Our school at a glance

Students

Millfield Public School is a small school located west of Cessnock on Wollombi Road. A school has been established on this site since 1868.

The students live in or near the town of Millfield. Student numbers have increased from 61 in the March audit to 66 enrolments by December 2008.

Staff

Teachers at Millfield Public School are committed to providing quality teaching and learning programs for the students in their care. The teachers cater for the individual learning styles of students and provide programs to best support their needs.

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

Significant programs and initiatives

In the 2008 Education Week ceremony held at Mt View High School the school received an award for its programs which promote a healthy lifestyle and fitness throughout the school.

The school participated in the Active After School program for four terms and the Premiers Sporting Challenge during term 3.

Student achievement in 2008

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 3

Five students sat for the NAPLAN tests in literacy this year. When comparing results in reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation with like school groups (LSG) the student’s average marks were higher for reading and grammar and punctuation, than both LSG and the state average. The writing results were the same as the LSG and slightly lower than the state average. Spelling results were slightly lower than the LSG and state average.

Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 3

Numeracy results for the five students who sat for the NAPLAN tests were higher than the LSG average mark.

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 5

Three students sat for the NAPLAN tests in literacy this year. When comparing results in reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation with like school groups (LSG) the student’s average marks were considerably higher than the LSG and the state results.

Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 5

The results for the three students who sat for the NAPLAN test in numeracy were below both LSG and the state average.

Messages

Principal’s message

The Annual School Report is a reflection on the achievements and progress of students at Millfield Public School. Our school mission statement is “to encourage our pupils to accept challenges, value achievements and work together for a better future.” The mission statement and the motto Strive to Succeed underpins the values and beliefs of the Millfield school community.

The parents and staff have worked together to provide a supportive and caring environment to nurture growth and build a positive relationship with students.

A new front fence was built along Wollombi Road. It enhanced the grounds and allowed everyone to feel safe and secure within the school.

Students take an active role at school and take responsibility for their actions both in the classroom and the playground.

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.

Robyn Pieper

P&C message

The P&C have supported the school again in 2008. Some of the fundraising the P&C have been involved in during the year included Pie and Chocolate Drives. The major fundraiser as always was the annual fireworks night. Each year it seemed to get bigger and better.

The P&C have contributed funds to the school this year by supporting the annual end of year fun day at the pool which included the bus. The primary student’s excursion to Canberra was also subsidised by the P&C through a donation of $50 for each child who attended. This reduced the overall cost for each child.

The P&C through community donations built a sand pit and paid for a load of soft fill for under the play equipment.

The P&C have also purchased school uniforms for resale. The savings have been passed onto parents as the uniform costs are set to cover initial cost and postage only.
The weekly canteen has also provided a popular recess and lunch break for all students and staff. It is operated by volunteers who make lunches and serve students each week. Thank you to the helpers who staff our canteen and to parents who also send in donations of food each week.

Thank you to all parents, grandparents and carers for your support throughout the year.

Patricia Marsh - P&C President

Student representative’s message

In 2008 we had twelve students on the Student Representative Council (SRC). It included the captains and one person from each year except Kindergarten. The representatives were chosen by their peers. SRC duties this year included selecting people who had been good for the junior and senior student of the month.

We held fund raisers including crazy hair day, PJ day and ice blocks. All money raised went towards buying sports equipment for use at lunch time, sand pit equipment and soccer balls.

Bryce Morley and Emma Webb (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

Student enrolments have continued to grow throughout the year. In March student numbers were 61 but by December it was 66 students. Enrolments will increase in the future as only 5 students moved to high school.

The new enrolments were students for all classes. The Kindergarten intake for 2008 was the largest number ever enrolled at Millfield Public School.

There is still an uneven number of boys that girls at school but this is gradually improving.

Student attendance profile

Student attendance has improved compared to previous years. Awards have been given at a school assembly each term to reward consistent attendance. The Home School Liaison Officer has attended assemblies on a regular basis and information is reported regularly in the newsletter to encourage more regular 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 2008 class size audit conducted on Tuesday 25 March 2008.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roll Class</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total in Year</th>
<th>Total in Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K/1</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K/1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2/3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2/3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2/3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5/6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5/6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5/6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Structure of classes

There were three small multi grade classes which catered for all students.

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

Millfield Public School has a permanent staff allocation of three teachers and a part time teacher for teacher relief and library.

Teaching Principal: 1
Classroom Teachers: 3
Support Teacher Learning Assistance: 1 day
Teacher of English as a Second Language: 2 days
School Administrative Manager: 5 days
School Administrative Officer: 1 day
General assistant: 1 day
2 part time Teachers Aides: 5 days
Staff retention
Student’s numbers increased in 2007 and a third permanent teacher was appointed to Millfield Public School at the beginning of 2008.

A second permanent teacher was on maternity leave in 2007 and was replaced with a temporary teacher for the year.

Staff attendance
Staff have access to leave entitlements such as sick leave. In 2008 the average daily attendance rate for staff, as determined by the Department, was ninety seven percent.

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>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Financial summary

Date of financial summary: 30/11/2008

**Income**

| Balance brought forward | $59,013.95 |
| Global funds            | $63,476.07 |
| Tied funds              | $163,804.25 |
| School & community sources | $19,215.29 |
| Interest                | $5,963.11  |
| Trust receipts          | $3,546.82  |
| Canteen                 | $0.00      |
| **Total income**        | **$315,019.49** |

**Expenditure**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teaching &amp; learning</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Key learning areas</td>
<td>$9,761.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excursions</td>
<td>$9,101.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extracurricular dissections</td>
<td>$5,095.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>$800.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training &amp; development</td>
<td>$218.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>$166,734.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual relief teachers</td>
<td>$6,650.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; office</td>
<td>$31,859.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School-operated canteen</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>$6,295.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>$11,253.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust accounts</td>
<td>$3,390.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital programs</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditure</strong></td>
<td><strong>$251,161.31</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Balance carried forward**

| $63,858.18 |

This summary covers funds for operating costs and does not involve expenditure areas such as permanent salaries, building and major maintenance.

The school held funds during 2008 for the Cessnock Local Management Group (LMG) which included the primary partner schools for the two high schools in Cessnock. The school administered the funds and sent money to the schools when requested.

A full copy of the school's 2008 financial statement is tabled at the annual general meeting of the School P&C parent body. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.

School performance 2008
Students at Millfield Public School were given opportunities throughout the year to participate in sports, competitions and cultural experiences.

Achievements

**Arts**

Millfield Public School students regularly completed tasks that supported the Creative and Practical Art sessions in the classroom. A community member helped primary students design and make a puppet from sawdust.

A teacher and two students attended an arts workshop in Maitland during the year.

Students from Years 1 to 6 were involved in the Coalfields Rock concert held at Cessnock High School. The school had two items as well as being part of the finale. The theme of the concert was the Olympics and both girls and boys participated in the items. The items were also presented to parents at the end of year presentation day.

**Sport**

All students participated regularly in sporting activities at school and in multi-school events.

The whole school participated in the annual Small Schools Athletic Carnival. Primary students participated in the Cessnock Zone Cross Country trials held at Bellbird.

The primary students competed at the Small Schools Swimming carnival held at Cessnock Pool. A Year 4 girl progressed to the Zone swimming carnival in the 50 metre freestyle event. Two weeks of intensive swimming was offered to all students from Year 2 to Year 6.

Millfield Public School hosted a combined Tabloid Sports day with Laguna, Wollombi and Congewai schools for the fourth consecutive year.

Students from Millfield Public School competed in the PSSA soccer knockout competition for small schools and also took part in a tag footy gala day.

All classes took part in the Premiers Sporting Challenge during term 2 and 3 of 2008.
school received a silver overall award, while students in K/1 received a gold award, students in Years 1/2/3 received bronze and students in Year 4/5/6 received a silver award. Each award was for the time students participated in activities.

Other

Four students competed in the Premiers Spelling Competition held at East Maitland Public School.

Students competed in the NSW University competitions in English, Spelling and Science.

All students in Years 5 and 6 competed in the Newcastle Permanent Mathematics competition.

Excursions

Primary students attended an excursion to Canberra and the snow in term three. The itinerary included a visit to Parliament House as part of the unit of Australia. This was a three day two night excursion and parents accompanied the teachers and students.

All students and parents went to Kurri Kurri to walk around the town murals, visit the museum and finally a trip to Mulbring to look at the fossils.

Environmental Education

The students in Years 4, 5 and 6 continued to monitor the Wollombi Brook. This included water testing on a regular basis and involvement in the annual P Day (phosphorus). A representative from the catchment trust worked with students to administer several tests on the creek water.

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 the assessments.

Yr 3: from Band 1 (lowest) to Band 6 (highest)
Yr 5: from Band 3 (lowest) to Band 8 (highest)

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 3

The literacy results include tests for reading, spelling, writing, grammar and punctuation. As there were less than ten students in the group details of percentages of students in each band is not available.

Reading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average mark, 2008</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>LSG</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>415.8</td>
<td>381.7</td>
<td>412.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Writing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average mark, 2008</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>LSG</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>399.8</td>
<td>399.6</td>
<td>427.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spelling

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average mark, 2008</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>LSG</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>373.6</td>
<td>384.7</td>
<td>418.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grammar and Punctuation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average mark 2008</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>LSG</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>424.8</td>
<td>384.7</td>
<td>418.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average mark, 2008</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>LSG</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>384.4</td>
<td>382.6</td>
<td>409.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 5

The literacy results include tests for reading, spelling, writing, grammar and punctuation. As there were less than ten students in the group details of percentages of students in each band is not available.

Reading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average mark</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>LSG</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average mark</td>
<td>507.0</td>
<td>470.2</td>
<td>494.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Writing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average mark</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>LSG</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average mark</td>
<td>543.3</td>
<td>465.3</td>
<td>495.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spelling

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average mark</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>LSG</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average mark</td>
<td>490.7</td>
<td>468.3</td>
<td>498.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grammar and Punctuation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average mark</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>LSG</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average mark</td>
<td>503.3</td>
<td>474.9</td>
<td>504.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average mark</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>LSG</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average mark</td>
<td>441.7</td>
<td>460.4</td>
<td>489.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Progress in literacy

Reading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>154.5</td>
<td>14.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSG</td>
<td>87.6</td>
<td>84.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>87.6</td>
<td>87.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Writing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>109.7</td>
<td>38.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSG</td>
<td>52.6</td>
<td>73.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>69.6</td>
<td>77.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Minimum standards

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

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Year 3 students achieving at and above minimum standard in 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punctuation and grammar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Year 5 students achieving at and above minimum standard in 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punctuation and grammar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Significant programs and initiatives

The program to promote a healthy lifestyle and physical activity was fully implemented in 2008. The school joined the Active After School Program and provided two skills or sport sessions for seven weeks each term. Fruit was also provided before each activity. Students participated in archery (twice), bike riding, Tae Kwon Do, Yoga, cricket, dance and games. Specialist teachers were paid to provide tuition. Teachers provided supervision at every activity.

The Active After School Program also provided funds for Millfield to host the annual Tabloid Sports day for neighbouring schools. The theme for the day was the Olympics. The Federal Government’s Active After School Program also funded the cost of milk or juice for lunch.

Aboriginal education

Aboriginal culture, history and contemporary Aboriginal Australian perspectives were incorporated in units across all Key Learning Areas.

Priority Schools Program (PSP)

Millfield Public School was gain involved in PSP. This allowed the school to use the funds to employ another teacher to support students in literacy and numeracy programs and supply a teacher to take small groups or individuals for explicit teaching in reading or number.

Progress on 2008 targets

Target 1

*Improved literacy skills for all students, with an emphasis on improving spelling, punctuation and comprehension.*

Our achievements include:

- Students in Year 3 were at grade level or above in the NAPLAN test in literacy.
- Students in Year 5 were at grade level or above in reading, writing, spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- Seventy percent of Year 2 students and sixty percent of Year 1 students met the PM Benchmark for reading.

Target 2

*To improve student outcomes in the areas of number incorporating fractions and division.*

Our achievements include:

- Most students achieved growth in numeracy from Year 3 to Year 5.
- Student confidence in numeracy activities in classes was obvious in all strands.
Target 3

To provide opportunities for students to discuss and format simple values and beliefs.

Our achievements include:

- Our school leaders’ involvement in the Values Forum held in Cessnock in term 1.
- Participation of school leaders in a joint presentation to parents and members of the Cessnock community at the Values Forum dinner. From the forum the Cessnock Community of Great Public Schools was launched.
- A presentation by our school leaders to the Millfield students of the agreed values.
- Staff embracing the Positive Behaviours for Learning (PBL) concept by implementing a shared understanding of acceptable behaviour in the classroom, playground and canteen.

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 term 4 2008 our school carried out evaluations of school culture and writing. Students, parents and staff were surveyed using SchoolMap surveys.

Educational and management practice

School Culture

Background

The community perception of school culture was the focus of the survey. Thirty eight surveys were sent to the families at the school and eighteen surveys were returned. Students in Years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 were surveyed.

Findings and conclusions

Parents and students believed that the students were the main concern of the school and that it catered for the learning needs of all students. Parents and students were proud of the school achievements while most of the replies believe that the school encouraged everyone to learn. Most students believed that the school praised and rewarded students who were successful.

Future directions

The number of parent replies has increased from previous years but more parent involvement is needed to accurately gauge their views.

Curriculum – Writing

Over the past three years writing has been a major focus in the literacy sessions.

Background

Thirty eight surveys were sent to all families at the school and eighteen surveys were returned. Students in Years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 were surveyed.

Findings and conclusions

All the responses believed that writing is an important subject for their child while students believed it is important to learn to write narratives, information reports and other text types.

All students enjoyed using the computer to publish their writing but do not like to write on paper.

Parents felt they can help their child with writing but are unsure how it is taught in school.

Future directions

Parent information sessions could be used to explain the different aspects of writing to parents. Different writing styles would be published in the newsletter.

Parent, student, and teacher satisfaction

In 2008 the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school. Analysis of students and parent responses are presented below.

- parents are supportive of school programs.
- The students are proud of their school and want to do well in all activities.
- Students are proud to wear their school uniform with every child coming in full school uniform on most days.
- Parents support school programs by sending students on excursions and sporting events.

Professional learning

School staff participated in professional learning activities both during the day and at after school sessions. The staff attended two days of Universal Training as well as two after school sessions as part of training for Positive Behaviour for Learning. Two Teachers’ aides and a teacher attended a course on autism.

School development days provided staff with the opportunity to update CPR skills and Emergency Care as well as sessions devoted to literacy incorporating writing and numeracy.

Two teachers attended sports courses while one teacher attended the Non Violent Crisis Management course.
School development 2009 – 2011

The school set targets in the areas of literacy, numeracy and student engagement as part of the three year strategic plan.

Targets for 2009

Through a thorough evaluation process by staff in conjunction with the wider school community several targets for 2009 have been set.

Target 1

**Improved literacy skills for all students.**

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- School organisation delivers flexible groupings to maximise student achievement.
- Scope and sequence for text types and associated grammar developed and implemented.
- Consistency of pedagogy K-6 demonstrating whole approach to teaching and learning.
- Collaboratively planning and assessing K-6 to promote consistency.

Our success will be measured by:

- 65% of Kindergarten students achieving a Reading level of 6.
- 75% of Year 2 students achieving a Reading level of 24.
- 89% of Year 3 students achieving minimum standards.
- 100% of Year 5 students achieving minimum standards.

Target 2

**Improved numeracy skills for all students.**

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- School organisation delivers flexible groupings to maximise student achievement.
- Scope and sequence for the delivery of the maths syllabus developed and implemented.
- Consistency of pedagogy K-6 demonstrating whole approach to teaching and learning.
- Collaboratively planning and assessing K-6 to promote consistency.

Our success will be measured by:

- SENA tests shows 75% of students K-2 achieving minimum standards.
- 89% of Year 3 students achieving minimum standards.
- 100% of Year 5 students achieving minimum standards.

Target 3

**To provide students with opportunities to engage in learning.**

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- Improvement of attendance rates and follow up students whose attendance is less than 85%. Promote good attendance through Attendance Awards.
- Update the Student Welfare Policy to reflect PBL processes.
- Strengthen consistent teacher approaches to student wellbeing.

Our success will be measured by:

- 95% of students achieving an attendance rate of 90%.
- Students reflect increased engagement in learning programs as evidenced by QSL surveys.
- A reduction in the number of behaviour referrals.

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.

Robyn Pieper    Principal
Kelly Latter, Heidi Lightfoot    Teachers
Patricia Marsh    P&C President

School contact information

Millfield Public School
Wollombi Road
Millfield
Ph: 02 49981331 Fax: 02 49981719
Email:Millfield-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
School Code: 2555

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: