged and supported at all levels. A few of the opportunities are listed below:

- Teacher programs explicitly include values.
- Activities offered for the academically gifted and talented children include: GATEWAYS extension programs, Premier’s Spelling Bee, ICAS competitions and accelerated spelling groups.
- Activities offered for the CAPA gifted and talented dancers, singers and artists: District Vocal and Dance ensembles, Goulburn Art Gallery courses.
- Gifted and talented sportspeople: all children encouraged to enter District sports trials.
- SmartStart and daily running and fitness: measuring PBs in all areas of fitness in all children.
- 100% participation in Rostrum Public speaking competition from K – 6.
- Visiting sports coaches in AFL and cricket.
• Gymnastics coaching – Terms 3 and 4.
• Swimming lessons during Term 4; in-school carnival held in Term 1.
• High computer to child ratio at 1:2.
• Famous person – high interest – K - 6.
• School chooks are cared for by students.
• Peer support – rewarding good citizens. Merit awards, Student of the Week, Aussie of the Month – rewards for PBs in all subjects.
• Great variety of academic groupings during the day. Change for each subject.
• SLST, SLSO for children needing academic support.
• SLSO and DP Behaviour teacher for children needing behavioural support.
• After School care offered (GOSH).
• Private piano, flute & guitar lessons available on site.
• School band established.
• Guitar groups established.
• School owns band instruments and guitars to lend out.
• Life Education Van visits annually.
• Comments on school reports when attendance is good; merits from HSLO.
• Photos of “star” pupils on “Star Board” outside office after each assembly.
• Photograph and/or write up in the newsletter and media when student has achieved in a certain area.
• Static display of student work in office foyer after class assembly item.
• Slide show of children’s photos in office foyer – these are changed regularly.
• New website launched with children’s photos & work displayed.
• Parents helping in class.

Post-school destinations
Our close proximity to Canberra and the fact that the school bus only transports to the ACT means that most of our children access high schools in the ACT.

Staff information

Staff establishment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Principal(s)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Teachers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L.O.T.E. French</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Teacher Learning Assistance</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Librarian</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Co-ordinator</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counsellor</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Administrative &amp; Support Staff</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>6.1</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2010 there were no indigenous workers at Gundaroo Public School.

Staff retention
In 2010 our staff was extremely stable. In both teaching and administrative staff, all personnel remained the same.

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>75%</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>30/11/2010</th>
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**Income**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>37281.63</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
<td>64316.24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>47115.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
<td>43650.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>1935.13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
<td>1614.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td><strong>195913.21</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Expenditure**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching &amp; learning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key learning areas</td>
<td>26118.14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Excursions</td>
<td>4136.51</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extracurricular dissections</td>
<td>6794.43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>1076.13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training &amp; development</td>
<td>547.32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>53291.47</td>
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<tr>
<td>Casual relief teachers</td>
<td>4064.71</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; office</td>
<td>18304.95</td>
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<tr>
<td>School-operated canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>14752.48</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>7689.87</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trust accounts</td>
<td>1688.19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital programs</td>
<td>39960.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditure</strong></td>
<td><strong>178424.70</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Balance carried forward**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance carried forward</strong></td>
<td><strong>17488.51</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School performance 2010

Band

In 2010 the band expanded to thirty members consisting of Year 2 to Year 6 students. We used P&C funds to purchase two clarinets and some new sheet music. The P&C also funded and made banners for the music stands. These add a look of professionalism to the band.

The band performed at assemblies and accompanied the whole school as they participated in “Music, Count Us In” with schools around Australia.

The band members had an introduction to marching band. They had several attempts at marching while playing.

In Term 3, the school held a whole day music workshop. We invited tutors from our community to work with all the sections of the band, culminating in a concert for the parents at the end of the day.

Dirk Zeylmans van Emmichoven, an instrument repairer, provided us with a lesson on the maintenance of instruments. The day was an opportunity for students to immerse themselves in the practice of playing their instrument and to develop their skills and knowledge of their particular role in section and band to a high level.

Next year the band program will cater for advanced students by providing an ensemble group and will continue to develop marching band skills as well as play outside the school.

A full copy of the school’s 2010 financial statement is tabled at the annual general meeting of the P & C parent body. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.
Guitar Group
To enable enthusiastic Kinder and Year 1 students to begin learning the basics of correct guitar technique, ukuleles were introduced.

The group has performed a range of items at assemblies. They were exposed to classical and electric rock guitar styles at the music workshop day.

Choral Festival
In 2010 Gundaroo joined with the other Queanbeyan District schools to perform two concerts at the Queanbeyan “Q” Theatre. Mrs Marion Meischke accompanied our choir who presented a humorous rendition of “A Long, Tall Texan” and “The Kazoo Concerto”.

A new initiative in 2010 was joining with Sutton PS to perform a small schools choral item ably backed by our Gundaroo dads on guitar and drums.

Performing Arts
The Queanbeyan District Performing Arts was held at the Canberra Theatre over two nights. The theme this year was “The Elements”. Gundaroo retold an American Indian legend. We wish to thank the wonderful parents who sewed our stunning costumes and to Norm Betts, our General Assistant, who constructed a growing tree and a teepee for our set.

Sport
Gundaroo students enjoyed many sporting activities in 2010:

- Skills lessons in AFL.
- Two week swim school.
- Gymnastics lessons.
• Dance lessons.
• School swimming carnival.
• School athletics carnival.
• School cross country championship.
• District swimming, athletics and cross country carnivals for Years 3 – 6.
• Attendance at gala days for Years 3 – 6.

Our Gundaroo Sport Champions for 2010 were:
Swimming:
Senior: Nick Parry, Kate Kitson
Junior: Nick Hegyi, Esther Eschauzier

Cross Country:
Senior: Nathan Hayes, Isobelle Murphy
Junior: Rosanna Joshua, Isaac Francis

Athletics
Senior: Tristan Bray, Isobelle Murphy
Junior: Isaac Donley, Rosanna Joshua

Other
Gundaroo Public School’s seismic station was well utilized. It continued recording many of the world’s large earthquake events and picked up many of the smaller Australian events. In fact we had a family of Gundaroo students, camped in a tent, in Boulder, WA when Boulder’s earthquake hit. They alerted us to the fact so that we could watch our seismic station as the shocks reached us in Gundaroo!

In 2010 Gundaroo students experienced many activities. These included:
• Life Education Van visit.
• Museum in a Box in Terms 1, 2 and 3.
• Hosting a Rostrum Semi-Final.
• Visit by Goulburn Police Youth Liaison Officer.
• Bike Week.
• Peer Support program K – 6.
• Visit by Questacon Circus.

• Excursions to Parliament House and Yass Valley Council Chambers.

• GATEWAYS programs for gifted and talented students.
• Commemoration of both ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day.
• Visit to the Canberra Theatre to see “Wombat Stew”.
• Visit to the National Australia Museum.

• Book Week excursion to the Queanbeyan Library.

• “RoboTec” show.
• Two “Musica Viva” concerts.

• Lessons by local artist, Philippa Hays.

• Visit by local councillor, Cecil Burgess.

• Formal dinner dance to farewell Year 6.

• One lucky student spent a fortnight at Stewart House in Manly.
Fundraising events

- “Sunnies for Sight”.
- “Colouring Day” for disadvantaged Australian children.
- “Fruit and Veggie” Day to acknowledge Fruit and Vegetable month and to raise money for Stewart House.
- “Christmas Giving Tree” - distribution of presents by the Salvation Army.

Academic

In the National Assessment Program, the results across the 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 these assessments.

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

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 3
Percentage of students in bands:
Year 3 writing

Percentage of students in bands:
Year 3 grammar and punctuation

Percentage of students in bands:
Year 3 spelling

Percentage of students in bands:
Year 3 numeracy

Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 3

- Percentage in band
- School average 2008 - 2010
- State DET average 2010

- Percentage in band
- School average 2008 - 2010
- State DET average 2010

- Percentage in band
- School average 2008 - 2010
- State DET average 2010

- Percentage in band
- School average 2008 - 2010
- State DET average 2010
Literacy – NAPLAN Year 5

Percentage of students in bands: Year 5 reading

- Percentage in band
- School average 2008 - 2010
- State DET average 2010

Percentage of students in bands: Year 5 spelling

- Percentage in band
- School average 2008 - 2010
- State DET average 2010

Percentage of students in bands: Year 5 writing

- Percentage in band
- School average 2008 - 2010
- State DET average 2010

Percentage of students in bands: Year 5 grammar and punctuation

- Percentage in band
- School average 2008 - 2010
- State DET average 2010
Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 5

Average progress in spelling for matched students*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008 - 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>72.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State DET</td>
<td>84.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The disappointing growth in spelling has led to the improvement of spelling as the main target in the 2011 School Management Plan.

Progress in numeracy

Average progress in numeracy for matched students*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>67.6</td>
<td>89.7</td>
<td>50.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State DET</td>
<td>77.3</td>
<td>93.4</td>
<td>89.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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. Our results are excellent.

Percentage of Year 3 students in our school achieving at or above the minimum standard in 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Year 3 students achieving at or above minimum standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punctuation and grammar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of Year 5 students in our school achieving at or above the minimum standard in 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Year 5 students achieving at or above minimum standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punctuation and grammar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
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<td>100</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Progress in literacy

Average progress in reading for matched students*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>118.8</td>
<td>57.9</td>
<td>74.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State DET</td>
<td>87.5</td>
<td>88.4</td>
<td>83.4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Average progress in writing for matched students*

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<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>42.9</td>
<td>104.8</td>
<td>86.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State DET</td>
<td>69.3</td>
<td>57.7</td>
<td>66.8</td>
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</table>

Average progress in grammar & punctuation for matched students*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008 - 2010</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>School</td>
<td>94.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State DET</td>
<td>95.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Aboriginal education

At Gundaroo Public School all children are educated in Aboriginal history, culture and contemporary issues. Our curriculum contains much content about British colonisation and Aboriginal Australia. During NAIDOC week we did some Aboriginal inspired art, read many dreamtime stories and stories of the stolen generations. We were privileged to have a visit from Ngunnawal elder, Aunty Matilda House.

In 2010 we continued to have children with aboriginal heritage, doing the acknowledgement of country at every assembly. As each of the children was closely related to a member of the stolen generation they also added some interesting facts about their aboriginal ancestry. This made the acknowledgement both real and personal.

Respect and responsibility

Each week a new value was highlighted to promote respect and responsibility. Most of our Peer Support activities were developed around fostering these values. All Year 6 children were voted in as a school captain in charge of a certain area of school life. They ran assemblies, peer support groups and welcomed and thanked visitors to the school, or presenters outside the school when we went on school excursions.

Multicultural education

At Gundaroo, all children learn French as part of the LOTE (Languages Other Than English) syllabus.

All children K – 6 receive one hour per week instruction in French. The Infants children (K – 2) learn basic vocabulary through song and dance. All grades learn simple greetings. The Primary grades (3 – 6) learn to speak in simple sentences, to read simple books in French and to perform plays in French. There is a strong emphasis on French culture.

Learning another language enhances the students’ ability to communicate, increases their cultural awareness and facilitates cross-cultural understanding.

It also works, in reverse, in that it assists students in developing a greater understanding of their own culture and language.

Connected learning

At Gundaroo we have a brilliant computer to student ratio of 2:1. We have a SmartBoard in each classroom, a computer lab of 20 computers attached to the double classroom and a very well equipped mini lab in each of the junior classrooms. In one end of the double classroom
we have the video conferencing equipment. In 2010 we employed our computer coordinator to teach computing, as a subject, to each class separately and to the Kindergarten children in small groups. The senior classes joined with local schools, using the video conferencing equipment.

Progress on 2010 targets

Target 1

Quality teaching to ensure continuity in Literacy and Numeracy Outcomes

Our achievements include:

- 100% of Year 3 children achieved above the national benchmarks in Reading, Writing, Spelling, Punctuation, Grammar and Numeracy
- 100% of Year 5 students achieved above the national benchmarks in Writing, Spelling, Punctuation, Grammar and Numeracy
- 92% of Year 5 students achieved above the national benchmarks in Reading
- A strong representation in the higher bands in all areas

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 2010 our school carried out evaluations of Enter text here

Findings and conclusions

- 100% of parents believed that their child’s classroom was an interesting place to learn and is well resourced
- 96% of parents felt their child benefitted from a wide range of activities offered at the school
- 55% of parents felt that the teachers talked to them about their child’s learning

Future directions

Despite all efforts by the staff to make themselves available to parents throughout the week, there is still a perception that teachers do not adequately discuss their child’s learning. An opportunity for parents to have a formal interview after reports are issued is advertised in the school newsletter. Parents are always encouraged to discuss their child’s learning, with the teacher, as the need arises. A parent information night is held at the beginning of each year to outline parent/teacher lines of communication. We will trial a supplementary report at the end of term 1, 2011, to further increase communication about their child’s learning and attitudes to school.

Curriculum

Background

We offer a wide range of activities within the Creative and Practical Arts. This survey was used to ascertain the value of these experiences. 52% of families responded.

Findings and conclusions

- 97% of parents rated all of our C.A.P.A. activities as being of high educational value

Future directions

In 2011 we will continue to provide as many experiences as possible. Parents felt that performing at the Canberra Theatre provided a unique opportunity to perform with other children to a huge audience. The confidence building in students was seen to outweigh the long day and late night.
Other evaluations

The school decided to do an extra survey on the program “Mathletics”. In 2009 the P & C funded the whole school’s enrolment in the program. In 2010 the school took over the funding of the program. We surveyed the children to gauge the value of financing it, again, in 2011.

There was an overwhelming response from the children to continue with the program. It is now an integral part of their mathematics program.

Professional learning

In 2010 the staff undertook many and varied, professional learning opportunities.

We received a tied grant of $4,245.20 for Teacher Professional Learning in 2010 and spent $5,986.84. This was possible because some money had been carried over from 2009. We received an extra tied grant of $1,062.58 for a beginning teacher which was completely expended on the teacher’s development.

Our administrative staff attended the Illawarra South East SASS Conference, a School Learning Support Officers’ Conference, Technology update meetings and a St John’s Ambulance Senior First Aid Course.

Because we had several children with life threatening illnesses, our SASS staff and our after school workers joined with the teaching staff and completed the School Staff Asthma Training and the Westmead Children’s Hospital/Ronald McDonald House EdMed professional development course.

The teaching staff attended an “Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders” course, a School Learning Support Program, a “Helping Our Children Learn” course, a “Visible Learning” course, a “Jolly Phonics” course and a “Musica Viva” course.

The Principal attended an OHS Consultation course, Access Request training, the Teaching Principals’ Annual Conference and the Illawarra South East Principals’ Annual Conference.

Information received at these courses was implemented across the school. All courses attended were vital for the betterment of our children’s health, welfare and learning.

School development 2009 – 2011

Targets for 2011

- An increased whole school focus on spelling: K – 6, to improve spelling outcomes
- An increase in the number of children engaged in a wide range of activities
- An increase in the proficiency of children in ICT skills
- An increase in educational outcomes for aboriginal students

Target 1

An increased whole-school focus on spelling:

K – 6, to improve spelling outcomes

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- Analysis of 2010 data
- Incorporate Best Start in the Kindergarten program
- Concentrated effort to fully implement the PEG Spelling scheme and continually push children to strive for the next level
- Move children through to Stage 4 spelling programs
- Enrol every child into on-line spelling program: “ Spellodrome”
- Ensure spelling is done daily
- Encourage all children in Years 3 – 6 to enter the Premier’s Spelling Bee.

Our success will be measured by:

- The number of children who have gone up a level in PEGs Spelling
- The number of children who have gone up a grade or stage in PEGs Spelling
- The number of children who have to be promoted to the next year level on our on-line spelling program: “Spellodrome”
• Student outcomes improved in 2011 NAPLAN results – despite incredibly tiny cohorts
• National Literacy benchmarks met or exceeded

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.

Team Members:
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Mrs Liz Harris                       Teacher
Ms Kim Lamb                    Teacher
Mr Eric Dunlop                     Teacher
Mrs Helen Curtis      SAM
Mrs Juanita Kitson               P&C President
Mrs Maxine Webber           GOSH convenor
Mrs Ros Medaris                  GOSH co-ordinator
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