



Mount Torrens Primary School Annual Report 2013



HIGHLIGHTS

The students, staff and parents at Mount Torrens Primary School have worked together in their commitment to provide wide ranging relevant curriculum and learning experiences for its students. The school has been involved in a wide range of activities this year. The Arts continue to be a focus. The bell ringing group, instructed by Mrs Barbara Pym, continued the tradition of successfully auditioning to be assisting artists in the Festival of Music, as well as playing at community events and at Resthaven and the Gumeracha hospital. The Cows Create Careers programme continued with a visit to a local dairy and participation in the "Great Wall of Dairy". Another highly successful SALA evening was held in Term 3, and the senior students had fun "yarn bombing" Lobethal.

Active After School Communities, together with the dance programme and a variety of sporting clinics gave the students the opportunity to participate in a wide range of physical activities. These included circus skills, volleyball, and tennis. Sports Day had an historical theme with some old fashioned games included. Students R-7 also attended a very active camp at Woodhouse in Term 2.

Mrs. Ross took leave from the end of Term 2 and Ms Bliss joined us for Terms 3 and 4. Mrs Ross will continue her leave in 2014 and Indonesian will be delivered on line. This is an exciting new venture and we are all looking forward to it.

The healthy eating cooking programme was expanded and used produce from the school's chickens and vegetable garden. A restaurant was set up in the Studio with students learning waiting skills and restaurant manners.

The Year 7 students all agreed that the trip to Canberra was the highlight of the year for them.

- Well attended Acquaintance Night
- Open Night
- Working Bees
- Gardening with Elle and Amy
- Articles in the Courier and Weekend Herald
- Environment Forum with Karen
- Harmony Day
- History themed Sports Day
- Footsteps Dance
- Great Wall of Dairy programme and visit to dairy farm
- Students leading and reporting on Portfolio Groups
- SRC and 6/7 Parliament House Visit
- Installation of shade sails and new flooring
- Lunchtime activities – craft and mechanics.

- Students of the Week
- CFS visits with the truck
- Fabulous Woodhouse Camp
- Christmas Disco
- Movies at Mount Barker
- Salvation Army visit and collection for Christmas
- Christmas Concert and Year 7 Graduation
- SAPOL band performance
- 3,4,5 and 6/7 Maths with Regional Maths consultant
- Very successful SALA exhibition
- Visit to Asian Art exhibition
- Book Week performance
- Awards for Premier's Reading Challenge
- High achieving school in Premier's *be active* Challenge

An Open Night in Term 3, attended by Caroline Green, the Assistant Regional Director highlighted the diversity of activities that the students have been involved in over the year. The school continued its focus on the environment with a garden to attract the Spotted Pardalote being planted, and new paths being made by the students through the newly re-vegetated area. 4 senior students were involved with the Youth Environment Forum which is ably overseen by Karen, our CPSW.

New shade sails were installed over the sandpit, and new flooring was laid in the Studio and the Learning Unit porch.

The vegetable garden is due for an upgrade to its beds and irrigation system in early 2014. Community spirit was demonstrated in the well attended working bees with a lot of work being completed and new work planned.

The school experienced a decline in numbers at the beginning of the year. We re-organised the learning groups and created the Learning Unit which ran 2 classes, R-4 and 5-7 for most areas of the curriculum. The Year 3/4 group worked as a separate class for Maths and English 4 times per week.

Mrs Mitchell will relocate to Lobethal for 2014 and staffing numbers will be adjusted according to the enrolment in 2014.

Report from Governing Council

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT 2013

The Governing Council faced many challenges at the start of the year with the unexpected loss of students to the school. It was agreed to continue with the same level of staff to help soften the impact. We believed that the school would be able to offer a more individualised learning programme that the larger schools could not offer.

It was realised that in past years the number of Governing Council members exceeded the allowable number of members stated in the constitution. We set out to have the number changed from 7 councillors including 1 principal (ex officio) and 6 elected parents to 1 principal (ex officio) to 8 elected parents. We were successful in this process and welcomed two new appointed members to Governing Council Kerry Kowald and Kirsten Thirlwell.

Governing Council was instrumental in organising fundraising events including Mt Pleasant Show coke van, Kyttons Bakery orders, Raffle and BBQ for year 7 Canberra trip, refundable bottle and can collection and a Wood Raffle. A big thank you goes to everyone involved in the school community and also to the local businesses Coopers and Mt Torrens General Store for their ongoing support.

Governing Council was also successful at reviewing and endorsing school policies, the behaviour management policy, approval of the 2013 budget and Site Improvement Plan.

This year two working bees were held with great success. A great improvement was made to the school grounds especially around the play equipment and vegetable garden areas.

Ways in which to promote the school within our local and broader community were discussed. A few things that were done were: an art display of students work displayed at BankSA Lobethal, and Playgroup posters were put up at local community notice boards.

The Bellringers were successful with their audition to perform at the Festival Theatre for the Festival of Music. Transport to this event was achieved with the help of the Adelaide Hills Council providing the use of the community bus.

I would like to thank all the governing council members for their support, contributions and decision making for the school throughout the year. Also a thank you needs to go to all the parents and other community members that gave their time and support to the Mt Torrens Primary School throughout the year.

I wish everyone at Mt Torrens Primary School all the best for 2014 and into the future.

Simon Hogben
Chairperson

Site Improvement Planning

In 2012 the recommendations from the Validation were to narrowing the focus in improvement priorities and to deeply analyse progress.

In 2013 Staff focused on the Dylan Wiliam Assessment for Learning model, and planning and programming using Learning Design.

Australian Curriculum

Targets 2013

Teachers plan, assess and report to parents in English, Maths, Science and History. Achieved.

Teachers collaboratively plan for the multi aged grouping of students using a common theme. Achieved.

Networking in learning teams was established with other schools. Teachers formed PLC's based on year levels taught to develop common understandings around moderation in Australian Curriculum. Using Learning Design, they planned units of work together for multi age classes, and critically examined outcomes. As a network, all teachers completed the "Literacy for learning" course. This course developed teacher capacity to teach English and put literacy at the centre of teaching and learning in all areas.

Teachers also attended three Pupil Free Days with the network schools to further develop their knowledge of teaching and learning using the Australian Curriculum and planning and programming using Learning design. They also undertook out of hours training in the AC, in particular History and Geography.

It is anticipated that the networking connections will be maintained and strengthened in 2014.

Literacy and Numeracy

Targets 2013

100% of students achieve above National Minimum Standard in literacy and numeracy. This was achieved in Literacy in Years 3, 5 and 7, and in Numeracy in Years 3 and 7.

100% of students in Yrs. 5 and 7 make middle to upper growth in all aspects of NAPLAN. This was achieved to some degree.

Running records shows student growth in skill development. Achieved.

Building Community Capacity

Targets 2013

Playgroup numbers increased in the school. Not achieved.

Playgroup numbers continue to be erratic. A survey indicated that Friday was the preferred day for regular attendees, but Friday is also the day other playgroups operate, so this limited the capacity to attract new children.

Attendance rate reaches or exceeds state target of 93%. Achieved.

100% of families participate in the school programme. Achieved to a high degree. Most families were involved in one or more of the events such as Sports Day, Open Night, working bees, concert, committees and Governing Council. We had good attendance for Acquaintance Night and for 3 way interviews. Governing Council applied for a PIE (Parent Initiative in Education) grant for 2014, but at the time of writing we had not heard if it was successful.

Increase profile in local pre-schools. JP teacher visited the local kindergartens. The main feeder kindergarten was invited to Sports Day, however were unable to join us. School brochures were distributed to local kindergartens and child care centres.

Student Achievement

Running Records

All students in Years 1 and 2 made progress between Term 1 and Term 3. All students achieved Level 20 or above with most achieving above Level 24.

Student Support

Verified students with disabilities all have a One Plan whose learning goals are developed in consultation with parents and whose achievement of short term goals is monitored closely. Students are supported by SSO time and the curriculum is adapted to meet their needs.

Targeted students with learning difficulties have short term learning goals developed. Targeted students are supported in small groups or individually. All students are meeting their STLG within the allotted timespan indicating that goals are manageable and achievable.

Mathletics was used for online Maths learning, and will continue in 2014.

On-line PAT Maths assessment was undertaken for the first time in Term 4. This has highlighted some focus areas for individual students in 2014.

Ipads are being used to complement learning in the Junior Primary in particular. This will be extended to include the senior years in 2014.

The JP class uses Jolly Phonics, and this incorporates the use of technology into the programme.

NAPLAN

A general comment will be given for Years 3 and 5 as there were fewer than 5 students in these cohorts.

All year 3 students were above national minimum standard for all test aspects.

All Year 5 students were at or above national minimum standard for Reading, Writing, Spelling and Grammar. Most were at or above national minimum standard for Numeracy.

Year 7

All students achieved at or above National Minimum Standard.

% Proficiency Band by Test Aspect	Year 7						
	Exempt	4	5	6	7	8	9
Numeracy				66.7		33.3	
Reading				33.3	33.3		33.3
Writing				83.3	16.7		
Spelling				16.7	33.3	33.3	16.7
Grammar			33.3	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7

In Numeracy 66.67% made medium growth between years 5 and 7.

In Reading 50% made high growth and 16.67% made middle growth between Years 5 and 7.

Numeracy mean scores have shown a steady increase since 2011.

Reading exceeded 2012 scores and matched 2011, however writing, while exceeding 2011's score, was less than 2012. However, with a small cohort of 6, inferring trends is unreliable.

Writing continues to be an area which needs further focus.

83.3% scored in Band 6 and 16.7% in Band 7.

All staff completed the Literacy for learning professional development course, and will incorporate this learning into the English programme R-7 in 2014. The course focuses on how English is constructed, and how to move students from more informal to formal text writing as well as giving the students a deeper understanding of grammatical conventions and how to apply them.

Student Data

Attendance

Attendance by Year Level	% Attendance		
	2011	2012	2013
Reception	95.5	87.9	90.8
Year 1	97.4	90.5	75.0
Year 2	94.2	95.1	94.2
Year 3	93.3	90.0	94.0
Year 4	95.6	90.4	92.9
Year 5	95.0	91.9	94.0
Year 6	95.2	93.0	95.9
Year 7	92.9	87.0	95.4
Total All Year Levels	94.8	91.1	93.2
Total ACARA 1 TO 10	94.7	91.3	93.3

Attendance is fundamental to achievement. The sign in /sign out book was continued in 2013. Attendance in 2013 was higher than in 2012 and close to national average. Non-attendance

was followed up with families, however there is a continuing trend for students to miss school for “Family” reasons rather than illness. A number of students experienced health issues which affected their attendance. Extended holidays were also a factor. The issue of non-attendance and persistent late arrivals was raised in meetings with parents and the impact of missing school explained. There will be a greater focus on reasons for non-attendance and late arrivals in 2014 with further support offered to families.

Behaviour Management

A snapshot of yard behaviour is undertaken each term. Incidents of bullying are minimal with almost all students reporting a “good” or “OK” day in each snapshot. Incidents requiring teacher intervention are followed up. Most “poor” or “bad” days related to not being included in games, or people “being annoying”.

There were no suspensions or take home incidents. Physical violence is rare, as is offensive language.

Client Opinion

The school trialed the national opinion survey in 2013. Although 11 students (years 5-7) completed the online survey, 6 on-line responses were recorded. The reason for this has not been determined.

Of the responses received, results were positive in all areas with 67% responses being in the “agree “ or “strongly agree” categories.

3 on-line responses were received from families. 72% of responses were in the “agree”, or “strongly agree” categories indicating overall satisfaction from the 3 respondents, however due to the small number of responses detailed analysis would not indicate trends.

A national survey for staff was not available. 3 written responses indicated overall satisfaction.

My School website
<http://www.myschool.edu.au/>

Accountability

Staff

Teacher Qualifications

All teachers at this school are qualified and registered with the SA Teachers Registration Board.

Qualification Level	Number of Qualifications
Bachelor Degrees or Diplomas	8
Post Graduate Qualifications	4

Please note: Staff that have more than 1 qualification will be counted more than once in the above qualification table. Therefore the total number of staff by qualification type may be more than the total number of teaching staff.

Workforce Composition including Indigenous staff

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff		Non-Teaching Staff	
	Indigenous	Non Indigenous	Indigenous	Non Indigenous
Full-time Equivalents	0	3.20	0	1.61
Persons	0	4	0	3

Financial Statement

Income by Funding Source

	Funding Source	Amount
1	Grants: State	\$524,813.52
2	Grants: Commonwealth	\$5,795.90
3	Parent Contributions	\$7,148.25
	Total	\$537,757.67