School context

Weethalle Public School is a small, rural school in the Riverina Region of NSW and is a proud member of the West Wyalong Community of Schools. It has a current enrolment of 32 students with two multi-stage classes. There has been a decrease in overall student numbers in recent years. This is the result of both economic circumstances and demographic factors. The school services a low socio-economic community and is supported by additional funding from the Country Areas Program (CAP) and the Low SES National Partnership Program since 2010. These programs play a pivotal role in the staffing and resourcing of our school to raise the learning outcomes and lift educational standards for all students, valuable teaching resources and teacher professional development.

Positive progress is being made to ensure we maximise student achievement. Individual and school growth is above region and state in most areas of literacy and numeracy. Spelling and reading were identified as focus areas for future improvement. Weethalle Public School has a vision that every child deserves the right to the best possible education and one that addresses the needs of the whole child, preparing them for the 21st century. The school enjoys strong community support and enjoys fostering a welcoming and supportive relationship with students, parents, carers and the wider community. There is a strong focus on meeting student needs and maximising their potential academically and socially. The school is well resourced with a strong focus on literacy, numeracy, technology and student welfare. It has a highly professional and committed staff. The second classroom teaching position has constantly changed over the past four years due to a variety of reasons beyond the schools control.

At Weethalle Public School, there is a culture of continuous improvement and ongoing professional learning with significant investment in innovative programs and practices. Literacy, Numeracy, Student Engagement and Attainment, Leadership and Management are priority areas for this School Plan.

Principal’s message

This last six months have been one of the highlights of my career to date. I have met some incredible staff, some fantastic students and a very passionate and supportive whole school community. When I first came into be the Relieving Principal of Weethalle Public School, I didn’t really know what to expect, but was excited to have my own little school, if only for a short time.

I would like to individually thank a couple of people. The first is Carrie Studholme, for her effort, commitment and performance as a teacher, which has been nothing short of outstanding. I wish you the very best for next year Mrs. Studholme and I would gladly have you at my school, anytime!

The other person I would like to thank is Brenda Heaslip. Brenda has put me under her wing and has been fantastic with all things administration and finance. As far as my learning, Brenda has possibly played as big a role as any in my career. I’m sure we’ll be keeping in touch in 2014 and beyond!

2013 has seen some significant money spent on some quality projects. We’ve had softfall installed, purchased new student workstations as well as some resources for our library. We have also seen a new air conditioner placed in the canteen for all of our hard working volunteers!

Other highlights of our year were our excursions. The infants travelled to the Temora Aviation Museum with Mrs. McIntyre and Mrs Studholme and had a fabulous time. The Primary kids... well, we went to Dubbo and had an absolute blast. I would have to describe our time away as... eventful! Yes, the attractions were brilliant with the Dubbo Zoo, The Dish, Japanese Gardens and the Old Dubbo Gaol, all being fantastic. If only our health remained fantastic also! I am extremely grateful for the support of 3 awesome parents that came away in Leon, Vicki and Leanne & it’s fair to say we know each other a great deal
more now! But thank you for your support &
your clean up efforts!

I won’t lie, I will be very sad to leave all the kids here at Weethalle Public School, especially my Year 4/5/6 class. They are absolutely brilliant kids, the lot of them! I hope I will leave them with a greater understanding of themselves as a learner and the confidence that no task is beyond them. Attributes like our mindset are so powerful when it comes to education and values such as resilience are priceless. But thank you kids, for making my last 6 months a blast!

Thank you!

Mr. Brett Davies
Relieving Principal

P & C message

The P&C has had a quiet year this year, as last year was such a very busy one. Fundraisers conducted were our Pie Drive and our Easter raffle. They were both very successful.

The P&C donated money towards:

- The primary excursion to Dubbo
- The P&C Academic Awards
- Materials for fencing of the vegetable patch and chook yards
- Nicole Caldow’s trip to Brisbane for the Nation Titles in High Jump

We have had a number of working bees at the school to continue to improve the grounds, including: spreading of sand, building the fence and cleaning all old concrete up.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the working bees in any way, volunteered with reading, canteen and any other donations of time or goods made available for the smooth running of projects carried out for the enrichment of our children.

I would also like to thank all the staff at our school for the dedication they have shown towards the educational experience of the students.

A special thank you needs to go to Mr. Davies who has come in for such a short time but made such a large contribution to the education of our children. His enthusiasm and commitment has been reflected in the attitudes and eagerness of the children towards school. We hope Mr. Davies has enjoyed his time here and wish him all the best for his future teaching career.

Mrs Glyde, who will be welcomed back next year, needs to be thanked for her time and commitment to the school for the first half of the year. We look forward to Mrs Glyde putting her experiences over the last semester to good use in our school next year and trust that some of Mr. Davies ideas and principles can also be carried through into the future at our school.

Mrs Studholme has been our infants teacher for the last twelve months and has done a great job with our little learners. We would like to thank her for her time and efforts with the students.

We have one family leaving us this year and we are sad to see them go. This family is Andrew and Leanne Hanlon. In the eight years they have been here they have shown great dedication to our school. Andrew will be missed at working bees and bbq days. He was never shy to put his hand up when something needed doing. Leanne has been involved with the P&C as treasurer and has taken on the role of Canteen Manager whilst still finding the time to be a supervising parent on many excursions. Parents have benefitted from her photography skills on many occasions. Leanne has done a fantastic job as canteen manager over the last twelve months and will be hard to replace next year.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank the two ladies who have helped me through my first year as president, without them this job...
would be a lot more difficult. I would like to thank Jen for her help and Brenda for her assistance whenever called upon.

On a final note, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to a prosperous 2014.

Leon McKenzie
P&C President

Student representative’s message

Being a school captain in 2013 was great. I have tried to be the best role model to all students I could be. This year was wonderful. The things that I enjoyed the most this year were our swimming carnival, the Young Leaders Conference, Mr. Davies coming and our Dubbo excursion.

At our swimming carnival everyone had a lot of fun. Everyone swam really well and did a good job. It was great to see so many parents there cheering us on.

On the Young Leaders Conference I went with Mrs Glyde, Brook-Lyn, Emily, Ky and Rhys. We had a lot of fun and I learnt how to be a better role model.

Mr. Davies came in Term 3. He has been great. I have really enjoyed having him as a teacher. Good luck next year.

The Dubbo excursion was awesome. We did a lot of fun things. My favourite things I did were going to the Dubbo Zoo, ten-pin bowling and mini golf.

This year has been amazing. I’m sure Will as next year’s school captain will be great too!

Hannah McCarten
School Captain

Student enrolment profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>24</td>
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<td>20</td>
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<td>21</td>
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Student attendance profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>91.5</td>
<td>93.6</td>
<td>94.3</td>
<td>88.5</td>
<td>99.4</td>
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<td>92.7</td>
<td>93.8</td>
<td>94.3</td>
<td>90.5</td>
<td>88.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>93.9</td>
<td>94.4</td>
<td>90.3</td>
<td>93.5</td>
<td>90.5</td>
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<td>98.9</td>
<td>95.4</td>
<td>89.3</td>
<td>92.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>94.0</td>
<td>93.0</td>
<td>95.3</td>
<td>93.3</td>
<td>92.7</td>
<td>92.1</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Management of non-attendance

Daily attendance of all students is one of the school’s expectations. Continual monitoring of attendance occurs at class, school and district level. A new attendance policy was developed to outline the system of monitoring that is in place.
Weethalle PS implements a wide range of strategies to support the regular attendance of students, including extensive contact with parents to resolve issues of non-attendance. These strategies include letters, phone calls, interviews and family support. The school awards special certificates for 100% attendance at the end of each term to encourage high attendance levels.

In the case of a student who has been identified with poor attendance patterns (less than 90%), it is necessary to document the measures taken to monitor and improve attendance. The school is required to provide documentary evidence of its interventions before making a HSLO referral.

Attendance is an area that the school will focus on as part of the Weethalle School Plan 2012-2014. Unexplained absence was a target focus area for 2013.

Staff Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary Teaching Principal 5</td>
<td>1.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Primary Teacher</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Part-Time Teacher</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Teacher RFF</td>
<td>0.084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Teacher Librarian</td>
<td>0.084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning &amp; Support Primary</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2.536</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Australian Education Regulation, 2013 requires schools to report on Aboriginal composition of their workforce.

Weethalle Public School has no Indigenous members of staff.

Teacher qualifications

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

Qualifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree or Diploma</th>
<th>% of staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree or Diploma</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Financial summary

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of financial summary</th>
<th>30/11/2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>82730.90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
<td>69686.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>39886.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>1808.88</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
<td>1248.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income</td>
<td>201464.41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenditure

- Teaching & learning
  - Key learning areas: 4473.77
  - Excursions: 5423.08
  - Extracurricular dissections: 2772.29
- Library: 882.90
- Training & development: 2661.95
- Tied funds: 46296.00
- Casual relief teachers: 2894.18
- Administration & office: 14655.22
- School-operated canteen: 0.00
- Utilities: 15606.58
- Maintenance: 3702.04
- Trust accounts: 4208.84
- Capital programs: 55849.78

Total expenditure: 159426.63

Balance carried forward: 42037.78

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

School performance 2013

Weethalle PS values high participation as well as striving for excellence. Our students are encouraged to participate willingly and to the best of their ability in a wide range of activities and events.

Students participated in a whole school performance of ‘Mary Poppins’. All students from K-6 had an active role and was delivered on Presentation night. Mrs. Barbara Luelf is to be
congratulated on a brilliant show. All students mirrored her time, effort and commitment and was a highlight of 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)

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.

NAPLAN Year 3 - Literacy

(including Reading, Writing, Spelling and Grammar and Punctuation)

As Year 3 had a cohort of less than 10 students, achievement graphs cannot be displayed in line with privacy and personal information policies.

NAPLAN Year 3 - Numeracy

As Year 3 had a cohort of less than 10 students, achievement graphs cannot be displayed in line with privacy and personal information policies.

NAPLAN Year 5 - Literacy (including Reading, Writing, Spelling and Grammar and Punctuation)

As Year 5 had a cohort of less than 10 students, achievement graphs cannot be displayed in line with privacy and personal information policies.

Other achievements

Weethalle has its very own National Champion! Nicole Caldow spent a total of 8 days travelling and competing at an elite level and we think that's absolutely outstanding!!

Not only, did Nicole compete in a massive stadium, in a new town, in a new state against the absolute best 10 year olds in the country, SHE WON! As well as winning, Nicole jumped a personal best of 1.37m. Performing under pressure is clearly one of Nicole’s strengths.

I would like to recognise Wayne and Sheryll, as I’m sure Nicole knows, without your support and commitment, these achievements would not have been possible.

Other significant achievements in Sport have included Riverina representation at NSW PSSA Carnivals or Events. These are: Elizabeth and Samantha Rutledge for Athletics, Will and Jemma Luelf for Cricket and Nicole Caldow for Cross-Country. Well done!

Significant programs and initiatives

Low SES School Communities National Partnership

Weethalle Public School has approached the Low SES School Communities National Partnership with a focus on now and into the future. Our schools goal, post our involvement in the partnership, is to sustain our level of improvement in our achievements, our practice, our systems and our community partnerships. However, it would be remiss to think there would not be barriers also.
The qualities of our Professional Learning Plans are sustainable. T.A.R.S plays an important role in this process. Staff will always have personal development goals and there will always be school targets and plans. Our PLP’s place those into alignment, along with timeframes, resources and strategies ensuring their success. The one criteria that must always be addressed is the impact on student learning. We must maximise each student’s opportunity to reach his or her whole potential.

The two significant changes: Improved student learning outcomes as a result of targeted interventions & Staff confidence in use of Student Data to inform planning compliment each other. A quality TARS process also supports both of these changes. Learning and teaching programs will always need regular evaluation. Part of that evaluation will be to ensure that student data is used to identify, plan and deliver a curriculum that meets every student’s needs. The observation of the learning program will also support and guide our staff to deliver learning opportunities that are differentiated for individual needs.

Staff have seen, and explicitly understand, the impact student data has on learning. We have the range of quality assessment strategies in place to diagnose learning needs and the processes in place to support colleagues to select and apply effective teaching strategies.

The barriers to these changes are the human resources component. We have used significant amounts of our Partnership funding to employ additional support staff. However, we have also used our funding to invest in our staffs professional learning and development. While our additional staff have been employed, we have significantly reduced the gap between our students academic performance and those from across the state. The challenge for our staff moving forward is to continue the trend of growth and improvement into 2014 and beyond.

Aboriginal education
Weethalle Public School supports Aboriginal education through programs teaching aspects of Aboriginal perspectives, culture and history and developing a culture of inclusiveness.

Aboriginal Resources were purchased at the end of last year to allow additional Aboriginal Literacy texts to be used in reading group sessions

An Acknowledgement of Country continues to be part of our school assemblies and Presentation Night.

Multicultural education
Understanding other cultures and customs was a focus in specific Human Society and Its Environment(HSIE) programs. Students across the school are taught to acknowledge and respect diverse languages and cultural backgrounds.

The school has always and continues to promote the contribution multiculturalism has made to the Australian way of life.

We have a trained Anti-Racism Contact Officer (ARCO) who deals with any complaints or issues as they arise.

All students K-6 participate in a variety of activities such as making posters and completing display books for our local Country Women’s Association (CWA) International Day. The country of study was Morocco. Students researched the history, geography, culture and economics of the country. They presented their research findings and projects to CWA members and guests.

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 discussions held with student, teacher and parent groups surrounding school priority areas and satisfaction with the school. School planning 2012—2014: progress in 2013

School priority 1
Numeracy
Outcomes from 2012–2014
By the end of 2014, all students will achieve improved learning outcomes in numeracy with a particular focus on Number and Working Mathematically.

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2013:
• 80.6% of students achieved stage appropriate outcomes in Working Mathematically.
• 80.6% of students achieved stage appropriate outcomes in Number.
• School growth for the NAPLAN test aspect of Numeracy was well above State and NSWDEC growth.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014
• Whole school assessment data to continue to be collected and analysed to identify further learning opportunities.
• Focus on the Numeracy Continuum as a key resource to monitor student progress.
• Teaching and learning programs to continue to be informed by student data.

School priority 2
Literacy- Reading K-6, Spelling, Writing

Outcomes from 2012–2014
By the end of 2014, all students will achieve improved learning outcomes in literacy with a particular focus on Reading K-6, Spelling and Writing.

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2013:
• 74.2% of students achieved stage appropriate outcomes in Reading, Spelling and Writing.
• School growth for the NAPLAN test aspect of Writing, Spelling and Grammar and Punctuation were all well above State and NSWDEC growth.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:
• Continue to use the Literacy continuum to monitor student progress.
• Continued use of Focus on Reading strategies to support teaching of comprehension skills.
• Benchmarking of all students K-6 in stage appropriate outcomes for Reading, Spelling and Writing.

School priority 3
Student Engagement and Attainment

Outcomes from 2012–2014
By the end of 2014, all students will demonstrate active engagement in 21st Century learning and participate in effective transition programs.

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2013:
• Students are confident in the use of emerging technologies, eg. IWB, Ipads, Ipods. Staff reported improved engagement in classroom lessons.
• All staff: permanent, temporary, full-time and part-time, participated in a variety of professional learning.
• 23% reduction in unexplained absences.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:
• Regular newsletter references to the importance of regular school attendance and the need to send in explanatory notes.
• Record Partial Absences on Semester reports.
• Staff to continue to engage in appropriate PL and taking on role sharing responsibilities within the school.
• Opportunities for all students to become confident and competent with new ICT tools and applications.

Professional learning
Professional learning of staff is a key focus for Weethalle Public School with quality teaching being at the core of all that we do. All professional learning was aligned to regional and school plans and identified staff needs, and occurred both in and outside working hours. In addition to whole staff training, the individual teacher’s professional learning needs are addressed as identified in the annual Teacher Assessment Review process.

During 2013 all members of the teaching staff participated in professional learning which was supported through the schools Professional Development funds, Teacher Professional Learning funds, Best Start funding, National Partnership and CAP/Equity funding.

Professional Development in 2013 included:
• Teacher Professional Learning sessions at staff meetings
• Staff Development Days
• Induction Programs
• Attending Principals, School Administration Managers, Finance Centre and STLA/PBL network meetings
• Attending content specific courses provided by DET
• Teaching and Learning Forums

Training undertaken by staff included:
• Best Start
• L3 (Literacy, Language, Learning)
• Positive Behaviour for Learning
• Focus on Reading
• Art of Leadership
• Live Life Well
• New English syllabus implementation training

Parent/caregiver, student, and teacher satisfaction

In 2013, the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school. The vast majority of parents involved in the focus group believed that the school was attractive and well resourced, that it welcomes parental involvement and is connected to its community.

The school is seen as offering a wide range of extracurricular programs such as music, various sports and environmental.

The community is very pleased with the extensive improvements to our school grounds and buildings.

Staff and students agreed that Weethalle Public School is a fantastic place to work and learn and that we all work together in the best interests of learning for the whole student. We are a kind, caring and supportive school.

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.

Cheryle Glyde   Principal
Brett Davies   Relieving Principal Terms 3&4
Carrie Studholme Teacher
Leon McKenzie   P&C President

School contact information

Weethalle Public School
Wattle Street, Weethalle, NSW, 2669
Ph: (02) 69756 154
Fax: (02) 69756 202
Email: Weethalle-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Web: www.weethalle-p.school.nsw.edu.au
School Code: 3415

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:


Front of Weethalle Public School