2009 Annual School Report
Hargraves Public School

NSW Public Schools – Leading the way
Messages

Principal's message

Hargraves Public School is a small rural school nestled in the hills thirty five kilometres south west of Mudgee.

At Hargraves Public School we deliver a quality education in a friendly, caring and vibrant school environment. Our school prides itself on having a highly qualified and dedicated staff with a parent body who are enthusiastic and committed to our school community.

In 2009 Hargraves Public School embraced the four “Fish” principles of Play, Be There, Make Their Day and Choose Your Attitude which form the basis of our values and underpin our school philosophy.

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.

Jane Rae
Principal

P&C message

This year a small and dedicated P & C has continued to work very hard to raise funds through various activities. These include:

- Catering at Bunnings in April;
- A Mothers’ Day Stall and a Pizza/Disco night in May;
- Catering at ‘Erudgeree’ clearing sale in June;
- Catering at the Mudgee Small Farm Field Days in partnership with Hargraves Progress Association in July;
- Catering for the Zone Athletics Carnival in August;
- A Fathers’ Day stall in September;
- A car boot sale in October;
- Catering at Elders Christmas Party in December;

P & C then supported the school by:

- Providing funds for the employment of School Learning Support Officers;
- Providing funds for the daily Fruit in the Morning program;
- Providing funds for the hire of buses for swimming lessons;
- Providing funds for the Blue Mountains excursion;
- Providing fortnightly Friday Canteen.

Thank you to all members and parents who supported the P & C in 2009. Please continue with your support and I encourage others to step forward and lend a hand to lighten the load.

Louise O’Brien
P & C President

Student representative’s message

In 2009 the School Captain was Jessica Downey and the Vice Captain was Sally Carrall.

2009 was a year to remember for us at Hargraves Public School. We conducted the Anzac Day Service, Remembrance Day Service and the end of year presentation evening. We organised fund-raisers such as Go Casual for a Cause for the Victorian Bushfire victims and Bandanna Day for CanTeen. Highlights of the year were: the Blue Mountains excursion, the Brains Alive Camp at Red Hill, participating in the DET’s Festival of Instrumental Music at the Opera House, winning the Best Instrumental Group at the Gulgong Eisteddfod and winning the Super 8’s Cricket Small Schools’ Division.

As the school year draws to an end we know as we move onto high school that we will always treasure our days at Hargraves Public school and carry fond memories of our primary school years.

Jessica Downey and Sally Carrall
This year saw the completion of projects under the Investing in Our School program. The giant chess set has proved popular with the students.

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

Management of non-attendance

The school has well documented and promoted expectations on school attendance. In some situations contact is made with the home and DET resources engaged to support families in ensuring a positive attitude to 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 2009 class size audit conducted on Wednesday 18 March 2009.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roll</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total per Year</th>
<th>Total in Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-2</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Structure of classes

In 2009 the students were organised into two classes.

The infant class consisted of 12 students from Kindergarten to Year 2.

The primary class, made up of Year 3 to Year 6 students had 18 enrolments.

Our students were divided into stage groups for both Literacy and Numeracy three days a week. This was possible through the use of Priority Schools (PSP) funding and Country Areas Program (CAP) funding. This significantly improves the learning environment for all students and ensures additional teacher time for each student.
Staff information

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

Staff during 2009 consisted of a teaching principal, one classroom teacher and one part-time teacher for four days per week. School administrative and support staff consisted of a part-time Administration Manager, three part-time School Learning Support Officers and a part-time General Assistant.

Staff establishment

<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>1.436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2.436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Administrative &amp; Support Staff (SASS)</td>
<td>0.886</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Staff Retention

Mrs Jane Rae was appointed Principal from 2009 after relieving in this position from August 2008. Mrs Lindy Messner was transferred to Bletchington Public School, Orange following leave in Term 4 2009.

Teacher qualifications

All teaching staff meets 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></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2009 additional staff at Hargraves Public School included:

- A teacher employed through the Priority Schools Program for an additional 0.3 per week to support literacy and numeracy;
- A teacher employed for one day per week for one term through Country Areas Program to support technology;
- Two Learning Support Officers employed each morning to support literacy and numeracy;
- A Learning Support Officer employed for half a day per week through Priority Schools Program and Country Areas Program to support the Transition to School Program;
- A music teacher employed one day per fortnight for one semester.

A special visitor from Taronga Zoo
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>30/11/2009</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income $</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>55 628.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
<td>46 934.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>42 731.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
<td>12 871.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>2 058.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
<td>1 011.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income</td>
<td>161 234.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teaching &amp; learning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Key learning areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excursions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extracurricular dissections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training &amp; development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual relief teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School-operated canteen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust accounts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenditure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Balance carried forward 44 422.37

School performance 2009

Achievements

Arts

A wide range of opportunities are offered to our students to develop and showcase their artistic talents.

In 2009 our students:

- Won both the Infants and Senior Primary Recorder sections of the Gulgong Prince of Wales Eisteddfod;
- Were named the Best Instrumental Group at the Gulgong Eisteddfod;
- Performed at the Festival of Instrumental Music at the Sydney Opera House;
- Submitted artwork for the Henry Lawson Festival Art Show. Annabel Suttor won 1st prize for her artwork;
- Submitted poetry in the Henry Lawson Society of New South Wales Literary Competition. James Suttor received a 3rd place, with Sally Carrall and Zoi Dent each receiving Highly Commended;
- Entered the Waste to Art Competition in Mudgee. Annalee Angel received 3rd for her Memory Box;
- Participated in ArtVine Workshops;
- Painted banners for Artvine which were displayed in the streets of Mudgee;
- Attended Musica Viva performances in Mudgee;
- Attended the Circus Skills Gala Day;
- Attended Western Region Creative Arts Camp (Sally Carrall and Jessica Downey);
- Attended the Small Schools Visual Arts Camp (Annabel Suttor, Dylan Batt, Cameron O'Neil, James Suttor);
- Entered the CLC Art Show;
- Competed in the Small Schools Public Speaking Competition. Grace Angel was the winner of the Infants section, Francesca Dollin was 2nd, Liam O'Brien was placed 3rd in the Junior Primary section and Jessica Downey was 3rd in the Senior Primary division;
- Submitted entries in the school based Book Week book review competition;
- Played their recorders and performed at the CWA International Day on Egypt;

A full copy of the school's 2009 financial statement is tabled at the annual general meetings of the School Council and/or the parent body. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.

Mudgee Show winners
Submitted entries in the Mid Western Regional Council Book Week Colouring Competition. James Gibbons was Junior Primary Winner, with Sally Carrall and Bridget O’Brien receiving Highly Commended;

Submitted entries in the Mudgee Show. Bronte O’Brien and Cody Lawson received Highly Commended for their paintings. James Suttor Best senior primary art and 2nd with his drawing. Sally Carrall 2nd senior primary drawing;

Submitted writing and art works for the Reading the Rivers project. Jessica Downey and Sarah Roach had artwork selected to be displayed on the permanent wall in Mudgee;

Participated in Green Day run by the Central West Catchment Management Authority.

Submitted entries in the Mid Western Regional Council Book Week Colouring Competition. James Gibbons was Junior Primary Winner, with Sally Carrall and Bridget O’Brien receiving Highly Commended;

Submitted entries in the Mudgee Show. Bronte O’Brien and Cody Lawson received Highly Commended for their paintings. James Suttor Best senior primary art and 2nd with his drawing. Sally Carrall 2nd senior primary drawing;

Submitted writing and art works for the Reading the Rivers project. Jessica Downey and Sarah Roach had artwork selected to be displayed on the permanent wall in Mudgee;

Participated in Green Day run by the Central West Catchment Management Authority.

Sydney Opera House recorder players

Sport

Our sports programs encourage a wide range of skills development.

There were many highlights in 2009:

James Suttor was senior boy champion, Ryan Martin was senior boy runner up, Sally Carrall was senior girl champion, Liam O’Brien was junior boy champion and Cody Lawson was juvenile boy champion at the Mudgee District Small Schools swimming carnival;

Ryan Martin, James Suttor, Annabel Suttor, Sally Carrall and Liam O’Brien represented the school at the Cudgegong Zone swimming carnival at Dubbo. Sally Carrall competed in the senior girls 50m breaststroke;

Ryan Martin was selected in the Cudgegong Zone Soccer Team;

At the Mudgee District Small Schools Athletics Carnival Annalee Angel was runner up to the senior girl champion, Sally Carrall was the 11 years girl champion, Ryan Martin was the 11 years boy champion, Brett Hancock was the junior boy runner up and Cody Lawson was the juvenile boy champion. Hargraves School was the winner of the captain and tunnel ball competition;

Eight children represented the school at the Zone Athletics carnival;

Our relay team of Ryan Martin, Terrance Roach, Dylan Batt and Annalee Angel competed at the Western Region Athletics Carnival at Dubbo;

Eligible children participated in the Cudgegong Zone cross country;

All children participated in the Go Go Golf Day;

Primary children participated in the Touch Football Gala Day;

Primary children participated in the Super 8’s cricket competition. Hargraves Blue team were the winners and Hargraves White team came third;

Golden Circle Fun Run;

Quality Sports Assessment Day;

Hargraves School became involved in the Active After Schools Community Program;

Royal Lifesaving Society Junior First Aid training.

Super 8’s Cricket action
**Academic**

Students entered a number of external competitions.

- Annabel Suttor, James Suttor and Zoi Dent received Distinctions in the University of New South Wales Computer Competition. Liam O’Brien received a Credit;

- Jessica Downey and Zoi Dent received Credits in the University of New South Wales English Competition;

- Jessica Downey received a Credit and Sally Carrall and James Suttor received Merits in the Primary Research Project;

- All Hargraves children successfully completed the Premier’s Reading Challenge;

- All children in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 received Gold Awards and all students in Years 3-6 received Silver awards in the Premier’s Sporting Challenge;

- All Primary students participated in the Science Challenge;

- Stage Three students participated in The Great Race, an online current affairs quiz;

- Stage 3 students participated in the CAP online competition “Collie in Antarctica”;

- Students in K-2 took part in the CAP online competition “Collie’s Helpers”;

- Stage 3 students participated in Maths on the Net.

**Other**

School excursions were:

- CAP Network Initiative Brains Alive Camp at Red Hill;

- Reading the Rivers Street Parade;

- Whole school trip to the Blue Mountains;

- The Infants class Collie’s Helpers Excursion to Mudgee;

- CLC concert in Mudgee.

The Infants class joined with the students of Hill End School for a Collie’s Helpers in the Community excursion to Mudgee

Other activities included:

- Harhilleyer days with Hill End and Windeyer schools, including Life Education Van;

- A visit to school by the Taronga Mobile Zoo;

- Attendance at Green Day at AREC Mudgee;

- Easter church service, Christmas church service, ANZAC and Remembrance Day services;

- End of year play and presentation evening;

- Whole School Christmas lunch.

Country Areas Program consultant Kym Knight introduces students to the iPod Touch at the Small Schools Brains Alive camp

Members of the National Servicemen’s Association attended the ANZAC Day service
Riding the scenic railway at Scenic World on the Blue Mountains excursion

**NAPLAN**

Three students in Year 3 and three students in Year 5 sat the nationwide NAPLAN assessment in Literacy and Numeracy in May.

The small numbers of students sitting the tests and protocols for reporting, prohibit publication of comparative results.

Detailed analysis of student performance has enabled the development of individual learning plans and also identified priority areas for teacher professional learning. Analysis of student performance in Literacy indicates a need to focus on the development of reading whilst in Numeracy the focus area will be Working Mathematically.

School based assessment is used widely to determine student achievement against the syllabus and is reported to parents formally and in incidental meetings.

**Significant programs and initiatives**

**Aboriginal education**

Aboriginal perspectives are taught across all key learning areas. All integrated units in 2009 included aspects of Aboriginal history and culture and reflected DET Aboriginal Education policy.

**Multicultural education**

Teaching programs incorporated multicultural perspectives across Key Learning Areas.

Visiting performances presented by Musica Viva allowed students to see, hear and interact with musicians from across the world. All students participated in these concerts.

Students in both classes participated in activities to further their awareness of other cultures, with aspects of Egyptian culture being studied in preparation for the CWA International Day at Grattal.

Opportunities for developing an understanding of cultural, linguistic and religious differences are taken whenever possible in an attempt to extend the students understanding of situations beyond the local community.

On the boardwalk at Scenic World at Katoomba
Respect and responsibility

During 2009 the staff and students of Hargraves Public School embraced the four principles of the “Fish” philosophy - Play, Be There, Make Their Day and Choose Your Attitude. These fundamental principles now form the basis of our values and underpin our school philosophy. Individual responsibility and respect for self and others is emphasised. Anti-bullying programs continue to be implemented.

Getting up-close and personal at the Fish values Harhillyer day with Hill End and Windeyer schools

In 2009 the school participated in ANZAC and Remembrance Day Services supported by the National Servicemen’s Association in Mudgee. The children were also involved in community activities including the Mudgee Small Farm Field Days and Carols at the Court House. Students supported charities such as CanTeen and the Victorian Bushfire appeal and senior students participated in the CLC Leadership Forum.

Other programs

Priority Schools Program

Each year our school receives support from the Priority Schools Program (PSP). In 2009, this support was an additional $11,800 and an extra teacher for half a day per week.

This year the funding and extra teaching time enabled our school to continue to teach Literacy and Numeracy in three stage groups for three days a week. This initiative resulted in a teacher to student ratio of no more than one to ten and improved learning outcomes for all students in Literacy and Numeracy.

The Priority Schools Program also enabled our school to run the very successful Transition to School program by providing funds to employ a School Learning Support Officer for one semester. This program assisted young children to develop the social and academic skills necessary for successful school entry.

In 2010 staged groups for Literacy and Numeracy will be extended to four days per week.

Country Areas Program

Our school benefits from Country Area Program (CAP) funding which aims to help schools and school communities improve the educational outcomes and opportunities of students who are disadvantaged because of geographical isolation, so that their learning outcomes match those of other students.

In 2009 CAP provided $10,579 of additional funding, consultancy support for whole school review and planning as well as access to a wide range of professional development in technology.

A number of additional strategies supported student learning:

- A Teacher was employed one day per week for a term to support the development of the student’s technology skills;
- Digital Portfolios were extended to include Stage 2 students;
- A school webpage was developed;
- Primary children participated in a “Brains Alive” Camp with world renowned brain guru, John Joseph;
- Staff attended professional development days with Brian Tickle on Working Mathematically;
- Staff attended a professional development day with the district CAP consultant for Fish Values Training;
- A School Learning Support Officer was employed for one semester for the Transition Skills Program to assist young children to develop the social and academic skills necessary for successful school entry.
Progress on 2009 targets

Target 1
For Grammar to be evidenced in teacher planning, programming and classroom practice throughout 2009.

Our achievements include:
- Analysis of NAPLAN data;
- Stage 2 & 3 teachers attended NAPLAN writing marking training;
- Staged groups for Literacy to support student learning;
- Classroom programs reflecting explicit teaching of grammar;
- Students using explicit grammatical metalanguage.

Target 2
To improve students’ capacity to mentally compute, solve problems and to work mathematically.

Our achievements include:
- Analysis of NAPLAN and school assessment data;
- Participation in local CAP Mathematics initiative with Brian Tickle;
- Teaching Mathematics across staged ability groups;
- Parent and community Maths workshop with PSP Consultant Donna Quinn.

Target 3
Focus on equipping teachers with the skills to integrate technology across the KLA’s.

Our achievements include:
- Ongoing development of digital portfolios;
- The establishment of a school website where the weekly newsletter and current school photos are uploaded regularly;
- Participation in the CAP Brains Alive technology camp;
- The use of digital cameras to complement classroom learning.

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 2009 our school carried out evaluations of Raising Expectations and Homework.

Educational and management practice

Background
This year an evaluation of ‘Raising Expectations’ was undertaken. A modified School Map survey was given to all families and to students in Years 3-6. Staff were involved in professional discussion at a staff meeting to assess results and determine future directions.

Findings and conclusions
Analysis of the survey responses indicated that:
- Parents believe that the school promotes its values and vision to the community;
- Home-school communication is very effective in enabling parents to support their child’s learning;
- All children have equal access to opportunities at Hargraves Public School;
- Discipline is reasonable and consistent at Hargraves Public School;
- Children are happy coming to school and are proud of their school.

Future directions
Home – school communication will continue to be a major focus for staff at Hargraves Public School.

With a new teacher joining the staff in 2010, it will be vital to ensure consistency in relation to students’ quality of work, discipline and general standards of behaviour.
Curriculum

Background
Technology was selected for evaluation in 2009.

Findings and conclusions
Analysis of the survey data indicated the following:

- All parents acknowledged that computers and the appropriate use of the internet benefit their child’s learning;
- Most children felt very confident using the computer;
- All parents believed their child’s computer skills are improving each year;
- Some parents would like to use the school’s technology facilities to improve their own skills;
- Some parents would like to see further use made of digital and video cameras in their child’s learning.

Future directions
Keeping up to date with the latest developments in technology will remain a strong focus area for the staff at Hargraves Public School. Training in the use of the Video Conferencing facility (to be installed during 2010) will be a high priority. In addition to this, staff members will be attending a variety of technology courses during the year such as: Wikis, Kahootz, Blended Learning and Smart Board training.

Digital and video cameras will be used in the classroom and students will learn to use ‘Animoto’ as a means of presenting their work in a different medium.

Parent, student, and teacher satisfaction
In 2009 the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school.

Responses were very positive with parents identifying the following aspects as strengths:

- Home–school communication is excellent;
- The quality of education and opportunities offered to all students is outstanding;
- Extremely dedicated staff.

Students expressed a high level of satisfaction with the following:

- The school is a safe and happy place to be;
- The teachers really care for us;
- We are given lots of opportunities such as excursions, recorder, eisteddfod, sporting teams like Super 8’s cricket, touch football and swimming lessons.

Teachers identified the following strengths:

- Teachers, administrative and support staff work together as a part of a close-knit team;
- Staff enjoy working at Hargraves School;
- Parental support is very strong.

Professional learning
In addition to the three staff development days conducted at the beginning of terms one, two and three, staff accessed a range of professional learning activities aligned to the priority areas within the school management plan. During 2009 staff attended the following:

- Music in the Classroom
- NAPLAN Analysis Training
- Brian Tickle Mathematics Workshop – CAP District Initiative
- ERN Refresher Training
- Principals’ Conference
- CAP Development Days
- CPR Training and Emergency Care Training
- Austswim
- Circus Skills Workshop
- Fish Values
- The Hearing Impaired Child in the Classroom course
School Development 2009 – 2011

The school priorities focus on the three year cycle from 2009 to 2011 reflecting student needs, community expectations and Department of Education and Training priorities.

Targets for 2010

Target 1

To improve reading and writing outcomes for all students.

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- Collegial analysis of NAPLAN data to determine priority areas;
- K-2 teacher to investigate and purchase reading resources to supplement reading program;
- Utilise DET school magazines & teaching units for reading in Stage 2 & 3;
- Staged groups for Literacy to support student learning increased to eight hours per week;
- Train K-2 teacher in Reading Recovery strategies (6 days).

Target 2

To improve students’ capacity to mentally computate, solve problems and to work mathematically.

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- Collegial analysis of NAPLAN and school assessment data to determine priority areas;
- Implement the “Go Maths” program K-6;
- Teaching Mathematics across staged ability groups for 4 days per week;
- Parent and community Mathematics workshop as part of Small Schools Network Numeracy framework;
- Staff trained in Numeracy framework.

Target 3

Focus on equipping teachers with the skills to integrate technology across the KLA’s.

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- Further development of Digital Portfolios to incorporate Stage 1;
- Employ teacher one day per week for two terms to work with small ability based groups on ICT;
- Purchase a set of iPod touch for use with Stage 3 students;
- Train staff in IWB & resource development in readiness for video conferencing facility and delivery of lessons;
- Two staff members to attend Enriching Technology training as part of MSS CAP Network Initiative.

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.

Jane Rae Principal
Nerida Rodrom School Administration Manager

School contact information

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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: