Principal's message

Macdonald Valley Public School is one of the oldest government schools in NSW. This year we are celebrating 160 years of public education.

We are proud of our past and enthusiastic about our future, embracing the timeless credo that “character builds destiny”. Ours is a family-oriented school in which staff, students and parents work together to maximise opportunities and potential. Our aim is to give students self-belief and values that will lead to high levels of competence in key learning areas and to lives well lived.

In 2010 we will once again be part of the Priority Schools Funding Program, providing further teacher supplementation and funding for additional staff.

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.

Alison Greene

Macdonald Valley Public School

P&C message

In 2009 the P&C once again successfully ran the Easter Markets and the Auction at the Forgotten Valley Restaurant. This allowed the P&C to purchase sports equipment and shade cloth. The P&C also subsidised Horsemanship lessons at Vision Valley.

Jan Jackson, Treasurer,
Macdonald Valley P&C Association

Student representative's message

At our school, students can feel safe and valued. Older students look after the younger students and help them with their work. We get to do lots of interesting things, such as public speaking, presenting our own art exhibition and dancing.

Leeya Clark-Goodison, Mia Letzbor and Ema Jankov
(Year 4 students)

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

Our school’s enrolment for 2009 includes 11 students K-6. There are 2 students in Kindergarten.

Student attendance profile

Our school is targeting attendance in 2009 in keeping with the Priority Schools Funding Program emphasis on participation and engagement.

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 2009 class size audit conducted on Tuesday 25 March 2009.

<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>ALL KIDS</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALL KIDS</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALL KIDS</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALL KIDS</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALL KIDS</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALL KIDS</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Structure of classes

This is a P6 school with a multi-stage structure.
Original School Bell 1848

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

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
100% of staff were retained from 2008.

Staff establishment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Teachers</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Date of financial summary: 30/11/2009

Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>21 856.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
<td>39 957.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>71 795.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
<td>676.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>1 630.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
<td>242.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td><strong>136 157.37</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching &amp; learning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key learning areas</td>
<td>8 342.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excursions</td>
<td>71.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extracurricular dissections</td>
<td>1 301.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>571.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training &amp; development</td>
<td>969.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>36 916.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual relief teachers</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; office</td>
<td>18 072.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School-operated canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>3 085.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>2 466.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust accounts</td>
<td>242.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital programs</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditure</strong></td>
<td><strong>72 038.40</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Balance carried forward 72 038.40

Financial summary

This summary covers funds for operating costs and does not involve expenditure areas such as permanent salaries, building and major maintenance.
A full copy of the school's 2009 financial statement is tabled at the annual general meetings of the School Council and/or the parent body. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.

**School performance 2009**

**Achievements**

**Arts**

Students have gained recognition for their high achievement in the arts including:

- Four works being selected for Operation Art and one work being selected for the Nagoya Art Exchange.
- One Operation Art work being selected for the “teach the teachers” CD as a fine example of teaching technique.
- Presented an exhibition of students’ art works in the schoolhouse.
- Made Easter bonnets for an Easter bonnet parade at the school’s fundraising Easter Sunday Markets.
- Created costumes and choreographed a dance performance for parents and friends.
- Created a range of dramatic presentations.
- Participated in a music program involving musical appreciation, use of percussion instruments and performance techniques.
- Participated in art workshops at the St Albans Gallery, exploring a range of techniques.
- Entered art works in the Putty Spring Fair schools competition, with several students winning prizes.
- Joined with Spencer Public School for a “Raw Art” day - screen printing and clay.
- Joined Spencer Public School for an animation workshop.
- Students danced at the High and Dry Festival in St Albans.

**Sport**

In 2009 Macdonald Valley Public School again ran an extended swimming program at the Wisemans Ferry Retreat focusing on safety techniques and stroke correction. Students competed with success at the Small Schools Swimming Carnival with one student being selected for the District Swimming Carnival.

We also ran an athletics program and students competed in the Small Schools Athletics Carnival and the Small Schools Cross Country Carnival. One student represented the school in discus and sprinting at the District Carnival. In 2010 we will be extending our athletics training program, developing skills in a range of disciplines.

The school continued to run its award-winning horsemanship program, working with Vision Valley in Dural. Students attended the Friday “vetting” day for Shahzada, learning about Endurance competition.

Staff were also involved in a professional learning day upgrading coaching skills for soccer and touch football.
Other Initiatives

Students from this school participated in the Small Schools Debating and Public Speaking Day at Wisemans Ferry Public School performing with distinction in the public speaking arena.

Students participated in the Richmond Marketplace Easter competition and Bandaged Bear Day.

Academic

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.

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 3

Overall the school’s results in literacy show little difference between reading and language skills.

Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 3

Macdonald Valley has achieved above average results in state/national assessment over the last 5 years.

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 5

As for year 3, results have shown little difference between reading and language skills. Spelling, grammar and inferential reading remain priorities.

Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 5

Data for year 5 shows that students performed above state/national average over the last 5 years. Students performed especially well in the areas of space and measurement. This is consistent with school-based assessments.

Significant programs and initiatives

Aboriginal education

In 2009 celebration of aboriginal culture and society took place through the creative and performing arts, and as a perspective across the KLA’s. We were fortunate in 2009 to be assisted by local elder Colin Lyons. Spencer Public School students joined us for an aboriginal education day during which students learned through a round robin format. Indigenous people and the environment, storytime, art and indigenous games were featured and all students joined together to give a rousing rendition of the Reconciliation song they had learned. NAIDOC week and National Sorry Day have a key place in the school calendar with understanding and reconciliation as objectives.

Multicultural education

To encourage understanding of other cultures we used atlases to find various locations, attempted talks on multicultural topics and discussed the heritage of students whose parents came from a country other than Australia. We investigated celebrations around the world.

Students prepared and presented projects on a country of choice and we hosted an International Day for the school and wider community. We celebrated Harmony Day.
Respect and responsibility
Our school aims to develop student values through participation in community-based activities and through fostering the Core Values across the KLA’s.

Other programs
This has been a year of change, with the National School Pride Federal Government grant resulting in a facelift for Macdonald Valley Public School. The repainting of the school will be completed in 2010 and we will have a new all-purpose building, courtesy of the Building Education Revolution. This will be used for art, dance, indoor sport and performances.

We have introduced a before-school gifted and talented program and take pride in our environmental education program, helping to beautify the school.

Technology:
Technology is utilised as a tool to enhance student learning. A software library has been compiled and increased use of technology has been encouraged across all key learning areas.

Staff and students are using the digital and video cameras to record special occasions and to illustrate work or represent student ideas and achievements.

Students developed a Powerpoint presentation for the Western Sydney Environmental Showcase for which we received a commendation.

Students also prepared Powerpoints on Horsemanship, Frogs and Reptiles and the duststorm which beset us in 2009. Students designed covers for CD cases and copies were sent home in the student folders.

Progress on 2009 targets

Targets for the Annual School Report 2009 are linked to the management plan.

Target 1
To continue to improve aspects of student learning, particularly in the areas of literacy/numeracy specifically targeting spelling so that students perform above the national average in Naplan reading and writing tests-emphasis on written work targeting sentence structure.

Our achievements include:
- Students achieving outcomes for age and stage.
- 80% of students generalising spelling words with 70% success rate.
- Students performing above national average in NAPLAN.

Target 2
Further expand the use of computers in teaching and learning programs to enhance participation and engagement, lesson delivery, achievement of learning outcomes, communication and assessment and reporting practice.

Our achievements include:
- Increased staff use of computer technology for lesson planning, delivery and student assessment.
- Increased student use of technology in their daily class work.
- Students developing Powerpoint Presentations on a range of topics.
- Students being commended for their entry in the Western Sydney Environmental Showcase.
Target 3
To improve student attendance-95% or above

Our achievements include:

- Enhanced participation and engagement through the creative arts, physical education, environmental education and technology programs.
- Ongoing liaison with parents through daily diaries and newsletters, leading to increased attendance at P&C meetings and school performances.
- Reaching our attendance goal.

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 Science.

Educational and management practice

Learning:

Background
We are following up last year's evaluation of teaching with an evaluation of learning. The survey instrument was School Map and staff, students and parents were given questionnaires.

Findings and conclusions
Teacher, parent and student responses revealed that learning opportunities are provided for all within a stimulating and secure environment.

The interests, needs and attitudes of individual students are addressed through a wide range of learning styles to maximise learning.

Future directions
We will continue to work in partnership with our community, students and staff, looking to ensure that:

- Students take more responsibility for their own learning by independently and collaboratively setting and adjusting their goals and future learning strategies.
- Students reflect more on learning and engage more in self-assessment of their progress.
- Students access and use technology as an integral component of their learning more regularly.

Curriculum

English

Background
We are reviewing the teaching of English following the introduction of the National Assessment Program and in view of the introduction of an Australian Curriculum in 2010-2011.

Findings and conclusions
Staff are aware of and implement the policy for the delivery of English.

Staff are aware of the forthcoming introduction of an Australian Curriculum and are requesting professional learning as appropriate.

All reading materials are organised sequentially for easy access and supplementary materials labelled and readily available.

All students are engaged in individual learning programs and are carefully monitored and assisted in all aspects of their learning tasks.

Students and parents like research projects across the key learning areas involving literacy.

Future directions
Literacy remains a targeted area. Parents to be informed about curriculum requirements especially as this relates to the Australian Curriculum.

Students to continue to have daily access to computers and software and to utilise
programs which operate sequentially, allowing for independent learning.

Students to be given opportunities to utilise learned skills through e.g. debating, drama and report writing.

Team teaching initiative to be expanded through the use of Priority Schools funding.

Parent satisfaction with teaching and learning outcomes was high.

**Parent, student, and teacher satisfaction**

In 2009 the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school.

Their responses are presented below.

Parent responses indicated that satisfaction with teaching and learning outcomes was high. Parents valued the skills based sporting program, while wanting opportunities for team sport, competition and socialisation.

Students felt that the small school setting facilitated learning in a safe, caring environment and allowed them to express themselves.

Teacher responses showed that teachers enjoyed many aspects of the small school environment and value parent support while finding the wide range of expectations challenging.

**Professional Learning**

All staff are involved in the Term 1, 2 and 3 staff development days. This is considered vital in order for staff to feel valued and to keep up with current information. It also facilitates consistency.

All teachers participated in professional learning activities in 2009 focusing on Information Technology, quality teaching, visual arts and sport.

**Targets for 2010**

**Target 1**

To continue to improve aspects of student learning, particularly the areas of literacy/numeracy specifically targeting spelling and sentence structure so that students perform above the national average in Naplan reading and writing tests – emphasis on written work targeting sentence structure.

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- Training and development emphasising consistency of teacher judgment.
- Explicit and systematic teaching of spelling and writing.
- Linking writing across all key learning areas.

Our success will be measured by:

- Students achieving outcomes for age and stage.
- Students being able to generalise spelling and edit written work independently.
- NAPLAN results – all students will achieve above national average in writing.
- Classroom literacy programs that target the teaching of relevant structure and language features of different text types.

**Target 2**

To further expand the use of technology in teaching and learning programs to enhance participation and engagement, lesson delivery, achievement of learning outcomes and assessment and reporting practice.

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- Emphasis on integration of technology across the key learning areas.
- Explicit and systematic teaching of digital stories and movie making.
- All students accessing internet and publishing programs.
- Development of technology scope and sequence of student achievement.

Our success will be measured by:

- Student achievement of stage appropriate skills.
• Students successfully completing individual and group projects using technology.

• Integration of technology within teaching programs.

**Target 3**

To ensure participation in fitness and physical education activities

Strategies to achieve this target include

• Timetabling daily 20 minute fitness sessions.

• Monitoring Premier’s Sporting Challenge and buying sporting equipment with funding.

• Utilising a specialist physical education instructor 2 hours per week.

• Continuing our award-winning horsemanship program.

• Timetabling for coaching lessons in individual sports such as athletics, tennis and golf.

• Incorporating information on the benefits of physical education in newsletters.

Our success will be measured by:

• 100% student participation in physical education/sport.

• Student and parent interviews acknowledging the importance of physical education/sport.

• Student Body Mass index being at a medically acceptable level.

• Student fitness levels being assessed as age appropriate.

• Students reaching age-appropriate targets in physical education.

• Students attaining skills according to checklist in each discipline.

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.

Alison Greene, Principal
Suzie Startin, Teacher
Jan Jackson, School Administration Manager

School contact information

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Fax: 02 45 682022
Email:macdonaldv-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
School Code: 2439

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: