

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

School Name: MOUNT TORRENS PRIMARY SCHOOL
 School Number: 0296

1. General Information

Part A

Schoolname : MOUNT TORRENS PRIMARY SCHOOL
 School No. : 0296 Courier : R48/9
 Principal : Mrs Kay Selth
 Postal Address : Prescott Street, Mount Torrens 5244
 Location Address : Prescott Street, Mount Torrens 5244
 District : Hills
 Road distance from GPO : 43 kms Phone No. : 08 83894278
 CPC attached : NO Fax No. : 08 83894448

		2008	2009	2010	2011
February FTE Enrolment					
Primary	Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.				
	Reception	11	6	8	10
	Year 1	12	8	6	8
	Year 2	10	10	8	8
	Year 3	11	9	10	7
	Year 4	14	7	11	10
	Year 5	14	14	7	13
	Year 6	5	15	15	7
	Year 7	8	5	16	13
Secondary	Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.				
	Year 8				
	Year 9				
	Year 10				
	Year 11				
	Year 12				
	Year 12 plus				
TOTAL		85	85	74	76
July total FTE Enrolment					
	Male FTE				42
	Female FTE				34
July School Card (Persons)					8
NESB Total (Persons)					
Born O/S & in Aust less than 1 yr (Persons)					
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment					

Note: Placement points for Complexity and (Base plus Isolation) can be obtained from the document. "Placement Points History" in the "Admin Information" section of the "Legal and Policy Framework Library" available on the departmental CD-ROM.

Part B

- Deputy Principal
- Staffing numbers
 - : 4.35FTE
- 45 SSO hours (37 SSO and 8 grounds) plus an additional 37.5 hours site funded CPSW 15 hours per week
- OSHC
 - : Access TO Birdwood PS centre via our school bus
 - School hosts a Playgroup that operates 2hours/week and run by CPSW
- Enrolment trends
 - : enrolments are cyclic with small fluctuations due to number of year 7's going to high school and balanced by numbers entering Reception
- Year of opening
 - :1922 but not on this site
- Public transport access
 - : nil

2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics
 - : Students are from the local township or the surrounding farms. Approximately half of the school population travel to school on the school bus. Students are English speaking. Currently there are no Aboriginal students.
- (Pastoral) Care programs
 - : The school aims to provide a high degree of pastoral care and encourages and prides itself on the strong “family” atmosphere.
- Support offered
 - : a small number of students have Negotiated Education Plans (NEP's) or Individual Learning Plans (ILP's) and supported with extra teacher and SSO time for a literacy/ numeracy intervention programs.
- Student management
 - : There is a Student Behaviour Management Policy with supporting anti-harassment strategies. Parents, students and staff work together to achieve successful student behaviour management.
- Student government
 - : Students are very influential in the running of the school and in the development of programs that support student learning and interest in the school. The role and suitability of the SRC is reviewed annually. Links have been made with other SRC groups in the area.
 - Youth Environment Forum is supported through collaboration with Adelaide Hills NRM personnel
- Special programs
 - : A special transition program for the year 7 students with gifts and talents is coordinated through Birdwood High for the neighbouring feeder primary schools. All year 7 students are involved in a 7/8 transition program with Birdwood High. Close links with neighbouring Kindergartens enable an effective transition programme to Junior Primary.

3. Key School Policies

In the School's Strategic Plans the following goals were outlined as part of the School's Core Business

We aim to :

- Encourage personal and school-wide improvement in pursuit of excellence.
- Provide a balanced curriculum
- Provide for learning both inside and outside the classroom.
- Provide opportunities for learning across the school community.
- Encourage children to be independent and co-operative learners.
- Foster a sense of unity and pride in the school.
- Have a happy, harmonious, well disciplined school environment.
- Maintain effective relationships between home, school and the community.
- Advertise and celebrate successes and achievements.

Goals are achieved through

- Whole school decision making (class meetings, staff meetings, Governing Council)
- Continual staff development
- Effective parent involvement
- Continual curriculum development.
- Regular and inclusive communication between home, school and the community.

School improvement priorities include:

- Literacy improvement
- Numeracy improvement
- Science – Primary Connections Science implementation

The School has run successful training programs for parents in Literacy (Reading, Writing and Spelling) and Computer technology.

We have set up mechanisms to enable the annual testing of the literacy and numeracy skills of all children in the school. These compliment the National Assessment Program in Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN).

The data collected is used for reporting to parents, for measuring progress and to help with identifying children for the literacy intervention program.

4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings
English, Mathematics, Health & Physical Education , Science, Society & Environment, LOTE (Indoneiasn), Design and Technology, The Arts (Visual and Performing Arts NIT teachers)
- Special curriculum features
:In a school this size, Mt Torrens is fortunate to be able to offer the curriculum range we do.
Private musical tuition is available and a parent instructs students in the art of HandBell Ringing.
Year 6/7 students have been involved in specialised music instruction through a Hand-bell ringing program.
Annual year 7 Canberra Camp with neighbouring small schools
Extra teacher (0.2FTE) and SSO (24 hours/week) time for students with learning difficulties
Kitchen Garden, including chooks, run by parent volunteers who work with classes to grow produce that is prepared and eaten by the students and surplus is sold either through the school and at local country markets
- Teaching methodology
: There are tandem teaching situations in each classroom. Four teachers and principal teaching three classes: R/1/2, 3 /4/5 and 6/7.
The accent is upon individual instruction and positive promotion of achievement.
- Assessment procedures and reporting
: A large range of assessment procedures are used from peer assessment to formal testing and from written work to audio-visual presentations. Reporting occurs through formal and informal methods. We make use of parent information evenings, teacher/parent/student conferences, student workbooks and written reports twice a year.

5. Sporting Activities

- :Individual students are involved in local sporting clubs – cricket, tennis, netball, swimming, golf, soccer and football. P.E. is part of the curriculum across the school and students have participated in a variety of sports including gymnastics, swimming and soccer. Specialist coaches are employed to provide specialised in various sporting pursuits. The school has an interschool sports day with and against other small schools. The annual Sports Day is a fun day held in term three with local small schools participating.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- General
: Each year students are given the opportunity to form part of the Torrens Valley Choir that ultimately sings in the Festival of Music. These students practice each week at Birdwood Primary School.
- Special
: The Upper Primary students are taught the unique art of handbell ringing. This leads to performances at other schools, at local functions and at the Festival Theatre.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile
: The total staffing for 2011 is 3.8FTE, two 1.0FTE and three part-times teachers make up the 1.8FTE entitlement. Principal teachers 0.4FTE and administration 0.6FTE.. The staff is relatively stable, one new teacher in 2011. There are 3 School Service Officers: 32 hours/week admin/finance, 22.5 hours/week Library/classroom support, 24.5 hours/week JP class support, 1.5 hours/per week ICT support plus plus 8 hours/week grounds
- Leadership structure
: Principal and staff engage in participatory decision making. Focu teachers with responsibility for Maths and Science
- Staff support systems
: Termly Performance Management meetings are held with staff to help their professional development and assist them to achieve personal goals.
: The whole staff make up the Personnel Advisory Committee. (PAC)
: A policy on grievance procedures is in place and implemented.
- Staff utilisation policies
: Staff are encouraged to make best use of their special interests, opportunities exist for staff to teach in a wide range of year levels and curriculum areas.
- Access to special staff
: The school accesses and works closely support staff services including Guidance, Speech Pathology and Special Education Support through Adelaide Hills Regional Office Office.
- Other
: Since 2007 the school has a Christian Pastoral Support Worker (CPSW) funded through the Federal Government grants scheme. This person has provided an enormous amount of support and assistance in many areas and is now a highly valued team member.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- Complexity placement points
: 1.0
- Isolation placement points
:

9. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
 - : The school buildings comprise of five units. The Administration (former School residence) – a brick building that includes the front office, principal's office, staff room and kitchen. The original teaching rooms – a brick building containing two classrooms a computing area and a wet area. Two detached transportable buildings for teaching, one new in late 2007. A transportable building used for general purpose including art, music, dance and drama. Most recently we have acquired a new Library through the BER projects funding. This is a brilliant asset to our school. There are six outbuildings: a recycling shed, a garden shed, a storage shed, a tool shed (for groundsperson) a sport's shed and a bike shed. The grounds are very pleasant with picturesque views. Included in the grounds is an oval, tennis/ netball/ basketball court and extensive play areas and equipment.
- Cooling
 - : The three transportable buildings and the front office are air-conditioned. The brick classrooms and Library have reverse cycle split system air-conditioners.
- Specialist facilities
 - : The school owns a large amount of musical equipment to help support the specialist music teacher
- Student facilities
 - : The school has a portable BBQ, seating in shady areas, wonderful play equipment and 'bushland' areas – great for building cubbies
- Staff facilities
 - : The Administration building houses a staff room, offices, interview room, kitchen and toilets.
- Access for students and staff with disabilities
 - : Access available to all areas except the transportable buildings and staff room.
- Access to bus transport
 - : The School is responsible for a DECS school bus, which is permanently stationed at the school.

10. School Operations

- Decision making structures
 - : The Governing Council is very active, well informed and involved. The Governing Council is a major decision making body in the school, as are staff through staff meetings.
 - : The Governing Council comprises of 13 members with half newly elected each year.
- Regular publications
 - : A weekly school newsletter : assemblies three times a term: weekly staff bukketin and daily notices: wekly staff meetings: and Governing Council meetings held in weeks 3 & 8 of each term:
- School financial position

: The school operates a consolidated account that is administered by the Governing Council. Financial statements are prepared and presented to Governing Council at each meeting.

- Special funding

:

11. Local Community

- General characteristics

:Mount Torrens is a town in the eastern Adelaide Hills region 46 kilometres east-north-east of Adelaide and 8 km east of Lobethal along the Onkaparinga River. It is located in the Adelaide Hills Council local government area.

The town (and nearby hill) was named after Colonel Robert Torrens, one of South Australia's founding fathers, apparently in the mistaken belief that the Angas Creek which flows down the hill was the source of the Torrens River. Mount Torrens is halfway between Adelaide and the Murray River, which saw it become a popular staging point for bullock teams travelling from the river. It was settled in 1853 by George Dunn. In the 1860s gold was discovered and this led to a population boom. The town, then known as Barton Springs, incorporated a farmhouse, smithy, stables and the Cornish Arms Inn. The town proper was laid out in 1853, and it served the Murray River trade at Mannum as well as a nearby copper mine. A small gold deposit was discovered in 1870 but by World War I, the town's importance had diminished, and the town that stands today is virtually unchanged since that time. Mount Torrens is one of the Adelaide Hills's most well preserved historic towns.

Declared a State Heritage town by the South Australian government, Mount Torrens's main street is lined with picture perfect 19th century buildings including an old inn, flour mill and several private homes. Today small acre farming, dairying and grape growing are the main industries and there is also a Clydesdale Stud near the town. It's the home of boutique wineries, country markets, art galleries and charming villages. It's also the place for nature walks and scenic drives, Birdwood National Motor Museum and wildlife park at Lobethal and Mt Crawford Forest is nearby.

At the ABS 2006 census, Mount Torrens had a population of 338 people living in 120 dwellings.

Mount Torrens has a local store/post office and hardware, rural supplier hotel and football club.

The community is predominantly a monoculture where English is almost the exclusive language spoken.

Approximately half the student population come from backgrounds involving rural pursuits (sheep, cattle, cropping, dairying, vine yards). The other half of the population is involved in various other forms of employment including self-employment.

- Parent and community involvement

: There is a strong commitment by parents and the general community. This is seen in the support for Governing Council, fund-raising activities and general visits to the school for activities like assemblies.

- Feeder schools

: Kindergartens – Lobethal, Gumeracha, Mt Pleasant

- Other local care and educational facilities

: The OSHC facility at Birdwood PS is well supported by our students and is accessed via our school bus both before and after school. The local secondary school is Birdwood High School 7 km away in Birdwood.

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

: Shopping, banking and medical facilities are all situated in nearby towns especially Lobethal, Woodside and Birdwood.

- Other local facilities

: Mt Torrens supports various sporting and recreational clubs. With relatively close proximity to other towns and Adelaide there is a wide range of facilities available.

- Availability of staff housing

: There is privately owned housing available for renting or for purchase.

- Local Government body

: Adelaide Hills Council