Bathurst Public School
Annual School Report 2013
Our school at a glance

Messages

Principal’s message

2013 has been a great year for Bathurst Public School. We have all achieved this year, with every child enjoying success in some way, shape or form.

This year, we have excelled academically with outstanding results and improvements evident in our NAPLAN. Our Year 5 children, and children who moved into Year 7, celebrated above average growth, which is outstanding for our school. We have also had children participate in the ICAS Assessments in English, Maths, Science, Spelling, Writing and Computer Skills. We received many distinctions, credits and achievement certificates this year. Congratulations to all the children involved.

The iexplore transition program has continued with Bathurst High Campus and its feeder Primary schools this year. All of our Year 6 children have participated in at least one activity each term. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunities created as part of this program and it is one which will continue in 2014. We have also had Year 5 children involved in the iexplore program in the area of Science at Bathurst High. Once again, the children have loved working with the Science Department at Bathurst High Campus.

We have had 10 children, participate in the iextend program this year. This program is a virtual gifted and talented program which our children are nominated for, sit assessments and then offered positions. This has enabled our children to be involved in a host of gifted and talented activities online.

Another G&T initiative has been Serious Fun. Serious Fun is the combined Primary Schools Jazz band. Three of our students were members of this band this year.

We had another wonderful year on the debating and public speaking front. We had two debating teams this year, one of which won the Bathurst and Western Region Competition, and then moved on to compete at the NSW Debating Championships. The team placed 3rd at the end of the competition. Well done Bathurst Blues! We also celebrated the inclusion of one of our students in the Western Region Debating team which competed.

Our Public Speakers also had a successful year. All children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 participated in public speaking at a class level. We then had four students represent our school at the Bathurst CWA finals, with one student gaining a highly commended award.

Not only did we perform well academically, but our performing arts have once again been very strong.

Our School Band performed at the Spring Concert and Bathurst Eisteddfod where they were placed 2nd. Our junior band has also developed wonderful skills this year which is our main aim to prepare them for the move into the Senior Band. Well done to you all.

Our Infants and Primary Choirs participated at the Spring Concert and Bathurst Eisteddfod. A group of our Primary Choir children were also selected to sing at the Choral Festival at the Opera House this year. Congratulations to the 28 children involved in this wonderful event.

Our recorder group has also had another big year with many children travelling to Sydney to take part in the Instrumental Festival of Music at the Sydney Opera house; which was dynamic. Our recorder group also performed at the Spring Concert and Bathurst Eisteddfod.
Our violin groups have also grown this year with 2 teachers from the Mitchell Conservatorium teaching at our school every Tuesday. We also had our senior violin group and cellist attend the Instrumental Festival at the Opera House in 2013. Our violin groups also played at the Spring Concert and Bathurst Eisteddfod, where they were placed 2nd.

Our Dance program has extended school wide with Year 1, Year 2, Stage 2 and Stage 3 all involved. All of these groups performed at the Spring Concert and Bathurst Eisteddfod. Our Stage 1 Mickey Dancers were then invited to perform at the Bathurst Eisteddfod Grand Concert – a wonderful honour. The highlight of our Dance Program was the inclusion of Bathurst Public in the Schools Spectacular at the Sydney Entertainment Centre. 10 children were selected to participate in this event—a truly spectacular show, showcasing the talents of Public School students from across NSW.

Who could forget our Spring Concert – “A Ticket to Travel”. What another terrific evening showcasing the amazing talent of the children and staff at Bathurst Public School and the opportunities that Public Education offers our children. It continues to amaze me that all 480 children performed on stage here at the Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre. It makes me so proud to see the excitement that our concert always brings and the ‘have a go’ attitude of our children and staff. Well done – that’s what learning is all about.

Our Sporting endeavours have been as equally as impressive in 2013. We had over 40 children attend the District Swimming Carnival, with many representing the Bathurst District in Dubbo. From here, seven students qualified for the State Swimming Carnival in Homebush. A top effort by all.

Our Cross Country was held at Mt Panorama this year. A team of 35 children represented our school at the District Cross Country.

Our Athletics Carnival was as equally well attended, with lots of children participating. We had a team of about 46 children attend the District Carnival, with several children selected to represent our school and district at the regional carnival in Dubbo. Here five students qualified to attend the State Athletics Carnival at Homebush.

We had teams entered in the PSSA Knockout Competitions in Cricket, AFL, Netball, Hockey and Girls and Boys Soccer and we attended several other Aussie Rules days. Well done to all our sporting teams this year.

We had many children selected to represent Western Region and Bathurst Public School at NSW Sporting Carnivals. One student was selected to represent in Netball, three students were selected to represent in AFL, and one student was selected in the Girls Hockey Team, with this team winning the 2013 State Hockey Championships. A super effort by all of these children.

Our Kinder Smart Start Transition program continued this year, with all our prospective Kinders coming along for 4 half days for 4 weeks in Term 3, and 3 half days for 5 weeks in Term 4. This really allowed us to get to know the children and parents and for the children and parents to become familiar with the expectations, staff and routines of our school. In 2014 we will have 78 new Kinder children begin at our school.

I certify that the information in this report is the result of a rigorous school self-evaluation process and is a balanced and genuine account of the school’s achievements and areas for development.

Kate White
P & C message

Public education may be important to you for a range of reasons: quality, equality, social interaction, resource efficiency, government responsibility. Public education may be the primary option available to you, or it may be your deliberate choice. Either way, by the end of 2013 you will have come to appreciate the character of our great school, the dedication of the staff and some of the wonderful opportunities that exist for you child’s development and education.

The quality of education is provided, not by ‘fee for service’ but as a ‘community asset’, and so there is an opportunity (and responsibility) of participation and community engagement around it’s resourcing and support. The Parents & Citizens Association of Bathurst Public School is the formalised means by which we can all share in resourcing and supporting the valuable education of our society’s future.

It has been a busy and productive year for the P&C as we have endeavored to fill our roles of:

- Connecting the parents with the staff and purposes of the school
- Raising some additional funds for basic education supplies and resources
- Providing the school community with important ‘services’, including:
  - The healthy canteen
  - Soap for the toilets
  - Opportunities for kids to have simple gifts for mothers’ and fathers’ days
  - Occasions for the whole school community to join together
  - Good books for the kids through the book club
  - Access to inexpensive uniforms and ‘keep-sakes’ along the journey

We have enjoyed great attendance at our meetings through the year, and have especially enjoyed and appreciated the contribution of a number of kindy parents and others new to the school. It is also great to share with people who do not have direct family connections, but choose to serve the school and community with us. We have shared the load and shared the fun. The number of men attending meetings has more than doubled, and a great group of blokes have been getting together to ‘do stuff’ at various events, alongside the dedicated women.

We have been busy, because the school has been busy. We congratulate the kids and teachers for the many proud moments of achievement and distinction; We delight in the camaraderie amongst the students; We share in the mischievous fun as personalities are expressed for the benefit of others; We are humbled as whole teams of staff direct their pastoral care to the wellbeing of a single child.

It’s been a great privilege to have led the P&C the past 12 months, and I thank members and especially the executive, for their energetic and thoughtful contributions to our work together. Mostly, it’s great to see the smiling face of each child enjoying their education in preparation for a fulfilling life of opportunity, as we build our community together.

Tony McBurney
P & C President
**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**

![Enrolments graph]

**Student attendance profile**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>249</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>222</td>
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**Management of non-attendance**

The school attendance team meets once a month to review school attendance data. A variety of strategies are used to monitor, encourage and improve student attendance. This includes: Newsletter reminders of the importance of school attendance, Reminder Slips for unexplained absences, encouragement from staff, phone contact with parents (teacher, executive, principal), and Personlised Attendance Plans. If there is no evidence of improvement, students are referred to the Home School Liaison Officer.

**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>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Principals</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Teachers</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of Reading Recovery</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning and Support Teachers</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Librarian</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of ESL</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Counsellor</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Administrative &amp; Support</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>33</td>
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The Australian Education Regulation, 2013 requires schools to report on Aboriginal composition of their workforce.

No staff member identifies as Aboriginal at Bathurst Public School.

**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>
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<tr>
<td>Degree or Diploma</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Institute of Teachers</td>
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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>
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<tr>
<td>Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>218683.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
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<td>Canteen</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income</td>
<td>1011758.03</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Expenditure                |            |
| Teaching & learning        |            |
| Key learning areas         | 28365.69   |
| Excursions                 | 61884.60   |
| Extracurricular dissections| 92922.70   |
| Library                    | 3069.92    |
| Training & development     | 10532.28   |
| Tied funds                 | 179006.88  |
| Casual relief teachers     | 93543.25   |
| Administration & office    | 178380.66  |
| School-operated canteen    | 0.00       |
| Utilities                  | 80940.09   |
| Maintenance                | 38345.20   |
| Trust accounts             | 33514.09   |
| Capital programs           | 13050.78   |
| Total expenditure          | 813556.14  |

| Balance carried forward    | 198201.89  |

A full copy of the school’s 2013 financial statement is tabled at the annual general meetings of the parent body. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.

School performance 2013

Academic achievements

NAPLAN

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)
Year 7: from Band 4 (lowest) to Band 9 (highest for Year 7)
Year 9: from Band 5 (lowest) to Band 10 (highest for Year 9)

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.

This year, 57 Year 3 students and 63 Year 5 students, sat the NAPLAN. Their overall results are as follows:
NAPLAN Year 3 - Literacy (including Reading, Writing, Spelling and Grammar and Punctuation)

Percentage in bands: Year 3 Reading

Percentage in bands: Year 3 Writing

Percentage in bands: Year 3 Spelling

Percentage in bands: Year 3 Grammar & Punctuation

NAPLAN Year 3 - Numeracy

Percentage in bands: Year 3 Numeracy
NAPLAN Year 5 - Literacy (including Reading, Writing, Spelling and Grammar and Punctuation)

Percentage in bands:
Year 5 Reading

Percentage in bands:
Year 5 Writing

Percentage in bands:
Year 5 Spelling

Percentage in bands:
Year 5 Grammar & Punctuation

Progress from Year 3 to Year 5

Average progress in Reading between Year 3 and 5

Average progress in Writing between Year 3 and 5
Other Achievements

Creative and Performing Arts

Recorder Groups
The school has operated two groups for recorder players in 2013. The year began with our more experienced, and quite accomplished players preparing for the Festival of Instrumental Music. The students learned a repertoire of pieces which they performed at the Opera House as part of the massed Recorder Choir. The students also performed at the Bathurst Eisteddfod and successfully achieved 3rd place for their wonderful efforts. We have 65 eager young students who have taken up recorder in Term 4. We plan on excelling these students next year by providing various opportunities for them to perform for the school community and beyond.
Dance

2013 has been another very busy and successful year for Dance at BPS. Our Stage 1 Dance Troupe consisted of 28 children, performing a dance routine to the theme of 'Mickey' at the Bathurst Spring Concert. They were also extremely successful at the Bathurst Eisteddfod, placing first in the Infants Dance category, and were then invited to perform at the Grand Concert at the conclusion of the Eisteddfod.

We once again employed a qualified dance teacher to run our Stage 2 and 3 dance classes. 90 children from Stage 2 had dance tuition during Terms 1, 2 and 3. These children performed at the Bathurst Eisteddfod and the BPS Spring Concert. Two of the groups won Highly Commended at the Eisteddfod in the Primary Dance category.

The highlight of our year was the inclusion of our Year 6 Dancers in the Schools Spectacular performance for the third year in a row, where our students performed with skill and confidence.

Choir

Our Primary Choir this year had many memorable performances. These ranged from competing at the Bathurst Eisteddfod, to performing at Presentation Day. Students worked hard on developing new harmonies and delighted many audiences. Once again, our choir was selected to perform at the Sydney Opera House, Choral Festival. We joined four other Bathurst schools for a combined rehearsal day with conductor Ian Jefferson, and then in October, 30 students travelled to Sydney for our performance. Being part of such a large choir of voices was a unique experience, and certainly one to remember.

Strings Program

At Bathurst Public School, opportunities are provided for students to receive private tuition in violin and cello. These lessons cater for a range of students of varying experience across Kindergarten to Year 6. The Strings Ensemble has had a number of opportunities for performance throughout the year; including Primary Assembly, Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea, the Festival of Instrumental Music at the Opera House, and the Bathurst Eisteddfod. Enquiries for students wishing to become involved in the tuition program in 2014 should be directed to the school’s front office.
School Band

It has been a good year for the BPS Band. We once again had a junior and senior band, with a combined 50 students participating. Highlights of the year included the Spring Concert, performing at assemblies, the Bathurst Eisteddfod, the Harmonikos grand opening, and the biggest highlight, a mini tour of a few of the small schools around Bathurst.

With a very full and challenging repertoire, the Senior Band gave a very entertaining performance at the Eisteddfod, placing 3rd, and the Junior Band performed very well for a very small and inexperienced group. Both bands performed for the school at different assemblies, wowing both students and the parents that attended.

The highlight of the year was the short tour of three small schools around Bathurst by the senior band. The band played exceptionally well, and had a great deal of fun as well, particularly at the Blayney adventure park. Hopefully this sort of tour could become a yearly event for the senior band.

School Concert

In 2013, students and staff were given a *Ticket to Ride*. With this wonderful opportunity to present items based on a global theme, students performed two concerts to full houses. The pre-flight entertainment featured the school band, choirs, a dance group and violin ensemble showcasing the talents of our musical students, followed by a video of school staff dancing through the Twentieth Century to the present day. Once the shrieks of laughter calmed, the audience were then taken on the ‘ride of their life’ as they visited India, America, Egypt, Trinidad, Argentina, Romania, Sweden and Ireland. All the multicultural colour, costume, set design, music, drama and dance brought the stage to life with confident and energetic performances by all classes. The finale, *I Still Call Australia Home*, raised the roof, along with spirits, as we were ‘brought back to earth’ with a reminder that no matter how far we may roam, ours hearts always remain grounded with family and friends in this lucky country of ours.

Drumming Group

During fourth term, we established a drumming circle with Stage 3 students. The students were enthusiastic in learning rhythms on various drums such as the djembe, bass and bongo drums. With some fundraising, we hope to purchase more djembe drums to cater for student
participation and to represent our school at the Bathurst Eisteddfod in 2014.

**Sport**

**Hockey**

In 2013, our Girls Hockey team was successful in making it to the second round of the PSSA Hockey Knockout. The girls had a convincing win against Wallerawang Public School in the first round of competition but were unlucky against Eglinton Public School in the second round. One student was selected in the Western Region Girls Hockey Team, which went on to win the State Championships.

**Swimming Carnival**

Our Swimming carnival saw five school records broken and 29 children qualify to attend the Bathurst District Swimming Carnival, with two children named as District Champions. Bathurst Public School won the overall point score and was announced the 2013 Bathurst District Swimming Champions. We also won the handicap point score for the Carnival. This is the fifth year in succession that Bathurst Public School has won both trophies. Well done to all our swimmers on a terrific day. We had 20 children qualify to attend the Regional Carnival in Dubbo. At this carnival, many of our children swam personal best times and six students qualified for the Western Region team to swim at the NSW PSSA Swimming Championship at Homebush. Bathurst Public School was represented in both individual and relay events.

**Cross Country**

Cross Country this year was held at Mt Panorama. All students participated with 32 students being selected to participate at the District Cross Country Carnival held at Mt Panorama. Of those students, nine went on to compete at the Regional Carnival in Wellington.

**Primary Athletics Carnival**

Our Athletics Carnival saw six school records broken and forty eight students qualify for the District Carnival. At the District Carnival we had sixteen students qualify for the Western Region trials. Five students were
selected as part of the Western Region team to compete at the NSW PSSA Athletics Championships in Homebush.

**Infants Athletics Carnival**

This year the Infants Athletics Carnival was held on the school oval. Students in Kinder, Year 1 and Year 2 participated in games and skills activities in their House groups. For many students, it was their first opportunity to participate in such an event. Activities included: hurdle races, long jump, shot put, parachute games, dress-up relays, egg and spoon races, throwing games and chasing games. The culmination of the day was the age groups 100m running races, with children going through to the finals after running their heats during the day.

Participation and enjoyment was paramount, and great sportsmanship was valued by all.

**Cricket**

Our Cricket team had another good year in the NSW PSSA Knockout Competition. One of the boys was selected as part of the Bathurst District team and was also selected to represent Western Region at the NSW PSSA Cricket Championships.
Netball

Our Netball team had a successful day at the PSSA Carnival in Orange. The girls won two out of the three games played, and two students were selected to trial for the Western Region Netball Team. One student was successful and went on to play in the NSW PSSA Championships.

AFL

Bathurst Public School had a good year in AFL. One boys’ team was entered into the Paul Kelly Cup. Unfortunately, they were beaten in two of the three matches during the event, and therefore didn’t qualify for the next round. Three students were selected in the Western Region A.F.L. team to compete at the N.S.W. P.S.S.A. A.F.L Carnival. One student was selected to compete at the NSW State Carnival.

Soccer

Bathurst Public School had a successful year on the soccer field. The boys’ team showed great determination to advance to the Eastern Division final, where they lost against Orange Small School Association. The girls made an impressive start, but were defeated by Eglinton Public School in the second round of competition.

Premier Sporting Challenge

This year, Bathurst Public School participated in the Premier’s Primary School Sport Challenge, which aims to engage young people in sport and physical activity and encourages them to lead healthy, active lifestyles. The students participated in a 10 week sport and physical activity challenge. This included time spent in a broad range of sports and recreational pursuits: during lunchtime, in school sport programs, class time, after school or in weekend physical activity, as well as the very successful Bathurst Public School Jogathon.

Public Speaking

Students were involved in several local and regional competitions. Students participated in class and school competitions which led into the CWA Public Speaking Competition with each year group being represented. One student gained a Highly Commended award. Students also competed in the Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Final held in Orange where one student gained a Highly Commended award. We again competed in the NAIDOC Public Speaking Competition which required one indigenous student and one non indigenous student to work together.
Debating

This year was another successful year for Bathurst Public in debating. We entered two teams in the Premier’s Debating Challenge for Years 5 & 6 – Bathurst Whites and Bathurst Blues. Each team had four debates with other Western Region Schools. The Whites and Blues each won three of their four debates. However, the Blues won their place in the semi-final through seniority and the points they had received throughout the competition.

The Blues then competed in the Western Region Final and won, making them Western Region Champions and State Finalists representing Western Region. One student was also successful in being selected for the Western Region Debating Team. The Blues travelled to the State Final in November, a three day event which was held at Stanwell Tops near Wollongong. They presented themselves very well, winning their first three debates which gained them a place in the semi-final where they were defeated.

Easter Hat Parade

The annual K-2 Easter Hat Parade was held on 26th March, 2013. Students engaged enthusiastically by decorating hats at home, participating in class parades and presenting choreographed dances to entertain the students, parents, friends and community members who supported the event. This fantastic day showcased student’s creative flair and raised an extraordinary $3095 through donations and raffles. $1000 of that profit was pledged to support Stewart House.

Book Week

‘Read Across the Universe’ was the topic for 2013 Book Week. Children from Kindergarten to Year 6 were introduced to the short-listed books that were appropriate for their age. Book Week was again celebrated with a whole school character parade and a book fair. The Book Fair commission allowed many new resources to be added to the school’s reading collection.

Bicycle Education Day

Stage 2 took part in a Road Safety Unit in Term 1, which focused on developing skills to stay safe on our bikes. It was concluded with a practical Bike Safety Day where students were given the opportunity to bring their bikes to school. Over 80 students and bikes filled the playground, completing a number of activities to test and improve their safe riding skills.
PBL

In 2013, the PBL team continued to review, implement and strengthen school wide PBL systems that enhance teaching and learning practices and support positive behaviour. The school has a dynamic PBL team comprising of teachers and executives from K-6, that meet regularly to review data, address whole school issues, plan, and implement actions that reflect the needs of the school community. In 2013, the team has worked collaboratively to review and update the School Welfare policy and communicate the PBL process to parents and the wider community through the development of a webpage.

The team is in the process of developing a classroom matrix and lesson plans, in preparation for implementing PBL into classrooms in 2014. To ensure that the sustainability of the PBL approach at BPS, new staff will be encouraged to join and lead the PBL team in 2014.

Jogathon

Bathurst Public School aims to encourage and give opportunities for all children to engage and participate in programs leading to healthy and active lifestyles. This year a Jogathon was held, with all students enjoying a fun morning of participation and fitness. The Jogathon was also an enjoyable and successful integration of all support unit classes participating with mainstream classes for the event, and supported Bathurst Public’s participation in the Premiers Sporting Challenge. The Jogathon also proved to be a successful fundraiser for our school, raising $20000. Bathurst Public was well supported by both parents and staff working together to run the event, but also by local businesses that supported the school by way of donation of vouchers and goods for prizes.

Quokka

This year, classes from Stage One participated in the Quocka Reading Program (Quota, Cops and Kids Reading). Volunteers from Quota spent half an hour each Thursday morning reading with the students from the selected class. Classes were rotated to participate every 5 weeks. At the end of the 5 weeks, students received a wonderful book they could keep as a memento. The program
encouraged a love of reading, and assisted in developing relationships between the students, members of the community and local Police officers. It was a highly successful program and will continue with Stage One in 2014.

Woolworth’s Fruit

Woolworths are generously donating fruit to our school for each child to enjoy. Woolworths are aiming to continue this program on a fortnightly basis, offering a range of seasonal fruits to encourage healthy eating.

Camps and Excursions

Science Expo

In Term 4, Stages 2 and 3 attended the Australian Museum Science Festival at Charles Sturt University. Students participated in engaging educational talks, hands on workshops and interactive shows with demonstrations. All activities were designed to promote the dynamic field of Science and Technology in everyday life and were aimed at inspiring students to the wonders that science brings.

Stage 1

Cowra Japanese Gardens

On 18th September, Year 1 and Year 2 students visited the Cowra Japanese Gardens to extend their knowledge of Japanese culture developed though the unit "Japan: Our Asian Neighbours". The excursion provided a wonderful opportunity for students to indulge in tasting green tea in a traditional Japanese tea ceremony, write in Japanese calligraphy, and participate in origami folding activities.

Stage 2

Adventure Playground

On Tuesday, 29th October, Stage 2 students travelled to the Adventure Playground in Bathurst for a science excursion. Students had learned about Simple Machines in science the previous term. They participated in a treasure hunt to consolidate knowledge gained during that unit of work. Students identified and explained examples of levers, pulleys, wheels and axels, inclined planes and screws. 120 Stage 2 students participated, and they were able to find and explain how
simple machines worked while showing a high level of engagement in the task.

**Year 3 Camp**

Our annual Year 3 Camp was held in November, with students enjoying the warm weather and the traditions of outdoor tent camping. The students had four teacher led activity sessions, a first aid demonstration and a fire safety lesson; just to name a few of the activities that were held over the two days. Much fun was had by all.

Many thanks must go to our hosts, who have kindly allowed us to camp on their property for the past 8 years, and to our parent volunteers for all of their hard work.

**Stage 3**

**Myuna Bay**

On 18th March, 109 Stage 3 students and 6 teachers set off to Myuna Bay for a week of fun and adventure. Students were pushed to overcome fears, to try new things and to work together as a team. In groups, the students participated in a variety of activities, from rock climbing to archery. Teachers were entertained by the students’ efforts in canoeing and amazed at the bravery of students as they pushed through their fears to attempt the giant swing and the high ropes course.

**Bathurst Goldfields**

On 19th September, 120 students visited the Bathurst Goldfields. Students had the opportunity to tour the Goldfields, pan for gold, and enjoy the stories, characters and rich history of the Gold Rush period. They also experienced mud brick making, damper cooking, bush games and putting up traditional tents. The day was the culmination to our HSIE unit and enriched student learning and understanding about the discovery of Gold in Australia, and its impact on our history.
**Significant programs and initiatives**

**Aboriginal education**

Aboriginal students at Bathurst Public School are provided with additional literacy support through the “Norta Norta”, “Wambinya” and DET “Kinder Language” programs. The aim of these programs is to bridge the gap between Aboriginal and Non Aboriginal students.

Aboriginal students also represented our school in the “Pathways to Reconciliation” parade. Students invited one non Aboriginal student to join them in the march to celebrate the Aboriginal culture and the diversity within the Bathurst community.

**Multicultural education**

With the theme of this year’s concert being travel, students from Kindergarten to Year 6 enriched their understanding of different cultures around the world. Within the classroom, students investigated different cultures and how they are similar and different to ours. Stage 1 culminated their unit of learning with an excursion to the Cowra Japanese Gardens.

**National partnership on Literacy and Numeracy**

This year, Bathurst Public School received additional funding as part of the National partnership on Literacy and Numeracy. The aim of this program is to provide opportunities for teachers and executives to embed improvement practices that will further develop their teaching of reading or numeracy. After an analysis of student data, Bathurst Public School selected Reading as our focus area. As a result, the school has put the following actions in place during 2013.

- Professional Learning in the following areas:
  - 21st Century Fluencies
  - Instructional Rounds in Education
  - Coaching Module
  - New English Syllabus
  - Conceptual Programming in English
  - Literacy Continuum
  - L3
  - Reading to Learn (2014)

- Implementing an intensive individual reading program based on the Reading Recovery program

**i.xtend**

In 2013, BPS had 10 students participate in the i.xtend program. This program is based on the 21st Century Fluencies and includes a series of five independent learning tasks. Each task focuses on one of the five fluencies including collaboration, creativity, media, information and solution fluency. It is a virtual program run through the West Connext Learning Platform and includes over 200 students from the Western Region. Students are selected for the program through online testing.

Students involved in the i.xtend program were able to showcase their work to over 50 of their peers at the i.xtend Expo Day while in turn, they had the opportunity to appreciate the work of other i.xtend students from around the region.
Other Programs

Technology

Bathurst Public School’s Technology team has clear direction, goals and aspirations regarding resources, professional development of staff and learning environment for all students.

The team meets regularly to discuss and make informed decisions based on data which has been gathered through the School ICT Readiness Assessment. This year, the school had a T4L Server installed. The server has changed how all of the computers in the school are managed and also how the students and staff access the network.

The computer lab has continued to be maintained with 32 computers. This is utilised by classes from K-6 with one teacher teaching Technology to a majority of the classes using an ICT Scope and Sequence that was developed in late 2012. This approach has ensured that there is consistency across each Stage, that there is student engagement, deep understanding and the development of individual ICT skills.

In 2013, the school has also established a mobile computer lab consisting of 10 laptops with wireless Internet access being installed in the George Street building. Wireless access is available in the Stage 1 classrooms as well as common rooms such as the Annexe and the George Street room. Specialised programs such as i.xtend, as well as classes from K-6, use the mobile computer lab regularly.

Smart Start

Smart Start is the transition to school program that is run at Bathurst Public School three half days per week, for eligible Kindergarten enrolments. The program operates over eight weeks during Terms 3 and 4 and aims at familiarising children with the school environment and with the routines expected of them in a school setting. Teachers are also able to meet students and identify issues for early intervention.

This year the program catered for 78 children.

Reading Recovery

Reading Recovery is a specialised school program designed to offer additional help to Year 1 students in reading and writing. In 2013, 11 students from Bathurst Public were selected for the Reading Recovery Program, three carry-over students in Year 2 and eight students in Year 1. Seven students successfully discontinued the program by reaching instructional reading level 16 or above. Four students were referred off the program due to processing difficulties and have been recommended for further support.

In addition to Reading Recovery, a Rocket Reader program was developed to boost the reading level of Year 1 students. Four students were selected for this program and successfully reached the Year 1 reading average of 18 by the end of the 2013 school year.
Support Classes
Bathurst Public School has five support classes catering to the needs of students with intellectual disabilities at mild and moderate levels, emotional disability and autism.
In the IO/AU and ED classes, literacy and numeracy are taught at the appropriate level for each student to realise their potential. The programs engage children in a wealth of activities to promote the development of the whole child, including speech and language development, social skills, gross and fine motor skills, music programs, cooking, excursions into the community, travel training and integration in whole school events and performances.
The IM class offers intensive support to students in literacy and numeracy. Students are also engaged in modified programs in HSIE, Science and Technology, Creative Arts and PD/H/PE, providing students with the opportunity to express themselves and demonstrate individual strengths.
Learning in all classes is further promoted by a full time Student Learning Support Officer, who works alongside the classroom teacher to present individual and small group educational programs and assist in the management of all students.
All students have the opportunity, and are encouraged, to participate in special schools sporting carnivals such as Soccer, Multi-Sports and the Sir Donald Bradman Cricket Clinic Program.
Students participate in whole school sport, intensive swimming, assemblies, excursions, school band and dance programs, the annual voting of school leaders and Sporting House Captains, Year Six Mini-Fete, functions such as discos and graduation dinners, transition programs, Eisteddfod and school concerts. This inclusiveness benefits the students by improving self-esteem and promoting a sense of belonging whilst also developing acceptance, tolerance and caring in the wider community. These experiences provide wonderful opportunities for students to mix with peers whilst developing social and communication skills, gross motor and team building skills as well as important friendships!

Learning Support Team
At Bathurst Public School we have a Learning Support Team which is a whole school planning and support mechanism that meets every two weeks. The Learning Support Team Consists of a Learning and Support Coordinator, Stage Representatives, Learning and Support Teacher, Reading Recovery Tutor, School Counsellor, School Principal and Assistant Principals.

At Bathurst Public School the Learning Support Team aims to:
- Enhance the educational opportunities of all students and specifically ensure the successful inclusion of students with additional needs.
- Ensure students with additional needs or gifted and talented students are identified and are referred to the Learning Support Team to plan for support or extension.
- Assist classroom teachers to develop Individual Learning Plans in collaboration with families, specialist teachers, school counsellors and/or executive staff.
- Ensure Individualised Learning Plans are implemented in the classroom, monitored
by classroom teachers and evaluated every 6 months.

- Offer a continuum of specialist support that is flexible and tailored to meet individual learning needs.
- Offer and access external support for students to cater for their needs.
- Monitor and evaluate the efficiency of support services being accessed by students.
- Collaborate with families to ensure students’ needs are met at school.

Every teacher is a member of the Learning Support team. However, their participation will vary according to the function of the team at a particular time.

**Iexplore/iLearn**

In partnership with Denison College, Year 6 students participated in the Iexplore and iLearn transition to high school programs. Year 6 students attended either Bathurst High Campus or Kelso High Campus, one day a term. This gave them the unique opportunity to become familiar with the physical layout of the school and meet new teachers, whilst being exposed to subjects they are expected to study in Year 7. Communication between Bathurst Public Year 6 teachers and Year 7 teachers was also optimised, ensuring a smooth transition for students into Year 7 in 2014.

Students who demonstrated talent in the areas of Science (Year 5 students only), Drama, Dance and Music participated in the Iexplore enrichment program. The students attended Bathurst High Campus, along with targeted students from other Primary Schools, for intensive lessons with specialist teachers.

**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:

- Stage and class based assessments
- Analysis of NAPLAN data
- Analysis of School Attendance data

**School planning 2012—2014: progress in 2013**

**School priority 1**

**Literacy**

**Outcomes for 2012–2014**

*Increased levels of overall literacy achievement for every student in line with state and regional targets*

**2013 Targets to achieve this outcome include:**

- To improve School and State comparison in the number of students achieving at proficiency, by at least 2% in all areas
- 50% or more students to achieve greater than or equal to expected growth from Year 3 to Year 5 and from Year 5 to Year 7
- 50% or more students to reach Regional Benchmarks in Year 2

**Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2013:**

- There was an increase in the number of Year 7 students achieving at proficiency in all areas, except for Writing. When comparing our results to State, we have improved the number of our students achieving at proficiency, compared to State, by 1% in Writing, 2% in Spelling, and 6% in Reading, and Grammar and Punctuation.
In both Year 3 and Year 5, there was no increase in the number of students achieving at proficiency.

More than 50% of students achieved greater than, or equal to, expected growth from Year 3 to Year 5 and from Year 5 to Year 7. This was in all strands with the exception of Grammar and Punctuation. The strand reflecting the greatest growth, was Spelling.

- In 2013, there were 63 students in Year 2. Of those students, 81% reached the Regional Benchmark.

**Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014**

- Fluency Reading program in Years 1-6 during Terms 1 and 4.
- Plot student growth on the Literacy continuum, each term.
- Reading Recovery for 16 Year 1 students.
- Multilit program using STLAs, SLSOs and Parent Helpers.
- Support students with Language needs through the employment of a Speech Therapist for 1 day per week.
- Implementation of the L3 program in both Kindergarten and Year 1 classes.
- Identification of Kindergarten GATs students through administration of GTK tasks.
- Stage Planning Days - collegial planning and assessing of student work samples.
- Increase support of Aboriginal Students through the implementation of the MULTILIT program.
- Participation of Years 5 and 6 GATs students in the i.xtend program.
- Implementation of Instructional Rounds and Coaching to support constructive and professional dialogue between staff.
- Professional Learning in Reading to Learn for Year 2 – 6 classroom teachers.
- Reading to Learn Coach to support teachers in implementing the Reading to Learn program.

**School priority 2**

**Numeracy**

**Outcome for 2012–2014**

*Increase levels of overall numeracy achievement for every student in line with state and regional targets.*

**2013 Targets to achieve this outcome include:**

- To narrow the gap between School and State comparison in the number of students achieving at proficiency, by at least 2% in all areas
- 50% or more students to achieve greater than or equal to expected growth from Year 3 to Year 5 and from Year 5 to Year 7

**Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2013:**

- There was an increase in the number Year 5 students achieving at proficiency in Numeracy. When comparing our results to State, we have increased the number of our students achieving at proficiency compared to State, by 8%. Year 3 and 7 results showed there was a decrease in the number of students performing at proficiency.
- More than 50% of students achieved greater than, or equal to, expected growth from Year 3 to Year 5 and from Year 5 to Year 7.

**Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:**

- Ability groupings for Mathematics in Stages 2 and 3
- Collegial planning time
• Plotting student progress, in all stages, on the Numeracy Continuum

School priority 3

Engagement

Outcome for 2012–2014

Increased opportunities to ‘connect’ students with learning through integrating the use of technology into quality teaching

Increased levels of attendance in line with state and regional targets

2013 Targets to achieve this outcome include:

- Attendance of K-6 children be at or above State average
- Unexplained absence rate of 35% or less
- Implementation of new ICT Scope and Sequence
- Consistent teaching of technology from K-6

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2013:

- Attendance of K-6 students be at or above State average
- Unexplained absence rate of 35% or less
- Continued implementation of new ICT Scope and Sequence
- Consistent teaching of technology from K-6

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:

- Monthly attendance meetings
- Attendance on the agenda of Stage Meetings
- Consistent follow up of unexplained absences
- Mobile laptop and ipad lab with Wireless internet access

Professional learning

The staff at Bathurst Public School have been involved in numerous Professional Learning opportunities in 2013. These include:

Best Start
L3
PBL
Choral and Instrumental Festival
School Spectacular
Multilit
Minilit
Mandatory training: Child Protection, Anaphylaxis, Asthma, First Aid, Emergency Care
HBDI
Australian Professional Standard for Principals
Australian Teacher Performance and Development Framework
21st Century Fluencies
Instructional Rounds in Education
Coaching Module
New English Syllabus
Conceptual Programming in English
Literacy Continuum
Reading Recovery
Live Life Well
Athletics-Level 1

Parent/caregiver, student, and teacher satisfaction

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

Their responses are presented below.

Of the parents surveyed, 90% were proud of our school and believed the school’s curriculum caters for the learning needs of all students. 93% believed the school encourages students to achieve their best, and recognises and celebrates achievement. They also believed that meeting the needs of students is the school’s main priority.

Students believed the school encourages everyone to learn and to achieve their best. All students were proud of their school.
Program evaluations

Background

Bathurst Public School prides itself in our Performing Arts programs. In 2013, we offered: Choir, Dance, Drumming, Recorder, Violin, Instrumental tuition, Verse Speaking, and Debating. Performance opportunities were provided through: Stage Assemblies, our K-6 School Concert, the Bathurst Eisteddfod, combined band days, the Opera House Instrumental and Choral Festivals, and the Schools Spectacular.

Findings and conclusions

From past surveys, 93% of parents valued the Performing Arts programs at Bathurst Public and 83% believed sufficient students were provided with sufficient Performing Arts opportunities.

Staff appreciated the opportunities we provide students, but also believed that all students should have access to enriched Creative and Performing Arts opportunities.

Future directions

In Semester 2, 2014, Bathurst Public will trial a whole school Creative and Performing Arts program. This will involve teams of teachers who have strengths and talents in the areas of Drama, Dance, Music and Creative Arts, collaboratively programming specialised programs across the school.

Money raised from School Discos will be used to support these programs in 2014.

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.

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Parents can find more information about Annual School Reports, how to interpret information in the report and have the opportunity to provide feedback about the report at: