Messages

Principal's message

Black Springs Public School is situated 22 kilometres south of Oberon. The school enjoys a climate of success, opportunity and strong community links. Dedicated teaching and support staff provide a caring, individualised education where all students succeed.

Following the successful application in 2007 for Investing in our Schools funding renovations and refurbishments were completed including new office facilities, covered walkways to the library and craft room, a photocopier and classroom furniture.

The school focus on music has been very successful over the past twelve months and will be expanded in 2009.

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.

Karolyn Blackburn - Principal

P&C message

The P&C has continued its committed and effective support for the school, assisting financially with major excursions, installing office and kitchen furniture, assisting with library book covering and the parent reading program.

Despite the small number of families at the school, several fundraisers were undertaken with highlights being the annual firewood raffle and the sheep dog trials.

New parents have brought fresh ideas, and will continue to enhance the primary education of our children, as well as strengthening small community bonds. Thank you to all parents and staff for laying a good foundation for our children’s future.

Gavin Douglas – P&C President

Student representative’s message

In 2008 the Student Representative Council (SRC) ran, with the assistance of staff, Friday lunches. The SRC also ran the hot Milo program in terms two and three and the cold Milo program in terms one and four. The Easter egg hunt and hat parade was again a huge success raising funds for our World Vision sponsor child. We organised a maths Olympics day and participated in the fundraiser MS read-a-thon. During fruit and vegetable week we ran special canteen menu items to promote healthy eating habits.

Drew Elliott SRC President

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>16</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The ongoing impact of the drought has seen a steady decrease in enrolments over the past three years. Five students will be entering high school and possibly two will enrol in kindergarten for 2009.

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>98.5</td>
<td>94.8</td>
<td>94.3</td>
<td>95.0</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>K-6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-6</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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>Teacher Librarian</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Staff retention

Mrs Karolyn Blackburn relieved as Principal in term one following the transfer of Mrs Jodie Law and was appointed permanently to the position in term two.

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>0</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>109 129.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
<td>38 213.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>10 952.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
<td>13 005.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>7 360.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
<td>1 459.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income</td>
<td>180 120.51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenditure

Teaching & learning
- Key learning areas: 7 337.82
- Excursions: 5 110.22
- Extracurricular dissections: 2 834.43

Library: 552.52

Training & development: 1 094.79

Casual relief teachers: 2 662.65

Administration & office: 16 793.31

School-operated canteen: 0.00

Utilities: 5 770.74

Maintenance: 5 231.25

Trust accounts: 1 439.20

Capital programs: 0.00

Total expenditure: 65 575.77

Balance carried forward: 114 544.74

A full copy of the school's 2008 financial statement is tabled at the annual general meeting of the P&C. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.
School performance 2008

Achievements

Arts
A school target for 2008 was to enhance the teaching of music and provide increased opportunities for students to perform.

Highlights of the year included:

- Participation in the Bathurst Small Schools concert;
- Involvement in two Musica Viva performances;
- The work with the Mitchell Conservatorium of Music throughout the year with students learning recorder, percussion and drums;
- A visiting artist also worked with the students creating screen prints that were displayed at the Bathurst Entertainment Centre as part of the Bathurst Small Schools art exhibition.

Sport
Students participate in daily fitness with an aim to increase an appreciation for the need for regular healthy activity but to also provide skill development.

Students are also encouraged to participate in inter school and Primary School Sports Association (PSSA) opportunities.

Significant individual performances include:

- Miles Douglas and Caitlyn and Natalie Barton competed at Western Region Cross Country this year. Miles and Caitlyn also represented at Western Region Swimming. As well Miles competed at District Athletics and was a member of the Bathurst Small Schools boys’ soccer and hockey teams. Caitlyn too was a member of the Bathurst Small Schools girls’ soccer team. Other notable sporting achievements include Shane and Renae Barron who competed at District Athletics, Sam Barton for District Cross Country, Natalie Barton for District Swimming and Ethan Law for Bathurst Small Schools boys’ cricket and touch football teams.

The school maintained its commitment to providing swimming lessons for all students at the Oberon pool.

During the year students enjoyed a soccer clinic as part of an initiative to support skill development across the Bathurst Small Schools.

Excursions
All students attended the school excursion to Canberra complementing our classroom studies on democracy and government. Apart from the learning stimulus the opportunities for social interaction and leadership were valuable.

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 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)

Due to the small numbers in our Years three and five cohorts it is inappropriate to report results due to protocols protecting individual students. However the growth over the two years is reflected in the accompanying graphs.

Analysis of school and individual results enables staff to better plan and address the learning needs of students.

**Progress in literacy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Year 3 students achieving at or above the minimum standard in 2008</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>
</tbody>
</table>

**Progress in numeracy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Year 5 students achieving at or above the minimum standard in 2008</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>
</tbody>
</table>
Significant programs and initiatives

Aboriginal education
Aspects of Aboriginal history and culture are covered in classroom learning. The significance of the Apology by the Federal Parliament and NAIDOC week were used as opportunities for discussion and research. NAIDOC was celebrated with a visit to Hampton Public School with several other small schools. The planning in Connected Outcomes Groups (COGs) to provide an across curriculum perspective covered a number of areas in relation to Aboriginal history and culture in the study of a unit on Personal, Family and Community Identities.

Multicultural education
The importance of valuing and respecting other cultures is continually reinforced in learning and social interaction. The school participated in the annual International Day culminating in a celebration and presentation of work. The excursion to Canberra was a valuable opportunity to view and acknowledge the different embassies noting the styles of architecture and various flags displayed.

Respect and responsibility
The positive promotion of values and reinforcement of school rules are paramount at Black Springs Public School reflecting the school motto of Truth Honour Beauty.

Student leadership is encouraged and opportunities continually provided at school and through participation on regional networks. Senior students lead the fitness program and work as peer reading tutors. The success of the whole school excursion to Canberra was in part due to the maturity, responsibility and leadership of senior students.

The SRC operated canteen arranged sponsorship of a World Vision child. Charity fundraising for 2008 focused on MS read-a-thon.

The school rewards system acknowledges improvement, achievement and positive contributions.

Progress on 2008 targets

Target 1

Creative Arts: to provide quality teaching and learning activities in creative arts and access improved music programs from within the Bathurst area.

Our achievements include:

- Staff undertook training in the creative arts syllabus and became more confident with outcomes and stage statements;
- Staff trialled creative arts units of work;
- Students participated in recorder, percussion and drum lessons from Mitchell Conservatorium of Music;
- Students participated in two Musica Viva concerts and the Small Schools Visual Arts Festival.

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 of Teaching and Music.

Educational and management practice

Background
Students, parents and staff were surveyed as part of an evaluation of teaching in the school.

Findings and conclusions

- Parents were overwhelmingly supportive of the teaching at Black Springs Public School;
- The curriculum is relevant and caters for the needs of children;
- Staff are approachable and provide opportunities for students to succeed and be rewarded for improvement;
- Assessment provides feedback to families on student progress;
- Classroom management is considered very effective.
Future directions

• Teachers will maintain a commitment to their own professional learning;
• Assessment and reporting processes will be regularly communicated to families to ensure parents are aware of student strengths and areas for development.

Curriculum

As part of the school priority for 2008 on music and creative arts an evaluation was conducted to provide future directions.

Background

Students, staff and parents were asked to complete a written survey and also offer comments in relation to present programs offered at the school.

Findings and conclusions

• All parents agreed that music was an important subject for their child and children enjoyed participating in music activities;
• It was acknowledged that the school had made music a focus and had clearly communicated how this was to be addressed;
• Most people agreed their children had developed new skills and confidence in music;
• All students responded by saying they enjoyed the challenge of music, playing new instruments and found the recorder and especially drum sessions fun;
• Staff appreciated the access to specialist teachers to support classroom programs and found the training valuable in developing confidence and preparing lessons;
• Opportunities to perform publicly were seen as important by all stakeholders.

Future directions

• The program will be maintained in 2009;
• Staff will investigate increasing opportunities for students to perform publicly;
• The purchase of new resources to support classroom programs will be addressed.

Parent, student, and teacher satisfaction

Both formal and informal data was collected through parent/teacher interviews, staff meetings, P&C meetings, newsletters, and surveys.

Their responses are presented below.

Parents

Feedback from parents is supportive of the school’s core business in improving learning outcomes for students.

Communication processes are effective and the input from the community welcomed and valued.

The parent body feels their expectations are met in school planning and concerns addressed fairly and in a timely manner.

The family feel of Black Springs Public School is considered a strength and the community greatly value the proud traditions engendered by the school.

Developing leadership is a high priority for staff and students.

Parents and staff work together to support a quality student welfare program.

Students

Students have the opportunity to experience a variety of relevant and challenging learning opportunities.

Students enjoy coming to school and have considered the music program to be an especially worthwhile initiative in 2008.

Staff

‘The students love coming to school. They enjoy each day playing and learning.’

‘Students excel in many areas. We work hard to get the results we know they are capable of achieving.’

‘We adapt programs to cater for all learners. Our goal has always been to develop a love of learning that will last throughout their lives.’

Professional learning

The school expended $1094.74 in supporting staff professional learning in 2008. These funds were used for the purchase of relevant resources, registration costs for course attendance and provision of casual release.

During the year staff joined other schools in combined school development days, undertook mandatory student support programs, attended regional Principals’ conferences and participated in programs to further develop teaching skills in music, writing and aspects of numeracy.
In accordance with our school planning for 2009, professional learning funding will be utilised for ongoing training in literacy, numeracy and technology.

School development 2009 – 2011

A three year plan has been developed addressing major school priority areas and reflecting Departmental initiatives.

Targets for 2009

Target 1

Literacy: Identified students achieve stage outcomes in Literacy.

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- Staff analyse individual students’ needs and provide appropriate support;
- Staff undertake professional learning in Reading Recovery, Reading to Learn, accessing the Teaching and Learning Exchange (TaLE), SMART data, Consistent Teacher Judgement (CTJ) and ActivStudio training;
- Staff implement focussed programs throughout the school including a K-6 home reading program, peer tutoring, sentence of the day and Reading to Learn;
- Staff teach HSIE and Science utilising the Quality Teaching framework and incorporate quality literacy strategies;
- Staff focus on student writing improvement and authentic assessment;
- Staff enhance strategic and systematic K-6 assessment program;
- Staff implement Pre Kindergarten Checklist;
- Strengthen home and school partnerships through the provision of information via newsletters and parent information sessions;
- Staff integrate technology strategies into writing initiatives;
- Staff develop explicit teaching strategies using NAPLAN teaching resource;
- Ensure monitoring and evaluation processes are in place and include community input.

Our success will be measured by:

- Targeted groups to show growth at least commensurate with state minimum;
- Classroom practice demonstrates teacher quality embedded in programs and delivery;
- Literacy assessments in place and in-class term and semester assessments indicate growth for every student;
- Parent surveys indicate high satisfaction with home reading program.

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.

Karolyn Blackburn  Principal
Cherri Browne  Teacher / Librarian
Gavin Douglas  P&C President

School contact information

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PH: 02 6335 8155
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Email: blacksprin-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
School Code: 4190

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: