Wahroonga Public School
Annual School Report

2011
Messages

Principal’s message

Wahroonga Public School continued to be an excellent place to learn, play and grow in 2011.

A good year

2011 started well with the P&C hosting the ‘Meet and Greet’ evening. This was a great event and I enjoyed it. More than 100 parents attended. Light refreshments were served and the evening was a great success. This was a great kick off to a good year. Classes were formed within a week of students starting school and this meant we had a flying start to the year. One of the reason our school enjoys such a great reputation is the school uniform is worn with such pride by our students. The high standard of presentation reflects well on the school. In many ways we are in a golden period as the temporary custodians of a school with such great traditions. We have a wonderful team and excellent support from parents. The school looks great and has excellent facilities. Unfortunately, we have to turn away many applications for enrolment due to the high demand from ‘in-area’ parents. While we will always have areas for growth, improvement and consolidation we need to acknowledge the things that are working well too.

We concluded the interviewing process for the vacant Deputy Principal position. Mrs. Belinda Zorian was selected from a quality field. Mrs. Zorian has been an assistant principal for 14 years and has excellent skills and qualifications, especially in the areas of gifted and talented students education and literacy. Mrs. Zorian is currently at Lindfield East Public School. She will commence at the beginning of 2012.

I want to thank Mrs. Hibbert for her excellent work in the position for the past twelve months. Mrs. Hibbert continues to do a great job as the relieving Deputy Principal and my right hand. The teachers have greatly appreciated her guidance, corporate knowledge and leadership in ensuring the school’s programs could continue as smoothly as possible.

I want to thank the School Council and the P&C for their valuable contributions to the school in 2011.

Three goals

Our three goals for 2011 were around improving writing, girls and maths and differentiation. We see these areas as part of the three year plan. We had professional development in all these areas and teachers report their knowledge and understandings of these are growing. Moving good writers to be great writers is an area for improvement for us.

Parent Information Evenings

Parent information evenings were a good chance to meet the class teachers, other parents and share contact details between all families with children in the same class. Information about homework and the class rules and routines was given. These were held in week 4 of the first term.

Parent Teacher Interviews

In 2011 we moved the parent-teacher interviews to Term 1. We did this because any issues that emerge from either side could be discussed early and any action taken. The written reports that were sent home in the second term had all the detail most parents need and there is usually no need for a follow up interview. This way we had interviews in Term 1 and reports in Terms 2 and 4 covering three of the four terms. Parent could also request interviews during the year if there are areas of concern. This proved to be a positive change.

School Website

We moved to new website architecture in 2011 and this has been very useful. The NSW DEC has created this set-up and it was easier to keep up-to-date. With the new architecture a number of authors updated the site and we will not have the situation of relying on a single web master. The NSW DEC also adds updates and this helps parents. I hope we can continue to improve the site in 2012.

Like other schools we are migrating to using electronic communication as our main source. Increasingly we are able to include photos, live links to great web site and other useful tools for parents. I believe while there is some pain in achieving this gain it is worthwhile. This will continue in 2012.
P&C
The P&C provided great social, networking and fund raising for the school in 2011. The P&C funded teaching and learning resources and co-funded the Learning Support Teacher through its businesses, the Canteen and the Uniform Store. The level of work and cooperation from everyone involved is heartening and I appreciate all the input into making the school a better place. The P&C ran social events like the Annual School Disco on Friday 18 March 2011. The School Fair was the major fund raiser and it was a great success. We were able to buy 27 new computers as a result of this effort. The P&C funded the new mulch for our Mulch Area and it has made the world of difference to that space. Along with the gardening work funded through the grounds levy the whole area is now looking in tip-top condition. The P&C had a very successful working bee and cleared the amphitheatre.

Sport
We had many successes in sport this year including winning the local swimming and athletics carnivals and the junior netball grand-final. The Swimming, Cross Country, Athletics and Ball games carnivals were wonderful. A small number of students represented the school at state level in Athletics. We also introduced a sport option for senior students at Macquarie University to take advantage of the facility and coaches that were offered in that program.

This year we will present an award to the Boy Sports Champion and an award to the Girl Sports Champion. We have made this change because boys and girls do not compete in sport and so cannot fairly be compared for sporting skill and sporting achievement. Boys and girls have different opportunities to represent the school. In other areas boys and girls compete but not in sport. This division also reflects most adult sports where men and women compete separately. These two awards will replace the Harvison Award.

Library and New Classrooms
Interactive White-board (IWB) and video conferencing equipment as installed in the library and IWBs were installed in the two new classrooms. The library and new classrooms replaced older temporary buildings which were demolished. This has been a great step forward for the school. We had the opening of the new library and the new classrooms in Term 2, 2011. These buildings were funded under the Federal Government’s Building Education Revolution program. Senator Doug Cameron officially opened the new buildings. About 20 parents, School Council representatives, P&C representatives, the Student Council and Student Leaders attended the small, yet significant ceremony. The Concert Band, under the direction of Mark Barnsley, played extraordinarily well. Amelia Garrick and Michael Loong were our student masters of ceremony and both did a wonderful job. An electrical upgrade was also completed this year with the installation of a new sub-station and new lines to the school from the Pacific Highway.

Music Education
We re-introduced music education as a specialist part of the Years 1 -6 curriculum this year. We employed Mrs. Piper for this program with the students having a weekly music lesson. This proved to be a great innovation.

The Band program continued and made a great contribution with many successes. Over 200 students are involved in five bands and this is a very significant program. The Band Camp and the Band were two intensive activities for the Band committee. The Bands were entered into a number of competitions and were awarded a number of prizes.

Education Week
Exciting activities were Education Week. On Monday 1 August 2011 the NED Show will be presented at the Bush School. It promotes academic achievement and character development by teaching three critical skills that will benefit kids for a lifetime. Classroom Visits were held during education week.

Art Show
In 2011 we had a student art show and this was a great success. Every student had a piece of art that they had worked on for many weeks. The standard was very high and we plan to repeat this event every second year.

Student Welfare
We are moving slowly and steadily to use restorative justice practices in the way we deal with student misbehaviour. The principle of this
philosophy is to help the students involved understand each other, how their actions have affected the victim and what they can do to make the situation better.

Not every situation calls for restorative justice but we are promoting the use of this system where applicable. Sometimes we also impose logical and hopefully fair consequences. We want the students to put thought into how they can make-up for their misdeeds so they take more responsibility for their actions. This does involve students owning up when appropriate. I am always impressed by 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.

John Benton
Principal

School Council Message

2011 was a busy year for School Council. We started the year with many new Council members and this presented a few challenges. In particular, we were concerned to remain focused on the key issues whilst new members became familiar with Council business. Mr Benton and Mrs Christie Charlin offered great support ensuring the Council quickly got down to business. As is customary, Council reviewed the long-term strategic plan at the beginning of the year. The federal government’s “Building Education Revolution” (BER) project had been the focus of the Council in the previous year as many initiatives were approaching the final stages of completion. It was expected that BER would be completed in 2011 and was therefore appropriate to close off these items and agree new priorities for the Council. Five key areas were agreed upon as the focus of our strategic and tactical effort. They are;

- Environment (physical, infrastructure, OH&S, facilities)
- Pastoral Care (student welfare)
- Student Retention
- Community & Public Relations
- Financial governance

Achievements and Focus for 2012

The BER project was finally signed off and we had a superb official opening ceremony in June when Senator Doug Cameron opened our wonderful new library and classrooms. Thanks and congratulations to all those staff and parents who were involved in the various initiatives that came under BER. Thanks also to the Student Representative Council who scoped requirements for the new adventure playground and to the P&C whose funding made the new playground a reality now enjoyed by all students. Senator Cameron was highly complementary of the performance standard of our Concert Band who performed at the opening ceremony. Visitors to our school often make similar observations and we are very fortunate to have such a wonderful programme operating at our school. School Council will be working closely with the P&C during 2012 to ensure the popular band programme is positioned to meet the needs of current and future students.

The proposed Water Street hospital development maintained Council focus throughout the year and we were delighted to report at the end of the year that the student safety issues facing Wahroonga Public School as a result of this proposal are likely to be resolved favourably for the community. The John Williams Neighbourhood Group reported that an agreement had been brokered in which the developer agreed to sell the land to a private family who intend to restore and live in the house and grounds. This great outcome for our school rarely seemed possible over the years this process has taken. Our thanks and congratulations to the John Williams Neighbourhood Group who were instrumental in achieving this outcome.

Of note also is the student welfare initiative; restorative justice, being promoted by Mr Benton and which is producing positive outcomes for the children. The new and refreshed school website is a source of comprehensive and current information as well as images of the students at work and play is a credit to Mr Benton, the office
staff and teachers and is a welcome enhancement to school communications.

Parking, drop off and associated safety issues remain and will continue to be a focus for Council in 2012. Various options including rezoning and boom gates have been investigated but a workable solution has not yet been found. This is down to a variety of reasons including cost, environment and logistics. It is a disheartening fact that the recurring safety issue is within the realms of our ability to solve without spending a cent or affecting our environment. Sadly, there are people in our community including parents of children at the school who continue to contravene the road rules around our school and in doing so endanger all of our children.

School Council is grateful to Mr Benton, all the teaching and office staff at the school as well as the out of school hours care staff who take great care of the children. All of these people foster the superb learning environment the students experience and which ensures our school continues to be perceived as an asset within our community and beyond. Thanks also to our P&C, sub committees, volunteers and in particular our wonderful crossing person. All of these people work tirelessly for the benefit of the school community. The P&C’s fund raising efforts contribute to of all facets of student life from KLA’s and classroom equipment to the playground. In addition, the P&C’s social activities for the students and community are always a big hit and thanks to those who do much hard work behind the scenes to make these things happen.

Finally thanks to all students, parents and carers. The School Council represents the tripartite relationship of parents/carers, staff and the local community and it is an honour to represent and work together with all stakeholders for the advancement of students at Wahroonga Public School.

Orla Egan, President

P & C Message

The Wahroonga Public School Parents and Citizens Association has two primary objectives.

The first is to bring together the various groups associated with the school in a social environment to foster community spirit. Bearing this mind, the P&C executive ran several functions.

We started 2011 off with the “Tea and Tissues” as we do every year and this was well attended. Our Meet and Greet evening was a huge success.

The School Disco was again held for the children at the end of Term 1. Thank you to Mrs Christie Charlin who has run the disco so successfully over the last 7 years.

In 2011 we decided that both Mother’s Day and Father’s Day functions would have a hiatus but we are planning to do something special for the Mums and Dads in 2012.

We held a working bee in the Amphitheatre at the end of Term 3 and the turnout was fantastic. A lot of the vegetation and dirt was cleared from around the seating. We are currently obtaining quotes and advice for re-surfacing the Amphitheatre and the new Committee has voted to investigate further cost-effective alternatives.

The P&C oversees the running of the very successful Band Program and we thank Anne Seage and everyone involved for the time and effort they put in to our wonderful junior musicians.

The second objective is to raise funds to be used to improve the educational environment at the school. The P&C commits $20,000 to be used for the funding of Key Learning Areas (KLA) related resources. We honoured this commitment again for the 2011 year.

The Uniform shop and Canteen have had a very good year. This year they will be able to give the P&C $15,000 and $10,000 respectively towards the P&C’s fundraising efforts. We would like to thank to Mrs Jo Nickson and Mrs Nilu Habibi for their great contribution. We farewell Mrs Habibi and welcome Ms Kate O’Keefe who has taken over the running of the canteen.

Our other fundraising objective for 2011 was to purchase new computers for the school, to be linked to the Interactive White Boards in each
classroom. To this end, we ran a Spring Fair. The final profit of $18,500 exceeded our expectations and the computers have now been purchased. Due to the hard work of everyone involved, the children will now reap the benefits.

A Cook Book was produced by Mrs Kerry Silver and Mr Rob Stenning and was sold at the Fair. We are still selling the books and will continue to do so into 2012.

In 2011, the P&C also contributed funds towards a learning support teacher; prizes and engraving for Presentation Day; take home readers; library books; regular work by a gardener and new mulch for the mulch area.

A major part of our year was spent on procedural issues and we are working hard towards ensuring that all of our processes and procedures are in line with those set out by the P&C Federation. Once completed, all relevant information will be documented to pass on to future Committees.

The P&C hosted the annual staff lunch on Monday 19 December 2011. It is our hope that this small gesture expresses our gratitude for the time and effort put in to the education of our children by the dedicated staff at Wahroonga Public School.

A special thanks to Mr John Benton and Mrs Leonie Hibbert for their support of the P&C.

Susan Stenning,

P&C President

Student representative’s message

This year has been an amazing year and we have done so much! We can’t believe that it’s almost over. We have had many highlights. The senior school trip to Canberra, gave us first hand knowledge of how the Australian government system works. At IMAX we followed Ernest Shackleton’s amazing story of survival in Antarctica. We have also enjoyed all the different sporting carnivals, swimming, cross country, athletics and ball games, especially the new program run through Macquarie University which the students loved. We have also had many opportunities as school captains. We have had the chance to ring the bell, host assemblies and represent the school in various areas. At the school there has been a fantastic art show featuring a piece from every student, a wonderful fete and many incursions including Oz Opera. We are all very excited about high school and all the fun things that come with it. We say this with all honesty that Wahroonga is one of the most outstanding places to learn. We have the best teachers and staff, interactive whiteboards in every classroom and excellent facilities. We will miss the Bush School and look forward to coming back to see the changes in the future.

Daniel Buffa and Amelia Garrick

School Captains 2011
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

Enrolment has been stable over the past five years.

Student attendance profile

Management of non-attendance

While non-attendance was not an issue for the school in 2011 attendance records are kept electronically and vigilantly in line with NSW Department of Education and Training policy and procedures. Contact is made with families if there are unexplained absences and appropriate support is provided.

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>
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<tr>
<td>K/1H</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KB</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>21</td>
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<td>K</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KS</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KW</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1D</td>
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<td>1F</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>K/1H</td>
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<td>10</td>
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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>2K</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>25</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2T</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4W</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3J</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3M</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3Q</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>29</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/4W</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>4E</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4G</td>
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<td>5G</td>
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<tr>
<td>6W</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>28</td>
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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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deputy Principal(s)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Principal(s)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Teachers</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Teacher Learning Assistance</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Librarian</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of ESL</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counsellor</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Administrative &amp; Support Staff</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The National Education Agreement requires schools to report on Indigenous composition of their workforce. There are no Indigenous staff members at present.

Staff retention

There was one retirement from the permanent teaching staff in 2011. The Deputy Principal retired after taking leave since third term in 2010. There were no resignations. Three temporary teachers gained employment in other schools. Four permanent teachers were on full-time leave in 2011 and three permanent teachers took part-time leave in 2011.

Teacher qualifications

All teachers have 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>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td>11</td>
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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>Income</th>
<th>$</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>302 394.61</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
<td>407 946.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>55 979.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
<td>749 921.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
<td>41 362.23</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td><strong>1 557 604.59</strong></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>114 975.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excursions</td>
<td>79 793.62</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extracurricular dissections</td>
<td>333 973.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>10 897.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training &amp; development</td>
<td>17 942.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>71 933.02</td>
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<tr>
<td>Casual relief teachers</td>
<td>101 913.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; office</td>
<td>130 376.68</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>82 591.86</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>66 889.36</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trust accounts</td>
<td>37 565.64</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital programs</td>
<td>88 189.81</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditure</strong></td>
<td><strong>1 137 041.93</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance carried forward</strong></td>
<td><strong>420 562.66</strong></td>
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A full copy of the school’s 2011 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 2011

Achievements

Visual Arts

Visual Arts has a strong history and tradition at Wahroonga Public School. This continued in 2011 with weekly visual arts lessons in each class. Visual Arts integrated into the themes and areas of study for the Key Learning Areas (KLA) of Human Society Its Environment (HSIE) and Science.

The Art Show was a major event in 2011. We employed a professional artist to curate the show. Every student had a finished and well presented art piece on display. The art show was visited by hundreds of parents. Dr Bruce Carnie who now lectures in Art and Design at Leeds University in the UK opened the show and commented on the strength of visual arts at the school.

Music

In 2011 we introduced specialist music lessons for students in Years 2 -6 students. These lessons were very successful and Mrs Piper’s expertise and dedication to music and drama was much appreciated by the whole school community.

Band

2011 has been another great year for the Band Program, with numbers continuing to grow and many excellent performances.

We were very pleased to welcome back our three conductors and an excellent team of tutors, without whom, the children would be unable to reach such high musical standards. The bands have participated in a number of competitions over the year, receiving a number of first and second places, distinctions and gold and silver awards. Having sole occupancy of the Crusaders Camp at Galston, was a great improvement for Band Camp. Thank you to the teachers and parents who did so much to make it a wonderful success.

The Concert Band tour is the highlight of the year for the senior band and a just reward for all their hard work. The tour to Port Stephens and Newcastle was fully booked, with seven performances and a workshop with a community band. Congratulations to the children for being such wonderful ambassadors for Wahroonga Public School.

The challenge for next year is to try to make the proposed Band Room extension a reality. We have a desperate need for a larger room to accommodate the growing numbers of children and for more rooms for tutorials.

Thank you to the Band Committee who worked tirelessly to make the program such success. Most particularly, thank you to the students – the whole reason we all work so hard to make the program such an outstanding success. To see the improvement in their playing is motivating, but to watch the children blossom as they learn self-discipline, commitment to a team and pride in their achievements is extremely rewarding. To watch the children work cooperatively, entertain audiences with brilliant playing, behave beautifully and smile as they do so, makes the hard work of many worthwhile.

Dance Groups 2011

Wahroonga excelled in the field of dance. 2011 saw the Junior and Senior Dance Groups performing at a number of events.

The Senior Dance Group consisted of twenty-four students from Years 5 and 6 and the Junior Dance Group, consisting of twenty students from Years 1 and 2. Both groups performed at the Sydney North Dance Festival at Glen Street Theatre. After auditioning successfully, the groups participated in two evening performances and a matinee. Both groups also performed at the Bush School Fair and at school assemblies throughout the year.

The Senior Dance Group competed in the Hills Dance Spectacular during August. They were given a Merit Certificate in the troupes section of the eisteddfod.

All dancers worked diligently throughout the year perfecting their routines and have represented the school with great enthusiasm.
Sport

The school has had a very successful year in the sporting arena winning the Zone Swimming, Zone Cross Country and Zone Athletics Carnivals. The school fielded teams in the Hornsby Primary Schools Sports Association’s (PSSA) inter-school competitions in soccer and netball. The junior girls’ netball team was the Grand Final Champions and the senior girls’ netball team placed second.

The school pools were used for swimming lessons in Years 2-6 in Terms 1 and 4. Years 3-6 students used Cliff Oval for sport on Fridays during Terms 2 and 3. This provided opportunities for students to develop skills in touch football, soccer, softball, cricket and AFL. In 2011 a new sports choice was introduced. Many students in Years 4-6 participated in a sports program run by Macquarie University. Students developed skills in hockey, basketball, gymnastics, martial arts and Frisbee. This program proved to be a very popular choice amongst students.

During the year our students Years 2-6 participated in House swimming, athletics, cross country and ball games carnivals. Years K-4 students were involved in the Moving Bodies gymnastics, dance and ball skills program whilst the Years 5 and 6 students enjoyed a dance program. Kindergarten to Year 2 students attended their annual sports day which encouraged participation and skill development.

Wahroonga has produced several outstanding sporting achievements. Year 6 student, Daniel Buffa competed in the State Rugby Championships at Parkes. Robert Dickinson (Year 6), Sarah Playford (Year 6), Madeline Playford (Year 4), Thomas Elliot (Year 4) and Sophia Dickinson (Year 3) competed in the Primary State Cross Country Championships. Each student received a gold or silver medal for their overall team placing. Robert Dickinson and Harry Frederick (Year 6) along with Harrison Mavin (Year 4) competed in the Primary State Athletics Carnival. Harry Mavin was placed 20th, Harry Frederick was placed 5th and Robert was placed 3rd. Robert and Sarah just missed out on national selection for athletics.
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)

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 3

At Wahroonga Public School 101 Year 3 students sat the NAPLAN writing test. 75% of these students achieved the top two bands in reading compared with the state average of 56% of students.

At Wahroonga Public School 101 Year 3 students sat the NAPLAN spelling test. 75% of these students achieved the top two bands in reading compared with the state average of 48% of students.
At Wahroonga Public School 101 Year 3 students sat the NAPLAN grammar and punctuation test. 76% of these students achieved the top two bands in reading compared with the state average of 46% of students.

**Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 3**

At Wahroonga Public School 101 Year 3 students sat the NAPLAN numeracy test. 66% of these students achieved the top two bands in reading compared with the state average of 36% of students.

At Wahroonga Public School 101 Year 3 students sat the NAPLAN numeracy test. 66% of these students achieved the top two bands in reading compared with the state average of 36% of students.

**Literacy – NAPLAN Year 5**

At Wahroonga Public School 80 Year 5 students sat the NAPLAN reading test. 59% of these students achieved the top two bands in reading compared with the state average of 32% of students.

At Wahroonga Public School 80 Year 5 students sat the NAPLAN reading test. 59% of these students achieved the top two bands in reading compared with the state average of 32% of students.
At Wahroonga Public School 81 Year 5 students sat the NAPLAN writing test. 23% of these students achieved the top two bands in reading compared with the state average of 24% of students.

At Wahroonga Public School 81 Year 5 students sat the NAPLAN spelling test. 63% of these students achieved the top two bands in reading compared with the state average of 37% of students.

At Wahroonga Public School 81 Year 5 students sat the NAPLAN grammar and punctuation test. 63% of these students achieved the top two bands in reading compared with the state average of 37% of students.

At Wahroonga Public School 80 Year 5 students sat the NAPLAN numeracy test. 50% of these students achieved the top two bands in reading compared with the state average of 28% of students.

**Progress in literacy**

These scores are for the 2011 Year 5 cohort and compare their scores when they were in Year 3 to their scores in Year 5.
Progress in numeracy

These scores are for the 2011 Year 5 cohort and compare their scores when they were in Year 3 to their scores in Year 5.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Year 3 students achieving at or above minimum standard (exempt students included)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
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<td>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Significant programs and initiatives

Aboriginal education

Aboriginal Education was an important learning area for the school in 2011. Our school stands on the land of the Guringai-Carigal people. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education is embedded in many lessons on history, culture, government, art and dance.

Among our achievements in this area were:

- Aboriginal perspective integrated into lessons across all Key Learning Areas.
- Acknowledgment of country was a feature of all major events and the weekly school assembly.
- NAIDOC is the traditional name given to the week when we celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. In 2011 we celebrated NAIDOC week and invited an Indigenous cultural ambassador into our school to present workshops on traditional and contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander life.
**Multicultural education**

Multicultural education is an important part of the school program and continued to be so in 2011. Multicultural Education was taught explicitly as well as being embedded throughout the curriculum. Valuing the cultural diversity of NSW, promoting inter-cultural understandings and anti-racism are key programs in the school.

**Respect and responsibility**

Students are taught respect and responsibility through specific programs such as our student welfare and leadership programs and through the care, respect, dedication and behaviour of staff. Some of the features of these programs are listed here:

- Students raised funds for charity. Students engaged each term in a fundraising activity for charities of their choice. In 2011, students raised money for UNICEF and other worthy causes.
- The Student Representative Council (SRC) met regularly. These students represented their classmates and worked for the improvement of the school.
- All Year 6 students are Kinder Buddies. This marvellous program ensures all new students have a Year 6 buddy who helps them settle into the school. Senior students spend morning tea and lunch with their little buddy for three weeks. All K-2 students have a senior buddy and buddy classes have regular meetings.
- All students vote for the school prefects through an open, honest and democratic process. Perfects take leadership positions for the school body and run the SRC. House Captains are also part of the student leadership program.
- Students led many events at school such as the weekly school assembly, ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies.
- The whole school participated in Clean Up Australia and students regularly help to clean the school grounds.
- The school’s annual Presentation Day emphasises respect and responsibility. There are awards for Citizenship, Friendship and various academic and sporting awards.

**Progress on 2011 targets**

We have three targets for 2011 and beyond. The targets are drawn from quantitative and qualitative analysis of our data especially the National Assessment Program of Literacy and Numeracy tests (NAPLAN). These targets also reflect departmental and regional priorities.

**Target 1**

*To increase the percentage of girls achieving in the top band of NAPLAN testing by 5 percent.*

Our achievements include:

- Only 18% of Year 5 girls achieved the top band and so we did not achieve our target. Further work will be required in 2012.
- 60% of girls making the expected growth in numeracy.
- 31% of Year 3 girls scored in the top band.

**Target 2**

*To increase our NAPLAN value added score for writing to be at, or above, the Northern Sydney Region Average by 2012.*

Our achievements include:

- Value added scores were not reported for writing in 2011 due to a change in the text type tested in NAPLAN.
- Teachers reported strong growth in students’ in class writing.
- The percentage of students achieving in the top band was below the region average and this will remain a target for us in 2012.

**Target 3**

*To develop teachers’ skills and knowledge in differentiating instruction in order to cater for the range of students in their classes*

Our achievements include:

- All teachers report a growth in their professional knowledge in differentiated instruction.
- Almost no students in the bottom band of the NAPLAN tests across all areas.
- Reading and number results are very strong.
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 [Enter text here.]

Educational and management practice
We evaluate one of the six Key Learning Areas each year. In 2011 we evaluated the Creative Arts Key Learning Area. We also evaluated Leadership, one of the six areas of educational management.

Curriculum

Background
The Creative Arts is one of the six Key Learning Areas. It includes music, visual arts and performing arts. The school has a strong tradition in these three areas.

Analysis of school data shows that this KLA required renewed focus. One result of the analysis was the implementation of an art show. 2011 saw the realisation of the Wahroonga Public School Art Show in which every student from K – 6 created a piece of art and had it displayed in the public arena. One immediate benefit of this process was an increase in classroom resources which resulted in a myriad of different art materials being used to create different pieces of art.

Findings and conclusions
Creative Arts
A teacher and parent survey was conducted to determine if there were areas within Creative Arts that needed to be developed further.

Data collected indicated that overall the majority of the staff and parent community agreed that the Creative Arts program was effectively delivered to the students. Some responses received indicated a desire for more drama to be completed within the classroom and a greater exposure to the Arts in general.

The experience of the art show was beneficial and introduced the students to a wide range of methods and techniques used by artists in a variety of mediums.

2011 saw the introduction of a specialist music class for students in Years 3 – 6. Students have been exposed to a variety of music genres and encouraged to participate in creating and composing in the areas of music making, singing and drama.

Future Directions
The continued development of creative arts within the school remains a focus. The school will continue to offer music as a specialist subject, combined with exposure to drama, composition and singing. Performances by independent groups encompassing such diverse areas as opera, Aboriginal music and performance art will continue to be offered to students as a means of exposing students to the wider arts community. The art show will become a fixture on the school calendar and will rotate with a school variety or musical show that will showcase the talents and abilities of the student body.

Leadership

Background
Leadership was the management area that was evaluated in 2011. Leadership includes all the formal and informal roles in the school for staff, parents and students.

Findings and conclusions
We conducted informal conversations, parent and staff surveys as part of this evaluation. There was a high level of parent satisfaction with the school leadership.

Parents are represented at all levels of school decision making. The School Council is active and meets seven times a year (see the School Council report on page 3).

The P&C is very effective in the twice goals of building community and supporting the work of the school. The P&C met on the second Thursday of each month during the school year. The P&C runs the Canteen and the Uniform Shop. It organises social activities and fund raising events.

Wahroonga Out of School Care business is run by parents as an independent entity. The Committee
employees the child care workers and oversees the program.

Each class has a parent coordinator who leads and encourages parent involvement in many aspects of the school.

- 163 parents responded to the survey questions on leadership
- 73% of parent respondents agreed the school leaders understand the school and get the best from all staff and students.
- 76% of parent respondents agreed the school leaders value the contribution of individuals and groups.
- 82% of parents agreed staff, students and parents are encouraged to take leadership roles at the school.

The teachers have a variety of formal and informal leadership roles. All teachers have an area of responsibility as well their teaching load. Teachers contribute to school planning and to many discussions on the schools progress and development.

- 31 teachers responded to the staff survey on leadership
- 90% of the teachers who responded agree that the leaders improve the school through an understanding of its strengths and weaknesses.
- 90% of the teachers who responded agree that school leaders build relationships based on trust, collegiality and mutual respect.
- 80% of teachers agree the school leaders effectively implement change processes which result in improved student learning outcomes.

Student leadership was effective and visible at the school in 2011. Most Year 6 student had a leadership role. Year 6 students were the School Captains, Prefects and House Captains. They were Technology Monitors, Hall Monitors, Bus Monitors, etc. Each class was represented by two students who sat on the Student Representative Council (SRC) The SRC was active in raising funds for charities, advocating on behalf of students and solving playground problems. All Years 3 -6 students had a junior buddy and this was a very successful program in helping the younger peers feel safe and happy at school.

Future directions

Building leadership capacity is the responsibly of current leaders. School improvement is everyone’s concern. We will continue to look for opportunities to develop leadership capabilities.

Parent, student, and teacher satisfaction

In 2011 the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school. Their responses are presented below.

- In 2011 91% of parents of the 163 parents who responded to our annual survey strongly agreed or agreed with the statement ‘Overall I am satisfied with school at Wahroonga Public School.’
- Strong enrolments in 2011 and high demand for places indicate great response to the school.
- 100% of teachers surveyed indicated they were satisfied with education at the school.
- Students through the SRC indicated strong support for the school and its programs.

Professional learning

All teachers had the opportunity to participate in a variety of professional learning activities including Regional Courses, Professional Association Activities and School Run Courses.

The School spent $37,178 on professional learning which is nearly double the amount allocated by the NSW Department of Education & Communities for this purpose.

Teachers attended course across all six Key Learning Areas. There was an emphasis on courses with a literacy and numeracy focus. Using technology was another area of increased activity for teacher professional learning in 2011.
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
The school seeks to achieve the following outcomes
Improved student growth results in writing.
More differentiated teaching and learning strategies in literacy and numeracy.
Improved growth for girls in mathematics

2012 Targets to achieve this outcome include:
- 70% or more of our students achieving the expected growth targets for the NAPLAN writing test
- A 5% increase in the percentage of students achieving the top two bands in Year 5.

Strategies to achieve these targets include:
- Professional development in the teaching of writing with Robyn Wild an expert in this area
- Stage meetings around improving the teaching and learning of writing.
- Increased time allocation for the teaching and learning of writing.
- Professional development on differentiated instruction in the teaching and learning of writing to better cater for the range of student achievement in this area

School priority 2
Outcome for 2012–2014
There will be improved student growth for girls in numeracy.

2012 Targets to achieve this outcome include:
- 70% or more of girls achieving the expected growth targets for the NAPLAN writing test
- A 5% increase in the percentage of girls achieving the top two bands in Year 5

Strategies to achieve these targets include:
- Professional development in the teaching of writing with Robyn Wild an expert in this area
- Stage meetings around improving the teaching and learning of writing.
- Increased time allocation for the teaching and learning of writing.
- Professional development on differentiated instruction in the teaching and learning of writing to better cater for the range of student achievement in this area
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.

John Benton, Principal
Orla Egan, School Council President
Christie Charlin, School Council Secretary
Susan Stenning, P&C President
Julie Carr, Staff Representative
Alissa Wilcock, Staff Representative
Louise Fiennes, Staff Representative
Jennifer Flynn, Staff Representative
Judy Hibbert, Parent Representative
Jonathan Helps, Parent Representative
Ted Fletcher, Community Representative

School contact information

Wahroonga Public School
71 Burns Road, Wahroonga 2076
Ph: 9489 3086
Fax: 9489 7322
Email: wahroonga-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Web: www.wahroonga-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
School Code: 3833

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: