

2009 Annual School Report Wallabadah Public School

NSW Public Schools – Leading the way



Our school at a glance

Wallabadah is a caring, community based K-6 school. The community takes great pride and interest in the school. The students come from a rural background and enjoy a variety of outside school activities.

Wallabadah Public School students, teachers and parents have nurtured an atmosphere of cooperation, encouragement and pride in the school. This atmosphere enables each child to achieve their best and successfully meets the school motto of "Excellence in Learning"



Students having fun in the Autumn leaves

Messages

Principal's message

If you've been teaching students, for as long as I have, at one time or another you have encountered the greatest drawback in teaching history – boredom. Boredom can be a teacher's greatest insult.

Imagine having to stand in front of a number of students, you've been talking on end, and your students aren't listening. You start to think if you're the reason why they're bored. Maybe you are the one who's boring and not the topic. More often than not, it is the approach to learning, and not you that's making learning boring.

Making learning fun is an art as much as it is a practice. It is a practice because it requires a skilled and a knowledgeable teacher with the right attitude to teach a number of students and to teach them well. It is an art because it sparks your imagination; it opens up your creativity, and makes use of your talents to make it fun as well as knowledgeable.

While researching for my speech tonight I came across an organization called "The Fun Theory" which is sponsored by Volkswagen.

The organisation is dedicated to the thought that something as simple as fun is the easiest way to change people's behaviour for the better. Be it for

yourself, for the environment, or for something entirely different, the only thing that matters is that it's change for the better.

They use fun and interesting ways to make changes, and let's face it that's what we want for our children. To learn in a fun and motivated way so that they make the changes necessary to make our world a better place.

Does turning a set of subway stairs into a real-life piano encourage people to use them?

Yes, 66% more. Who would have danced up those stairs as opposed to taking the escalator? I'm sure Georgia Makeham would have danced to the tune "We're off to see the Wizard".

So what is the crux of this? Make learning fun. Learning through play.

Author of the book "Play, How it shapes the brain, opens the imagination and invigorates the soul", Stuart Brown talks about play and an unrealised power that can transform our lives. He says play is how our passions find us. Play is where happiness finds us, and play is where failure isn't failure and it isn't emotionally charged.

I remember a friend's little brother totally dismantling a wind up clock. His mum was having a fit over it, asking what he did it for. "How else am I supposed to know what makes it work."

He's becoming something of a scientific genius now. Play, learn, and create are the three sole things that people are doing every day. With playing, the needs of learning can be generated. Playing is to enjoy your current space. Learning is to expand your current space.

So what do we do at school to ensure that play, learn and create are things our children do each day?

The first thing we do is to incorporate lively examples in our lessons. These examples have to relate to the type of students we're teaching. If you keep throwing them with examples that are not only funny and true to life but full of content, you are stimulating their brains to think. If the brain is stimulated, it won't stagnate and become bored. The use of technology is a wonderful way to do this. I saw a great Smartboard lesson the other day that really got the children going!

We motivate our students. Making learning fun ensures that students have to feel rewarded from the lessons they are absorbing. We ask interesting and open-ended questions that require their brains to think of an answer, rather than a yes or a no. We come up with great games that incorporate the lesson for the day in it. Computer

and maths games are just simple examples of this.

We turn our attention on the student rather than the student's attention on us. Students develop a greater appreciation to learn when they know their teacher is concerned about their wellbeing. It is in this type of situation that students learn that learning is fun and have fun in learning. We also constantly evaluate our students' capabilities and where they are at in learning. This helps us come up with ideas and methods that all our students will learn from, rather than just a certain group. Some students take more time to learn than others, this shouldn't be a hindrance for them to enjoy their lessons. Accelerated Literacy which Mrs Saunders and I were trained in throughout this year ensures this. When we discuss the subject matter from a text, we include everyone in discussion and not a select few. Perhaps the greatest secret all great teachers share is that no matter how boring the topic, if our students have a deep appreciation to learn, they will have fun. The secret then is to inculcating that appreciation in each of our students. If we have done that, then there is no limit to making learning fun for them.

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.

Christopher Jackson



P&C message

Once again the P & C has had another productive year, thanks to the energetic band of parents and teachers who have volunteered their time and worked hard with the various fundraisers held throughout the year.

We have had two Major Fundraisers one in April we held an Auction Sale which was a great success and a fun day out for some who have never bidden at an Auction Sale and thanks to

Chris Jackson who was our penciller for the day, and to Richard Cudmore who donated his time to auctioneer. We made over \$2000.

The second fundraiser was in the colder months with the Wood Drive. Thanks to Rodney Hartigan who organised it. The drive proved to be a great success with over 25 loads ordered @\$100 load. It was also a great social outing as some were very keen and braved the cold to camp out. Well done to all involved.

The Sheep Manure is still an ongoing fundraiser and the phone calls keep coming in. There is very little expense and is a great fund raiser. Thanks to Simon & Helen Smith for letting us clean out under the woolshed and to all the helpers. We are still selling the popular WALLABADAH BAGS; they have been a great ongoing item.

Thanks to Cheryl again for organizing the Shopping Trip to Sydney which also made money despite not having a full bus load. I hope this doesn't deter you from having it again next year, as we know what a great girl's weekend away it is!!!

We were asked to man the gate at the Quirindi Show this year which proved to be an easy way to raise funds. There have been many raffles thought-out the year. Easter Egg, Wood Raffle, Xmas Hamper and not forgetting the Friday Night Pub Raffles. Thank you to Ken Black at the Marshall McMahon.

We also make money from the School Canteen and thank you to Helen Makeham who took on the role this year as Canteen officer. All these little things help raise much needed funds for the P & C so that all our children benefit.

Rory Sherwood

P&C President



"Choo choo cha Boogie" Girls singing at QSSAF concert.

Student representative's message

All year we have enjoyed being this

Years Wallabadah School Captains. We
Enjoy rushing around and sorting out problems
And ringing the bell on time while people
Rely on us to let them go for play. We

Appreciated the opportunity
To thank people for entertaining or teaching us at

Wallabadah. We, being year six, had
A lot of fun preparing fundraisers and the students
Loved it! Every year we have sports events
Like athletics, cross country and swimming.
Another project we have started is our chook shed
Believe us it is hard work! This year we performed
A musical, called The Wizard of Oz". We
Did have a lot of fun performing. We
Are now at the end of primary school so it's a
Huge thank you to the wonderful teachers who
have helped us over the years.

Amber Abra and Charles Sherwood
School Captains 2009



Captains Charles Sherwood and Amber Abra.

School context

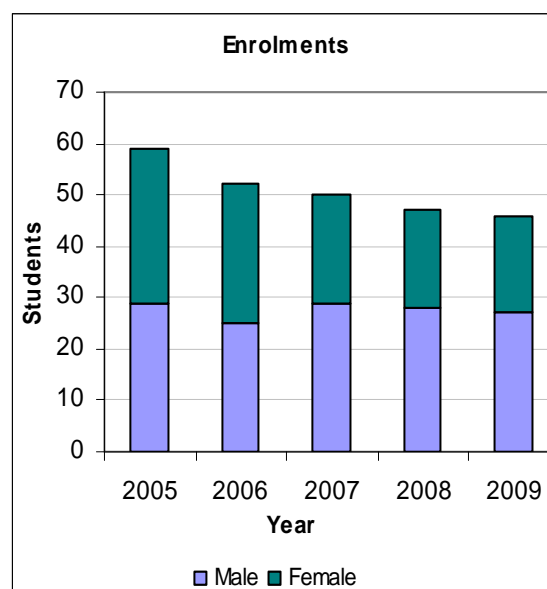
Student information

Student enrolment profile

Our enrolment throughout 2009 has stabilised in the high 40's. As a result, the school's numbers are regularly monitored. We anticipate a kindergarten enrolment of five in 2010.

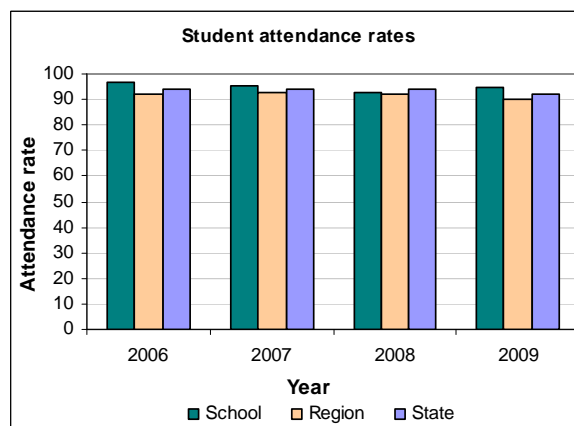
Student Enrolment

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Male	29	25	29	28	27
Female	30	27	21	19	19



Student attendance profile

Our attendance rates continue to be well above state average.



Management of non-attendance

Our school regularly monitors student attendance. We strive to make Wallabadah an enjoyable learning environment in which to learn. Letters are sent to parents when student attendance rates fall below 85%. Home school liaison officers are kept informed of attendance rates that are of concern.

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 Wednesday 18 March 2009.

Roll Class	Year	Total per Year	Total in Class
3-4-5-6 J	3	6	25
3-4-5-6 J	4	7	25
3-4-5-6 J	5	6	25
3-4-5-6 J	6	6	25
K-1-2 S	1	4	21
K-1-2 S	2	13	21
K-1-2 S	K	4	21

Structure of classes

Two classes operated five days a week. These were K-2, and 3,4,5,6.

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

Position	Number
Principal	1
Deputy Principal(s)	0
Assistant Principal(s)	0
Head Teachers	0
Classroom Teachers	1
Teacher of Emotional Disabilities	0
Teacher of Mild Intellectual Disabilities	0
Teacher of Reading Recovery	0
Support Teacher Learning Assistance	0
Teacher Librarian	.6
Teacher of ESL	0
Counsellor	0
Total	2.6

Our teaching staff are all from Anglo-Saxon heritage but have an empathy for and an

understanding of the culture of the Indigenous people of our land.

Teacher qualifications

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

Qualifications	% of staff
Degree or Diploma	100%
Postgraduate	

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.



"I" for Indian"

School performance 2009

Wallabadah has had a very successful school year. Children have achieved a high standard on the sporting field, academically, creatively and in community service endeavours.

Achievements

Arts

Wallabadah Public School has a strong commitment to the Creative Arts. Highlights of the year in 2009 included;

- all children participated in local art shows with several winning awards at the Currabubula small schools art show and Quirindi Show,

- "The Wizard of Oz" our whole school musical was performed at Wallabadah hall for two nights in early December,
- The whole school performed at Quirindi Small Schools Arts Festival in September; and
- Musica Viva once again was successfully integrated into the whole school music program with two performances in July and October.



Ballgames at Small Schools Sports Carnival

Sport

- Five children competed at the NSW PSSA State swimming championships. Petria Slade, Angus Macdonald, Lincoln Clark and Sophie Saunders competed in the Small Schools relay. Angus came 33rd in the Junior boys Breaststroke and Sophie swam in all the Junior Girl events finishing in the top 25 girls
- Sophie Saunders won the NSW PSSA gold medal in the NW teams event and came 11th overall at State Cross Country and Angus Macdonald came 15th in the 10 year boy event,
- Six children attended the NSW PSSA Athletics carnival. Lincoln Clark, Angus Macdonald, Sophie Saunders and Charles Sherwood were competitive in the Small Schools relay. Lincoln went on to become a state finalist in the Junior boy high jump, while Angus came 37th in the same event. Angus also came 34th in the 800 metres. Sophie was a finalist in the 800metres, top 25 for discus and reserve for semi finals in the Junior Girl relay. Sophie was the reserve junior girl for the Australian Nationals in the Multi event. Petria Slade competed in the Senior Girl shotput coming 27th overall; and
- Sophie Saunders attended the NSW PSSA Hockey Championships in Canberra.

Other

- Four Chess teams competed at the Tamworth Chess tournament with the senior team coming 7th.
- Sophie Saunders, achieved a Highly commended at the New England Multicultural Perspective competition. She also attended the Regional Spelling bee in August,
- Seven students competed in the Australian Speech and Communication Awards in December. Sophie Saunders and Isla O'Reilly achieved a High Distinction, Henry Saunders, Lia Robertson, Dughal O'Reilly and Robbie Hartigan achieved Distinctions and Rowan O'Reilly achieved a Credit; and
- parent helpers and community members assisted and supported the school in a variety of events from Athletics and Swimming carnivals to fundraising events such as the "Biggest Morning Tea", where a total of \$200 was raised.



Kindergarten child at Book Fair 2009

Academic

In the National Assessment Program, the results across the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 literacy and numeracy assessments are reported on a scale from Band 1 to Band 10.

The achievement scale represents increasing levels of skills and understandings demonstrated in the assessments.

Yr 3: from Band 1 (lowest) to Band 6 (highest for Year 3)

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

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 3

Six students sat the tests in Year 3. In reading, grammar & punctuation we were within state results. In spelling we were slightly below and in writing we were above state average.

Overall in Literacy we were within state averages.

Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 3

Six students sat the tests in Year 3. In all areas on Numeracy we were within state average. This included our overall Numeracy results.

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 5

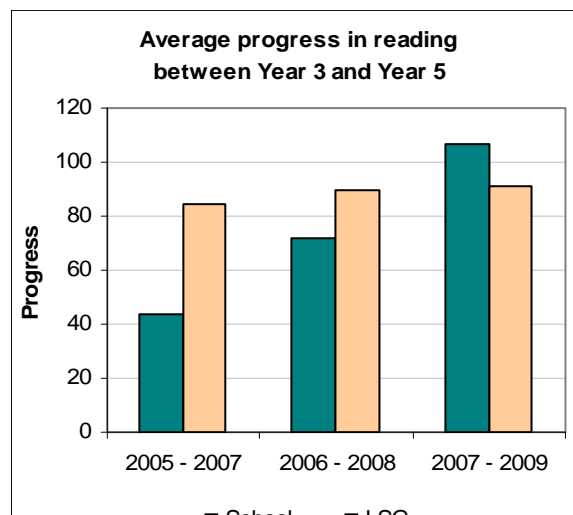
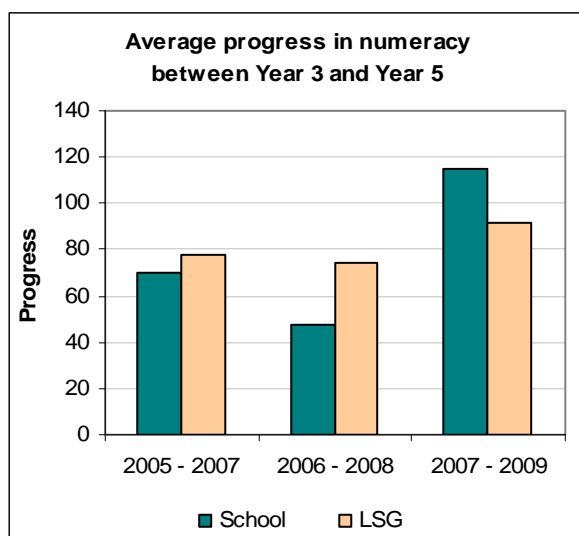
Six students sat the tests in Year 5. In reading we were well above state average. In spelling we were slightly below state average. In writing, grammar & punctuation we were within state averages.

Overall in Literacy we were above state average.

Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 5

Six students sat the test in Numeracy. In numbers, patterns and algebra we were well above state average. In Measurement data, space and geometry we were within state average.

Overall in Numeracy we were above state average.



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.

Percentage of Year 3 students in our school achieving at or above the minimum standard in 2009

Percentage of Year 3 students achieving at and above minimum standard	
Reading	100
Writing	100
Spelling	100
Punctuation and grammar	100
Numeracy	100

Percentage of Year 5 students in our school achieving at or above the minimum standard in 2009

Percentage of Year 5 students achieving at and above minimum standard	
Reading	100
Writing	100
Spelling	100
Punctuation and grammar	100
Numeracy	100



Significant programs and initiatives

At our school students learn in a stimulating and challenging environment and are encouraged to reach their full potential.

Aboriginal education

While we do not have any Aboriginal students enrolled at the school, aspects of the Aboriginal culture are taught across the curriculum to all years. The school uses funds to support teaching and learning

Multicultural education

Multicultural Education is integrated into all KLA areas. Children are also encouraged to participate in the Multicultural Perspectives Speech competition and a number have been successful in this program.



Mrs Saunders with Kindergarten children 2009

Respect and responsibility

Our school is steeped in traditional beliefs and values which is encouraged by the wider community. Our students prosper in a safe, inclusive and nurturing small school learning environment that develops respect, understanding and responsibility.

Progress on 2009 targets

Target 1

To further improve Literacy and numeracy results in the school.

Our achievements include:

- Results from 2009 NAPLAN above the State and well above average in Literacy and Numeracy.
- ASCA program continued in the school, with three children achieving high distinctions and the remaining four children achieving Distinctions. Three of them were presented with medals in Sydney.
- Quicksmart Numeracy was implemented in the school targeting 9 children with remediation three times a week and remainder of Yr 3-6 children once a fortnight.
- targeting children with special needs in reading, number and writing,
- Individual programs supported through community volunteer helpers and regional assistance to improve reading levels; and
- Four students out of six who sat the University of NSW Mathematics competition were above National average.

Target 2

To continue to promote the school in the wider community

Our achievements include:

- regular school news in local and regional paper including photographs,
- updated web page and make it more user friendly including Wallaby Whisper,
- erection of new signage out the front of the school promoting coming events,
- displays in foyer area promoted school events,
- through a new program we encouraged students to wear uniform with pride; and
- promoted our school at local functions.



Tamarang win the 2009 Athletics carnival

Target 3

Provide opportunities for children in Creative Arts.

Our achievements include:

- our school music program which is taught across the school encouraged children to have a deep appreciation of music,
- two visiting creative arts specialists for workshops,
- a number of opportunities for children to exhibit work such as Quirindi Show and Currabubula Art show,
- school Musical. "Wizard of Oz" in December; and
- whole school involvement in Quirindi Small Schools Arts Festival in September.



Fun with the parachute

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 2009 our school carried out evaluations of Management and Science and Technology.

Educational and management practice

In accordance with the schools cyclical review process, Management was the area chosen.

Data was collated through Staff and P&C meetings, a parent survey and class discussions.

Findings and conclusions

The management at Wallabadah school continues to have "teamwork" as its primary focus in planning. It is seen as the reason for success at Wallabadah Public School.

Staff, parents and students feel a part of most of the decision making in the school. There were however, comments in the survey, stating some issues relating to programs out of the schools control, where efficient management practices were lacking.

The students continue to enjoy coming to school which is reflected in our attendance data over the past five years.

Parents stated that the school is progressive and continually looking for ways to improve performance. The schools communication links are successful and our staff approachable.

Future directions

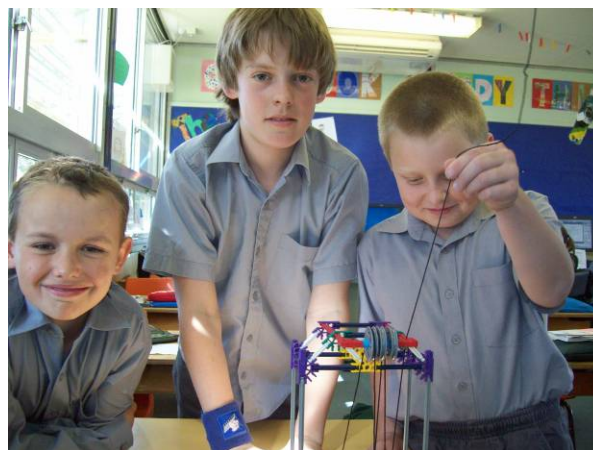
The school will continue to encourage parents to be involved in the partnership of their child's education. We will continue to implement procedures that make our students' welfare paramount. Staff will review the schools annual targets and plan at the conclusion of each term as a means of monitoring their progress.

Curriculum

Background

There has been a greater reliance on technology in our school over the past five years which is also reflected by the community. Parents and teachers want our school to be at the forefront of this technological change so therefore a great importance is placed in Science and Technology.

Staff participated in discussion at staff meetings and the school completed a technology audit to gather a snapshot of a range of technology-based issues and their effect on development of skills across the curriculum.



Science & Technology in the senior room

Findings and conclusions

Since our last evaluation of Science and Technology in 2003, the staff indicated that while we developed skills and expanding usage of technology in our classrooms, there is a significant amount of work required to keep up with the implementation and integration of technology in our school.

Future directions

In 2010 the school will continue to provide quality teaching in the areas of Science and Technology, and will ensure improved teams by:

- Evaluate resource unit boxes and example programs and relocate their current storage area;
- Purchase of Interactive Smartboard for K-2 room;
- Providing ongoing training and development for all staff particularly in the use of Smartboards, and
- Utilising outside resources to make science and Technology current, practical and fun, i.e. 'Questacon'.



Wallabadah student 2009



Wallabadah school 1906

School development 2009 – 2011

Targets for 2010

Our school is a part of the National Partnerships Program which will have a significant impact on the Teaching and Learning at Wallabadah P.S over the next four years.

Target 1

To increase the number of Year 3 students performing at Proficiency standard to 60% in both Literacy and numeracy.

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- Employ a staff member to focus on Literacy and numeracy to achieve improved learning outcomes;
- Train all staff in Accelerated Literacy;
- Continued focus on talking and listening through ASCA program;
- Continue Quicksmart numeracy for students in need, and
- Involvement of parents in children learning.

Our success will be measured by:

- Improved NAPLAN results;
- Utilising Literacy and numeracy resources accordingly;
- Continuation of enjoyment by students; and
- Improvement in teaching & learning in English and mathematics.

Target 2

To increase number of staff attending in school Professional Learning activities from 50% to 75% by December 2010.

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- All staff trained in Accelerated Literacy;
- Develop Professional Learning plans for teachers; and
- Encourage training and development opportunities using new online registration site.

Our success will be measured by:

- Teachers confident to effectively implement Accelerated Literacy strategies in the classrooms;
- Staff working together to develop training and development opportunities;
- Strengthened teacher capacity to improve student outcomes; and
- Improved student outcomes.

Target 3

To increase the use of technology in our classrooms.

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- Increase the number of Smartboards in the school from one to three;
- Use of video conferencing in our school connecting with to students from all parts of the world;
- Inservicing staff in the use of the Smartboard; and
- Provide broader curriculum options for every student through the use of technology.

Our success will be measured by:

- Improved NAPLAN results;
- Students and staff feeling confident in the use of technology, particularly Smartboards; and
- Students engaged in the use of technology in their learning.



Main characters promoting the musical "Wizard of Oz" in town.

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.

Christopher Jackson	Principal
Christine Davidson	SAM
Bronnie Saunders	Classroom teacher
Rory Sherwood	P&C President

School contact information

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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:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/asr>