Meadow Flat Public School
Annual School Report 2013

Debbie Neale - www.clickncolour.com
School context

Meadow Flat Public School is a small school located in a rural setting at Meadow Flat. Our students travel from areas surrounding Meadow Flat. The school was established in 1856 and the "Beehive" building, which houses the music room today, was built in 1884.

Meadow Flat Public School is committed to developing student potential in all areas of the curriculum. We endeavour to empower students to take responsibility for their learning and to always "Do Your Best".

Students are well catered for in a wide range of curriculum areas which are relevant to their stages of learning. The curriculum is comprehensive and innovative with a strong emphasis on literacy, numeracy, technology and the arts.

Our school has a warm, caring, family environment where all children are valued. Through commitment and professionalism the staff aims to create a stimulating learning environment which is safe and gives students confidence and the experiences necessary to adapt to new situations.

Principal’s message

This year has seen many improvements to our school which can be challenging with the limited funds that we have to play with.

Thank you to our P and C members. You all achieved so much during the year and without your efforts all of the students would miss out.

Our school would not be in the strong position we are in without the assistance of each parent helper. It doesn't matter if you are cooking a cake or BBQ, covering books, hearing students read, volunteering in the canteen, or helping coordinate a P and C activity – you have made a positive contribution to our school and on behalf of the students I thank you.

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.

Mr Michael Wood

Parents and Citizens Association message

The P & C have had another busy, yet profitable year and I express my gratitude to everyone who has helped in any way. My thanks go to all the School staff – teachers, assistants and admin staff – you do a brilliant job and we treasure your input.

To the P & C members who provide support not only by attending meetings, planning and coordinating fundraising events, but also cooking cakes, slices and providing the volunteer workforce to cook BBQ’s, moving tables, setting up tents and packing it all away again. Every time we have a function – I thank you.

Our school canteen provides a vast array of freshly prepared foods. It is the envy of those students who have gone on to High School from here and only now realise how good the kids at Meadow Flat Public School have it.

In terms of fundraisers for the year, we’ve had plenty. We have made just under $5000 profit from them all.

The P and C has provided a total of $2050 towards the school swimming program and spent $8890 on books for the School. This is a tremendous effort for a small school P & C.

Thanks to each and every one of you who have made a contribution to our P & C and School – it is this community spirit that has helped make our Meadow Flat Public School what it is today.

Sarah Martin, President

Student representative’s message

School Captain’s Report

This year has been an excellent year. It has been a privilege and a joy being the School Captain. I have had so many wonderful experiences. The most exciting being the opportunity to meet the Governor-General Quentin Bryce and the NSW Governor Marie Bashir.

Being the School Captain has taught me how to set a good example, be fair and be responsible. I am very proud of my school and I care very much about the staff and students here.

I wish the new 2014 Year 6 captains all the best.

Faith Shean
Sports Captain’s Report
This year we have had some great success with our sports.
Locally we won the Triangle Sports competition and the Bathurst Small Schools athletics carnival. Our students represented the Bathurst Small Schools at 43 separate sports or events and at carnivals. Of these we had 15 students represent the Bathurst District at Western Region. To show you how good we are at sports, 2 of our students made it through to State Championships.
One student made it to the PSSA at Homebush for the 800m and another made it to the PSSA for cross-country at Eastern Creek.
Thank you to the P & C who donated money for our swimming lessons.
We purchased new basketball hoops, backboards and safety pads using the Premier’s Sporting grant.
Bryce Underhill

We thank Mrs Murphy for all the things she has done for us. She has been a wonderful teacher and librarian.

Adrienne Slattery, Orlagh Fitzgerald, Lachlan Mannell, Abbey Chadwick-Cocks and Maya Brooking

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
In 2013 Meadow Flat Public School had 48 different students who came from 34 families. There were 7 new kindergarten enrolments and 2 new enrolments throughout the year in other grades.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Class Sizes
The students at Meadow Flat Public School are grouped in two multi-aged classes. The infants class has Kindergarten to Year 2 and the primary class has Years 3 to 6.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roll class</th>
<th>Total per year</th>
<th>Total in class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K/1/2</td>
<td>K = 7</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 1 = 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 2 = 8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4/5/6</td>
<td>Year 3 = 8</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 4 = 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 5 = 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 6 = 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Student attendance profile

In 2013 the attendance rate has been 95.3% across the whole school. This is an improvement on the 2013 rate of 94.5%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infants class</td>
<td>96.2</td>
<td>95.8</td>
<td>93.1</td>
<td>94.4</td>
<td>94.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary class</td>
<td>93.9</td>
<td>92.9</td>
<td>94.7</td>
<td>93.2</td>
<td>95.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>94.6</td>
<td>94.8</td>
<td>94.2</td>
<td>94.0</td>
<td>95.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Management of non-attendance

Management of non-attendance at Meadow Flat Public School is supported by the Home School Liaison Officer who assists with identifying students with high absenteeism. Parents are made aware of their responsibilities to ensure their children attend school through regular communication including notices in the school newsletter, telephone calls and individual letters.

Workforce information

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

Workforce composition

<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>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time teachers</td>
<td>0.168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Librarian</td>
<td>0.084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher – RFF</td>
<td>0.084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning and Support</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Total</td>
<td>2.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Administrative and Support Staff</td>
<td>0.696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Assistant</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-teacher Total</td>
<td>0.896</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Aboriginal Staff Composition

The Australian Education Regulation, 2013 requires schools to report on Aboriginal composition of their workforce. There are zero Aboriginal staff employed at the school on a permanent basis. The school has one casual teacher who is Aboriginal.

Teacher qualifications

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>% of Teaching Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree or Diploma</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Institute of Teachers Accreditation</td>
<td>20%</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>30/11/2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>25 693.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
<td>69 887.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>55 346.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
<td>66 513.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>1 535.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
<td>1 971.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income</td>
<td>220 948.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching &amp; learning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key learning areas</td>
<td>34 858.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excursions</td>
<td>38 345.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extracurricular dissections</td>
<td>6 392.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>3 927.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training &amp; development</td>
<td>2 844.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>53 546.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual relief teachers</td>
<td>2 149.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; office</td>
<td>23 919.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School-operated canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>7 914.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>3 584.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust accounts</td>
<td>1 971.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital programs</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenditure</td>
<td>179 454.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance carried forward</td>
<td>41 493.32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A full copy of the school’s 2013 financial statement is tabled at the annual general meetings of the P and C Association. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.

School performance 2013

Academic achievements

NAPLAN

In 2013 Meadow Flat Public School had 8 students in Year 3 and 7 students in Year 5 sit the NAPLAN tests. The actual results are not able to be reported on due to the small size of the group. The school is unable to reproduce the results if the cohort is less than 10 students. The parents concerned have received a copy of their child’s results and discussed them with the teaching staff.

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.

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

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

The My School website provides detailed information and data for national literacy and numeracy testing (NAPLAN).

Click on the link http://www.myschool.edu.au and enter the school name in the Find a school and select GO to access the school data.

Other achievements

Arts

In 2013 the students continued their success in with Creative and Practical Arts. The students are taught by a specialist Music teacher who also offers individual lessons in drums, keyboard, bass and acoustic guitar. The school has a ukulele band.

Our Creative and Practical Arts achievements are evidenced by:

- illustrating and writing a book that was published as a part of the Central West Catchment Authority Enviro Stories;
- individual students being awarded certificates and prizes at the Rydal and Bathurst Shows;
- seven students performing at the Sydney Opera House as a part of the recorder and strings ensemble;
- individual students being selected to have their artwork displayed at a Lithgow City Council art show; and
- having a display of artworks as a part of the Sunny Corner Sunday open gallery weekend where members of the public voted on the students’ artworks. The most popular artwork was Adrienne Slattery’s. Her artwork will be on display in the school staffroom until she leaves Year 10 at High School.

Sport

The students at Meadow Flat Public School have access to a range of PSSA sports through the Bathurst Small Schools group. Each year the students have the opportunity to tryout at organised events to hopefully be selected for various team and individual sports. In 2013 our sporting success can be seen in:

- having one student compete at the State PSSA Cross Country Championships at the Eastern Creek Raceway;
• having one student compete at the State PSSA Athletics Championships at the Sydney Olympic Athletics track;

• the school being awarded Triangle Sports trophy;

• the school being awarded the Bathurst Small Schools trophy for Athletics when the students won the overall average points prize;

• all students being successful in completing in the Premier’s Sporting Challenge; and

• the P and C supported half the costs of the eight swimming lessons.

Camps and Excursions

The students attended a variety of places of educational significance to support their classroom programs. They joined with other schools from the Bathurst Small Schools for some of these events:

• Athletics Carnival
• Year 5 and 6 Aussie Bush Camp
• Year 3 and 4 Dubbo excursion
• Gala Sports Days
• Swimming Carnival
• Triangle Sports
• Sporting fixtures
• Bathurst Observatory
• Bicentennial Crossing of the Blue Mountains celebrations
• Horse sports at Lithgow
• Life Education Van
• Small Schools Sport Gala and Presentation Day
• Learn to Swim lessons
• High School transition
• End of Year Picnic day at Bathurst
• Billy cart day
• Recorder and strings performance at Sydney Opera House

Significant programs and initiatives

Aboriginal education

Meadow Flat Public School acknowledges the traditional owners of the land that the school is located on – the Wiradjuri people.

The students learnt about aspects of Aboriginal culture, traditions and history in a variety of units of work studied in the Human Society and Its Environment syllabus area with integration with Creative and Practical Arts, English, and the Science and Technology curriculum areas.

A highlight was a nighttime excursion to the Bathurst Observatory and Research Station where the students heard about Aboriginal Sky Stories.

Multicultural education

Meadow Flat Public School implements programs and initiatives to ensure an inclusive school community and a racism-free learning and working environment.

In 2013 the students in Kindergarten to Year 2 learnt about multicultural perspectives when they learnt about the make-up of the family and their family’s history. The students in the Year 3 to 6 were given the opportunity to enter their projects in the Country Women’s Association country of study – Morocco. Each of these learning opportunities gave a focus towards multicultural perspectives.
School planning and evaluation 2012—2014

School evaluation processes

NSW public schools conduct evaluations to support the effective implementation of the school plan. The processes used include:

- online surveys; and
- paper surveys

School planning 2012—2014: progress in 2013

School priority 1 – Engagement

- To increase opportunities to ‘connect’ students with learning through integrating the use of technology into Quality Teaching;
- To decrease the number of unexplained absences of all students from 25% in 2012 to 15% in 2013; and
- To develop individual learning plans for identified gifted and talented students.

Outcomes from 2012–2014

- Students are engaged in the school and learning outcomes are strengthened;
- Parents are supporting their child’s learning to enhance student engagement.

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2013:

- The school implemented a strategy to ensure parents explained their child’s absences. This saw an improvement in student attendance rates by 1.3% to 95.3%. The unexplained absences rate is 1.2% which is down from 43% in 2011, and 35% in 2012.
- Providing homework assistance through the newsletter with website links.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014

- Incorporating technology into effective classroom practices;
- Implementing a plan for students who arrive late to school and leave early; and
- Supporting students extend their talent and gifted academic areas through individual focusing of support.

School priority 2 – Literacy and Numeracy

- Increase the participation rates of home reading across all grades;
- Improve student achievement in Multiplication and Division in Years 3 to 6; and
- All students achieve individual reading and spelling goals as indicated in their individual learning plan.

Outcomes from 2012–2014

- Improved Literacy performance and learning outcomes through opportunities for all students in a quality teaching and learning environment; and
- Improved Numeracy performance and learning outcomes through opportunities for all students in a quality teaching and learning environment.
Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2013:

- Rewarding students through participation in the home reading program. We had 7 students successfully participate in the Premier’s Reading Challenge;
- Explicit teaching of the times tables to support classroom lessons in multiplication and division; and
- All students have been assessed and know their individual reading level. Students in Years 3 to 6 have participated in the Word Sorts word study program.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:

- Training all staff in the new NSW Australian Mathematics curriculum so it can be effectively implemented in 2014; and
- Utilise the PLAN software to assist the identification of student learning needs.

School priority 3 – Curriculum and Assessment

- Develop English and Mathematics scope and sequences;
- Develop strategies to communicate what the students are learning to the parents; and
- Increase the teacher consistent judgments and assessment recording methods across the school.

Outcomes from 2012–2014

- Enhance strategies to track student progress for every student in each KLA; and
- Ensure a quality curriculum is implemented with teachers’ professional learning and students’ learning needs.

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2013:

- Discovering new resources to support the implementation of the new Mathematics syllabus; and
- Teaching staff designed and taught integrated units of learning using collaborative processes

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:

- Developing a deeper understanding of the new Mathematics and English syllabus;
- Improving the students’ reading fluency levels;
- Designing and teaching integrated units of learning to support English and Science and Technology areas.

Professional learning

The major focus for professional development was to prepare the staff for the implementation of the new Australian Curriculum. The school was successful in receiving additional funds to develop units of learning for State Office. Meadow Flat Public School collaborated with the staff at O’Connell Public School to design integrated units of learning. These will be used by other schools across NSW as exemplary examples of curriculum integration.

Another major focus was the Aboriginal Pedagogies: 8 Aboriginal Ways of Learning. The staff joined with the Bathurst Small Schools to complete 3 modules.

Additional professional learning courses include:

- Child Protection procedures;
- Emergency care and CPR;
- Small schools network meetings;
- Live Life Well Physical Education program;
- Clever Climate Energy Savers Environmental Education program;
- Collegiate meetings for the Principal.
Parent/caregiver, student, and teacher satisfaction

In 2013, the school sought the opinions of parents, students, and teachers about the school.

Student responses

- **Do you find that computers make schoolwork more interesting?**

- **Does using computers help you to do better with your schoolwork?**

- **Last week at school, how many hours did you spend using a computer?**

- **How often do you use technology in your classes (computers, hand-held electronic devices such as calculators, the Internet, digital cameras, video equipment etc.)?**

- **How would you rate your computer abilities?**

- **Do you use it to do homework or study?**
Parents’ responses to School Satisfaction Survey

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.

Michael Wood, Principal
Gael Harvey, Classroom Teacher
Betty Murphy, Part-time teacher
Sarah Martin, P & C President

School contact information

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Meadow Flat NSW 2795
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Web: http://www.meadowflat-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
School Code: 2509

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
Faith Shean meets Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Marie Bashir AC CVO Governor of New South Wales and Mayor of Lithgow Cr Maree Statham.

Students cooked and ate spinach triangles grown at the school in the veggie garden.

Presentation of our Purple Copper Butterfly book to MP Mr Paul Toole.

Recorder performance at the Sydney Opera House.

RoboCup competition at Charles Sturt University.

School ukulele band.