2008 Annual School Report
Mount Kanwary Public School

NSW Public Schools – Leading the way
Our school at a glance

Students
At the end of 2008 Mount Kanwary Public School had an enrolment of 47 students consisting of 23 girls, 24 boys and 27 families. Our students were organised into three classes and placed according to their needs. We had a class of Kindergarten to Year 2, one of Year 1 to Year 3 and a Year 4 to Year 6 class. Our students are very supportive of each other and are themselves supported in their learning by staff members who are committed to providing quality teaching programs based on our students’ individual needs.

Staff
Mount Kanwary PS, this year had five regular teaching members of staff. The school had 3 full-time teaching positions including a teaching principal. A full-time temporary teacher filled one of the remaining positions while the third was job-shared. A fifth teacher worked at the school on a temporary basis one day per week.

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

Non-teaching staff included one full-time School Administrative Manager, one part-time School Administrative Officer, one Teacher’s Aide Special and a part-time General Assistant.

Significant programs and initiatives
The school provided a number of special programs during 2008. These were designed to provide additional educational support across the whole school. The programs were:

- You Can Do It – Values Education
- Debating
- Pre-school to Kindergarten Orientation
- Small schools’ interaction
- Student leadership
- Music – choir and recorder

Student achievement in 2008

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 3
100% of students met the required National Benchmark. No students were in Band 1.

Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 3
100% of students met the required national Benchmark. No students were in Band 1.

Messages

Principal's message
Mount Kanwary Public School is situated between Hinton and Raymond Terrace. It emphasises the values of friendship, respect and challenge and encourages students to take responsibility for their own learning and to work towards their potential as happy and successful citizens.

The learning community work together to embrace the school motto of “unity and loyalty” and to create an environment that encourages student-centred learning and striving for personal best.

The parents and grandparents of our students work together and tirelessly raise funds to support our teaching and learning programs and to make the learning environment more enjoyable.

Congratulations to our students for outstanding participation and performances in all areas of the curriculum. They are to be commended for the efforts they make, the attitudes they display and the choices that they make as representatives of our school whether at sporting or performing arts events, school camp, excursions or weekly sport.

Thank you for the care, support and commitment to quality teaching that is provided by the staff at Mount Kanwary. Their expertise and willingness to support our students provides the foundation for many of the successes of our school.

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.

Rosemary Stephenson

P&C message
At the beginning of the year the P&C hosted a “getting to know you morning tea”. This was a great opportunity for our new parents to feel part of the school community and encouraged them to become involved in the P&C and school activities. Although our school enrolments were only 48 in 2008, our P&C membership remained high. We had 22 financial members including parents and grandparents. We provided child-minding allowing parents to attend meetings knowing their children were cared for, entertained and safe.
The P&C executive for 2008 was:
President: Janine Thomson
Vice Presidents: Frank Pillidge, Lesa Tewkesbury
Secretary: Donna Lawrence
Treasurer: Juliet Thomas
The P&C held several fundraisers during the year including Easter and Christmas raffles, a pie drive and entertainment books. Our major fundraiser, Cracker Night, raised in excess of $10,000. This allowed the P&C to provide part funding of a new photocopier, an interactive white board and literacy books and to also fund the Mathletics program, which has proved to be a valuable classroom resource.
The P&C also purchased a large 2 door fridge/freezer to keep the canteen/lunch foods, milk orders and if needed, the children's own lunches fresh.
In Term 4 the P&C subsidised swimming for sport and also funded three parents who supported the 3-day excursion to the Great Aussie Bush Camp.
A working bee was held in the school holidays and the P&C dug, shovelled and laid 50 tonnes of gravel in preparation for the new soft fall in the equipment area.
This year two P&C members were recognized for their dedication to the school. Julie Armstrong received the Hunter Central Coast Education Week award for “Outstanding Contribution by a School Community Member” and Janine Thomson received the NSW Department of Education “Parent of the Year Award” for Hunter/Central Coast Region.
The P&C represent and promote the school; they are always the first to put up their hands to help and work tirelessly to raise funds, dedicating many hours of their time and money to improve conditions and resources for the school. They don’t do it for recognition but to help make our children’s educational experience the best it can be. Our P&C is not an entity on its own but is woven into the fabric of our school and as President of the P&C I am extremely proud of our school community.

Janine Thomson – P&C President

Student representative’s message
As leaders of Mount Kanwary Public School in 2008 we were given many opportunities to develop our leadership skills.
Throughout the year we ran School Assemblies and held leadership roles in the School Parliament. We represented Mount Kanwary at Harmony Day celebrations at the University of Newcastle, at the Raymond Terrace ANZAC service and at the Education Week church service at Christ Church Cathedral in Newcastle. We also participated in the Young Leaders Day at Homebush.
We were involved in Year 6 fundraising efforts including a very successful Trivia night and the Mini Fete which was held in Term 4. As a result of this fundraising, Year 6 was able to present the school with a Notice Board that is now situated at the front of the school.

As students and the leaders of the school we have enjoyed our time at Mount Kanwary and look forward to returning on many occasions.

Tegan Armstrong and Madison Lawrence

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

Student attendance profile

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 2008 class size audit conducted on Tuesday 25 March 2008.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roll Class</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total per Year</th>
<th>Total in Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BANKSIAS</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BANKSIAS</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BANKSIAS</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WARATAHS</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WARATAHS</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WARATAHS</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WATTLES</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WATTLES</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WATTLES</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2008, Mount Kanwary Public School consisted of 3 classes, K-2 Wattles, 1-3 Waratahs and 4-6 Banksias.

Structure of classes
The classes were formed to meet the individual educational needs of our students and these were catered for through student-centred learning approaches and the Connected Outcomes Groups units of work. Our students learn at individual rates and are offered a variety of ways to learn and practise skills and knowledge. These include individual and group work, learning centres, computer activities, co-operative learning activities and individual programs. The whole school combines for sport, assemblies, school parliament, excursions, unit celebrations and performances.

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
Our students are supported by:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Teachers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Librarian/Release Teacher</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Staff retention
Three of our teaching staff members were retained from 2007. One was appointed to the position of Home School Liaison Officer for Maitland District and a temporary teacher filled that position throughout the year while one of the other permanent positions was job-shared.

Staff attendance
Staff members have access to leave entitlements such as sick leave. In 2008 the average daily attendance rate for staff, as determined by the Department, was 96.5%.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>% of staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree or Diploma</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of financial summary:</th>
<th>30/11/2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income $</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>62374.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
<td>53689.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>18390.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
<td>27217.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>4937.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
<td>6790.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income</td>
<td>11025.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teaching &amp; learning</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Key learning areas</td>
<td>11026.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excursions</td>
<td>6440.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extracurricular dissections</td>
<td>8831.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>2085.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training &amp; development</td>
<td>1790.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>60412.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual relief teachers</td>
<td>3295.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; office</td>
<td>20178.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School-operated canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>10001.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>3604.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust accounts</td>
<td>7552.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital programs</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenditure</td>
<td>134622.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance carried forward</td>
<td>62374.41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A $23 000 grant from the Investing in Our Schools program was used to install spray on soft fall under the fixed equipment.

A full copy of the school's 2008 financial statement is tabled at the annual general meetings of the School Council. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.
School performance 2008
Mount Kanwary Public School prides itself in providing its students with a variety of experiences both academic and cultural, within the school, with partner schools and in the wider community.

Achievements

Arts
- The school choir and recorder group, that are trained and conducted by Mrs Helen Tuyl, performed at Stockland Greenhills during Education Week and at the Maitland District Performing Arts Festival at Francis Greenway High School.
- The choir performed individually and as members of the Combined Primary School Choir at the Hunter/Central Coast Music Festival at the Civic Theatre in Newcastle. They also performed at the school ANZAC ceremony and at Presentation Night.
- Ali Foy won the School Art Award for her pencil drawing of “Tribe Ali”.
- All students performed in the very successful musical, “Outback”, at the Woodville school of Arts Hall in Term 4.
- The Waratahs were all members of a signing choir that performed “What a Wonderful World”, at Presentation Night. They were trained and conducted by Mrs Jo Kearney.
- Art work by all of the students was displayed at Stockland Greenhills Shopping Centre during Education Week and for the Stockland Star competition in the lead up to Christmas.
- Weekly visual arts lessons enabled our students to learn a variety of art-making skills, using a variety of media and this skill development was integrated with our units of work.

Sport
During 2008 our students had many opportunities to participate and compete in school sport, sporting carnivals, coaching clinics and school representative teams. Several students were also successful at qualifying to represent our school at Zone, Regional and State level.

The Small Schools’ Swimming Carnival in Term 1 was held at Beresfield Swimming Pool. Our 50m freestyle relay team consisting of Joe Morris, Jessica Burg, Tegan Armstrong, Madison Lawrence and Ben Muddle (reserve) qualified to swim at Zone level and at Regional level; both carnivals being held at Maitland Pool. Joe Morris also qualified for individual events including the 50m freestyle and 50m breaststroke.
Joe also attended the Zone Touch football trials held at Bolwarra Oval and Madison Lawrence, Tegan Armstrong, Jessica Burg and Lauren Andrews attended Zone Netball Trials, which were held at Maitland Park.

For sport in Term 1 students were grouped K-2 and 3-6 and participated in weekly lessons with a qualified instructor focusing on the teaching of specific gymnastics and fundamental movement skills.

In Term 2 8 students ranging from Years 3 to 6 participate in the Zone Cross Country event, which was held at Tocal College. Joe Morris joined with Hinton Public School for the Steve Simpson Shield Knockout Football Games and attended both practice sessions and games with the team.

Due to unpredictable weather our school athletics carnival, which was organised for Term 2, was cancelled on several occasions. However, the school participated in the Small Schools’ Athletics Carnival, at Woodberry Oval on a very cold and very windy day in Term 2. This carnival was also called off after lunch due to the extreme weather conditions. With the help of our wonderful parents, we managed to book several different ovals (due to weeks of wet weather our options were limited) and complete times and distances for the track and field events which we missed at the Small Schools’ Carnival. As a result nineteen students qualified for the Maitland Zone Athletics Carnival in Term 3, which was held at Smyth Field in Maitland.

Term 3 began with our Zone Track and Field team representing us at Maitland. Three students were selected to return for Zone Finals; Brooke Armstrong and Jarred Hines for 100m and Joe Morris for 100m and for senior long jump. Our relay team of Joe Morris, Brooke Armstrong, Jamie Grosser and Morgan Hines also qualified to attend the Regional Carnival which was held at the Hunter Sports Centre at Glendale and following their success at Regional, qualified to compete at State Level at Sydney Olympic Park Athletic Centre, Homebush, reaching the semi-finals.

Our school netball team also attended the Maitland District Schools Gala Day in Term 3 and came away from the Gala undefeated! Sport for Term 3 was based at school and we were fortunate enough to have both soccer and touch football clinics attend and run workshops with the students.

Our school participated in Intensive Swimming lessons for Term 4 sport and we travelled to Lakeside Leisure Centre for professionally coached lessons. All children participated well in groups levelled to their specific abilities. The term concluded with a ‘fun session’ in Week 9.

Thank you to all the parents who assisted with sport in 2008. We rely on your support to be able to offer our students a wide variety of opportunities and congratulations also to our students on their enthusiastic participation in all events at all levels.
Excursions and Celebrations

- Year 3 and 4 students attended the Great Aussie Bush Camp.
- The Small Schools’ Interaction Day was held at Iona Public School. Activities included a puppet performance of “Peter and the Wolf”.
- Year 4-6 participated in the Newcastle Herald “Newspapers in Schools Competition” and therefore, visited the publishing outlet at Beresfield.
- Year 4-6 travelled to Nobby’s Beach for Surf Safe Fun Day.
- Wattles and Waratahs visited the Raymond Terrace Library during Book Week.
- Celebration Days were held at the end of each unit of work and were enjoyed by the students and supported by our community.
- A Fathers’ Day breakfast was enjoyed by many of our students along with their fathers and grandfathers.
- Visiting performances included the Hunter Life Education Van and the University of Newcastle Science Show.

Community Involvement

Mount Kanwary Public School has a close and positive partnership with the parents, grandparents and siblings of its students.

- Parents attended 3-way conferences to discuss student achievement and progress.
- Parents accompanied and transported students on excursions, to choir rehearsals and sporting events.
- Parents and grandparents assisted in our classrooms with reading.
- Many parents attended teacher information sessions that ran in Term 1 to provide information about how each classroom operates.
- Parents and grandparents provided hot, healthy lunches each Monday and they also manned the canteen at recess each Wednesday, offering our students healthy snacks.
- Parents and grandparents supported working bees, covered books, maintained sporting equipment and assisted with individual learning programs.

Academic

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

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

Yr 3: from Band 1 (lowest) to Band 6 (highest for Year 3)
Yr 5: from Band 3 (lowest) to Band 8 (highest for Year 5)

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 3

![Percentage of students in bands: Year 3 reading](image)

- Percentage in band
- School average 2005 - 2007
- LSG average 2008
- State average 2008
The 'Percentage in Band' and 'School Average' columns are not shown if results are available for less than 10 students.
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 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentage of Year 3 students achieving at and above minimum standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punctuation and grammar</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Percentage of Year 5 students in our school achieving at or above the minimum standard in 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentage of Year 5 students achieving at and above minimum standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punctuation and grammar</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Significant programs and initiatives

**Aboriginal education**

In classroom teaching and learning programs, Aboriginal Education is present in Human Society and Its Environment, Science and Technology, English and Creative Arts activities. In addition our students were educated about Aboriginal culture and history through their musical performance of “Outback” in Term 4.

A Small Schools’ Aboriginal Culture Day at Largs School, led by the “Thulli Dreaming” group, involved the students in activities that taught them about Aboriginal painting, jewellery making, artefacts, bush tucker, boomerang throwing and dance.

**Multicultural education**

Multicultural education is also addressed across the Key Learning Areas in teaching and learning activities. This year our School Captains attended a Harmony Day Celebration at the University of Newcastle.

In Term 4, our school unit of work was called, “Believe It, or Not” and focused on a study of the cultural and religious diversity amongst our learning community and within Australian society; respecting the rights of others to practise their beliefs.
The school continued to purchase library books and resources to support the multicultural perspective across the curriculum.

**Respect and responsibility**

Respect and responsibility underpin all teaching and learning practices at our school. The School Discipline Plan is based on Choice Theory and teaches students to accept responsibility for the behaviours that they choose and to also accept the consequences of their choices.

The values of respect and responsibility are explicitly taught through the Personal Development Program, "You Can Do It". The program teaches the five foundations of success: Confidence, Persistence, Getting Along, Organisation and Resilience. All students now have their names on the Confidence key in the school foyer and are working towards achieving the same for Persistence.

**Computer Education**

Mount Kanwary’s computer program integrates the technology into everyday classroom experiences. All computers are networked and linked to a file server. This year a decision was made to move the computers from the library into classrooms to provide better access to our students.

Intranet and Internet access is available in all classrooms and the library with a computer ratio of 1 to 3. Students from Year 3 to Year 6 have personal email accounts and all students regularly use software to support learning across the Key Learning Areas.

The P&C purchased a licence for Years 4-6 to use “Mathletics”, which is an interactive mathematics program that provides students with on-line practice of computation against other on-line players from around the world. During 2008 the success of this program was outstanding. Data indicated that our students’ average score in a “Mathletics” challenge improved by 40% from the onset of the program in Term 1, to the end of Term 4.

Kindergarten and Year 1 students received small group instruction in word processing and software, appropriate to their learning needs. Students capably produced high quality published work and used Word, Publisher and PowerPoint to present and enhance their work.

The school became part of the Connected Classrooms project with the installation of an interactive whiteboard, a flat screen plasma television set and accompanying video conferencing equipment into Wattles classroom. Due to a delay in the installation, teacher training in the use of the equipment was postponed until 2009 and the P&C agreed to fund the purchase and installation of a second interactive whiteboard into the Banksias’ classroom.

**Local Management Group 6M**

LMG 6M is comprised of Maitland High School and its eight partner primary schools; Bolwarra, Hinton, Iona, Largs, Metford, Morpeth, Mount Kanwary and Tenambit Public Schools. The group meets after school at least once per term with representation from the respective principals, the School Education Director, District Student Welfare Officer, District Guidance Officer, executive member of the Support Teacher Behaviour team and any other personnel pertinent to the agenda.

One of the major responsibilities of the LMG is decision making concerning the equitable distribution of LMG funds and resources to support a variety of curriculum, cultural, welfare and transition programs in all of its schools. Often individual schools decide to use some of these funds to support their own school priorities. However, the majority of the funding is spent on group initiatives and programs.

Successful group programs for 2008 were:

- **Term 1** – A review of the Year 6 to 7 Transition Program, resulting in MHS school leader and principal visits to primary schools and Year 6 gymnastics sessions at the high school.
- **Term 2** – Year 5 Art/Music/Drama sessions at MHS.
- **Term 3** - Year 5 Science workshops at MHS.
- **Term 4** – Year 6 orientation visits to MHS. However, Mount Kanwary was not involved with these.

In Term 3 a joint Drug Education Forum involving a variety of workshops at MHS was conducted. Year 6 students from all primary schools participated, while Year 11 students acted as group facilitators, under the guidance of Mr Peter Henson from the PD/H/PE Faculty of MHS and Mr Warren Jones, Regional Drug Education Consultant.

This proved to be a most rewarding and worthwhile initiative and it was decided to repeat the forum in 2009.

**Progress on 2008 targets**

**Target 1**

*To improve student achievement of Stage 2 and 3 outcomes in descriptive writing.*

Our achievements include:

- Mean scores in NAPLAN writing for Year 3 were above those of our like-school group.
- Mean scores in NAPLAN writing for Year 5 were above both the like-school group and the state.
• A K-6 rubric has been developed and is in use for the assessment of writing in the text types.

Target 2

To improve the achievement of outcomes in the Measurement Strand for all students.

Our achievements include:
• Teachers participated in Professional Learning both inside and outside the school.
• Continuous revision is embedded by setting daily maths mentals in the Year 4-6 class.
• School based assessment indicated that 87% of students achieved stage appropriate outcomes in the Measurement strand.

Target 3

To improve positive behaviours for learning by focusing on student well-being.

Our achievements include:
• The Five Foundations for Social and Emotional learning are displayed in the school foyer and in classrooms.
• The number of students who had entries into the classroom behaviour books was reduced by 20%.
• All of the parents who responded to the school survey indicated support for the “You Can Do It” program and saw value in it for the future of their children.

Key evaluations

It is a requirement for all NSW public schools to conduct at least two annual evaluations – one related to educational and management practice and the other related to curriculum. In 2008 our school carried out evaluations of School Culture and Technology.

Educational and management practice

School Culture

Background

Year 4-6 students, parents and teachers were surveyed using questionnaires that were developed by teachers and the School Council and based on those provided by the Department of Education and Training.

Findings and conclusions
• A 64% return of parent surveys indicated an improvement in communication and parent interest in our evaluation process.
• All parent surveys indicated support for what the school does. They were of the opinion that the school appreciates having their children and that it encourages them to achieve their best.
• Our students indicated that they felt supported at school, their individual needs were catered for and that the school praised and rewarded them for their successes.
• Teachers expressed the view that they were supported professionally and had adequate teaching resources to provide for the individual needs and interests of our students. Greater access to specialist teachers for our students with learning difficulties was considered desirable and they all expressed the opinion that they were proud of their roles at Mount Kanwary Public School.

Future directions

Continue to improve ways to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of student, parent and teacher needs and maintain the positive relationship that the school has with its community. Investigate new ways to support our students with learning difficulties.

Curriculum

Technology

Background

Each year one area of the curriculum is selected for evaluation. In 2008 it was Technology.

Year 4-6 students, parents and teachers were surveyed on their knowledge and opinions relating to the use of Technology in our classrooms.

Findings and conclusions
• Our students indicated that they enjoy working at computers across the Key Learning Areas and are confident in their use. They particularly enjoy the “Mathletics” program.
• Teachers indicated that they were confident in their ability to provide skill development for our students in order for them to achieve syllabus outcomes and felt that the ratio of students to computer was an advantage at our school. Teachers were aware of their need to be trained in the use of the Connected Classroom equipment that has been installed at the school.
• Parents indicated that they were well aware of the variety of skills that their children were using at school and that many of them practised these on their home computers. Some parents would like to increase student access to “Mathletics” to include other grades.
Future directions
Continue to provide our students with opportunities to enhance their learning in all Key Learning Areas, through the use of computers. Source appropriate sites to provide our students with meaningful practice activities and resource bases, provide teachers with Connected Classrooms and interactive whiteboard training, and provide parents with the opportunity to see these in operation in the classrooms.

Other evaluations

Parent, student, and teacher satisfaction
In 2008 the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school.

All parent surveys that were returned indicated that parents were happy with the current educational practices at our school and were supportive of the programs that we have in place for our students.

Parents indicated that a feature of Mount Kanwary School was that new families were encouraged to be involved in school activities.

Most students indicated that they felt a part of the school community and were proud to be a student at the school. Positives mentioned by the students included that it was a fun place to be and that everyone is friendly.

Improvements sought by our students included the wish to have more play space in the playground.

Professional learning
The school’s main emphasis for professional learning in 2008 focused on supporting the annual school targets and Department of Education and Training priorities.

Staff participated in a variety of professional learning activities including a “Space and Geometry” teaching and learning project, “Good for Kids, Good for Life”, workshops to develop rubrics for the assessment of writing outcomes and network meetings to support career development.

School Development Days were used for whole school planning, policy review, examining consistent teacher judgement and viewing best practice within the Quality Teaching Framework.

School development 2009 – 2011
The school plan 2009 – 2011 was developed by staff in conjunction with feedback and discussion from the community. It was based on the recognised needs of the school, testing data and the NSW Department of Education and Training priorities.

Targets for 2009

Target 1
To improve literacy outcomes for all students, focusing on grammatical features and writing conventions.

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- Participation of teachers in Accelerated Literacy Professional Learning.
- Trial use of Accelerated Literacy strategies K-6.
- Explicit use of the modelled, guided and independent model for the teaching of writing.
- Participation in the LMG writing project.

Our success will be measured by:

- AL data and school based assessment indicate that 85% of students are achieving stage appropriate outcomes.
- NAPLAN data indicates that writing growth for Year 5 students is at least two skill bands.
- NAPLAN data for Year 3 writing indicates that all students are achieving above band 2.

Target 2
To improve Working Mathematically outcomes in the space and geometry strand for all students.

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- Purchase and trial resources to support teaching and learning with a problem solving approach.
- Teacher Professional learning to support understanding of the open-ended question in mathematics.
• Develop a Scope and Sequence for the teaching of mathematics and identify Working Mathematically indicators for assessment within each strand.

Our success will be measured by:

• School based assessment indicates that 85% of all students are achieving stage appropriate outcomes.
• NAPLAN data indicates that numeracy growth for Year 5 students is at least two skill bands.
• NAPLAN data for Year 3 numeracy indicates that all students are achieving above band 2.

Target 3

To improve student engagement across all Key Learning Areas.

Strategies to achieve this target include:

• Work with the LMG to revise, plan and implement partner school programs to support retention and transition to Year 7.
• Teacher professional learning to support the use of Connected Classrooms equipment to enhance learning in all Key Learning Areas.
• Implementation of the Getting Along and Resilience foundations of the You Can Do It program.

Our success will be measured by:

• Results of student, teacher and parent surveys indicate that school culture and management practices cater for the needs and interests of all students.
• Student behaviour records indicate that 50% less students have entries into class behaviour books.

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.

Rosemary Stephenson - Principal
Karen Oldfield - Teacher
Kylie Smith - Teacher
Janine Thomson – School Council
Lisa Burg – School Council
Bob Findley – School Council

School contact information

Mount Kanwary Public School
753 Hinton Road, OSTERLEY. 2324. NSW
Ph: 4987 2596
Fax: 4987 3281
Email: mtkanwary-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
School Code: 2641

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

The opening of our shade structures.