School context statement

Gravesend Public School is situated in the rural village of Gravesend with a population of approximately 180, 55 km east of Moree on the Gwydir Highway. As the largest community resource, the school is valued as a meeting place, a technology centre and a place of mutual support. There are 31 students K to 6 and 18 Transition to School students.

Kindergarten 2014

Student information

The school enrolment for 2014 was 31 students Kindergarten to Year 6. There were 19 boys and 12 girls enrolled. Three students identified as Aboriginal.

Student enrolment profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student attendance profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>92.5</td>
<td>83.6</td>
<td>89.2</td>
<td>93.3</td>
<td>93.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>92.1</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>93.5</td>
<td>88.7</td>
<td>94.0</td>
<td>95.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>91.5</td>
<td>91.5</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>92.0</td>
<td>95.0</td>
<td>93.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>88.7</td>
<td>93.4</td>
<td>95.7</td>
<td>84.5</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>94.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>95.1</td>
<td>87.8</td>
<td>88.7</td>
<td>89.4</td>
<td>94.0</td>
<td>92.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>92.2</td>
<td>95.8</td>
<td>86.2</td>
<td>89.7</td>
<td>89.8</td>
<td>95.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>91.1</td>
<td>84.3</td>
<td>97.9</td>
<td>74.7</td>
<td>78.3</td>
<td>88.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>91.6</td>
<td>91.1</td>
<td>90.4</td>
<td>88.0</td>
<td>91.9</td>
<td>93.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Management of non-attendance

Attendance rates in 2014 improved by 1.3% compared to the previous year. This is a pleasing result. Parents are contacted to justify unexplained absences and assistance is requested from the Home School Liaison Officer.

Workforce information

Teacher qualifications

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

The table below indicates the proportion of teaching staff holding particular qualifications.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>% of staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree or Diploma</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Professional learning

All staff members are committed to increasing their knowledge through utilising every opportunity to participate in professional learning courses.

The teachers participated in:

- Lane Clark Workshops;
- Australian Mathematics Sciences Institute (AMSI) training;
- Small Schools’ Conference;
- eEmergency Online Training;
- Grip Leadership for Teachers;
- Child Protection Training; and
- WH&S Training.

The School Administration Manager (SAM) completed:

- Online LMBR Training;
- Child Protection Training; and
- WH&S Training.

The Principal attended:

- Barwon Principals’ learning Days;
- Educational Services Day;
- New School Plan training;
- Debating Workshop;
- TOWN Training;
- Financial Strategy Training; and
- The Moree Primary Principals’ Association meetings.

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>30/11/2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>67208.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
<td>59275.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>30866.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
<td>10223.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>2181.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
<td>29319.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income</td>
<td>199074.31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Expenditure</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching &amp; learning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key learning areas</td>
<td>8874.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excursions</td>
<td>6053.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extracurricular dissections</td>
<td>3683.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>447.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training &amp; development</td>
<td>1673.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>40885.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual relief teachers</td>
<td>7211.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; office</td>
<td>13656.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School-operated canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>9309.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>3172.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust accounts</td>
<td>28461.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital programs</td>
<td>3625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenditure</td>
<td>127056.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance carried forward</td>
<td>72017.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A full copy of the school’s 2014 financial statement is tabled at the annual general meetings of the Parents and Citizen’s Association. The balance brought forward includes amounts to pay wages from Tied Funds for November and December, 2014. Tied funds include the literacy and numeracy grant and equity funds. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.
School performance 2014

Arts
A wide range of opportunities was provided to develop an appreciation of a wide range of cultural activities and to showcase the abilities of our students. Highlights of 2014 included:

- Students entered artworks into the Warialda Show, Waste for Art competition, ‘Reduce, Reuse, Recycle’ in which the MM Class and Transition’s combined entry was placed highly commended.

- The librarian from the Bingara Library visited the school to read to our students.

- Lyn Lockery was employed to teach music for 2 hours every 2nd week and our Chaplain, Bill McIntosh, instructed the students in guitar and ukulele every Friday. The students are proficient singers, percussionists, guitarist, singers and ukulele players. The performances for Presentation Night were of a very high quality.

- Students participated in a non-denominational Sketch and Scripture lesson which inspired the students to improve their sketching skills.

Sport
A comprehensive range of sport programs were provided during the year.

- All students participated in an Intensive ‘Learn to Swim’ program, the combined swimming carnival with St Joseph’s, Warialda, the schools’ Athletics Carnival, League Tag coaching with Delungra PS and St Joseph’s, touch footy coaching, soccer gala days, Jump Rope for Heart and the school’s cross country.

- Students represented the school in zone swimming, athletics and cross country.

- Students participated in weekly soccer and tennis coaching during Term2 & 3.

- Students competed in the Warialda Horse Sports.

- Students represented the school in regional cross country and athletics.
Academic achievements

NAPLAN Year 3 and 5

Due to the small cohort of students at Gravesend Public School, privacy protocol prevents disclosure of specific student data. Parents have been advised of student results.

Reading and Numeracy

Overall the performance of all students in classroom based assessment has demonstrated significant progress for each student.

Other achievements

Significant programs and initiatives – Policy and equity funding

Transport

Equity funds were used to help fund the yearly excursion to Lake Keepit for all students K-6 and to fund travel for other extra curricula activities such as swimming, cultural events and leadership training. The senior students attended the Grip Leadership workshop in Moree and all students attended the five day intensive swim school in Warialda.

Transition

Programs to enhance positive transition to formal schooling and to High School continued to be a focus in 2014. These were partly funded using equity monies.

In Term 4 the Year 6 students were introduced to the routines and environment of Warialda High School through being involved in sport, academic and social activities organised by the students and staff at Warialda High School.

The transition to Kindergarten program involved three and four year old students attending school two days a week for the four terms, receiving small group tuition in preschool activities and familiarisation with the school environment and routines.

This program was extremely successful ensuring that incoming Kindergarten students were well prepared to begin formal schooling.

Author Workshops

Equity funding made it possible for the students to participate in writers’ workshops conducted by the famous author John Hefferan in Term 2 at Delungra PS and Term 3 at Moree PS. He read extracts from his children’s novels and presented his new novel, Naveed, a story set in Afghanistan which broadened our students’ horizons. The students were enthralled. Then he introduced Charlie Carter’s Battle Boy books and told the students that Charlie was his pseudonym. This series is very popular with our boys. The workshops culminated with writing activities.
Aboriginal education

Students engaged in activities such as reading and writing Dreamtime stories, producing Aboriginal artworks and learning about the local Aboriginal customs for NAIDOC day celebrations this year.

Multicultural education and anti-racism

Awareness of other cultures continues to be promoted in order to develop the positive attitudes and relationships required by citizens of a diverse society. To foster these traits, students participated in the following activities in 2014:

- Participation in the Lion’s Club’s International Peace Poster competition of which the winning entry was entered into the district level of this competition.

- Participation in Count Me In song, ‘Let Me Paint You a Song’, which was sang by children all around the world at 12 O’clock on the 30th October, 2014 to celebrate the different cultures of the world and to promote world unity.

Other significant initiatives

Fund Raising

One of the fund raising activities that the students, staff, parents and community members run for the benefit of the school is the annual nut picking at the local pecan nut farm, Trawalla. This was a combined event with Pallamallawa PS and the Stahmann Farm Enterprises were very generous with the amount that they paid per kilogram for the nuts that the students collected.

New Sign

The Parents & Citizens organised Black Truck and Ag to sponsor a new notice board and sign for our school. This sign is an excellent communication tool to remind everyone of the school’s key events for each week.

Moffet Park – Skate Park

The students were successful with their proposal for a skate park to be installed in the local Moffet Park that was submitted to the Gwydir Shire Council. As a result the whole park was given an overhaul with new climbing equipment, lawn, fences and exercise equipment installed. The revamped Moffet Park was officially opened by the Mayor, John Coulton, the Federal Member for Parkes, Mark Coulton and the member for Tamworth, Kevin Anderson.
Respect and responsibility

Gravesend Public School has developed learning programs to encourage students to develop qualities and attributes in line with the values and attitudes curriculum. Programs include:

- Clear communication of expectations of appropriate playground and classroom behaviour using the You Can Do It (YCDI) program.
- Identified values were emphasised in Friday’s assemblies using the Student of the Week award for each classroom and YCDI key awards.

Students participated in the following activities:

- Clean Up Australia Day
- Crazy Hair Day – Leukaemia Foundation
- Grandparents’ Day
- Open Day – Education Week
- Bandana Day – Youth Cancer Research
- Anzac Day
- Remembrance Day
- Memorial Ceremony for Tamai and Erin.

Relief for drought affected families

Community Mental Health Support Workers of the Richmond PRA, Gary Clarke from Bathurst and Lisa Harrison from Bourke, organised drought relief for members of the community. The families of Gravesend PS were nominated to receive financial assistance. Consequently the Richmond PRA helped to fund the excursion to Lake Keepit and provided a watering system for our garden. A working bee was organised to upgrade the school garden and they provided the food for a camp oven dinner cooked by Justin Kirkby. Bill McIntosh provided the night time entertainment by hosting a bush dance. Fun was had by all. This help was greatly appreciated.

School planning and evaluation 2012—2014

School evaluation processes

NSW public schools conduct evaluations to support the effective implementation of the school plan. The processes used include:

- Informal conversations
- Formal surveys
- P&C Meetings

School planning 2012-2014: School priority 1

To improve the literacy standards of all students focusing on talking and listening.

Outcomes from 2012–2014

The majority of students achieving stage appropriate outcomes in debating using school based assessment data.

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2014:

- All students in Kindergarten to Year 6 were able to confidently participate in informal discussions during a workshop in Term 1.
- All students in Years 2 to 6 participated in a formal debate at the culmination of a Debating Workshop in Term 2.
- All students were able to deliver prepared oral discussions and expositions on a specific topic at Friday’s Formal Assembly for an unfamiliar audience regularly throughout the year.
- All students were assessed in Term 4 and demonstrated improved skills from the benchmarking in Term 1.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014

- All students were benchmarked in speaking and listening skills at beginning of 2014.
- Professional learning activities were provided for teachers, tutors and students in debating.
• Staff and students attended debating workshops.
• Students participated in debating competitions.

School priority 2
To improve the numeracy standards of all students.

Outcomes from 2012–2014
The majority of students K-6 achieving stage appropriate outcomes in using mental strategies in number using school based assessment and NAPLAN data.

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2014:
• Students from Kindergarten to Year 6 applied mental strategies when solving number problems throughout the four school terms.
• All students demonstrated progress when Mathletics assessment tasks were completed.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:
• Professional learning was provided for teachers.
• A teacher was employed and trained to enable small group hands-on tuition.
• The Internet based program ‘Mathletics’ was utilised for challenges and assessment.

Parent/caregiver, student, and teacher satisfaction
In 2014, the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school.
Their responses are presented below.
• These indicated that the majority of parents, students and staff members had a high degree of satisfaction about how the school is being managed.
• Surveys reflected an appreciation of the range of opportunities provided to students at Gravesend Public School.
• Most parents and students felt that they were welcome at the school and could approach the staff with their concerns.
• Most parents felt that the methods of communication between the school and parents improved through the newsletter, emails, the noticeboard and the school’s website.

Future Directions
2015-2017 School Plan
NSW DEC is implementing a new school planning process for 2015-17. The new plan will be published on the school’s website from the beginning of Term 2 2015.

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.

Kristine Pagett - Principal
Deborah Motley - Teacher
Carol Bess - Teacher
Kay Rolfe – SAM

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School Code: 2068

Parents can find more information about Annual School Reports, how to interpret information in the report and have the opportunity to provide feedback about the report at: