2009 Annual School Report
Martins Creek Public School

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

Martins Creek Public School is a beautiful small country school nestled in the hills of the picturesque Paterson Valley midway between Maitland and Dungog.

Our school motto is “attitude determines altitude” and within a dynamic and varied program our students are given many opportunities to reach their full potential in a stimulating and supportive environment.

Students

Students of Martins Creek Public School live in the local area and come from both the village itself and surrounding rural properties.

Staff

Martins Creek Public School has a full-time teaching principal. Students are taught weekly by an experienced regular relief teacher. There are two School Learning Support Officers (Teacher’s Aides) and some specialist teachers for art, swimming, dance, gymnastics and tennis.

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

Significant programs and initiatives

The community of Martins Creek Public School prides itself on its beautiful environment. The school vegetable garden is productive and provides a good training ground for future gardeners!

Our annual presentation day Christmas Celebration continues to gain in popularity as one of the most popular local events. This year over 120 people attended and there was a visit by Santa to give the children their presents. The musical this year was called “From Rock to Rap”, based on the history of music.

The school hosts a weekly playgroup which serves the local community and helps prepare pre-schoolers for school. Playgroup children take part in the Annual Musical.

Student achievement in 2009

Literacy – NAPLAN
Details of Martins Creek student performance in the NAPLAN may be viewed on page 6.

Numeracy – NAPLAN
Details of Martins Creek student performance in the NAPLAN may be viewed on page 6.

Messages

Principal's message

2009 for Martins Creek Public School has been busy and productive. We have 15 students K-6 in a multi-age classroom and have wonderful Teachers Aides so that the students do receive individual attention.

One of the highlights of the year was our trip to Port Stephens Harbour where we went on a Dolphin Spotting Cruise on the Seascape. The students learned all about Dolphins and saw plenty going around, near and under the ship. Our school made Christmas cards featuring this and sent it to Community members.

Every year our students join with other small schools for Interactive days. At the Athletics carnival last Winter with 6 small schools competing, one of our students was the Junior Boys Champion.

This year a number of students won certificates at the Dungog show for Computer Graphics and Art.
Another highlight of the year was the visit by the Mayor of Dungog, Glen Wall and Tracy Lowrey the Community officer for Australia day celebrations. Our Mayor conducted an Australian Citizenship Affirmation ceremony at our school when the students learned what it was to be an Australian Citizen. The mayor also gave them all a native Australian tree to plant.

NAPLAN. This is the National Assessment for Literacy and Numeracy. This happens every year in May for Years 3-5-7 and 9. Our students performed well particularly in Reading and there was an improvement in bands from Years 3 to 5 in English and Mathematics.

Next year all schools will be part of the BEST START program where new kindies are assessed in literacy and numeracy during the first 6 weeks of the year. The results are registered online and form the initial tracking which leads on to the Naplan. The Best Start initiative is there to assess what the students know so that they do not have to be taught what they already know. For example once the students know the alphabet there is no point in teaching them that again and again and they can move on. All this data is online and may be used to track a student’s progress from Kindy to year 12 by the Department.

We continue to have a focus on technology, especially on Tuesdays, (Technical Tuesdays!) when science is combined with IT and students work on the Mathletics, Spell City, typing and times tables programs. Next year we will have a connected classroom system installed and then we will be able to communicate with other schools, and enjoy some on line teaching and learning.

As you see at Martins Creek Public School, we are busy implementing the Department’s new initiatives and are in constant touch with consultants from Maitland District office. We have regular visits from Literacy and Numeracy consultants. However we balance that with tried and trusted community values. At Martins Creek Public School there is the opportunity for students to develop their individuality and leadership skills. The students may be likened to individual plants which flourish in a caring stimulating environment. We are able to give our students a range of opportunities. They enjoy this unique and quality situation which I know is appreciated by our students and our parents.

Our speciality here is teamwork and everyone pulls their weight and goes the extra mile, to make Martins Creek Public School the best that it can be.

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

Ann Tucker (Teaching Principal)

P&C Message

2009 has been another exciting year, with an increase in student numbers and playgroup enrolments. The P & C worked hard with two Bunnings barbeques to top up a healthy bank account. Our annual Former Student Reunion was held during Education Week and proved to be very popular. The classroom was packed full and students enjoyed listening to stories about our school in the ‘olden days’ and what it was like to be a student 50 years ago, including the hardships and the funny antics and above all friendships that have lasted through to this day.

P & C Members have once again established a beautiful vegetable garden. The students enjoy gardening and sharing the rewards. The chicken coop is a wonderful asset to the school and we thank those who look after it regularly. This year also saw the delivery of a brand new sandpit to complement our new play equipment.

The biggest social event of the year was the end of year school musical. The school was a buzz with rehearsals, while P & C members made the colourful costumes, choreographed dances and spent hours working on backdrops. Record numbers of community members flocked to see the talents of our students. This all came together in a wonderful production that gave each student the opportunity to take to the stage and shine.

Next year we welcome two new kindy students and the development of a brand new classroom. Martins Creek P & C looks forward to new changes that compliment the old.

Sue Coutts
P & C Secretary
Student representative's message

I enjoy being at this school because there are no bullies and you make great friends. There is always someone to help you when your work is hard.
Nikisha Cooper
School Captain

I like the kids at Martins Creek. I like all the gardens and the trees. I like the weather shed, sandpit and the equipment. I love doing sport.
Katie Ecimovic
School Captain

Management of non-attendance

Regular attendance is encouraged so that students can reach their academic potential. It is also important to maintain positive social interaction.

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.

Structure of classes

Creative groupings are used to enhance the quality delivery of the educational programs as appropriate and includes special programs involving

- K-6 together
- Individual instruction
- Stage and Grade Groups
- Extension/support groupings
- Computer instruction
Staff information

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

Although not present all the time there is support from the School Counsellor, Support Teacher Learning Assistance, Home School Liaison Officer, Speech Pathologists, Physiotherapists, Literacy, Maths and IT consultants and any other support on a needs and request basis.

Staff establishment

<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>Deputy Principal(s)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Principal(s)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Teachers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Teachers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of Emotional Disabilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of Mild Intellectual Disabilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of Reading Recovery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Teacher Learning Assistance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Librarian</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of ESL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counsellor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Administrative &amp; Support Staff (SASS)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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Teacher qualifications

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

Financial summary

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>87,551.26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>55,883.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
<td>1,781.11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>3,148.58</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
<td>153.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td><strong>179,555.18</strong></td>
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</table>

Expenditure

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching &amp; learning</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key learning areas</td>
<td>10,125.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Excursions</td>
<td>2,296.06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extracurricular dissections</td>
<td>925.68</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>155.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training &amp; development</td>
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<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>60,110.93</td>
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<td>Casual relief teachers</td>
<td>2,159.83</td>
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<td>Administration &amp; office</td>
<td>8,684.96</td>
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<td>School-operated canteen</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>4,218.38</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>8,391.96</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trust accounts</td>
<td>153.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital programs</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditure</strong></td>
<td><strong>98,238.55</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Balance carried forward: 81,316.63

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.

School performance 2009

The students of Martins Creek Public School continue to be an integral part of the local community. The students have shown caring and competent qualities with pre-schoolers who integrate with them in the classroom and playground on a regular basis.

Achievements

Arts

Students at Martins Creek Public School display their artistic talents in the making of high quality
artworks which are recognised in the Dungog Show.

**Sport**

Junior Boys Champion at the combined Small School's Athletics Carnival was a student at Martins Creek Public School, with some students progressing to regional level. Our students enjoyed an extensive Physical Education Program. Students attended Gymnastics sessions at the PCYC, Tennis workshops and regular swimming sessions at Tocal Pool with a specialist teacher. Students participate in Active School Community Sports twice per week.

**Dance**

Our students were coached by a qualified Dance Teacher in terms 3 and 4.

**Drama**

Students displayed their well developed acting and dancing skills in a stunning Christmas Musical "From Rock to Rap"

**Excursions**

Our students enjoyed their excursions

Musica Viva
Life Education
Tocal
Dolphin Cruise
Taronga Zoo
Canberra

**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 for Year 3)
Yr 5: from Band 3 (lowest) to Band 8 (highest for Year 5)
Yr 7: from Band 4 (lowest) to Band 9 (highest for Year 7)
Yr 9: from Band 5 (lowest) to Band 10 (highest for Year 9)

and/or

In the School Certificate the performance of students is reported in performance bands ranging from Performance Band 1 (lowest) to Performance Band 6 (highest).

**Literacy – NAPLAN Year 3**

A demonstrated area of strength in Year 3 literacy was the connection of information. Areas for improvement are correct effective sentences.

**Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 3**

A demonstrated area of strength in Year 3 numeracy was the use of informal units in area. Areas for improvement in numeracy include division: money sharing and division of 2 digit numbers.

**Literacy – NAPLAN Year 5**

A demonstrated area of strength in Year 5 literacy was the recognition of significant events. Areas for improvement in literacy include the need for characters and settings to be described in depth.

**Progress in Literacy**

Our students in Year 5 could be matched for school analysis of year 3 to 5 growth.

Average growth of all students across the state is at least on skill band. Average growth in literacy at Martins Creek was higher than the comparative School Education Group and the State.

**Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 5**

A demonstrated area of strength in year 5 numeracy was ability to read timetables. Areas for improvement in Numeracy include time conversions of minutes to hours.

**Progress in numeracy**

Average growth for all students across the State is at least one skill band. Average growth in numeracy at Martins Creek was higher than the
comparative School Education Group and the State.

**Minimum standards**

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

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

**Percentage of Year 3 students in our school achieving at or above the minimum standard in 2009**

100% of students exceeded the National Benchmark in Reading, Writing and Numeracy.

**Percentage of Year 5 students in our school achieving at or above the minimum standard in 2009**

100% of students exceeded the National Benchmark in Literacy and Numeracy.

**Significant programs and initiatives**

**Aboriginal education**

Aboriginal education is integrated into the literacy, HSIE and environmental education programs.

Aboriginal studies will continue to be an integral part of learning at Martins Creek Public School through integration into HSIE units, Art and Craft and Environmental education.

**Multicultural education**

Students continue to participate in multicultural programs and in particular Africa this year. They studied the dress, traditions and food of Africa.

The end of year performance included a multicultural strand emphasising the history of dance and music from Africa. The Musica Viva theme was from Senegal in West Africa.

Multicultural aspects of the syllabus content will continue to be studied by the students in the choice of multicultural texts.

**Respect and responsibility**

The core values are promoted through extensive PDHPE lessons and involvement with the school community.

**Progress on 2009 targets**

**Target 1**

**Improved literacy for all students**

Our achievements include:

Evidence of syllabus outcomes reflected in units of work which provide modelled, guided and independent writing strategies.

Teachers combining with small school network entering into moderation exercises for written text.

Students effectively using a range of spelling strategies when writing.

Students providing writing work samples that demonstrate effective use of descriptive language.

**Target 2**

**Improved numeracy for all students**

Our achievements include:

Evidence of syllabus outcomes reflected in all strands of mathematics emphasising problem solving (working mathematically).

Explicit teaching of individual students based on analysis of NAPLAN and Best Start data.

Teaching and learning benefiting from networking with other small schools eg Nilo and Gresford.

Evidence of Quality Teaching elements incorporated in all aspects of the teaching of Numeracy.

**Target 3**

Further development of a common set of core rules based on the DET model which reflects the changing needs of the community.

Our achievements include:

Students understanding and taking some more responsibility for school rules.

Improvement in student behaviour through positive teaching and learning of PD units from the syllabus.
Students demonstrating more emotional intelligence having understood units on various aspects of social competence.

Evidence of an improvement in classroom and playground tone.

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 -

Educational and management practice
Those surveyed believed that the regular LST meetings were inclusive and beneficial to all aspects of the students’ education and wellbeing and that the regular weekly newsletter kept everyone informed. Parents appreciated the comprehensive parent teacher interviews.

Educational practices
Those surveyed felt they were informed regularly about their child’s performance and appreciated the weekly work samples, bi-annual portfolios, interviews and reports.

Future directions
Parents expressed that they appreciated being included in their child’s education and would like that to continue at Martins Creek Public School.

Curriculum
PDHPE

Background
Parents were surveyed on the delivery of the PDHPE program.

Findings and conclusions
A high level of recognition of the importance of Personal Development, Health and Physical Education is part of the school curriculum with an emphasis on Living Skills and personal development.

Future directions
Continued emphasis on Personal Development to occur. Liaison with parents on homework and positive attitudes to all school activities.

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

Their responses are presented below.

Parents were happy about the variety of activities and opportunities provided for their children. They were also impressed with the range of teachers, coaches and instructors made available for their children’s development and education.

Students enjoyed the visual timetables, routine of school and the opportunities to socialise with other students both in and outside school.

Staff appreciated the professional development opportunities offered throughout the school year and found that learning relevant and useful in their work.

Professional learning
Teachers at the school attended and benefited from the training by Sue Larkey on Autism and the continued Autism network meetings two of which were hosted by Martins Creek Public School and Best Start inductions.

Staff and Learning support officers attended a Senior First Aid course.

School development 2009 – 2011
Three strategic priorities are

1. Improved Literacy outcomes for all students in relation to national Benchmarking.
2. Improved Numeracy outcomes for all students in relation to national Benchmarking.

Targets for 2010
School planning for 2010 resulted from:
- Analysis and evaluations
- Progress on 3 year Management Plan
- Consultation with staff, community and department personnel.

Target 1
Improved literacy outcomes for all students in relation to national benchmarks.

Strategies to achieve this target include:

1. Analyse NAPLAN literacy results and students work against syllabus outcomes.
2. Use Smart Data for remediation and improvement.
3. Teacher to liaise with LMG Middle School literacy project for the purpose of moderation and middle school consistent language.

Our success will be measured by:

1. Best Start assessment and analysis informing teaching, planning and programming.
2. Smart Data in use as diagnostic and remedial tool.
3. Middle school literacy initiatives implemented and sustained.

**Target 2**

*Improved numeracy outcomes for all students in relation to National benchmarks.*

Strategies to achieve these targets include:

1. Use of Best Start analysis to inform individual learning needs in Kindergarten.
2. Targeted support for individual learning needs determined by analysis of NAPLAN numeracy and school based data in years 1-5.
3. Use of quality teaching framework to ensure Intellectual Quality is evident in all maths lessons.

Our school success will be measured by:

1. Use of Best Start embedded in planning programming and teaching K-2.
2. Targeted support for IEPS using NAPLAN and Smart Data analysis.
3. Quality teaching framework integral to learning and teaching numeracy.

**Target 3**

*All staff demonstrate knowledge and understanding of all aspects of Quality Teaching Framework*

Strategies to achieve these targets include

1. Staff will review the Quality Teaching format and present teaching practice.
2. Review a variety of Quality Teaching lesson and programming formats.
3. Determine some appropriate formats for our school circumstances that will be used.
4. After a period of use, review the use and effectiveness of the selected formats.

Our success will be measured by:

All staff using aspects of Quality Teaching in some class programs.

**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.

Mrs Ann Tucker, Teaching Principal
Mrs Sue Coutts, P & C Secretary
Ms Suzette Paton, P & C Treasurer
Mr Arthur Asplund, P & C President

**School contact information**

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School Code: 2493

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: