Macdonald Valley Public School
Annual School Report

2012
Principal’s message

Macdonald Valley Public School has a proud heritage of providing strong public education in the Hawkesbury.

One of the smallest schools in the Western Sydney Region of the NSW Department of Education and Communities, our school is in a rural area, seven kilometres from the township of St.Albans. Macdonald Valley is one of the oldest government schools in New South Wales, and is this year celebrating more than one hundred and sixty years of public education.

Staff, students, parents and the community work together to create a family orientated school environment. Our aim is to give students a well-rounded education and high level of competence in all key learning areas.

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.

Michele Miller

P & C message

P&C successfully held the 2012 Easter Markets in St Albans as the major fundraiser event for the school. P&C supported the school by subsidising Horsemanship lessons at Vision Valley. They also provided $3,000 for resources for the school. The school hosted approximately 300 participants for the “Variety Bash” in May of 2012. We provided lunch for some very excited participants and this event could only have succeeded with support from the staff, parents and community members.

Jan Jackson, Treasurer, Macdonald Valley P&C

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 began 2012 with an enrolment of 8 students K-6. The Transition Education program has an additional 5 students in attendance.

<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>K</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student attendance profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>93.7</td>
<td>95.2</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>94.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>90.5</td>
<td>92.6</td>
<td>95.7</td>
<td>na</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>95.7</td>
<td>99.6</td>
<td>96.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>93.7</td>
<td>92.6</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>na</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>94.4</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>92.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>96.1</td>
<td>90.2</td>
<td>na</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>97.8</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>89.1</td>
<td>76.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>88.5</td>
<td>93.7</td>
<td>94.9</td>
<td>94.6</td>
<td>91.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Management of non-attendance

Non-attendance is managed in accordance with DEC policies.

Structure of Classes

This is a P6 government school with one multi-stage classroom.
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>1.0</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>0.226</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>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Librarian</td>
<td>0.084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of ESL</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counsellor</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Administrative &amp; Support Staff</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2.41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The National Education Agreement requires schools to report on Indigenous composition of their workforce.

There are currently no Indigenous staff working at our school.

Staff retention

100% of staff were retained from 2011. In term 4 a relieving principal joined the staff.

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>30/11/2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>6726.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
<td>41277.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>27762.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
<td>4455.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>606.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
<td>262.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income</td>
<td>81090.30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching &amp; learning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key learning areas</td>
<td>12193.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excursions</td>
<td>70.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extracurricular dissections</td>
<td>1793.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>219.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training &amp; development</td>
<td>1569.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>20789.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual relief teachers</td>
<td>1682.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; office</td>
<td>22324.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School-operated canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>6509.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>1349.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust accounts</td>
<td>262.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital programs</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenditure</td>
<td>68764.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance carried forward</td>
<td>12325.98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A full copy of the school's 2012 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 2012

Achievements

Arts

Operation Art

Four works were selected for Operation Art. One student had her artwork selected for the Teachers Resource CD. Another student had her work displayed in the program for the Regional Principals’ Conference.

Wakakirri

Our school entered the Story dance Video Category for Wakakirri 2012. Our video was entitled “Rough Time in the Rainforest” and was Highly Commended, receiving gold for Reduce, Reuse and Recycle and four silvers in Sets, Props, Costume, Dancing, Music and Story. Best of all we became an overall finalist in the story dance video. This was a very exciting achievement.

Nagoya Art Exchange

Two students artwork was selected for this exhibition.

Macdonald Valley PS joined with Spencer PS and Wisemans Ferry PS to paint their hands and symbols on a “Unity Pole”. This art installation was co-ordinated by Artist Victoria Peel and Elder Colin Lyons. This display was set up in the park at Wiseman’s Ferry with a special community opening ceremony.

Jeannie Baker Exhibition

One student had his artwork displayed in the Jeannie Baker Mirror Exhibition at Blacktown Arts Centre and another student had their poem placed in the catalogue.

Sport

Special Swim School Program

In 2012 Macdonald Valley Public School joined with Spencer Public School to participate in the Special Swim School Program run at Wisemans Ferry Retreat. Students learnt safety techniques in around water and stroke correction.

Horsemanship Program

The school continued its involvement in the horsemanship program. This took place with experienced staff at Vision Valley in Dural. The children love the opportunity to develop their horsemanship skills.

Active After School Communities

In 2012 Macdonald Valley Public School participated in the Active After School Sports Program. In term 1 and 2 we learnt ball skills with a focus on netball and leisure sports where the students enjoyed Frisbee. We celebrated the Olympics by holding our own Mini Olympics. In term 3 we had a focus on Bike Safety and visited an Olympic rated bike track out near Penrith. Term 4 had the students enjoying dance, Tae Kwon Do and Boot Camp.
International Rainforest Day

Students researched and presented projects and powerpoints on “Rainforests”. An international Rainforest Day was held for the school and wider community. These researches lead into preparations for Wakakirri.

ANZAC Research

We received our 2nd award for excellence in researching our ANZAC's. The statue “George” was awarded to the school and presented at a special assembly.

Responsible Pet Day

Students received a demonstration on how to stay safe around dogs. They brought in photos of their pets and completed fun activities about pet safety and responsibility.

Premier's Reading Challenge

All students participated and completed the challenge.

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

No students sat for NAPLAN in 2012.

The My School website provides detailed information and data for national literacy and numeracy testing (NAPLAN).

Click on the link http://www.myschool.edu.au and enter the school name in the Find a school and select GO.

Significant programs and initiatives

Aboriginal education

In 2012 celebration of Aboriginal culture and society took place through the Creative Arts and as a perspective across all KLAS. We joined with Spencer Public School for an Aboriginal Education Day. Students experienced dreamtime stories, visual arts, inspired by Aboriginal symbols and Aboriginal games, music and dancing. We were assisted by local resident and elder, Colin Lyons. The students had a great day of being immersed in Aboriginal culture.

Multicultural education

Students were engaged in the learning of the French language, geography and culture.

Students celebrated Harmony Day by learning about other countries and their cultures.

Technology

In June satellite services were upgraded to provide faster broadband which enabled us to take advantage of the latest technology. The school has two interactive whiteboards and a continued focus on connected learning.

Live Life Well

Staff undertook two days of training for the Live Life Well program that promotes healthy lifestyles in and out of school. This compliments the Environmental Education Program and the growing and maintaining of our school veggie garden. The students enjoy working in the garden and harvesting the herbs, tomatoes, cabbages, eggplants and potatoes.
National Solar School Program
A successful application was lodged for solar panels to be installed at the school. We look forward to this happening early in the new year.

Progress on 2012 targets

Target 1
To raise the numeracy standards of all students to enable them to achieve results above the national average in NAPLAN assessments
Our achievements include:
- Students have demonstrated substantial growth in achievement of numeracy outcomes
- Implementation of online individual numeracy program

Target 2
To improve the aspects of literacy 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.
Our achievements include:
- Staff have demonstrated increased consistency in assessment of student work samples

Target 3
To further expand the use of technology in teaching and learning programs thereby enhancing student participation, engagement, lesson delivery, achievement of learning outcomes and assessment and reporting practices.
Our achievements include:
- Installation of dedicated satellite network connection
- Staff have attended professional learning courses on multimedia production and have developed learning programs for students using knowledge gained

School evaluation
NSW public schools conduct evaluation to support the effective implementation of the school plan. In 2012 our school carried out evaluation of reading.

Background
The development of reading skills for students remains a high priority for Macdonald Valley Public School. During Term 4 2012 a review of practices and resources for the teaching of reading was conducted.

Findings and conclusions
The review found that
- Teaching and learning programs were firmly established within the school
- Staff skills in and knowledge of Best Start assessment and related teaching practices was in need of improvement
- Teaching resources, while plentiful, were in need of upgrading and reorganising to meet the needs of the students

Future directions
- Purchase additional reading resources for students in K-3
- Reorganise reading resources into reading recovery levels
- Implement professional learning activities to increase staff knowledge in Best Start assessment procedures and using this assessment as a basis for future teaching
Parent, student, and teacher satisfaction
In 2012 the school sought the opinions of parents and students about the school. Their responses are presented below.
Parents have expressed continuing high levels of satisfaction with the school. They appreciate the individual care each child receives.
Students have expressed high levels of enjoyment and have particularly enjoyed the art programs.

Professional learning
All staff have been involved in a comprehensive teacher professional learning program.
This program has included School Development Days at the beginning of Terms 1, 2 and 3 and the end of Term 4 2012.
Professional development is an integral part of staff meetings utilising the expertise of the staff, DET personnel and external agencies.
The staff have been active participants in annual updates on CPR, child protection, emergency care and anaphylaxis.
The average amount spent on teacher professional development in 2012 was $2379 with a total expenditure of $3355

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
Improve student learning outcomes in Reading.
2013 Targets to achieve this outcome include:
• 100% of teachers using the literacy continuum to plot and monitor student progress.
• Update literacy resources

Strategies to achieve these targets include:
• Provide teacher professional learning in using Best Start data K-2 to assess, plan and implement improved reading outcomes.
• Purchase literacy resources to support reading development K-6
• Organize into Reading Recovery levels

School priority 2
Outcome for 2012–2014
Improve students’ ability to work mathematically.
2013 Targets to achieve this outcome include:
• Provide teacher professional learning in using the Numeracy Continuum to plot and monitor student progress.

Strategies to achieve these targets include:
• Liaise with regional numeracy coordinator to identify appropriate professional learning activities
• Implement SENA testing for Early Stage 1 and Stage 1 students to plot students on Numeracy Continuum
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.

Michele Miller  Relieving Principal
Louky Gibb  Teacher
Suzie Startin  Teacher
Janette Jackson  School Administrative Manager
Peter Letzbor  President of the P&C

School contact information

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Email: macdonaldv-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Web: macdonaldv-pschools.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: