

Annual School Report 2015



Wallabadah Public School





Introduction

The Annual Report for 2015 is provided to the community of Wallabadah Public School as an account of the school's operations and achievements throughout the year.

It provides a detailed account of the progress the school has made to provide high quality educational opportunities for all students, as set out in the school plan. It outlines the findings from self-assessment that reflect the impact of key school strategies for improved learning and the benefit to all students from the expenditure of resources, including equity funding.

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"

Christopher Jackson
Principal

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Message from the Principal

Everyone is here tonight to celebrate the successes of our little school. We all believe that what we do here is worthwhile and we take great pride in what we can achieve.

Our school is a place, that offers opportunities to all children regardless of backgrounds, behaviours abilities or cultures. It is our ethos. "Small school BIG opportunities".

Our school is a place where we provide opportunities for every child. Opportunities to "have a go". To take on challenges of discovery through the magic of science in the laboratories, performance through theatre, making stories come alive through literature, create masterpieces in Art, solving real life problems through calculation, learning the skill of computer programming, or making peers dance on a screen on the computer, making you feel like a magician.

Our school makes it possible for us to create all this. A place where you make friends, where you play, enjoy, learn and grow. Such a place, my friends, can only be Wallabadah Public School!

Our school, is situated in one of the most beautiful areas in New South Wales. I love this school; it is like the blood which flows in my veins. I am what I am because of this wonderful part of my life. I know I wasn't educated here, so if this is the impact it's had on me as a teacher, imagine the impact it has had on your children.

Our school is where children find their confidence and their self-awareness. It is here that children learn to understand the difference between right and wrong, to read and enjoy what they read, the skill to manage their conflicts, the ability to change their behaviours, respect their elders and friends, be kind, compassionate, forgiving and good. They learn all this from their parents, teachers, peers and community who have these qualities. Our community ensures their children understand, how to be good, by being good themselves.



At school we make students accountable for what they do. We forgive them for their mistakes and we learn to forgive others for theirs.

Who would not want to be in a school like ours? We go on excursions, live in a wonderful village, visit historical places, attend Musica Viva afternoons, participate in Science Expos and are involved in so many activities that life is filled with excitement each day.

I think no school has a better sports culture than ours. It is because of this that our school students do exceptionally well at the Zone, Area and on many occasions State level. We are indeed lucky to be working in a school like ours. Our school is fun, our school is exciting and each day in our school is full of opportunities, an adventure, and a discovery.

Just by flipping through the pages in our school magazine is testament to the joy children get from being at Wallabadah. Later tonight you will see the "School in Review" video. While editing it I was moved by the sheer delight and engagement on the faces of all your children.

Education of our children doesn't only happen in the fun activities we see in the magazine or on the video "School in Review" It's also the experiences and activities done in the classroom each day. The Spelling, Maths Mentals and other subjects where our students strive to be the best.

As of 2016 unless we have four more students Wallabadah Public will be reclassified.

What will that mean? Well I have been told that in Term 2 next year Mrs Saunders, who has loved teaching at Wallabadah since 2002? will be transferred to another school. I will also be transferred when a Principals position comes up nearby and a new teaching Principal will be appointed to Wallabadah. They will be teaching the students from Kindergarten to Year 6. All in one class.

Twenty years ago I taught at a local one teacher school just west of Willow Tree, and together the 11 students, parents and I created a wonderful learning experience.

The difference here is that Mount Parry School always was a one teacher school. They didn't have the expectations of a staffed school that we do at Wallabadah.

As this is a close knit community I believe that transparency is important and that you are aware of all the facts at hand. Whether we can do anything time will tell. Our aim is not to get numbers to keep our jobs. There are jobs in other places, but we want to increase our numbers to remain in this extra special and extraordinary little place called Wallabadah.

On our current projected enrolments there will be 23 students from K to 6.

Due to our aging community who have raised their children in Wallabadah and decided to remain in Wallabadah (and who wouldn't) housing for new families is limited. The residence continues to sit empty and I have been in discussions for over 12 months as to how we can access it.

I'm not expecting any of you to go out and increase the size of your family, but the staff and I felt that our community needs to know the situation before it happens should the trend continue.

So what we are asking of you is this. If you know of anyone who is looking for a small community in which to live, spread the word about the wonderful things we are doing at Wallabadah and encourage them to consider enrolling their children here. We all need to be proactive. Historically we have enrolled children from the north side of Willow Tree and the eastern side of Quirindi.

I wouldn't normally be speaking about our dire enrolment needs at a Presentation night, but it is the one opportunity where all the Wallabadah community are gathered and I have an opportunity to let you know.



School background

School vision statement

At Wallabadah Public., we believe that we provide a caring and stimulating learning environment for the children in our care. We value individual difference, confidence, respect, integrity and team work. Happy children, academic excellence, sportsmanship and encouraging participation are our primary goals.

“Small School BIG opportunities”

School context



Wallabadah Public School is a small, welcoming community based country school. It is a P5 school with a student population of 26. 20% of students identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. The school prides itself on being a caring, community based K-6 school, where 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”. The school has a highly active P&C who invest highly in the education of the children of today.

School enrolments have decreased over the past couple of years with families relocating out of the area however; there has been strong kindergarten enrolment numbers over the past three years. It is located just off the new England Highway, 50kms South of Tamworth and 20kms East of the Quirindi township.

The school is organised into 2 mainstream classes (K/1/2 & 3/4/5). The school has 3 teaching staff, including a teaching principal, one full-time office staff (SAM) and a full-time SLSO.

The school community is traditional in its approach and the school cultivates a climate of high expectations for both staff and students. School management focuses on quality teaching and learning. There are clear expectations of all school community members (staff, students and parents) that every child will be learning every day to the best of their ability.

The school has kept pace with advances in technology by installing Interactive Whiteboards in every classroom as well as the use of iPad technologies.



Self-assessment and school achievements

Self-assessment using the School Excellence Framework

This section of the Annual Report outlines the findings from self-assessment using the School Excellence Framework, our school achievements and the next steps to be pursued. The Framework supports public schools throughout NSW in the pursuit of excellence by providing a clear description of high quality practice across the three domains of Learning, Teaching and Leading.

This year, Wallabadah Public School undertook self-assessment using the elements of the School Excellence Framework. Our self-assessment process will further assist the school to refine the strategic priorities in our School plan leading to further improvements in the delivery of education to our students.

Learning

In the domain of Learning, students at Wallabadah Public School were provided with engaging and innovative learning opportunities in English, Maths, Science, History, PDHPE, CAPA and Technology. Staff were involved in Professional Learning with Learning goals which enabled students to determine their own learning progress and celebrate their successes. Learning opportunities were differentiated to cater for individual learning needs and cross-stage classrooms while embedding current research based pedagogies into teaching practice which included current researched based pedagogies.

Teaching

In the domain of Teaching, staff at Wallabadah Public School identified consistent quality learning opportunities for all children can be provided through collaborative teacher learning initiatives supporting innovative, effective change in 21st Century teaching. Our school was involved in the newly established Liverpool Plains Alliance which supported the Professional Learning opportunities within our school. Working with the staff at Willow Tree Public School added to our innovative approaches to teaching and learning, assessment and measurement through quality professional learning and evidence-based approaches.

Leading

In the domain of Leading our school focussed on our partnerships with parents and community. We continued to build on and increase our community relationships and community support of all our students through a school wide focus on student equity, well-being and welfare programs. The establishment of the Liverpool Plains Alliance was a major focus for staff, students and other school communities with the introduction of Coveys 7 Habits and the Leader in Me.

Details of our achievements in 2015 and the next steps in 2016 for our 2015-17 goals are outlined on the following pages.



Strategic Direction 1

Consistent, quality teaching practices within the school.

Purpose

Students at Wallabadah Public School will be provided with engaging and innovative learning opportunities in English, Maths, Science, History, PDHPE, CAPA and Technology. Learning opportunities will be differentiated to cater for individual learning needs and cross-stage classrooms while embedding current research based pedagogies into teaching practice including current researched based pedagogies into teaching practice including 21st Century Learning concepts.

Overall summary of progress

Student Engagement

In 2015, two staff members completed the “KidsMatter” training which then enabled the rest of the staff to be trained. KidsMatter signage was displayed about the school as well as promotional materials published in the School Newsletter. Special activity days were held in Term 2 and 3 promoting Mental Health and positive behaviours.

A new positive behaviour system was introduced this year which defined behavioural expectations and providing positive teaching and learning experiences across K-6. It not only acknowledged achievements at school but activities where students represented the school outside in the wider community.

Science and Technology

Each fortnight a Science experience was conducted with neighbouring Willow Tree P.S. In Term 1 the schools held a Science Expo at Quirindi High which not only allowed us to use their Science Laboratories but enabled the children to see what QHS can provide them in their future educational endeavours. Term 2 was an Environmental day at Willow Tree P.S. Term 3 was a Science Fair at Wallabadah P.S and in Term 4 a Science Family Science performance by Peter Eastwell which was held in the evening with all families.

Early in 2015 the school purchased a ZooWhizz subscription for every student to utilise not only in Technology sessions but at home as well. It became a part of the senior class’ homework activities. Children in the junior classes became very competent using not only iPads but Desktop and Laptop computers as well.

Progress towards achieving improvement measures		Resources (annual)
Improvement measure	Progress achieved this year	
<i>Student engagement</i> KidsMatter	Implementation of KidsMatter program throughout the school.	\$500.00 Activities
Positive behaviour system	Progressive positive system school and community based. <ul style="list-style-type: none">90% of children achieved Merit badge by December.	\$500 badges and awards

Strategic Direction 1

Positive behaviour system	Increased participation in community events. <ul style="list-style-type: none">87% of students attended ANZAC ceremony.	
Science and Technology	Science scope and sequence developed for the school with WTPS Science experiences <ul style="list-style-type: none">Term 1 QHS Science Day in Laboratories.Term 2 Environmental Day at Willow Tree with Council Recycling representativeTerm 3 Science Fair at Wallabadah. Each student presented a Science demonstration in HallTerm 4 Peter Eastwell Family Science Evening at Wallabadah Hall. Community involvement	\$1100 Science budget \$500 Family Science Evening subsidy for students

Next steps

Student Engagement

In 2016, the KidsMatter program commenced in 2014-5 will be incorporated and built upon by Franklin Coveys "The Leader in Me". To build on the success of this year, the project will:

- Promote the Leader in Me in the wider community;
- Create signage and murals promoting the 7 Habits;
- Timetable whole school and class sessions; and
- Develop a booklet incorporating the 7 Habits and Learning goals for each student.

Science and Technology

In 2016 we will continue working with Willow Tree on Science., however we will be introducing History into the Professional learning of staff.

- Term 1 History development. Looking at the syllabus
- Term 2 Science Expo
- Term 3 History excursion
- Term 4 Science Family Evening



Strategic Direction 2

Collectively building teacher and leadership capacity to ensure quality learning for all.

Purpose

Our learning community has identified that consistent quality learning opportunities for all children can be provided through collaborative teacher learning initiatives supporting innovative, effective change in 21st Century teaching.

Teachers and leaders at Wallabadah Public School and in the LPCS will continue to develop innovative approaches to teaching and learning, assessment and measurement through quality professional learning and evidence-based approaches.

This will ensure sound student learning outcomes and underpin strategic improvement.

Overall summary of progress

Teacher Quality

Our first learning experience in this project was a number of afternoon and a whole day session with Kerrie Betts around 21st Century Learners. These sessions enabled staff to learn about Learning goals, discuss with each other their strengths and concerns about implementing Learning goals and opportunities to try them out in the classroom.

A School Development day at Quirindi High School in Term 2 saw workshops presented by staff and their peers which provided further discussion and implementation.

The Staff Development day in Term 3 at Willow Tree was another opportunity to work with Kerrie on developing a whole school approach to Learning goals.

All staff completed two online training sessions after school. Autism was conducted by Cheryl Pringle in Term 3 and Speech, Communication and Language was completed in Term 4 with Sharon Housden as the online tutor.

The Leader in Me

In October 2015, Kerry Kutz, Principal at Quirindi Primary School applied on behalf of the Liverpool Plains Alliance for funding to develop and implement the Leader in Me into all schools. Principals met Kerryanne Knox from Franklin Covey for an initial meeting. On the last two days of Term 4 2015 all staff were trained in the 7 habits.

Progress towards achieving improvement measures		Resources (annual)
Improvement measure	Progress achieved this year	
Teacher Quality	<p>Professional learning for all teaching staff with Kerrie Betts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Willow Tree P.S full day and half day• Wallabadah half day• Quirindi High School Full day <p>Staff meetings around Learning goals</p> <p>100% of staff were trained in Mandatory professional</p>	\$900 casual salaries

Strategic Direction 2

	Development Online learning <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Term 3 Autism. Staff BS, JB, SK, CJ, KG, ER• Term 4 Speech, Communication & Language. Staff BS, SK, CJ, KG, ER	
The Leader in Me	Staff attended Coveys 7 Habits on last two days of the year.	\$1500 Franklin Covey web access 2016

Next steps

Teacher Quality

Completion of Professional Development 21st Century teaching sessions with Kerrie Betts Term 2 SDD

Review, implementation and Plan of Syllabus

- Review implementation of NSW for Australian Curriculum Science Syllabus to build staff confidence and ability
- Implementation of NSW for Australian Curriculum History Syllabus Planning for implementation of NSW for Australian Curriculum Geography Syllabus.

The Leader in Me

- School Development day Term 1 2016 Training sessions;
- Introduce TLIM to students through Friday whole school lessons;
- Promote TLIM around the school, in media and wider community;
- Build Awareness within the parents body;
- Hold Review meetings with Kerryanne Knox; and
- Celebrate successes



Strategic Direction 3

Building on a strong school culture within the community

Purpose

To continually build and increase community relationships and community support of our students through a school wide focus on student equity, well-being and welfare programs.

The Liverpool Plains Community of Schools will be a major focus for staff, students and the school community.

Overall summary of progress

Partnerships with Parents

In 2015, Wallabadah School was successful in developing multiple access points for parents into the school. A number parents attended sessions that targeted student learning or their own personal interests. 95% of parent families were represented at special events such as Easter Hat Parade, Swimming and Athletics carnivals and 98% of families were present at our Annual Presentation night.

The “SkoolBag” app was introduced at Wallabadah P.S. with 70% of parents using it to download the Newsletter and access permission notes.

Educational Communities

The Liverpool Alliance became an organisation that was fully developed in 2015 with regular meetings and events. It consists on Willow Tree, Wallabadah, Werris Creek, Quirindi Primary, Quirindi High, Spring Ridge, Walhallow and Blackville schools.. A number of Professional leaning activities are conducted with the main focus for 2016 “The Leader in Me”

Wallabadah and Willow Tree continued to conduct Professional Learning activities on a regular basis. Mostly School Development days are shared between the two schools as well as Staff Meetings which are held fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons.

Progress towards achieving improvement measures		Resources (annual)
Improvement measure	Progress achieved this year	
<i>Partnerships with Parents</i> Increased parental engagement with the school and local community across multiple points of access.	SkoolBag app introduced to parents Development and establishment of murals around the school for “KidsMatter” Special Events <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Harmony Day ^5% of families attended with 8 community members.• Easter Hat Parade/Cross Country run 95% of families attended.• ANZAC day 97% students attended march at Quirindi	\$1400 Community engagement grant

Strategic Direction 3

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Athletics and Swimming Carnivals with Willow Tree P.S.	
<p><i>Educational Communities</i></p> <p>Stronger links with collegial schools, networks, community businesses and organisations.</p>	<p>Professional Learning opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• School Development days with Liverpool Plains Alliance Term 2.• School Development Day with Willow Tree P.S. Term 3• Staff meetings each fortnight alternating between Willow Tree and Wallabadah P.S. Terms 1 2 and 3.• Liverpool Plains Alliance network meetings each term.• The Seven Habits training with LPA at Quirindi Primary School 17/18 December 2015.	\$400

Next steps

Partnerships with Parents

Intensify the interest of our parents by increasing involvement in our events and strengthening what we have already established;

- Utilise the parents as Reading helpers on a daily basis;
- Develop the “Plot to Plate” program to involve parents in the school from gardening to cooking;
- Involve parents in Coveys “Seven Habits”; and
- Include ‘Clean Up Australia Day’ on the 4th March as a whole community event

Educational Communities

In 2016,

- Work with Quirindi High School transition program in school to promote and experience life as a high school student;
- Year 6 students to be involved in “Taster days” and “Orientation Days”
- Develop partnerships with local businesses and community organisations;
- Access local sporting organisations; and
- Increased events interschool events with WTPS.



Key initiatives and other school focus areas

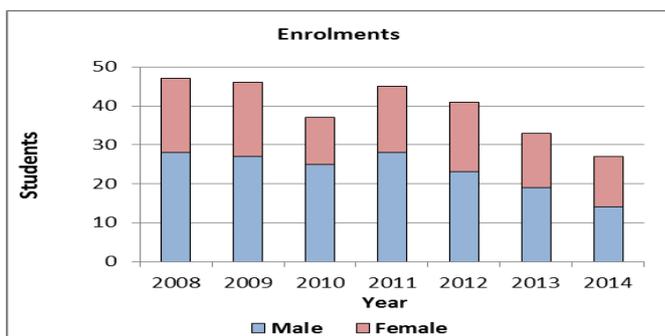
Key initiatives (annual)	Impact achieved this year	Resources (annual)
Aboriginal background funding	Funding was used to promote Aboriginal culture within the school and wider community. Resources were purchased and NAIDOC activities were held at school.	\$ 1 218
English language proficiency funding	No funding was received in 2015	\$0
Targeted students support for refugees and new arrivals	No funding was received in 2015	\$0
Socio-economic funding	Additional staffing to provide classroom support. A Teachers Aide was employed five days a week for 2015 primarily in the Junior classroom.	\$10 050
Low level adjustment for disability funding	Additional staffing to provide classroom support. Five children identified in DDA received supplementary support while three required substantial support.	\$12 122
Support for beginning teachers	No funding was received in 2015	\$0



Student information

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

Student enrolment profile



Student attendance profile

	Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
School	K	97.6	95.7	95.3	95.2	89.9	91.9
	1	95.0	97.8	95.3	95.2	94.4	94.2
	2	94.3	98.1	98.9	95.6	95.3	96.3
	3	95.6	95.9	97.9	99.4	98.1	98.2
	4	92.5	93.1	96.7	96.1	98.9	97.9
	5	93.6	94.4	95.8	98.7	na	98.6
	6	94.1	95.8	93.3	97.3	94.8	na
	Total	94.8	95.2	95.6	96.5	95.2	95.2
State DEC	K	94.7	94.7	94.3	95.0	95.2	94.4
	1	94.2	94.2	93.9	94.5	94.7	93.8
	2	94.4	94.2	94.2	94.7	94.9	94.0
	3	94.5	94.4	94.4	94.8	95.0	94.1
	4	94.5	94.3	94.3	94.7	94.9	94.0
	5	94.4	94.2	94.2	94.5	94.8	94.0
	6	94.0	93.8	93.8	94.1	94.2	93.5
	Total	94.4	94.3	94.2	94.7	94.8	94.0

Management of Non-attendance

Wallabadah Public School is proactive in managing student non-attendance. Together with the Home School Liaison Officer (HSLO) students are identified whose attendance is of concern. These students are monitored closely through:

- Weekly attendance report to the Principal.
- Consistent communication with parents by notification letter, telephone or interview.
- Stringent adherence to HSLO procedures.

Students who have outstanding levels of attendance are eligible for school based rewards and recognition of their achievement at Presentation night.

Workforce information

Reporting of information for all staff must be consistent with privacy and personal information policies.

Workforce composition

Position	Number
Principal	1
Deputy Principal(s)	
Assistant Principal(s)	
Head Teacher(s)	
Classroom Teacher(s)	1
Teacher of Reading Recovery	
Learning and Support Teacher(s)	
Teacher Librarian	.4
Teacher of ESL	
School Counsellor	
School Administrative & Support Staff	2
Other positions	
Total	4.4

The Australian Education Regulation, 2014 requires schools to report on Aboriginal composition of their workforce. In 2015 there were no staff members who identified as being Aboriginal or Torres Islander descent.



Teacher qualifications

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

Qualifications	% of staff
Undergraduate degree or diploma	100
Postgraduate degree	0



Professional learning and teacher accreditation

The teaching staff at Wallabadah Public School participated in a number of professional learning activities designed to build the capability of staff to achieve some of our key priorities as set out in our School Plan. As well staff has been involved in professional learning programs that have built the capability of early career teachers, current teachers and aspiring and current school leaders.

- Teachers had professional learning in the following areas;
- Six staff completed the Autism online course;
- Five staff completed the Speech, Communication and Language online course;
- Two staff members finished the KidsMatter training which commenced in 2014;
- A member of staff attending a workshop on Understanding and Managing Behaviour;
- A staff member completed the TENS course in Term One;
- Our school SAM attended a workshop on “Leading a Positive Culture”;
- Classroom observations in both classrooms;
- School Principal attended Principal network meetings to enhance his leadership and management skills; and
- Professional Standards workshops.

Whole School Professional Development has included workshops in the following areas:

- Panel Training
- the new Science syllabus
- the school’s Learning Support processes and procedures
- developing the School Plan
- the school’s new Behaviour and Discipline procedures
- Writing quality report comments
- Emergency Care.

Financial information

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 2015 financial statement is tabled at the annual general meetings of the parent and/or community groups. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.

Date of financial summary	30/11/2015
Income	\$
Balance brought forward	62 837.53
Global funds	61 638.71
Tied funds	53 921.09
School & community sources	22 285.34
Interest	2 368.55
Trust receipts	50 606.35
Canteen	0.00
Total income	253 657.57
Expenditure	
Teaching & learning	
Key learning areas	15 433.86
Excursions	4 715.78
Extracurricular dissections	3 455.19
Library	1 327.50
Training & development	0.00
Tied funds	75 151.97
Casual relief teachers	0.00
Administration & office	12 150.47
School-operated canteen	0.00
Utilities	8 553.66
Maintenance	1 848.88
Trust accounts	586.35
Capital programs	10 421.20
Total expenditure	133 644.86
Balance carried forward	120 012.71



NAPLAN (mandatory)

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.

The *My School* website provides detailed information and data for national literacy and numeracy testing. Click on the link [My School](#) and insert the school name in the *Find a school* and select *GO* to access the school data. As our enrolments were two students in Years 3 and 5 in 2015, graphs could not be generated.



Parent/caregiver, student, teacher satisfaction

Each year schools are required to seek the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school. Their responses are presented below.

Management

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

Findings and conclusions

“Teamwork” is our primary focus in management at Wallabadah Public School. We believe it is the reason for success at the school by both the staff and parents.

From surveys, forums and general discussion everyone feels a part of most of the decision making in the school outlining incidents where events were not given enough notice. Everyone surveyed did comment the new app “SkoolBag” was a very effective way to disseminate information and plan for these events.

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.

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

With the implementation of the new Science and Technology curriculum our focus on this KLA was very appropriate. Science Expos were held with Willow Tree each term (with the exceptions of Term 3) culminating in a Family Science evening with well known Scientist Peter Eastwell. Feed back from this event was amazing with 100% of families attending, wanting it to be an annual event.

Staff participated in a number of professional development activities and everyone felt more equipped to “give it a go” in the Science labs when



we visited Quirindi High School. In Term 3 we held a Science Fair with every child producing and presenting a science experiment or display for parents and teachers. A number of parents said how much their child enjoyed preparing for the fair and how surprised they were how confident they were explaining their activity to an audience.

Findings and conclusions

Since our last evaluation of Science and Technology in 2009, 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.

Policy requirements

Aboriginal education

Wallabadah Public School is committed to improving the educational outcomes and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students so that they excel and achieve in every aspect of their education and training.

In 2015 we had five students that identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent, inclusion of Aboriginal perspectives in the teaching programs ensured students education opportunities were well rounded.

Wallabadah Public School promotes respect for the unique and ancient culture of the Aboriginal people in the following forms:

- Acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land in all assemblies.
- Integration of Aboriginal perspectives across Key Learning Areas so students can develop deep knowledge and understanding about Australia's first peoples.
- Focus Week and school Celebration of NAIDOC week

Multicultural Education and Anti-racism

Harmony Day was celebrated at Wallabadah Public School in Term 1 Week 8 which is reflected in our Focus Weeks Program. We also held other Focus Weeks looking at specific countries that were in the media at the time. In Term 1 Week 4 we focussed on China and in Term 3 Week 6 it was India.

The role of the Anti-Racism Contact Officer(ARCO) in schools is to be the contact between students, staff, parents and community members who wish to make a complaint regarding racism.

In 2015 there were no reported incidents of racism. The ARCO role involves promoting the values of respect for all races and cultures and our school rules of showing respect, being a problem solver, being safe and being a learner help to support these values. Students, teachers, parents and the community are doing a very good job of living together in harmony.

Other school programs

Library

Our time in the Library this year has once again been enjoyable both for the children and myself.



All children borrow from the Library each week and they really enjoy choosing the books they will take home, to share with their family. I urge strongly all parents to encourage your child's interest in books by taking time to look at the books they bring home and read to your child. Reading is the greatest "Life long skill" children will learn while in Infants and Primary classes. If your child develops a love of books and reading their life will be enriched beyond measure.

Thank you to our very generous P & C who allocated money to enable me to purchase some beautiful new books for the Library.

I look forward to sharing Library time with all children again in 2016.

Elizabeth Roseby
Librarian

From Plot to Plate



A new program called "From Plot to Plate" was introduced at Wallabadah Public in 2015. Its aim is to introduce food education to children during their learning years, in order to form positive food habits for life. Funds were allocated from the school and a grant was obtained from the local Farming for Kids committee.



2015 saw the establishment of the garden with the aim to fit out our kitchen in the P&C shed. It can serve a dual purpose as a canteen and classroom kitchen. Each fortnight dishes are prepared, cooked and eaten by the children. Recipes are followed and stored in their Student Portfolios. The School Leaders purchased three coloured tubs fitted out with cooking implements as their Farewell gift.



“Super Kids”

Once again the school produced a whole school musical in December with every child playing a part on stage. This years musical was called “Super Kids” which told the story of a mild-mannered schoolboy called Nigel suddenly gains super hero powers and



becomes Captain Vegemite, and, with his faithful companion Robin, the Wholemeal Kid, outsmarts the school bullies and brings peace to the playground. It was performed twice with many audience members coming along again.

CAPERS

The senior classes were a part of the CAPERS Mass choir again in 2015. The children thoroughly enjoyed performing in front of a large audience and were caught up in the spectacular. A number of parents who saw the show were amazed at the local talent and two families went on both nights.



Science Expos

This year our curriculum focus was Science and Technology and each Term we held an event that focussed on one area in the Science curriculum. In Term 1 we had an interaction day with Willow Tree Public School at Quirindi High. The children were able to work in the Science Labs with teachers and students from Quirindi High and they all came away with a brewing excitement for Science. The following Term was held at Willow Tree Public centering around "Environmental Science". Children recycled paper, grew plants and learnt about composting from an educational officer from the Liverpool Plains Shire Council.



For Term Three our school held a Science Fair in the hall where every student had to prepare and present a Science experiment to staff students and parents. It was an amazing evening with positive comments from students and parents.



The input and interest from the students and their parents was incredible. A celebration evening was held at Wallabadah with Willow Tree staff, students and parents with a Family Science show by Peter

Eastwell. His informative and very entertaining session was enjoyed by everyone present. A family BBQ was held afterwards and many people are keen to see this event continue.

Sport

Wallabadah continues to have a strong involvement in all Quirindi Zone, North West Regional and State Carnivals.



The school can pride itself on the wonderful sporting spirit and participation at all carnivals.

Our Annual school swimming carnival is always a wonderful way to start the school year. This is a chance for every child to "Have- a-go" and to be part of the school spirit. Our House captains Sienna, Eve, Quaydan and Zack were a great support to their team mates.



Congratulations to Eve, Zack, Zoe, Jayde, Zane, Sienna and Joey who all competed at North-West Zone or Regional carnivals. All children that competed were champions and should be very proud of themselves.

Chess

Throughout the year Mrs Shirley Goodwin coached a group of students each Friday afternoon in chess strategies and skills. In September we entered two teams in the NSW Chess Tournament and they competed at Tamworth Public School.



Matilda

In Term 3 the senior studied Roald Dahls book “Matilda” in Literacy sessions. They studied the novel, and then watched the movie. This was also an excellent opportunity for all the students to see the Musical in Sydney. With support from the P&C and community members money was raised to enable every child to see the performance.

It was a very memorable experience for students staff and parents who attended.



Harmony Day

In 2015, students and staff celebrated Harmony Day with a special assembly and community picnic. Many families were able to join in on the special day.



Best Start

Best Start is an assessment and teaching tool that allows Kindergarten to Year 2 teachers to assess the knowledge and skills that children have in Literacy and Numeracy. Teachers plot student’s growth and development on a Literacy and Numeracy continuum. This is Wallabadah Public School’s seventh year of successfully implementing the Best Start assessment procedures and incorporating the Literacy and Numeracy continuum in Kindergarten.

Book Week

Book Week’s theme this year was *Books Light up our World*. All the children read the short-listed books and voted for their favourites. A Book Character Parade was also held on the day with many parents involved. This is an important date in the Wallabadah Community calendar building on the success achieved and the enthusiasm of our Community.

