2010 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"

Messages

Principal's message

As parents the most precious thing we have in the world is our children. The ability to bring life into the world.

As teachers you have entrusted us with your most precious gift and we are charged with the responsibility of educating them, and it's something we don't take lightly.

You trust us not only to educate your child but to care for them, respect them, and teach them how to function in our ever changing world. Some parents assume their child's teacher will do just that, but how do you know?

We know what a bad teacher is. Some of us may have had one when we were at school. I remember Mrs Watson. Hair pushed back severely in a bun. Those piercing red eyes could turn any unsuspecting student to stone...... and those fangs !!!!

So therefore the opposite to that must be a good teacher, and that's what we want for our precious gifts isn't it?

No

A good teacher is someone who has the right qualities and is adequate, but an effective teacher is someone who has impressive or striking abilities to instil a love of learning and questioning. That, I think, is someone who loves their job. Now isn't that the type of person you want teaching your precious gifts.

An effective teacher instils in their students expectations.

What behaviour they expect, the standard of work they expect, and the interpersonal relationships they expect. If the class knows what the teacher is "on about" they will try to reach and in some cases exceed these expectations. This teacher is fair, and doesn't single one student out from another. They use positive discipline strategies and create a classroom environment that promotes success for everyone.

An effective teacher keeps lines of communication open between home and school. They tell parents of not only problems in class but their child's successes. Educating your child should be a partnership, which takes into account concerns and advice from parents as well.

An effective teacher knows that not all students learn the same way or are operating on the same level. They adjust the instruction accordingly, based upon individual student needs and allow each student the freedom to explore learning in different ways. When you are in the classroom you may see the effective teacher instructing the whole class at one time, or working with small groups of children. They are flexible and if something doesn't work they try something else.

That is why, starting at the beginning of 2011, Wallabadah Public School will be going through a review, asking ourselves what we want for our precious gifts. What do you want?, what do the children want?, what do the teachers want? and what does the community want?. In doing this we are saying to everybody. "We want the best".

It's going to be a hard task and we all have to be involved.

I see this process as an opportunity for parents, teachers, students and community members to have a say. It's not going to take the form of surveys or forms to fill in, but interviews with DET staff who will work as a team. Feedback will be given, and recommendations will be made.

I am committed to this project as like every one of you I realise the importance of what is precious.

We must never forget that our children are gifts, a treasure in our lives that must be cared for, nurtured and given every opportunity to grow to their full potential. They are the most precious gift we are given in our lives and instilling a quest for learning and love are the most precious gifts we can give in return.

Christopher Jackson Principal 14th December 2020

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.



Community excursion to Wallabadah Rock

P & C and/or School Council message

Well another year has come and gone. I would like to thank the parents for giving me the opportunity to take on the P&C Presidency. This job was made easier by the parents who regularly attend P&C meetings. Thank you to Nikki Robertson-secretary and champion organizer, Belinda Sherwood—treasurer, and P&C members Cheryl Bray, Rory Sherwood, Jeff Nankivell and Brendyn Hawthorne.

We earned money for the school this year by organising a variety of fundraisers. The book fair in the first term was very successful and special thanks have to go to Andrew and Helen Makeham for initiating and organizing the two days. Manning the gate at the Quirindi Show and running the Morning Tea which ended up an "all day tea" at the Westpac Horse Ride were good earners, running a stall at the Quirindi Christmas Carnival selling personalized baubles as well as ongoing fundraisers like selling sheep manure, the Wallabadah Bags and the Pub Raffle. The two yearly raffles at Easter and Christmas always look splendid with all the donations from every family. The Wallabadah P&C has made itself a name as being asked by a number of caterers. We are organizations to cater, like at the Wallabadah New Year's Races.

These funds are used throughout the year to ease the financial burden on all families by paying for the bus for the bi-annual school excursion, contributing for the swimming bus, financing the prize books for every child at the end of the year and supplementing the administration wages so

that the school can employ a full-time secretary to ensure the school maintains its high teaching quality.

To all the parents and teachers who helped out throughout the year, whether it was at the sports carnival, in the canteen or at a fundraiser, every little bit of help counts and is appreciated and I thank you all.

Nigel Clark President

Student representative's message

Wallabadah is known for "Excellence in learning" And students are given big opportunities Learning to be on time with the bell was a challenge

Living in a friendly community is good because volunteers help out with reading and maths.

A fun thing to do was put up the flag. The new Building has been put in the school

Anyone and everyone is included in games and activities

During lunch, recess P.E we keep healthy

And ring the bell was lots of fun and we

Hope you have a merry Christmas and a Merry

Christmas and a safe and happy new year!!!!!

By Sophie Saunders and Robbie Hartigan



Grandparents day July 2010

School context

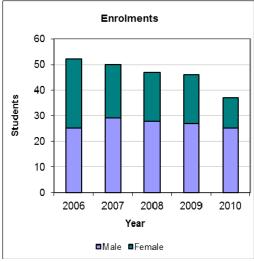
Student information

It is a requirement that the reporting of information for all students must be consistent with privacy and personal information policies.

Student enrolment profile

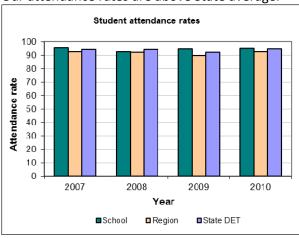
Our enrolment throughout 2010 dropped slightly to 40. We regularly monitor the enrolment situation and promote the school in the local and wider community.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Male	25	29	28	27	25
Female	27	21	19	19	12



Student attendance profile

Our attendance rates are 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 2010 class size audit conducted on Wednesday 17 March 2010.

Roll Class	Year	Total per Year	Total in Class
K-1-2 S	K	5	12
K-1-2 S	1	3	12
K-1-2 S	2	4	12
3 R	3	9	9
4-5-6 J	4	5	18
4-5-6 J	5	6	18
4-5-6 J	6	7	18

Structure of classes

With National Partnerships funding we were able to structure three classes for five days a week. This enabled staff to target smaller groups and ensure all our classes (particularly the larger Year 3 group) had greater opportunities.

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)	
Assistant Principal(s)	
Head Teachers	
Classroom Teachers	2
Teacher of Emotional Disabilities	
Teacher of Mild Intellectual Disabilities	
Teacher of Reading Recovery	
Support Teacher Learning Assistance	
Teacher Librarian	.6
Teacher of ESL	
Counsellor	
School Administrative & Support Staff	1.5
Total	4.1

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

There are no indigenous staff members currently teaching at Wallabadah Public School. All staff

Teacher qualifications

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

Qualifications	% of staff
Degree or Diploma	100%
Postgraduate	



Georgia Makeham and her grandfathers Bill Towse (our school GA) and Mick Makeham. Grandparents day 2010.

Financial summary

This summary covers funds for operating costs and does not involve expenditure areas such as permanent salaries, building and major maintenance.

Date of financial summary:	30/11/2010
Income	
Balance brought forward	32 244.66
Global funds	60 851.50
Tied funds	44 032.60
School & community sources	26 563.86
Interest	1 645.93
Trust receipts	369.00
Canteen	0.00
Total income	165 707.55
Expenditure	
Teaching & learning	
Key learning areas	22 582.44
Excursions	11 849.39
Extracurricular dissections	7 357.04
Library	1 341.35
Training & development	98.00
Tied funds	15 016.34
Casual relief teachers	3 105.30
Administration & office	28 234.34
School-operated canteen	0.00
Utilities	9 174.95
Maintenance	9 789.75
Trust accounts	369.00
Capital programs	0.00
Total expenditure	108 917.90
Balance carried forward	56 789.65

A full copy of the school's 2010 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.



"T" for Tigers. K-1 2010

School performance 2010

The school and our students have achieved "great things" throughout 2010. There have been achievements at a high standard academically, on the sporting field, creatively and in community service endeavours.



Visit by Sam Bailey August 2010

Achievements

Arts

We had another successful year with Creative Arts at Wallabadah. We started the year off with the senior class travelling to Blackville for a debate. It was also the first opportunity for the school blazers to be worn and Sophie Saunders, Will Macdonald, Lincoln Clark and Tom Robertson looked very smart indeed. In May all children participated in the small school Art show and this year the school had a number of prizes awarded.

The whole school was also involved in the 16th Quirindi Small Schools Arts Festival with a number of children singing solos. Our school item "Joyful

Joyful" was an outstanding success with many positive comments from audience member on the night.

The children enjoyed Musica Viva which is integrated into the schools music program and taught by Mr Jackson. The children thoroughly enjoyed this years performances "Jacana" and "World according to James". One was held at Willow Tree P.S. while the other at Wallabadah.



Musica Viva at Willow Tree P.S. October 2010

Tom and Lia Robertson, Sophie and Henry Saunders, and Robert Hartigan all participated in the Australian Speech and Communication program in August this year. All students did exceptionally well with Robbie, Lia and Tom attaining Distinctions, while Henry and Sophie were awarded High Distinctions.

The Primary classes were fortunate to see a live performance of a book they were studying at the new Capitol Theatre in Tamworth. "Fox" a play adapted from the book by Margaret Wild was an excellent way for children not only to see live theatre but experience another way of telling a story through dance and mime.

Children exhibited artwork at the local show, sang and danced at school and community events and performed choral speech at Presentation night.

Sport

2010 has been an outstanding year with many children representing the school at all levels and performing at the best of their ability. In Term One, the school had a swimming relay team at the NSW PSSA Swimming Championships, Lincoln Clark, Sarah Caslick, Kai Clark and Sophie Saunders

performing their personal best. Sophie, the 11yr North West champion, also completed well in 7 other events. Sophie also represented the school at the NSW PSSA Tennis Championships, being awarded the North West Player of the Tournament.

In Term Two, children were selected for the Quirindi Zone PSSA Cross Country. This year there were a lot of 8, 9 and 10 year old children which was excellent to see!! Wyatt Smith, Sophie Saunders and Will Macdonald all progressed to the Regional level and enjoyed the experience. Sophie won her division, then went on to win the NSW Gold Medal and continued her journey winning 3 Australian Gold Medals. An outstanding achievement. Sophie was also selected in the North West Hockey team that came 3rd in NSW for 2010.



Sophie Saunders 2010 Regional Sports Person of the Year

In Term Three, a number of children completed athletics at Quirindi zone, with many being their first time. Lincoln Clark jumped his way to Regional level as did Will, Kai and Sophie. Sophie and Lincoln went on to represent the school at the NSW PSSA

Athletics Carnival. Lincoln was in the high jump and Sophie the discus and 800m where she came 4th and was the reserve for National titles. Well done! Sophie was also selected in the North West PSSA Softball team that were successful at coming 12th at the NSW Carnival.

In Term Four, the North West PSSA selected the Awards for the 2010 and Sophie Saunders was selected for: 2010 Blues Award-Cross Country (awarded to the children that medal at National level or receive a Gold medal at State level) 2010 Most Outstanding Primary Athlete of the Year 2010 North West Sportsperson of the Year.

Other

The school involved the local community in several events throughout the year.

- Excursion to Wallabadah Rock with all students and families travelling by 4 wheel drive to the second largest monolith in Australia.
- "Minute to win it" Yr 6 fundraiser involved not only children staff and parents but the local community as well.
- Visit by Westpac helicopter in December was not only fun but informative and gave the community another opportunity to be involved in school activities.

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)

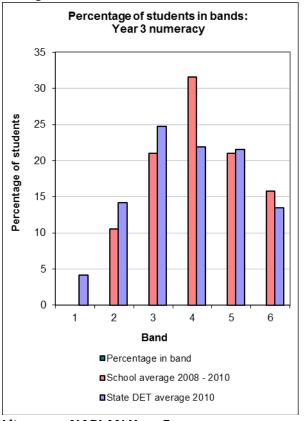
Yr 5: from Band 3 (lowest) to Band 8 (highest for Year 5)

Literacy - NAPLAN Year 3

NAPLAN results were no surprise to the school in 2010. While results were down from previous years in NAPLAN in both Years 3 and 5, programs that we decided to put in place at the beginning of this year have supported children with learning difficulties as well as those who excel. We were very much aware of the problems identified in Reading and Spelling in Year 3 and Spelling and Grammar & Punctuation in Year 5.

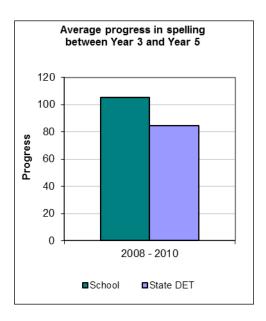
Numeracy - NAPLAN Year 3

Eight students in Year 3 sat for the NAPLAN test in Numeracy. In all areas we were above National average.



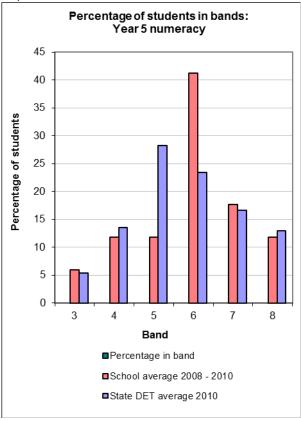
Literacy – NAPLAN Year 5

Five students in Year 5 sat for the NAPLAN test in Literacy. While the results were down on previous years, they have however, made significant growth from Year 3 to Year 5. There had been a number of changes in the cohort since 2008, with half of the 2008 Year 3 cohort leaving between 2008 and 2010.



Numeracy - NAPLAN Year 5

Over half the children in Year 5 who enrolled at our school last year have had learning difficulties which impacted on our 2010 NAPLAN results.



Progress in literacy

We had four Kindergarten enrolments for 2010. All children were assessed using the Best Start kit with no child showing advanced knowledge.

Approaching the final weeks of the 2010 school year all children have advanced remarkably. Three children are reading at a PM level 9 recognising over 100 sightwords, and one child reading at PM level 3 gaining extra assistance. All children are writing a sentence using sightword knowledge. We will be continuing our focus on Spelling throughout the school in 2011. Children requiring remediation will receive support through the Individualised Spelling Program and each day with the MYLO program. Supporting the current Year 3 children in maintaining smaller classes will reinforce skills and strategies taught this year with an expectation for continued growth in NAPLAN 2012.

Progress in numeracy

In mathematics, from Best Start assessment, all Kindergarten children can count to 10 forwards and backwards and recognise all numbers to 100. Progress of students in Yr 1,2,4 and 6 is pleasing.

Children have been engaged in mathematics throughout 2010 with many of the strategies teachers are employing from Brian Tickle workshops.



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 2010

Percentage of Year 3 students achieving at or 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 2010

No children in Year 5 were below the national minimum standards, however three children were identified as being below State average in either Reading, Spelling or Numeracy. These three children are currently on support programs in their areas of concern and are making considerable progress since the beginning of the year.

Percentage of Year 5 students achieving at or above minimum standard		
Reading	80	
Writing	100	
Spelling	60	
Punctuation and grammar	100	
Numeracy	80	

Significant programs and initiatives

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



Year 3-6 excursion to Sydney. September 2010.

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.

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.

National partnership programs

Under the National Partnerships initiative we were able to employ a teacher to take the large Yr 3 class for four days a week. This program was most beneficial in catering for individual students needs ensuring that every student received .



Progress on 2010 targets

Our school was a part of the National Partnerships Program which had a wonderful impact on the Teaching and Learning at Wallabadah P.S throughout 2010.

Target 1

To increase NAPLAN Literacy growth in the school from 64.9 to equal or better state growth.

High - Target has been exceeded. Our growth was well above State average in growth in all areas of Literacy and well above in Reading

Our achievements include:

- Very successful Spelling Program lifted some students results by 13 months. Students, staff and parents pleased with progress.
- Accelerated Literacy across the whole school has shown that children have developed a love of reading. Library borrowing has increased.

Target 2

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

High - Target has been exceeded. All teaching staff were involved in Brian Tickle Mathematics workshops, and all staff are now trained in Accelerated Literacy.

Our achievements include:

 Staff trained and implementing Accelerated Literacy strategies and programs in the school.
 Support from facilitator in August and a number of resources have been purchased for 2011. Staff are enthusiastic about Literacy and students are engaged. Brian Tickle workshops was inspirational for all staff. Teaching strategies and resources have been implemented across the school. Children love mental computation strategies and problem solving.

Target 3 To reduce unjustified absences from 128 to 50 by Dec 2010.

Basic - Progress has been made towards achievements of the target. Due to three children who were absent from school on family leave our unjustified absences were 125. Taking these absences out we would have reached 85.

Our achievements include:

 Programs to encourage student participation in all school activities were successful. Greater number of children attended extra curricula events. Eg:- Community excursion to Wallabadah Rock and School Athletics carnival.



K-2 excursion to Dubbo Zoo October 2010

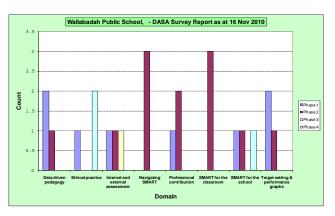
Key evaluations

Student surveys and interviews, analysis of partial absentee data and lesson observations all confirm high levels of student engagement throughout the school. Our children are motivated and it is evident that they enjoy coming to school.

Our TPL budget for 2010 was exceeded by \$1,400 due to a commitment we made to the whole teaching staff attending Brian Tickle mathematics workshops. Success of these workshops was evident back at the school with a renewed enthusiasm towards mathematics by staff and students.

As the entire teaching staff are now trained in Accelerated Literacy, the school is now committed to building up resources that will support teaching and learning in this valuable literacy area.

In 2009 we made a commitment to Accelerated Literacy and this has continued into 2010. As a result we have developed a school programming proforma which is used by staff and AL strategies are incorporated into Literacy sessions in all classrooms. In 2011 we will be looking at building up school resources and utilising Regional staff to continue to build staff capacity. This will impact on Teaching and Learning in the classroom enabling students gain access to a wider range of resources, lifting the Literacy results in the school. It is evident that the staff is willing to try new and innovative strategies to improve student outcomes. Attending in service courses, meetings and reading professional literature has ensured they are up to date and most importantly addressing the specific needs of the children in each class. In 2011 we will be holding CTJ days with



staff from Werris Creek and Willow Tree schools in each stage. These sharing sessions will encourage staff to look beyond their classrooms and take on new challenges to enhance what they are already doing.

Parent Surveys are conducted at the then of each term, however responses have dwindled over the last few years. Survey Monkey was conducted during Parent Teacher appointments with a 95% response. It was found that all parents were pleased with the schools operation and their involvement and engagement in the school. We have a strong link with local community organisations and therefore the school is involved in many outside events.

Parents are actively involved in their childs education from P&C to reading and maths groups. Parents surveys, forums and interviews all confirm a high level of parent satisfaction with the school.



Yr 3-6 at "Sunrise" studios Sydney excursion 2010

Educational and management practice

This year we have chosen to evaluate Teaching and Learning within the school for 2010.

The School Council surveyed all the 27 school families using the Survey monkey program during parent teacher interviews. This ensured we had 100% input. All teaching staff and ancillary staff completed surveys, as did all students.

Findings and conclusions

Analysis of results revealed that people in general were positive about teaching practices at school.

- Teachers are given a range of opportunities to develop their professional skills.
- The emphasis that is placed on Reading, and Spelling is valued and appreciated.
- Within classrooms children are engaged, encouraged, stimulated, given positive reinforcement, guided, mentored and taught through good classroom management and organisation and a firm, fair and considerate approach to teaching. A variety of pedagogies were evident in all classrooms.

Future Directions

From these findings the following recommendations have been made.

- Teachers should be encouraged to watch one another and discuss teaching strategies. There is excellent teaching taking place within the school we should not miss the opportunity on it's own doorstep "of learning from each other"
- Promotion of technology as an important learning tool should continue and be further developed in the school.
- The school should consider introducing an "extension program" or "Gifted and Talented" program.

Curriculum Background

The school took the opportunity to evaluate Literacy this year as we have just implemented Accelerated Literacy across the school. Surveys were conducted within the school and in the wider community.

Findings and conclusions

Students teachers and parents were very happy with the way Literacy has been delivered in the classroom. This is due to the enthusiasm of the staff working with new teaching and learning strategies that engage students. Responses from children showed they have a love of reading and enjoy the teaching and learning activities in the classroom. It was found that there has been a considerable down turn in home reading particularly in the senior classes. Parents and staff feel that it is probably being done, just that the older children don't feel inclined to participate in the rewards program.

Classrooms were brightly decorated throughout the year showing organised and well presented examples of quality students work. There were many positive comments from parents and visitors during class assemblies.

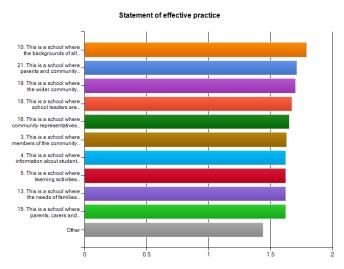
An individualized Spelling program was introduced this year with Mrs Jennifer Jackson employed each Friday morning. It has been most successful. Many students list spelling as their favourite subject.

Future directions

A number of aspects were identified from the survey for future directions.

Parent, student, and teacher satisfaction

In 2010 the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school.



School development 2009 – 2011 Targets for 2011

Target 1

According to in school data and NAPLAN results 80% of students will achieve or better stage appropriate outcomes in Spelling.

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- employ a staff member to focus on Literacy to achieve improved learning outcomes,
- continuing Individualised Spelling program in 2011,
- developing staff Professional Learning targets focused on spelling; and
- involvement of parents in children's learning. Our success will be measured by:
- improved NAPLAN results,
- improvement in teaching and learning in Literacy, particularly spelling; and
- increased student participation, engagement and success in spelling.

Target 2

To increase NAPLAN growth in Numeracy from by 3.6 from 85.5 to 89.1 so it will be equal or better than State growth.

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- employ a staff member to focus on numeracy to achieve improved learning outcomes,
- continuing the very successful QuickSmart program,
- use of technology to engage students in numeracy; and
- involvement of parents in children's learning. Our success will be measured by:
- improved NAPLAN results,
- improvement in teaching and learning in numeracy; and
- increased student participation, engagement and success in all areas of numeracy.

Target 3

To have all teaching staff attend 80% of network workshops and at least two Regional in services.

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- continuing to up skill staff in Accelerated Literacy,
- up skilling staff in persuasive writing techniques,
- developing Professional Learning plans for teachers; and
- encouraging training and development opportunities using new online registration site.

Our success will be measured by:

- teachers confident to effectively use 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.

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
Bronnie Saunders Staff Member
Nigel Clark P&C President

Nikki Robertson Parent Representative
Cheryl Bray Parent Representative
Laurice McGilchrist Community Member

School contact information

Wallabadah Public School

28 Martyn Street, WALLABADAH 2343 NSW

Ph: (02) 67465512 Fax: (02) 67465700 Email: wallabadah-p@schools.nsw.edu.au

Web: www. wallabadah-p@schools.nsw.edu.au

School Code: 3345

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