Our school at a glance

Nowra Hill Public School is a PP5 school located eight kilometers south of Nowra, adjacent to HMAS Albatross. The student enrolment of 107 is made up of children from the local school zone and from Defence families from HMAS Albatross and Army Parachute Training School.

Being a small school there are only five classes. The school adheres to the NSW Department of Education and Communities guidelines for class sizes, in the junior schools, resulting in composite classes throughout the school.

Student achievement for 2011 can be found in the MySchool website where members of the community can compare the NAPLAN results for Nowra Hill Public School with other local school and similar school across New South Wales and other states.

Messages

Principal’s message

Nowra Hill Public School parents, students and staff are proud of continued academic, cultural, performing and sporting achievements. Once again our academic successes are highlighted in our high standards in NAPLAN Literacy and Numeracy which are highlighted in this Annual School Report and on the My School website.

Our students are the main focus of all teachers and parents and are achieving well and being catered for as individuals, as we strive towards the common goal of providing the best possible educational outcomes. The school is staffed by caring committed and experienced staff that has high expectation and continues to develop their skills and knowledge through professional learning in order to offer our students quality learning experiences.

Nowra Hill Public School has a strong value base, reflected in our school rules, welfare policy and general expectations. Our students are taught to be respectful, cooperative, caring and resilient. To further these values, the school will embark on the Positive Behaviours for Success program over the next three years. This will include training and close involvement with other small school in our School Education Group and the Shoalhaven River Learning Community.

These school works in close collaboration with parents, fostering a positive, supportive environment for students. The Parents and Citizens Association continues to provide much needed assistance by way of classroom resources, assistance with excursion costs, the provision of a school canteen, Fresh Fruit Fridays and uniform shop. The enthusiasm of several families to continually fundraise, and provide information and uniform for new families, is very much appreciated by the entire school community.

Student enrolment has been maintained at 107, with five classes being formed including four composite classes. Class sizes have been kept within DEC guidelines.

I am proud of the strong reputation that Nowra Hill Public School has achieved over many years and thank all students, parents and staff who work to enhance the high standards of behavior and expectations of a quality public education. I look forward to working with our great school as we “Strive of Excel” at all times.

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.

Tony McCann

P & C Message

Our P&C had another busy year in 2011, we raised $26,748.36 this year through the following efforts; canteen, uniform shop, Bunnings BBQ, bulbs, election day stalls, Mothers’ Day and Christmas raffles, pie drive, Fathers’ Day stall, SISST carnival and school dance.

We spent money on; bus transport, $250.00 per classroom for class supplies, Fresh Fruit Friday, Mathletics subsidy, new readers for the 1-2 classroom, a microphone and stand, and much more.

A balance of $11,206.38 at the end of the year as a foundation for the rebuild of the weather shed.

It has been a privilege and pleasure to be a part of this school community for the past decade and I thank all the staff at Nowra Hill Public School for the wonderful foundation my children have had in their learning.

Svetlana Holman

President Nowra Hill P&C
Student Representative Message

At the end of 2010, elections for Nowra Hill School Captains were held, with Kate Markham and Joe Albert being elected to run the Student Representative Council, called “The Redbacks”, in 2011. All year 6 students are given leadership roles to play during the year, including running assemblies, ringing bells, making rosters for recycling and composting, flying the Australian Flag and conducting the school ANZAC Service. Kate and Joe also conducted the Education Week Assembly and end-of-year Presentation and Concert and attended the ANZAC Day March.

The School Captains also attended leadership days at Nowra High School, had lunch with the Federal Member for Gilmore, Ms Joanna Gash and attended the Shoalhaven Lord Mayor’s School Leaders Reception and the launch of Shoalhaven River Learning Community at the School of Arts in Nowra.

One of the most important roles of senior students is to act as buddies for Kindergarten and new students to the school. This helps the children find new friends, shows them where to play and how to look after their things. Seniors and their buddies usually end being close friends.

The Redbacks raised money for the Cancer Council and Cystic Fibrosis Association by holding mufti days. They also raised money each Friday during terms 2 and 3 by holding pie’n’popper days, with the profits helping pay for a bus to a performance for K-2 and the Year 6 Farewell at the Roxy Cinema and dinner.

It is always busy being a school leader at Nowra Hill Public School.

Kate Markham and Joe Albert
(School Captains 2011)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student attendance profile
Management of non-attendance

The school has designed a form absence note which has been printed and distributed to parents to encourage them to notify absences promptly and correctly.

Class sizes

Primary class sizes are included in the annual school report in order to provide parents with as much local information as possible. The following table shows our class sizes as reported at the 2011 Class Size Audit conducted on Monday 21 March 2011.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Principal(s)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Principal(s)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Teachers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Teachers</td>
<td>3.168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of Emotional Disabilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of Mild Intellectual Disabilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of Reading Recovery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Teacher Learning Assistance</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Librarian</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of ESL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counsellor</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Administrative &amp; Support Staff</td>
<td>1.206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6.874</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The National Education Agreement requires schools to report on Indigenous composition of their workforce.

Staff retention

It is anticipated that the school’s staffing establishment will remain the same for 2012.

Teacher qualifications

All teaching staff meet the professional requirements for teaching in NSW public schools.
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: 30/11/2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward 122 841.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global funds 73 407.29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tied funds 36 298.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources 32 023.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest 6 095.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust receipts 1 139.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canteen 0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong> 148 964.12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching &amp; learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key learning areas 24 084.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excursions 3 312.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extracurricular dissections 10 524.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library 2 695.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds 51 031.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual relief teachers 15 047.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; office 21 942.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School-operated canteen 0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities 8 798.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance 3 970.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust accounts 1 944.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital programs 8 891.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditure</strong> 152 243.77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Balance carried forward 119 561.70 |

A full copy of the school’s 2011 financial statement is tabled at the Annual General Meetings of the schools’ Parent body. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.

School performance 2011

- Children had a “Wear Maroon” mufti day at the beginning of the year for the Queensland floods.
- K-6 were involved in the Clean Up Australia Day for school in and around our school grounds.
- The whole school was involved in the Walk Safely to School Day where each class walked on the path and side of the road on the way to Air Fleet Museum for a visit.
- Whole school involved in Gymnastics Program over whole of Term 2 run by the Activated Group.
- Year 2/3 and 4/5 classes participated in a 5 a-side Soccer Gala day organized by Football Australia and hosted by members of the Australian Matilda’s Football (soccer) team.
- Several children from the senior classes participated in the Small Schools Public Speaking Competition at Shoalhaven Heads Public School. One child received a highly commended.
- A School dance was held as a culmination to a whole term of learning set dances. It was held out of school hours and was very well attended.
- K-3 attended “My Grandma Lived in Googolulch” performed at the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre.
- An Active After School Community program was conducted for seven weeks each term on Tuesday and Wednesday. 42 students from year’s k-6 participated in the various activities.

Achievements

Arts

As part of the Shoalhaven community the school encourages student involvement in district and school initiatives and community celebrations.

All students from Kindergarten to Year 6 participated in our singing, verse, dance and drama programs leading to performances at our Education Week and Annual School Concerts.

Students from Nowra Hill Public School were commended for their efforts in supporting the junior sections of art and craft at the Nowra Show. Four children received 1st prize and two children received 2nd prize.

During the year fourteen students in years 4, 5 and 6 were involved in learning to play a brass instrument with weekly tuition from a qualified instructor from the Nowra Town Band. These children were encouraged to attend Nowra Junior Band sessions on Monday evenings. Two students now play in the Senior Nowra Town Band.

A Small Schools Band Day was held at Shoalhaven Heads Public School in November, eight Nowra Hill students attended. They rehearsed, and then
performed with Pennant Hill High School Junior Band.

Students in years 4, 5 and 6 continued learning to play the recorder. Seven children placed 2nd in the City of Shoalhaven Eisteddfod held at the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre in June.

In September 37 students performed in the Shoalhaven Choral Festival at Nowra High School.

Burwood Girls High School Band performed for all our students in August.

Students in Kindergarten, Year 1, 2 and 3 attended the performance of “My Grandma Lived in Gooligulch” at the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre in September.

The Sydney University Wind Orchestra and the Shoalhaven Performing Band played for all our students in November.

Shoalhaven Water performed their Tap Star show for all students in October.

In October our intensive Kindergarten to Year 6 dance program culminated in a school dance held one evening with the theme, “Dress to Impress”.

Class ½ combined Art/Craft with topics from H.S.I.E. Children completed a wooden peg project from “The Way We Were”, and an underwater scene from wet and dry environments.

Some classes participated in artwork and research work for the Shoalhaven City Council’s endangered and threatened species competition.

- Class 1-2 came 2nd
- Class 2-3 came 4th
- Class 5-6 came 6th

One student received a prize for an individual entry.

Kindergarten to Year 6 students designed a poster for the Bookweek theme “One World, Many Stories”. Prizes were awarded to students from each class.

Many small group activities held during our Education Plus Program in October and November were art and craft based – jewellery and bead making; scrap booking; tile mosaics; bag making; infant’s art; mixed medium and textiles.

**Sport**

Nowra Hill participated with six other small schools in the Six Interested Small Schools Together (SISST) Carnivals. Sporting events included athletics, swimming and cross-country.

- Nowra Hill P.S. was placed 2nd overall in the SISST Swimming Carnival. Brianna Harris was named 11 year old girl champion at this carnival, with Samantha Vella and James Cliff coming 2nd in their respective age divisions.
- 15 students represented the school at district swimming.
- Rhiannon Osborne represented the Shoalhaven District at the Regional Swimming Carnival in the 13years 50m freestyle at Dapto.
- Rhiannon Osborne then went on to compete at the NSW PSSA Swimming Championships at Olympic Park in Sydney.
- Nowra Hill P.S. was placed 2nd overall in the SISST Cross Country.
- Nowra Hill had 32 students represent the school at District Cross-Country.
- Nowra Hill came 9th in the overall pointscore and 2nd in the percentage pointscore.
- Cooper Lange was named 11 Years Boys Champion of the Small Schools Athletics Carnival.
- 12 students represented Nowra Hill at District Athletics.
- Cooper Lange represented the district at the Regional Athletics in the 11 Years High Jump in Canberra, whilst Rhiannon Osborne competed in the 13years 100m at a Regional Level.
Nowra Hill Public School also competed and held other significant sporting events during the year of 2011.

- A Morning Fitness Cross Country program began for the whole school every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday morning, in preparation for the Nowra Hill and Small Schools Cross Country Carnivals.
- Nowra Hill P.S. held their first School Cross Country Carnival. The carnival was a great success and all students (and parents) enjoyed themselves. Ribbons were awarded for the first 3 place getters. The 2 new sporting houses, Buru (Kangaroo) and Wirri (Dingo), have been happily accepted and incorporated into the sporting school.
- Nowra Hill Students from Years 2-6 attended the Ditching Pool at HMAS Albatross on a Friday afternoon in February for a period of 3 weeks, so as to improve their swimming for the Small Schools Swimming Carnival.
- 2 mixed teams of Year 5/6 students played in the AFL Paul Kelly Cup at Nowra Showground.
- Cooper Lange (Year 5) was chosen in the District Boys Football Side. (Soccer)
- Cooper Lange was invited by Football NSW to attend a 3 day training camp for the Talented Athlete Program in Soccer.
- Students in Years 3 and 4 attended an AFL Auskick Gala Day at the Nowra Showground and competed against other schools in mixed teams.
- A Small Schools Gala Day was held at Kangaroo Valley with the chosen sports being golf, cricket and tennis.
- Gymnastic lessons in the hall, were held over a 10 week period, (once a week) for all Nowra Hill students by a qualified gym instructor.
- To celebrate NAIDOC Week, Nowra Hill held an Aboriginal Games Tabloid afternoon. It was a wonderful success thanks to the weather and the Year 6 Leadership.
- Nowra Hill entered 3 teams (from Years 3 and 4), in the ‘Cottees 5 a side soccer Gala Day’, (which was in conjunction with the Southern NSW Football and Shoalhaven District Football Association.)
- An Intensive Swimming Scheme was held at the Bay and Basin Leisure Centre of a school morning for a period of 2 weeks for students in Years 2-6.
- Milo Cricket Clinics were conducted for Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2, organised through Cricket NSW.
- K-2 classes at Nowra Hill attended an AFL Clinic and Skills Day at Nowra Showground.
- 7 students from Nowra Hill competed at the Berry Public School Inter-School Equestrian Championships held at Worrigee. Tristan Sullivan was the Reserve Champion Year 3 Overall Competitor and Elle Notley the Reserve Champion Year 6 Overall Competitor.
- Nowra Hill P.S. registered for the Coles Sports for Schools Program and collected many vouchers (51,000 points), enabling the school to be given a large quantity of free sports equipment.
- The Annual Snail Races, incorporating “The Nowra Hill Cup”, was held on the first Tuesday in November, to coincide with The Melbourne Cup.
- A “Get Hooked” Fishing Program was
held for the primary school, teaching the students about the laws relating to fishing, safety when fishing and how to fish in our local area. This program culminated in a fishing day at Greenwell Point.

- Years 4, 5 and 6 attended camp at the Berry Sport and Recreation Centre and participated in a number of sporting activities.

Swimming

The year 2 to 6 children attended the pool at the Albatross Naval Base for 3 weeks at the beginning of Term 1 to gain water confidence, practice skills and stroke improvement.

Early in Term 3 we had 55 students from Year 2 to 6 attend the Special Swimming Scheme for 2 weeks. After the 2 weeks we had 95% of our students demonstrate marked improvement from the commencement of the program.

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 these 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)

Academic Competitions

Nowra Hill Public School actively encourages all students in Year 3-6 to participate in the University of New South Wales International Competitions and Assessments for Schools in Mathematics, English, Spelling, Writing, Science and Computer Studies. Entry fees are partially funded through the school’s Key Learning Area budgets. There was a drop in participation from 111 in 2010 to 74 in 2011, due to rising costs.

Results for these competitions were celebrated at school assemblies and in school newsletters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Participation</th>
<th>High</th>
<th>Distinction</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Participation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Skills</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>59</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 3

- Results were better in numbers, patterns and algebra than measurement, data, space and geometry.
- All students met the National Benchmark.
- 57% of students were in the top 2 bands and 43% scoring in band 3 and 4. No students were in the bottom two bands.
- Overall, Year 3 numeracy results were 29.6% better than state average.
Year 3 NAPLAN Numeracy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average score, 2011</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>SSG</th>
<th>State DEC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>430.5</td>
<td>402.2</td>
<td>400.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Skill Band Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Band</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number in Band</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage in Band</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>42.9</td>
<td>14.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Average 2008-2011</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>25.9</td>
<td>29.3</td>
<td>36.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSG % in Band 2011</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>21.0</td>
<td>25.6</td>
<td>21.6</td>
<td>15.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>State DEC % in Band 2011</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>25.7</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>16.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Year 3 NAPLAN Reading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average score, 2011</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>SSG</th>
<th>State DEC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>452.5</td>
<td>416.8</td>
<td>415.6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Skill Band Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Band</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number in Band</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage in Band</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>35.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Average 2008-2011</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>17.9</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>50.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSG % in Band 2011</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>21.5</td>
<td>21.8</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>25.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State DEC % in Band 2011</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>19.4</td>
<td>21.1</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>26.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 3

- Year 3 scored well above the state average in all areas of Literacy, other than writing.
- 100% of students reached the National Benchmark.
- Year 3 students are 37 scale scores above the state average in test aspect of reading.
- Overall Year 3 results were well above the statistically similar school (SSG) and the state average.
- 64% of students were placed in the proficiency bands for reading and spelling.
- 71% of students were proficient in grammar and punctuation, while 36% were proficient in writing.
In reading, 38.5% of students were placed in the top two bands, similar to previous years. The school was 34.5 points above the State average in reading. All students reached the national Benchmark for Literacy.

In Writing 15.4% of students were placed in the top band, with 76.9% in the middle two bands. The school performed 28.5 points below the State average.

In Spelling 38.5% of students were placed in the top two bands, while 53.9% were in the middle two bands. Nowra Hill students performed above the state average by 14 points.

Grammar and punctuation was the strongest result of literacy, with 61.6% of students being in the top two bands.

Progress in literacy

Of the 15 Year 3 students who sat the Basic Skills Test in 2009, 12 had completed the tests in Year 5.

Some students showed growth improvement in their literacy scores.

Average school growth was 63.2 points in reading, 20.2 points in spelling and 55.6 points in grammar and punctuation.

67% of students achieved above the minimum growth in literacy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill Band Distribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Band</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number in Band</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage in Band</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSG % in Band 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State DEC % in Band 2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 5 NAPLAN Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average score, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State DEC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Progress in Reading between Year 3 and 5*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008-2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State DEC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average progress in Spelling between Year 3 and 5*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008-2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State DEC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overall, students scored better in measurement, data, space and geometry, than in number, patterns and algebra. However, scores were just above state average.

All students comfortably reached the National Benchmark.

38.5% of students were in the top two skill bands compared to the state average of 29.5%.

61.6% of students were in the idle two skill bands, with no students in the bottom two bands.

Overall, Year 5 numeracy results were 31.5 points above the state average.

Boys and girls had similar results in numeracy.
Minimum standards

The Commonwealth Government sets minimum standards for reading, writing, grammar and punctuation, spelling and numeracy for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

The performance of the students in our school in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy is compared to these minimum standards. The percentages of our students achieving at or above these standards are reported below.

Minimum Standards data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Year 3 students achieving at or above minimum standard (exempt students included)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
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</table>

Significant programs and initiatives

Aboriginal education

Children studied traditional and modern Aboriginal culture through H.S.I.E. units during Term 2 such as “Australia: You’re standing in it”, and “National Parks”. Teachers always take the opportunity to integrate aspects of Aboriginal culture whenever any topics on Australia are discussed or studied. Children have focused on Dreaming stories, Aboriginal tradition, life and history, connection to the land, Aboriginal flag and famous Aboriginals.

Early in term 3 children had the opportunity to learn about traditional Aboriginal children’s games which they experienced during a tabloid afternoon using modified equipment with the original purpose or aim of the game being explained by teachers and senior students.

Respect and Responsibility

Values and accompanying skills are taught through school assemblies, classroom activities and visiting performances. The school supports the nine “values fro Australian schooling in the National Framework care and compassion, Doing your best, Fair go, Freedom, Honesty, and Trustworthiness, Integrity, Respect, Responsibility, Understanding, Tolerance and Inclusion.”

These values, and the ‘Core Rules of NSW Public Education’ have been used to formulate school and classroom rules. The Nowra Hill Public School Code of Conduct was reviewed and rewritten to reflect these core rules.

Students and the school community support a number of charities including the Cancer Council, books for Port Moresby Hospital by holding awareness and fund raising events. The school also conducts its own ANZAC Day service every year with guest speakers and takes part in the Nowra ANZAC Day march.

Clever Climate Energy Savers.

The Principal and Assistant Principal attended a ‘Clever Climate Energy Savers’ workshop which focused on how we can encourage students to save electricity at school and home. The school received funds to be used as planning days in order to organize a teaching/learning cycle which would culminate in the children writing a proposal outlining how they would implement the program at school and through the proposal get money to put the plans into action.

A core group of students was led through the Sustainability Action Process in early Term 3 in order to write the proposal which was supported by an e-folio which showcased the learning experiences they had prior to completing the proposal. One of the learning experiences involved
teachers from the Illawarra Environmental Education Centre coming to the school with an Energy trailer to give children hands on experiences of alternate energy sources and how energy is harnessed and used.

In Term 4 the school received $1,000 because of the proposal the children had written and the money has gone towards a long term goal of educating the children on how to save electricity in the school. Part of the proposal had the senior classes designing and then making a poster, using computers, which would encourage other students to save electricity. Children were also involved in writing and giving speeches on saving electricity at school and these were presented at weekly school assemblies. The Clever Climate Energy Savers Program and its ethos will hopefully become a part of school culture over the years to come so that children become more aware of how they can reduce their carbon footprint on the environment.

Progress on 2011 targets

As part of the School’s review and planning process, targets are set for each year based upon an analysis of student performance data and evaluations. Parents surveys and discussion at P&C meetings allow parents an input into school improvement and policies.

**Target 1**

*To engage students in learning and improve student attendance by 1%.*

Our achievements include:

- The introduction of standardized absence notes which were used by most families to explain student absences.
- Student attendance was 95.1%, down 0.5% in 2010. This did not reach the schools target of 96.6%. However, the school’s attendance rate was above both Illawarra South East Region and NSW public schools’ attendance rate. There were several students in the senior classes who were absent for extended periods of time on family holidays, while the suspension rate was higher than in previous years.

**Target 2**

*To achieve successful learning outcomes in numeracy.*

Our achievements include:

- The use of Mathletics program in years 4-6 to support numeracy skills.
- 57.1% of Year 3 students were in the top two bands of NAPLAN numeracy and 26% of year 5 students were in the top band.

**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.

**Curriculum**

**Background**

With literacy being a NSW Department of Education and Community priority, writing was again chosen as a Key Learning area. Nowra Hill Public School has been previously involved with other local small schools in a narrative writing project with District consultancy support, resulting in greater understanding of the narrative format and assessment techniques by staff and students. However, the change of the 2011 NAPLAN writing assessment to persuasive text has resulted in the School’s performance of Year 3 students being 15.5 score points and Year 5 students 28.5 points below the State DEC average. This was the only aspect of NAPLAN testing that was below State average.

Although the writing program in the school was evaluated in 2009, it was felt by staff and parents that a further evaluation through the analysis of students attitude, understanding and skills, disassment tasks and explicit teaching of writing be undertaken to improve student outcomes in writing.

**Findings and conclusions**

Analysis of information from teachers, consultants, students and parents of achievements in Writing highlighted that:-

- Writing is a focus in all classroom teaching programs and that all text types were being taught from K-6. Persuasive text was only a small part of the literacy program.
- When writing persuasive texts, students focused more on giving their opinion on a topic rather than using persuasive devices to convince the reader.
Students prefer to write narrative and reports recalling events than persuasive texts.

Parents and staff saw that students needed to take more care with spelling and editing skills.

Teachers in classes saw that being able to verbalise arguments and present points of view as being an area for improvement.

**Future Directions**

- Writing will remain a focus area of Literacy across the school, with an emphasis on improving writing persuasive text.
- Staff will continue to seek professional learning to better teach persuasive text writing.
- Nowra Hill will participate in public speaking and debating with other small schools, to improve student understanding language for different audiences.

**Educational and management practice**

**Background**

Toward the end of 2011 a “Student School Life Survey” was conducted to gauge the effectiveness of student learning and attitude to learning.

**Findings and conclusions**

An analysis of the survey showed that:

- All students believe that teachers at Nowra Hill Public School have high expectations of work from them.
- 95% of students believe that they try to do their best at school.
- 72% believe that they could learn more in class if students would behave better.
- 95% of students believe that they are safe at school while 79% believe that teachers treat them fairly.
- 95% of students are proud being a student at Nowra Hill Public School and 100% enjoy the chance to represent the school.
- 92% of students believe that what they learn at school is helpful and needed in future learning.
- 94% of students believe that teachers take a personal interest in helping them with their school work.

**Future directions**

Whereas the great majority of students display an excellent attitude to learning future efforts should be made to:

- Develop in students a greater sense of self esteem and personal responsibility for behavior.
- Continue staff development in Quality Teaching to fully engage students and cater for all individual differences.
- The school will participate in the Positive Behaviour for Success (PBS) program from 2012 - 2015, beginning with initial professional learning for staff at the end of 2011.

**Parent, student, and teacher satisfaction**

In 2011 the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school.

Their responses are presented below.

- Small numbers, friendly staff and a great learning atmosphere.
- High standard of moral values is demonstrated to children, community atmosphere, dedicated staff.
- I feel the children get more individual attention when it’s needed.
- Excellent education, good reputation, good school and community spirit.
- Small friendly school that is nice and close.
- It is terrific school. I wouldn’t hesitate to recommend it to anyone as I believe it is the best school around.

**Professional learning**

All staff had access to professional learning through Shoalhaven River Learning Community network meetings in key learning areas and technology. Staff attended School Development Days in numeracy, Positive Behaviours for Success, first aid and resuscitation, Aboriginal Cultural Awareness, Clever Climate Savers, library and technology training and Digital Storytelling.
School planning 2012—2014

The school planning policy provides direction for the preparation and implementation of school plans including the identification of priority areas, intended outcomes and targets that are consistent with the NSW State Plan and the Department’s planning documents.

School priority 1
Outcome for 2012–2014
To improve student writing skills.

2012 Targets to achieve this outcome include:
• Careful analysis of NAPLAN Data
• Explicit teaching of skills needed to write persuasive text in all grades.
• Familiarise staff with National Curriculum for English, and staff attend relevant professional learning activities.
• Implement Writing for the Middle Years in partnership with Nowra High School.

Our success will be measured by:
• A 5% growth of Year 3 students in the top two NAPLAN proficiency bands from 35% to 40% of students.
• A 10% reduction of Year 5 students on the bottom two bands for NAPLAN writing.
• Students in Years 3 and 5 improve by 28 raw score points to match the state average for writing.

School priority 2
Outcome for 2012–2014
Increased levels of numeracy for all students.

Strategies to achieve these targets include:
• Implement Stage 1 Best Start assessments, including “Make It Count”.
• Provide professional training and support for Kindergarten and Stage 1 teachers in Best Start assessment and teaching strategies, including networking with local schools and district consultancy.
• Plot student progress on the Best Start numeracy continuum.
• Investigate the use of Interactive Whiteboard technology and relevant teaching and learning resources for numeracy. Purchase two E-beams for classrooms.
• Careful analysis of SMART Data from NAPLAN tests to target areas of weakness.

Our success will be measured by:
• 5% increase in the number of Year 5 students in the top two proficiency bands from 26% to above 31%.
• Tracking of Early Stage 1 and Stage 1 students using the Numeracy continuum.

About this report
In preparing this report, the self-evaluation committee has gathered information from evaluations conducted during the year and analyzed 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.

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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: