2010 Annual School Report
Wisemans Ferry Public School

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

Messages

Principal’s message

Founded in 1865, Wisemans Ferry school is situated on the banks of the Hawkesbury River in an area of historical, scenic and environmental significance. The school serves students from the rural communities of Wisemans Ferry, Webbs Creek, Gunderman and Laughtondale. The school motto is “United in Learning” and this is demonstrated through the adoption of the 6C’s: Care, Courtesy, Commitment, Cooperation, Consideration and Common Sense.

The school is supported by a strong and active parent body and has an established and ongoing relationship with the wider Wisemans Ferry community. The staff encourages and supports each student to achieve their personal best in all areas of the curriculum and in extra-curricula activities.

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.

Ann Eldridge

P & C and/or School Council message

Wisemans Ferry Public School P&C is a group of committed parents working together with the school to ensure the best for all of our school students.

As members of the P&C, parents get to see the education process in action and help raise funds to provide facilities and equipment for the school.

Our dedicated P&C held a family golf day and several raffles and raised in excess of $8000. These activities rely heavily on community participation. We at Wisemans Ferry Public School are fortunate to have such community support and involvement.

The proceeds from our fundraising projects this year have been put towards employing on a weekly basis a specialist music teacher K-6.

Jenni-Mae Clissold

President

Student representative’s message

As school leaders we tried to set a great example to our fellow students.

We participated in the Hawkesbury schools leadership camp and learnt many strategies for showing leadership at school. Our responsibilities included many activities ranging from running the weekly school assembly, running the annual Presentation Day, leading fitness groups to welcoming and thanking visitors to our school.

Throughout the year we had many opportunities to connect with other school leaders in our small schools network.

We are very proud of our school and love the friendliness and care shown by the teachers, parents and students.

Sebastian Bice, Holly Strathern and Alexandra Wright

School Captains

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></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Student attendance profile

Management of non-attendance

Attendance at Wisemans Ferry Public School is above Region and State rates. Classroom teachers maintain a daily roll of student attendance. The Principal and Home School Liaison Officer monitor the rolls on a regular basis. Parents are contacted if there is cause for concern regarding their child’s attendance.

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 2010 class size audit conducted on Wednesday 17 March 2010.

<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>K/1</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5/6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5/6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5/6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Structure of classes

The classes in 2010 were: Kindergarten/Year 1 of 25, Years 2/3 of 18 and 4/5/6 of 19.

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>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Teachers</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Librarian</td>
<td>0.168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary teacher RFF</td>
<td>0.126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary part-time teacher</td>
<td>0.168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counsellor [alternate fortnight]</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher’s Aide</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Administrative and Support</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff [SASS]</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6.962</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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>
</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>30/11/2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>42 110.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
<td>59 723.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>58 747.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
<td>16 559.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>2 204.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
<td>9 371.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td>188 716.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Expenditure**           |            |
| Teaching & learning       |            |
| Key learning areas        | 11 977.51  |
| Excurricular dissections  | 4 517.08   |
| Library                   | 1 429.50   |
| Training & development    | 0.00       |
| Tied funds                | 63 114.50  |
| Casual relief teachers    | 936.43     |
| Administration & office   | 28 540.96  |
| School-operated canteen   | 0.00       |
| Utilities                 | 12 652.29  |
| Maintenance               | 9 406.14   |
| Trust accounts            | 9 739.18   |
| Capital programs          | 8 649.00   |
| **Total expenditure**     | 152 379.01 |
| **Balance carried forward** | 36 337.49 |

A full copy of the school’s 2010 financial statement is tabled at the annual general meetings of the school’s Parents and Citizens Association. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.

School performance 2010

The school values high participation as well as striving for excellence. Our students are encouraged to participate willingly and to the best of their ability.

Achievements

Arts

A specialist dance teacher was employed in term one and all students K-6 learnt a routine that was performed for the parents at the end of the term.

During the year our specialist music teacher instructed the students in how to read and compose a score, how to play a variety of instruments including keyboards, guitar, percussion and recorder. The students perform regularly for the parents as well as special concerts for the local pensioner group, The Sunshine Club.

Wisemans Ferry School Choir performed at Windsor Riverside shopping centre during Education Week and performed at the Wisemans Ferry Bowling Club for Seniors Week. The performance at the Seniors Week function is held in high regard and the choir are invited each year to perform in front of in excess of 100 seniors.

Several Stage 3 students attended the Hawkesbury Gifted and Talented Program during term 3. Stage three students also participated in environmental activities at Longneck Lagon EEC.

The whole school enjoyed an excursion to Sydney Harbour where they visited Darling Harbour, Shark Island and Clifton Gardens.

Sport

Students at Wisemans Ferry have been members of the Federal Active After Schools Community program. Through this program the students participated in a wide range of sports including golf, lawn bowls, gymnastics, cricket, athletics and dance.

Daily fitness groups are run by the senior students each week of the school terms. In term four students participated in the Learn to Swim program and showed great improvement in water confidence and swimming ability.

Several students were successful in representing the district in cross country, athletics and 800metres. One student participated in the 800m and Cross Country at State level as a member of the Western Sydney Region athletics team.

A year one student participated in the State Junior Wakeboard titles and won first place. She also went on to compete successfully at the State
Junior girls snowboard and snowboard cross titles taking out two firsts, a third and a fourth place.

**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)

**Literacy – NAPLAN Year 3**

In 2010, thirteen students in Year 3 sat for the National Assessment Program. 100% performed in bands three to six.

**Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 3**

![Graph showing percentage of students in bands: Year 3 numeracy]

**Literacy – NAPLAN Year 5**

In 2010, five Year 5 students sat for the National Assessment Program. Overall achievement for 2010 is not shown as a graph as less than 10 students sat for the tests.

**Average progress in reading for matched students**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>74.4</td>
<td>78.3</td>
<td>126.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSG</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>80.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>87.5</td>
<td>88.4</td>
<td>83.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 5**

**Average progress in numeracy for matched students**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>70.0</td>
<td>144.3</td>
<td>85.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSG</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>85.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>77.3</td>
<td>93.4</td>
<td>89.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Writing-NAPLAN Year 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>56.3</td>
<td>104.3</td>
<td>90.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSG</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>64.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>69.3</td>
<td>57.7</td>
<td>66.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

**Percentage of Year 3 students in our school achieving at or above the minimum standard in 2010**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>77</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punctuation and grammar</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Percentage of Year 5 students in our school achieving at or above the minimum standard in 2010**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punctuation and grammar</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Significant programs and initiatives

Aboriginal education

Through the across-curriculum integrated units, Human society and it’s Environment [HSIE] units of work and creative arts units taught the students have developed an understanding of the significance of the history of Aboriginal people in developing Australian identity and heritage. The senior students developed a greater understanding and knowledge of customs, practices, symbols, languages and traditions during an excursion to Old Mogo Town with four other small schools.

Multicultural education

Programs are implemented to develop an understanding and appreciation of the multicultural nature of Australian history. Using units of work in HSIE and through literacy programs students have a knowledge and understanding of how cultures change through interactions with other cultures and the environment. Students are also able to describe different cultural influences and their contribution to Australian identities.

Respect and responsibility

Students at Wisemans Ferry Public School have an ongoing relationship with the local senior citizens group, The Sunshine Club. Students visit the Sunshine Club on a weekly basis and regularly perform for groups of seniors.

The school participated in Clean Up Australia day. The senior students cleaned up the roadsides leading to Webbs Creek ferry and the younger students cleaned up the school grounds and surroundings.

The school captains and a group of other students attended the Anzac Day march and participated in the ceremony by reading a personal account of a soldier at war.

Connected learning

This year we have had a connected classroom installed in the new library building. Initial training in its use has been undertaken by staff and further training opportunities will be accessed next year. All classrooms in the school now have Interactive Whiteboards installed.
Progress on 2010 targets

Target 1

*To continue to increase the consistent use of descriptive language in writing tasks.*

Our achievements include:

- In Year 5 all students performing above State, Western Sydney and School Education group results;
- 33.3% of students achieved greater than or equal to expected growth;
- Average scaled score growth of 81.2 points compared to 66.5 points growth for State and 66.4 points growth for Western Sydney;
- In Year 3 more than 90% of students scored in the upper three bands.

Target 2

*To increase the number of students in upper NAPLAN bands in years 3 and 5.*

Our achievements include:

- In Year 3 over 50% of students performed in the upper NAPLAN bands;
- In Year 5 60% of students performed in the upper NAPLAN bands compared to 57% at State and 50% in the Hawkesbury school group;
- In Year 5 the school Mean was 505.6 compared to the State Mean of 499.5 and the Region Mean of 488.3.

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 2010 our school carried out evaluations of management of Technology and Personal Development/Health/Physical Education.

Educational and management practice

Management of Technology

*Background*

This year through the Connected Classrooms program and the Federal ‘Building the Education Revolution’ program the school has gained computer hardware in each of it’s teaching and learning spaces. The management of technology and skilling of staff and students in the school has become a priority to fully utilize the technology installed.

*Findings and conclusions*

- staff, students and parents agreed that the school offers a wide variety of technology.
- staff agreed that the management of technology is well done and it provides the students with opportunities to use technology.
- staff, students and parents agreed that the school plan to install interactive whiteboards in all classrooms has been a positive influence on both student and staff enthusiasm and motivation for lessons.
- staff and parents agreed that the continued focus on building onto the current level of technology and professional learning is the key to making our school and staff leaders in technology.

*Future directions*

The school will continue its management plan to build up the technology in the school throughout the classes. Further professional development of staff will enhance classroom lessons and delivery.

Curriculum

Personal Development/Health/Physical Education

*Background*

Personal Development/Health/Physical Education (PDHPE) was chosen because health and fitness are a major focus in the wider community due to the increase in the awareness that students need to be involved in fitness and healthy lifestyle activities. The school has been a member of the
Active-After School Communities Federal program

Findings and conclusions
The findings of the survey conducted indicated that:

- parents, staff and students agree that PD/H/PE is an important subject area;
- parents agree that the students have developed their skills in games and sport and developed their ability to cooperatively play in team sports;
- the AASC program has broadened the students knowledge of and participation in a wide variety of sports; and
- parents believe that the students are developing a good understanding about the importance of personal identity, values and relationships with others.

Future directions
The school will continue to promote sporting activities that lead to the development of skills and fitness. The areas of health and personal development will continue to be important aspects of the school curriculum and student development. This will be achieved by monitoring class programs and the school scope and sequence, and the addition of new resources and equipment.

Parent, student, and teacher satisfaction
In 2010 the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school. Their responses are presented below.

Staff, students and parents believe that Wisemans Ferry Public School is a caring, supportive and friendly school located in a unique environment.

The staff are committed to supporting and nurturing the students and to helping them achieve excellence in their endeavours.

Professional learning
In 2010 Wisemans ferry Public School was allocated funds for professional learning as part of the school’s global budget.

Staff have attended professional learning courses in Occupational Health and Safety, Video-Conferencing using the Connected Classroom, the Australian Curriculum, Best Start and MyPL@DET. Mandatory training such as Keep them Safe, CPR, First Aid, Asthma and Anaphylaxis management including Epipen training was carried out on Staff Development days and in after school meetings. Priority is given whenever possible to professional learning that supports our school targets.

School development 2009 – 2011

Targets for 2011
Target 1
Increased use of ICT in teaching and learning programs.

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- Professional development activities for staff to become proficient in the use of the Connected Classroom suite and IWB;
- Improve student access and capacity to use information and communication technologies to enhance their learning and
- Develop a technology plan in collaboration with other small schools in the Hawkesbury network.

Our success will be measured by:

- Increased use of ICT including regular meetings/lessons through the Connected Classroom facility;
- Increased use of and familiarity with the CC suite for students and
- Student protocols in using the CC and buddy email system developed.
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.

Ann Eldridge, Principal
Fran Longhurst, Teacher
Jenni-Mae Clissold, P&C President
Deanna Stapleton, Parent

School contact information

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Web: www.wisemansfe-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
School Code: 3470

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: