Gundaroo Public School
Annual School Report

2011
Our school at a glance

**Students**

In 2011 Gundaroo Public School had 80 students. There were four classes as follows:

- Kindergarten: 16
- Year 1/2: 17
- Year 2/3/4: 29
- Year 5/6: 18

**Staff**

Gundaroo Public School had five full time staff members in 2011. This included four classroom teachers and a full time School Administration Manager (SAM). Gundaroo Public School employed three part time teachers for Library, Support Teacher Learning Assistance (STLA) and Release from Face to Face teaching (RFF). We also used two Teacher’s Aides (School Learning Support Officers – SLSOs), one General Assistant (GA), one part time School Admin Officer, one cleaner and numerous support staff including officers from District Office.

All teaching staff met 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 2011. In fact it was reported in the media, by the SmartStart team, that Gundaroo Public School is the fittest school in their data base. Our cardio fitness 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 physical fitness areas. This was achieved through a continued program of targeted teaching and demonstration focusing on previously identified areas for improvement. Achievement was further consolidated by a whole day of free instruction from the SmartStart team. In 2011 they developed a fitness regime to raise the data base in other schools. They tested it on Gundaroo students and found that all of our students exceeded their base, so they have had to go back and rewrite the test.

**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. Jonah Myers, from Year 6, was our school winner and subsequently won the quarterfinals and semifinals held in the ACT. Jonah then proceeded to the grand final, as one of eight from over ninety schools that participated in the competition. The children continue to use their public speaking skills throughout the year at assemblies and in many other situations. It is an invaluable part of our school program.

**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. This year we studied famous people ranging from Jack Newton to Marcel Marceau, Paul Kagame to Amelia Earhart.
C.A.P.A. Rotation of Classes

In 2011 all classes rotated through each of the four teachers in a seven week cycle of art, music, craft and bush dancing. The children loved experiencing these high interest subjects done in a concentrated time span. Our assemblies at the culmination of these rotations were extremely well attended by parents.

The final rotation celebration was an evening dress up “cocktail party” which included an art show displaying each class’s art and craft work, bush dancing by Years 3/4 and creative drumming by Years 5/6.

Messages

Principal’s message

What an exciting year 2011 was for Gundaroo Public School.

The first excitement was welcoming 16 little children into Kindergarten. They adapted to school without any problems, due partly to our strong orientation program at the end of 2010 and the excellent preparation for school done by their parents.

The next big excitement for the year was the invitation, by Michael Coutts-Trotter (our Director General) from head office in Bridge Street, to take the two school captains to Sydney. With the assistance of the two school captains from a Sydney boys’ high school our captains presented the flood relief cheque, raised by children in NSW Government schools, to the Queensland Director General of Education, Ms Grantham, to be distributed to the most badly affected state schools in Queensland. It was such an honour to be representing all the government schools in NSW at this presentation.

Throughout the first semester the building of our new school hall occurred. We had the most wonderful builders and every stage was a delight. Added to our delight was the fact that we were permitted to add an extra room into the structure with financial assistance from the school P&C.

The hall was completed in July and we had a most joyful opening ceremony in the first week back of Term 3. All members of the school, the wider community and personnel from all the levels of administration and building were invited. We were delighted that Angus Dawson (BER project manager) and his wife could come. The tone was set by the children beginning the proceedings by singing “Walk Right in, Sit Right Down”, and concluding with “The Chook Song”. Senator, the Honourable, Ursula Stephens officiated on this most memorable occasion. The P & C, in true Gundaroo style, put on a magnificent morning tea at the end of the ceremony.

The next big highlight of the year was the purchase of a stage, for the hall, by the P & C. The school was delighted because it arrived, and was installed, just in time for our end of year concert.

All in all 2011 was an extraordinary year thanks to a most generous P & C, a supportive parent body, a hard working staff and our wonderful students.

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

As a result of the ongoing commitment of P&C committee members, the generosity of school families and the broader Gundaroo community, we have committed significant funds throughout 2011 to benefit the school. In all, expenditure totalled approximately $30,000.00. The most outstanding of our financial commitments saw the completion of an extra storage room for the new school hall, which was completed mid-year. This room has already proved invaluable, providing safe storage for band, sporting and stage equipment. The other significant purchase was a premium stage for the new school hall, which has already enhanced school assemblies as well as the 2011 school concert. Both of these purchases will provide significant benefit to the entire school for the long term.

Another significant contribution made by the P&C this year was the production of mounted school photographs to hang on the walls of the school hall. These photographs now provide the school with a visual historical record and have already encouraged long term Gundaroo residents to reminisce. As such the P&C have committed to continue this legacy into the future by adding to the collection each year.

The P&C have also continued to support general financial commitments including the purchase of musical and educational supplies; subsidising school excursions; provision of support to GOSH (Gundaroo Out of School Hours child care) through some extraordinary financial circumstances in 2011; purchase of soft fall material for school play areas; the revitalisation of the school bush play area; and contributions to the end of year school concert and community breakfast.

The P&C would like to thank the school community for their ongoing support and generosity, not only financially but through the provision of their time and services. We would also like to extend our thanks to those within the broader community who support the school and its students either financially or through the donation of goods and services. The annual Quiz Night raised an extraordinary $7503.39 this year and our Election Day cake stall was also a great success raising $1083.47.

But the P&C did not only contribute financially in 2011, it also managed to promote the school’s profile within the community as a result of our “Slow down in our Street” initiative, supported by the Yass Valley Council. The life sized cardboard cut-outs of our children along the main street in combination with speed monitoring equipment and increased police presence proved highly successful – not only were motorists reminded about pedestrian road safety, but there was a noticeable decrease in speed, which continued throughout the year. A smaller version of this project will be undertaken in the 2012.

The committee has also been influential on matters such as the Chaplaincy program and anti-bullying. The Gundaroo P&C strives not only to represent the broader school community but to also provide maximum support for the teachers and staff who have done a fabulous job in 2011 and we would like to formally express our thanks.

I look forward to 2012.

Virginia Dixon, President

Student representative’s message

This year was a great year for me. Some of the great moments were going up to Sydney where we had to hand over a cheque to Julie Grantham for the schools that got affected by the Queensland floods; the 5/6 camp at Berry where we had all different challenges; and going to the Young Leaders Conference, in Canberra, where different leaders showed us how to be leaders ourselves.

I also enjoyed the band. It took a lot of time and effort, but it was all worth it when we performed.

Lastly I would like to wish next year’s captain all the best.

Isobelle Murphy, School Captain
This year was a great year. Isobelle and I started off by going to Sydney and handing over a cheque to Julie Grantham to support the Queensland floods.

Then the entire Year 6 group went to Canberra to listen to the group of talkers for the Young Leaders Conference. We all had a fantastic time. Later in the year, Years 5 and 6 went to the Berry Sport and Recreation Centre and everyone loved it.

We have lately listened to the Year 5 speeches for being school captain and they were great.

Gundaroo has made Year 6 awesome and I wish the school captains for next year the very best.

Nathan Hayes, School Captain

Captains from Punchbowl Boys’ High School, with Isobelle and Nathan, presenting a cheque for $451,000 to Queensland Director General of Education, Ms Julie Grantham.

GOSH Annual Report 2011

During 2011, Gundaroo Outside School Hours Care (GOSH) was supported by 40 families with 2637 attendances. These figures represent an increase of over 200 attendances in 2010 altogether.

Structured sporting activities have been run each term through the Active After-school Communities Program (AASC). Funding was provided from grants obtained through this program which means we have professional coaches coming in each term. During 2011, activities offered included tennis, multi-skills and dancing.

In November 2011, a new mobile phone was purchased. This means parents can receive SMS updates and staff members are contactable at any time during the 3pm to 6pm time slot.

In 2011, fundraising activities included lunch time canteens and a white elephant stall. Thank you to all the parents and children who helped during these fundraisers.

The successful GOSH Christmas party was held in December. Activities included a disco with games and prizes given for best costumes. The feedback from parents and children was that all the children present really enjoyed themselves.

Nikki Hughes started the year as the GOSH Coordinator and resigned to pursue her horticultural studies. Kylie Finn has been Coordinator since August 2011 with Elissa Bottomley and Libby Finn continuing as Level 1 staff this year. We are grateful to all of them for their hard work and dedication.

Thank you also, to the P&C, teachers, GOSH Sub Committee members, and parents for their continued commitment to after school care at Gundaroo Public School in 2011.

2012 will see us celebrate our 15th anniversary, and GOSH will proudly continue to offer quality after school care for our children at Gundaroo Public School.

Maxine Webber
GOSH Convener, GOSH Sub-Committee

School context

Student information

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

Student enrolment profile
Management of non-attendance

Student non-attendance is monitored daily by the classroom teacher and administrative staff. An attendance register 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 patterns of concern, the child and/or the parent will be advised of the shortfall and asked to rectify the situation. In 2011, this simple action proved to have immediate success in reducing non-attendance.

Class sizes

Primary class sizes are included in the annual school report in order to provide parents with as much local information as possible. The following table shows our class sizes as reported at the 2011 Class Size Audit conducted on Monday 21 March 2011.

<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>KINDERGARTEN</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 1/2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 1/2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 2/3/4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 2/3/4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 2/3/4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 5/6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 5/6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Structure of classes

Because of the high number in Years 3/4, the low number in Years 5/6, a large number in Year 2 and a wonderfully large double classroom with a computer lab attached, it was decided to combine 2/3/4/5/6 and team teach that group. Had the Year 1 and Year 2 children been combined, their class would have greatly exceeded the recommended ceiling for those grades. Consequently the Year 2 parents were given the choice of whether to place their children with the senior class or in the junior class. Parents of 11 out of the 12 children in Year 2, opted for their child to go into the senior class.

Retention to Year 12

At Gundaroo we aim to develop a lifelong love of learning, and encourage an aspiration to further education. 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 included the GATEWAYS extension program, Premier’s Spelling Bee, ICAS competitions and accelerated spelling groups.
- High computer to child ratio at 1:2
- Famous person holds high interest for all students, K - 6
- School chooks are kept at the school and cared for by students
- Acknowledgement of student achievements including Captains’ awards, Merit awards, Student of the Week, Aussie of the Month and rewards for PBs in all subjects

100 75 50 25 0

Student attendance rates

2008 2009 2010 2011

School Region State DEC
• Life Education Van visits annually
• 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
• Visiting sports coaches in AFL and cricket
• Gymnastics coaching – Terms 3 and 4
• Swimming lessons during Term 4 and an in-school carnival held in Term 1
• Activities offered for the CAPA gifted and talented dancers, singers and artists include: District Vocal and Dance ensembles, Goulburn Art Gallery courses

• 100% participation in Rostrum Public speaking competition from K – 6

• Great variety of academic groupings during the day. Change for each subject
• Peer support program encouraging positive cross-age interactions, mentoring and recognition of individual abilities
• SLST, SLSO for children needing academic support
• SLSO and DP Behaviour teacher for children needing behavioural support
• After School care offered (GOSH)
• Private flute & guitar lessons available on site
• School band established
• Guitar groups established
• School owns band instruments and guitars which are lent out
• Parents helping in class
• Comments on school reports for good attendance; 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

Post-school destinations
Our close proximity to Canberra, and the fact that the school bus only transports to Canberra, means that all of our children access high schools, over the border in the Australian Capital Territory.

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

In 2011 our staff was extremely stable. All teaching staff remained the same but our SAM, of 23 years, retired at the end of Term 1 and was replaced by Term 3.

Staff establishment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Principal(s)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Principal(s)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Teachers</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Teachers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of Emotional Disabilities</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of Mild Intellectual Disabilities</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of Reading Recovery</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Teacher Learning Assistance</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Librarian</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of ESL</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counsellor</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Administrative &amp; Support Staff</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2011 there were no indigenous workers at Gundaroo Public School.

Teacher qualifications

All teaching staff met 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>30/11/2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>17488.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
<td>65948.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>22309.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
<td>31999.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>1227.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
<td>5043.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income</td>
<td>144016.17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Expenditure**

Teaching & learning
- Key learning areas: 9130.60
- Excursions: 6550.45
- Extracurricular dissections: 12315.42

Library: 2111.55
Training & development: 948.58
Tied funds: 22538.85
Casual relief teachers: 10310.19
Administration & office: 18619.84
School-operated canteen: 0.00
Utilities: 15019.99
Maintenance: 7565.66
Trust accounts: 4752.21
Capital programs: 15636.36
Total expenditure: 125499.70
Balance carried forward: 18516.47

A full copy of the school’s 2011 financial statement is tabled at the annual general meetings of the school Parents and Citizen’s Association. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.

School performance 2011

Band

In 2011, the band continued to thrive, maintaining thirty members consisting of Year 2 to Year 6 students. Again, P& C funds were used to purchase some new sheet music to expand the library of music.

The band performed at assemblies and accompanied the whole school as they participated in our second year of “Count Us In” with schools around Australia.
We held our second whole day music workshop. Some tutors returned to work with our students but we also had some new ones. We rehearsed in sections and participated in a lagerphone making workshop. The students performed in the band and played their lagerphones to a small but very appreciative audience.

Next year the band program will lose some experienced Year 6 musicians to high school. There are many younger students though, who are keen to join. This will be a challenging, but also exciting, phase as more students become involved in playing an instrument.

**Guitar Group**

To enable enthusiastic Kinder and Year 1 students to begin learning the basics of correct guitar technique, ukuleles continued to be used.

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, and continuing on throughout the term.

**Choral Festival**

In 2011 Gundaroo joined with other Queanbeyan District schools to perform two concerts at Queanbeyan High School. Mrs Marion Meischke conducted and Mrs Cheryl Leach accompanied our choir who presented “A Fish’s Tale” and a humorous rendition of “The Hen’s Duet”.

We continued with our new initiative of 2010 by joining with Sutton PS to perform a small schools choral item. Again, this was most ably led by Mrs Meischke.

**Performing Arts**

The Queanbeyan District Performing Arts was held at the Canberra Theatre over two nights. The theme this year was “Planes, Trains and Automobiles”. Gundaroo choreographed a piece based around “Where’s Wally” and “International Rescue”, incorporating planes, pushbikes and our trusty yellow submarine in the search for Wally. We wish to thank Norm Betts, our General Assistant, who constructed all the planes and rejuvenated our aging sub.

**Sport**

Gundaroo students enjoyed many sporting activities in 2011:
- Skills lessons in AFL
- Two week swim school
- Gymnastics lessons
- Dance lessons
- School swimming carnival
- School athletics carnival
• Attendance at gala days for Years 3 – 6
• School cross country championship
• District swimming, athletics and cross country carnivals for Years 3 – 6

Our Gundaroo Sport Champions for 2011 were:

Swimming:
Senior Girl: Isobelle Murphy
Senior Boy: Nick Hegyi
Junior Girl: Imogene Blake
Junior Boy: Marlow Meares

Cross Country:
Senior Girl: Isobelle Murphy
Senior Boy: Nathan Hayes
Junior Girl: Bec White
Junior Boy: Finley Hegyi

Athletics:
Senior Girl: Isobelle Murphy
Senior Boy: Tristan Bray
Junior Girl: Heather Kovacs
Junior Boy: Isaac Francis

Other
Gundaroo Public School’s seismic station was well utilized. It continued recording many of the world’s large earthquake events, in particular the huge events in Christchurch, and it picked up many of the smaller Australian events.

A visit to Bridge Street, by the principal and the school captains, to represent all the N.S.W. public schools in presenting a cheque of $451,000 to the Queensland Director General of Education for flood relief of Queensland state schools.

The opening of the new school hall, in July, was a highlight for not only the school community, but for the wider Gundaroo community.

In 2011 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
• Attendance at GATEWAYS programs for gifted and talented students
• 5 children accepted for the Years 5 – 8 Visual Arts Camp, at Greenhills Camp and Conference Centre, in November
• Commemoration of both ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day

• Visit to the National Australia Museum
• Book Week excursion to Queanbeyan Library
• Two “Musica Viva” concerts
• Formal dinner dance to farewell Year 6

Fundraising events
• All the children dressed as bees to raise money for the “Buzz off for Diabetes Day” fundraiser

• “Colouring Day” to raise money for disadvantaged Australian children

• A “Dress in Beach Clobber Day” to raise money for Stewart House

• “Christmas Giving Tree” and 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.

Yr 3: from Band 1 (lowest) to Band 6 (highest for Year 3)
As we had such low numbers in Year 3, the department did not add the percentage of those children, from 2011, into the bands. This was because it would too readily identify the results of individual children. Their results have, however, been added into the school average from 2008 to 2011.

Yr 5: from Band 3 (lowest) to Band 8 (highest for Year 5)
Again with low numbers in Year 5, the percentage of those children, from 2011, has not been added into the bands. Their results have, however, been added into the school average from 2008 to 2011.

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 3
Literacy – NAPLAN Year 5

Percentage in bands: Year 5 Reading

Percentage in bands: Year 5 Spelling

Percentage in bands: Year 5 Writing

Percentage in bands: Year 5 Grammar & Punctuation
Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 5

Progress in literacy
We were delighted with the progress made in all areas between 2009 and 2011:

Progress in numeracy
We were also thrilled with the significant progress made in our numeracy results between 2009 and 2011.

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.
## Significant programs and initiatives

### Aboriginal education

At Gundaroo Public School all children are educated in Aboriginal history, culture and contemporary issues. Our current curriculum contains much content about British colonisation and Aboriginal Australia. During NAIDOC week we did some Aboriginal inspired art, read many dreamtime stories and also explored some stories of the stolen generations.

In 2011 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 when doing the acknowledgement. This personal inclusion made the acknowledgement both real and relevant to our students.

### Multicultural education

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

All children K – 6 receive instruction in French for one hour per week. 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, and assists students in developing a greater understanding of their own culture and language.

### Dance program

In 2011 we introduced a professional dance program in Term 3.

Each class was taught a different style of dance and performed to a packed audience at the completion of the program.

Student, staff and parent feedback was most positive.

### Progress on 2011 targets

In 2011 we made good progress on all four of our targets.

Target 1: An increased whole-school focus on spelling K – 6, to improve spelling outcomes, was achieved by enrolling each child into the on-line spelling program “Spellodrome” and targeted teaching in class. These efforts saw twenty children reach the spelling level of the next grade, and nine children move through to Stage 4 in our spelling program.
Target 2: A huge uptake (about 70%) of children in a wide range of extra curricula activities.

Target 3: An increase in the proficiency of our children’s ICT skills, as shown by our wonderful results in the ICAS competitions.

Target 4: Excellent student outcomes for our aboriginal students who operated in the top academic bands in all subjects.

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 2011 our school carried out evaluations of Teaching and P.D., Health and P.E.

Educational and management practice - Teaching

Background

In 2011 we surveyed all the families at the school and we had 54% response. This was slightly better than 2010, where we had a 52% response.

Findings and conclusions

- 90% of parents believed that the teacher provided class activities that were interesting and appropriate to their child’s needs
- 90% of parents believed that their child’s teacher knew what their child could do and what they needed to learn
- 86% of parents believed the school provided clear information about student achievement through the school’s reporting process

Future directions

Despite all efforts by members of the teaching staff to make themselves readily available to parents throughout the week, there remains 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.

As with 2010, we will continue to trial a supplementary report at the end of term 1, 2012, to further increase communication about their child’s learning and attitudes to school. It would appear that we will have to make the times for parents to come in, rather than vice versa, in order to please the 14% of parents who do not believe that the school is providing clear information in our reports.

Some comments suggested that teachers are more attuned to student capabilities in single grade classrooms, however this observation cannot be acted upon – we have a school of seven grades and only four classroom teachers. Consequently we have to have composite classes. We are currently trying to keep the younger classes to a single, tiny grade class but it is impossible to have seven little grades in our school.

Curriculum - Personal Development, Health and Physical Education

Background

In December, 2011 we surveyed our 54 families and received a 54% response rate.

We surveyed seven extra activities that we use to supplement our P.E., Health and P.D. program.

Findings and conclusions

All the programs were really well received. The following results indicate the positive value parents felt each activity had for their child:

- Life Education Van: 86%
- Swim School: 93%
- Gymnastics: 97%
- Dance: 93%
- Skills sessions: e.g. AFL: 83%
- Exercise circuit: 93%
- Peer Support: 76%

Future directions

We will continue to incorporate these extra activities in the program. Peer Support rated the lowest as 14% didn’t know enough about it to give it a rating. This was because it was not done separately but incorporated into the school’s chaplaincy program. The parents, however, did respond that Peer Support was a good idea.
Other evaluations

Background
In April of 2011 we conducted a survey on external programs. This survey had an overwhelming 94% response rate.

We surveyed four external programs.

Findings and conclusions
The percentage reported indicates the number of respondents in favour of seeing the program continued.

Religious education: 72%
Chaplaincy program: 23%
Book Club: 83%
SmartStart: 81%

Future directions
As a result of these findings, we will continue with three of the programs and change direction in our chaplaincy program in 2012.

Professional Learning
Professional learning opportunities are highly valued at Gundaroo Public School. In 2011 the staff attended a variety of courses.

Literacy:
• Writing using an interactive whiteboard
• Persuasive writing course

ICT:
• Moodle and Microsoft One Note
• Interactive programming with One Note

Sport:
• Golf Coaching Accreditation course
• SmartStart inservice course

Music:
• Musica Viva course

First Aid:
• CPR course
• St John’s Ambulance course
• Diabetes and Diabetic pump operation course

Administration:
• New Maintenance and Cleaning Contracts course
• Occupational, Health and Safety course
• LMBR (New finance) course
• School Administration Managers and Principals’ course
• Principal inservice each term

School planning 2012—2014
The school planning policy provides direction for the preparation and implementation of school plans including the identification of priority areas, intended outcomes and targets that are consistent with the NSW State Plan and the Department’s planning documents.

School Priority 1
Outcome for 2012–2014
To continue the implementation of quality teaching practices to ensure growth and continuity in literacy outcomes.

2012 Target to achieve this outcome:
• All students making measurable progress on their reading and spelling ages

Strategies to achieve this target include:
• Continued implementation of Quality Teaching Framework and explicit teaching practices to enhance student outcomes in both reading and spelling
• Continued support of children’s learning needs from the Learning Support team
• Analysis of SMART, school and Best Start data to inform school planning and whole school direction

School Priority 2
Outcome for 2012–2014
To continue the implementation of quality teaching practices to ensure growth and continuity in numeracy outcomes.
2012 Targets to achieve this outcome include:

- All staff to begin implementation of the new Australian Maths Curriculum in Semester 2

Strategies to achieve these targets include:

- Analysis of SMART, school and Best Start data to inform school planning and whole school direction
- Continued implementation of Quality Teaching Framework and explicit teaching practices to enhance student outcomes in numeracy
- Continued support of children’s learning needs from the Learning Support team

School contact information
Gundaroo Public School
Lot Street, Gundaroo, NSW 2620
Ph: 02 62368115
Fax: 02 62368181
Email: gundaroo-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Web: www.gundaroo-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
School Code: 2104

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: http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/asr

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:

- Mrs Sue Kominek Teaching Principal
- Mrs Liz Harris Teacher
- Ms Kim Lamb Teacher
- Mr Eric Dunlop Teacher
- Mrs Liz Nicholls SAM
- Mrs Virginia Dixon P&C President
- Mrs Maxine Webber GOSH Convenor
- Mrs Kylie Finn GOSH Coordinator
- Isobelle Murphy School Captain
- Nathan Hayes School Captain