



Education &
Communities

Pleasant Heights Public School Annual School Report 2014



School context statement

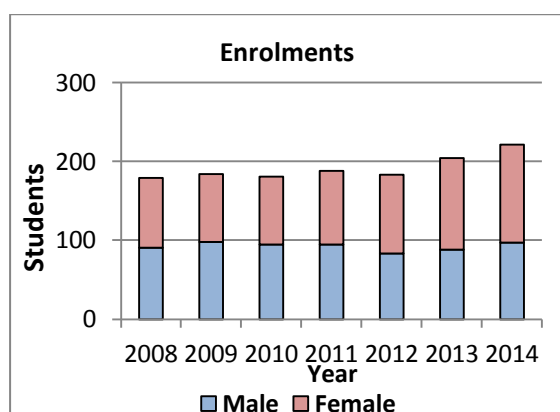
Pleasant Heights Public School (PHPS) is situated in the Illawarra approximately 80km south of Sydney. The school is an active member of the Keira Community of Schools within the Wollongong North Network.

In 2014, Pleasant Heights had ten classes with a total enrolment of 221 students. This meant that the school gained an additional class from the nine it had in 2013.

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



KG	K	20	20
K-1C	K	10	20
	1	10	20
1-2A	1	11	24
	2	13	24
1-2K	1	9	23
	2	14	23
1-2R	1	11	24
	2	13	24
3N	3	28	28
3-4S	3	5	27
	4	22	27
4-5P	4	7	26
	5	19	26
5-6C	5	3	29
	6	26	29

Student attendance profile

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014
K	96.1	95.8	95.5	96.6
1	96.1	96.4	96.2	94.7
2	93.2	95.9	95.9	96.2
3	94.4	95.9	96.5	95.8
4	93.7	96.0	95.5	96.4
5	92.7	94.3	95.4	94.9
6	95.0	93.5	94.9	95.8
Total	94.6	95.4	95.7	95.7

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

Position	Number
Principal	1.0
Assistant Principal(s)	2.0
Classroom Teacher(s)	8.0
Learning and Support Teacher(s)	0.5
Teacher Librarian	0.6
Teacher of ESL	0.2
School Counsellor	0.2
School Administrative & Support Staff	2.5
Total	15.0

Teacher qualifications

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

Qualifications	% of staff
Degree or Diploma	100
Postgraduate	60
NSW Institute of Teachers Accreditation	50

Professional learning and teacher accreditation

During 2014 two teachers were accredited at Proficient Teacher by the Board of Studies Teaching and Educational Standards NSW.

During 2014 emphasis was placed on Teacher Professional Learning to develop expertise in supporting students to engage in learning through Quality Teaching. In all classes and at all levels of learning a focus on differentiating the curriculum to ensure students' success was evident.

Staff Development Days, professional learning meetings and stage meetings focused professional learning activities on the implementation of NSW Syllabi for the Australian Curriculum.

The school continued professional training in Language, Learning and Literacy (L3) workshops, TEN workshops, the continued understanding of Literacy and Numeracy Continuums and raising the capacity of teachers to effectively plot student progress along them. Staff underwent mandatory training, in CPR and anaphylaxis.



Our School Leaders

Financial summary

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

A full copy of the school's 2014 financial statement is tabled at the annual general meetings of P & C. Further details concerning

the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.

Date of financial summary	30/11/2014
Income	\$
Balance brought forward	54909.87
Global funds	139252.17
Tied funds	148284.08
School & community sources	105826.20
Interest	3184.75
Trust receipts	7417.85
Canteen	0.00
Total income	458874.92
Expenditure	
Teaching & learning	
Key learning areas	60049.86
Excursions	27330.54
Extracurricular dissections	31158.41
Library	6433.87
Training & development	10181.26
Tied funds	88299.42
Casual relief teachers	42405.62
Administration & office	29861.14
School-operated canteen	0.00
Utilities	27398.04
Maintenance	24092.21
Trust accounts	6870.50
Capital programs	5933.36
Total expenditure	360014.23
Balance carried forward	98860.69

School performance 2014

Pleasant Heights school staff are committed to enriching the curriculum for our students and offer many additional programs and activities for them.

Choir

Pleasant Heights again had a talented choir made up of Year 3 to Year 6 students. All interested students attended choir rehearsals during some performing arts afternoons and weekly lunchtime sessions. This year was the 60th Annual Wollongong Schools Music Festival and students sang a variety of significant songs from the past six decades, exposing them to music from different genres. Pleasant Heights hosted the cluster rehearsal for the third year in a row, one month prior to the event. Three other schools visited, with Mrs Milgate being the Cluster Conductor. On Festival night, students

had the opportunity to perform with a local accomplished musician “Scott Radburn” from the Four Kinsmen in an inspirational song entitled “Dare to Dream”. Our choir also performed at other special school events including Gold Assembly, ANZAC Day Ceremony, many fortnightly school assemblies and the Year 6 Farewell Assembly.



Pleasant Heights Choir at the Choral Festival

Southern Stars

Southern Stars brings together more than 3000 students from across Southern NSW open to all schools from the Department of Education, in an arena styled performance event.

With a theme of #We Believe, the show focused on “the child’s journey through childhood, through adulthood, believing in magic, and fantasy in the early years, believing in themselves and through education believing in a better world”. The show was divided into three segments, with each investigating a different aspect of believing, starting with childhood, moving through the sometimes turbulent teenage years through adulthood. Students from Pleasant Heights Public School were part of the childhood superhero section. Thank you to Mrs Carter and Mrs Nicholls for their preparation of the PHPS students for this wonderful event.

Illawarra Dance Festival

In June, 30 students from Year 2 participated in the Dance Festival at the Illawarra Performing Arts Centre in Wollongong. Their dance was based on the famous picture book ‘The Very Hungry Caterpillar’. The students, Ms Griffiths

and Miss King are to be congratulated on a wonderful performance.



Year 2 Dancers

Music With the Conservatorium

We were again fortunate to have Mr Eric Dunan from the Wollongong Conservatorium of Music to tutor our three bands: a Year 3 Brass Group, (where students experience learning a brass instrument) as well as a Training and an Advanced Band. During the year, the Advanced Band performed at the Engadine Band Festival and were awarded a silver medal. Our sincere thanks to Eric for his commitment to our students and school. He has instilled a love of music and performing in many of our students.

Sport

In 2014 Pleasant Heights held 3 successful carnivals: in swimming, cross country and athletics. Students qualified to represent the school in these areas at Brokers District PSSA Carnivals, with up to 40 children representing at each carnival.

From District level, 12 children qualified and participated in the South Coast Regional Swimming Carnival, 5 children qualified and participated in the South Coast Regional Cross Country Carnival and 5 children qualified and participated in the South Coast Regional Athletics Carnival.

Several student’s progressed to State Carnivals, with Omar M and Dane C competing at the State Swimming Carnival, and Jack Mc competing at the State Cross Country Carnival.

Additional sporting opportunities for students in 2014 included; Gymsports program in Term 2,

workshops in Dragon Tag and AFL with support from the local sporting associations and Gala Days during Terms 3 and 4, in AFL and Dragon Tag for students in years 3-6.



Athletics carnival



Swimming Champions

Technology

Technology was an integral part of student's lives at PHS in 2014.

The year began with Stage 2 and 3 classes moving towards a 1:1 device ratio within their classrooms via the use of Microsoft Surface RT tablets which were purchased for use at the end of last year. Two sets of 31 tablets were shared in alternating weeks between the two Stage 2 and two Stage 3 classes.

Technology purchases included, additional Lenova Thinkpads for use in infants classrooms, allowing each Stage 1 class to have 6 laptops in

their classrooms in addition to their desktop computers.

All students engaged with technology on a daily basis through instruction and active participation using the interactive whiteboards. Students utilised the classroom computers and computer lab for a range of whole class, individual and small group activities. All classes also took advantage of our set of 30 iPads to bring into their classrooms and integrate into a wide range of curriculum areas.

Staff undertook some technology training during Staff meetings and further developed their skills through collegial sharing of ideas and current classroom practices.

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.

Literacy– NAPLAN Year 3

100% of our students were at or above national minimum standards in reading, writing, spelling, and grammar and punctuation.

93% of students were in the top three bands for reading (bands 4, 5 and 6).

Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 3

100% of our students were at or above national minimum standards in numeracy.

88 % of students were in the top three bands (bands 4, 5 and 6) for numeracy.

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 5

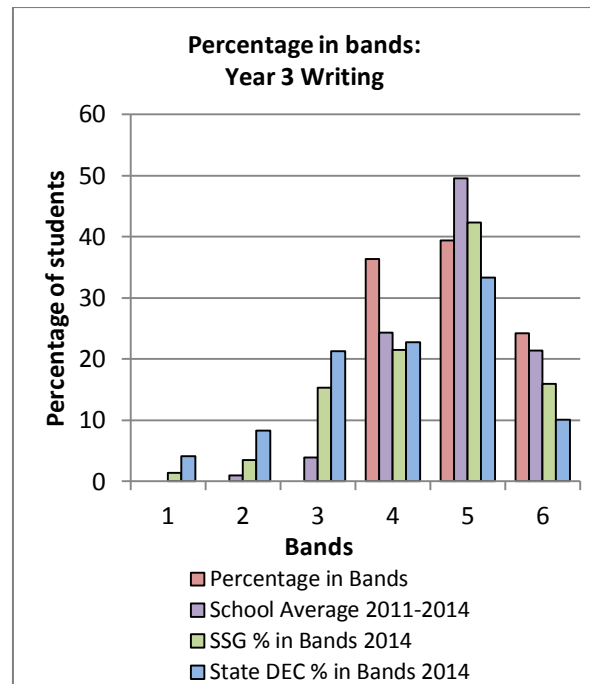
100% of our students were at or above national minimum standards in reading, writing, spelling, and grammar and punctuation.

86% of students were in the top three bands (bands 6,7 and 8) for reading.

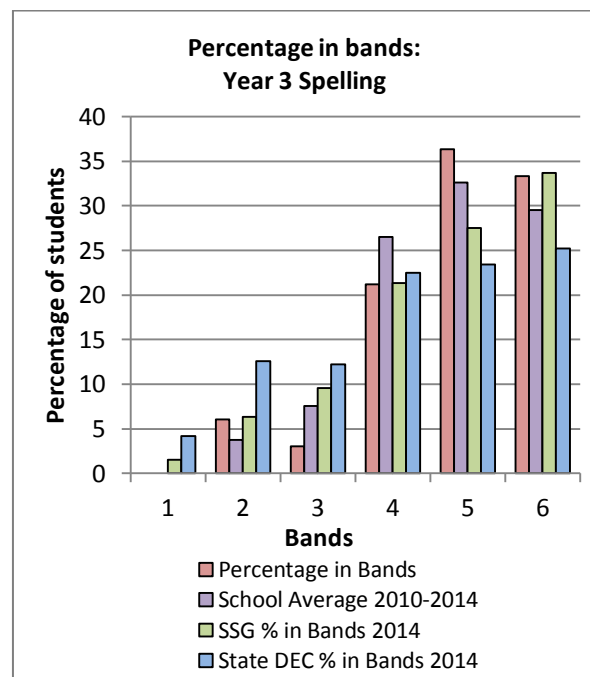
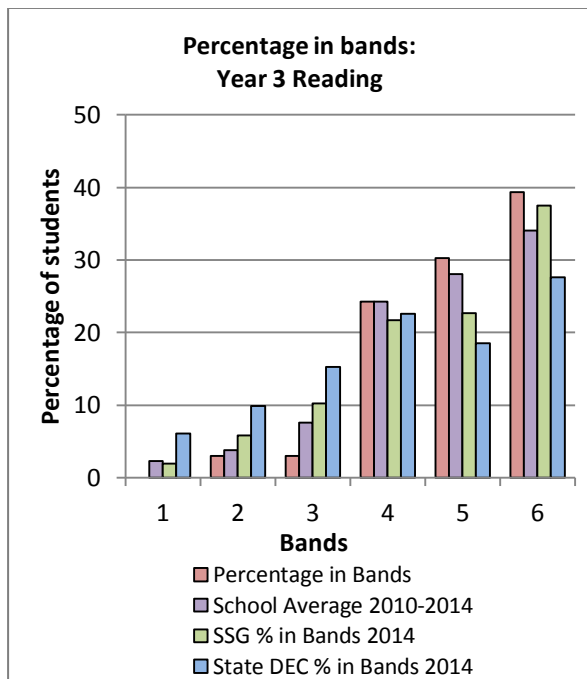
Numeracy NAPLAN – Year 5

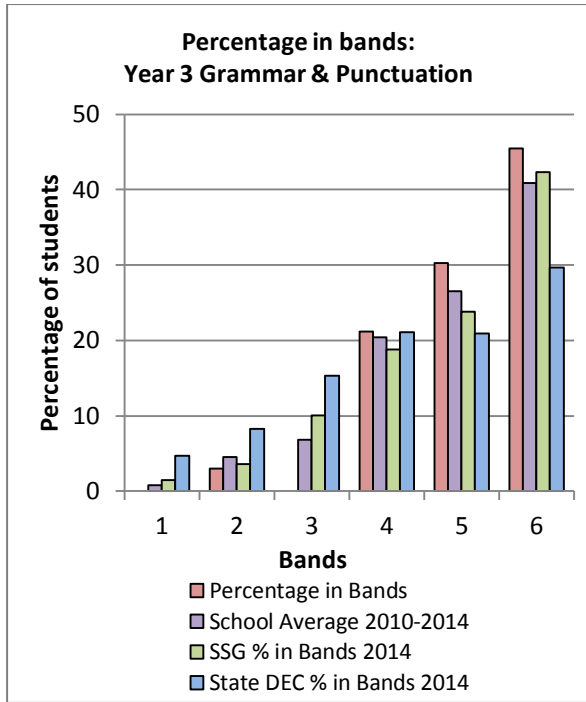
100% of our students were at or above national minimum standards in numeracy.

86% of students were in the top three bands (bands 6,7 & 8) for numeracy.

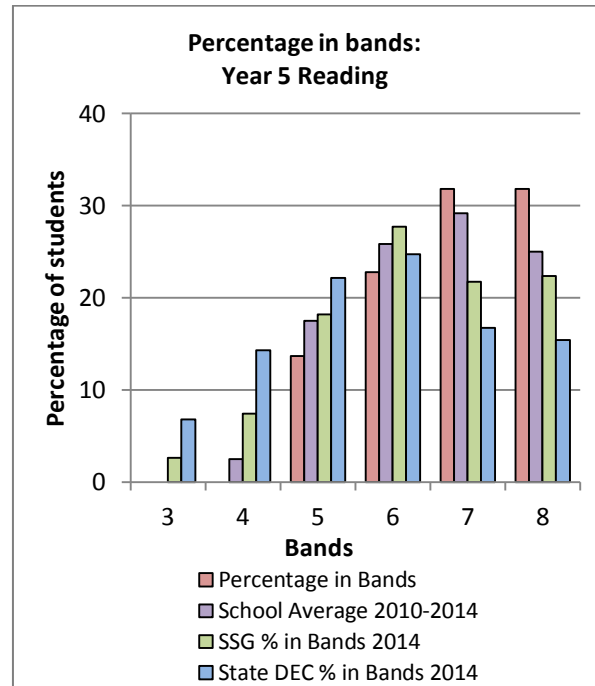


NAPLAN Year 3 - Literacy (including Reading, Writing, Spelling and Grammar and Punctuation)

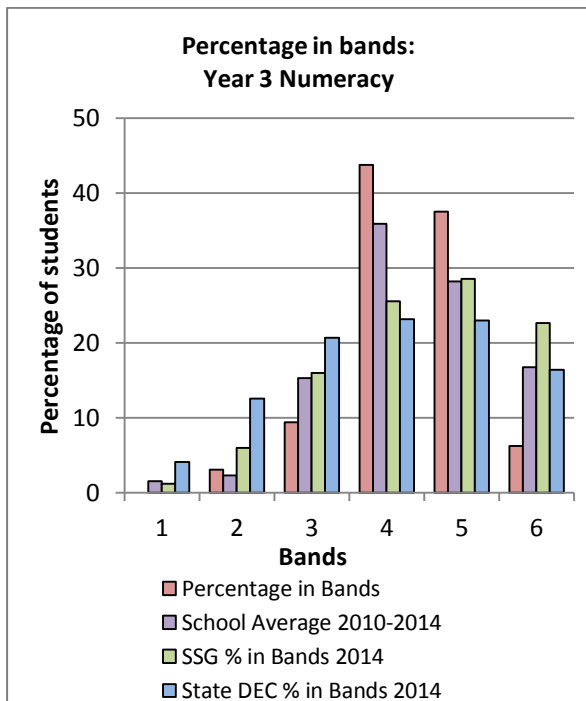


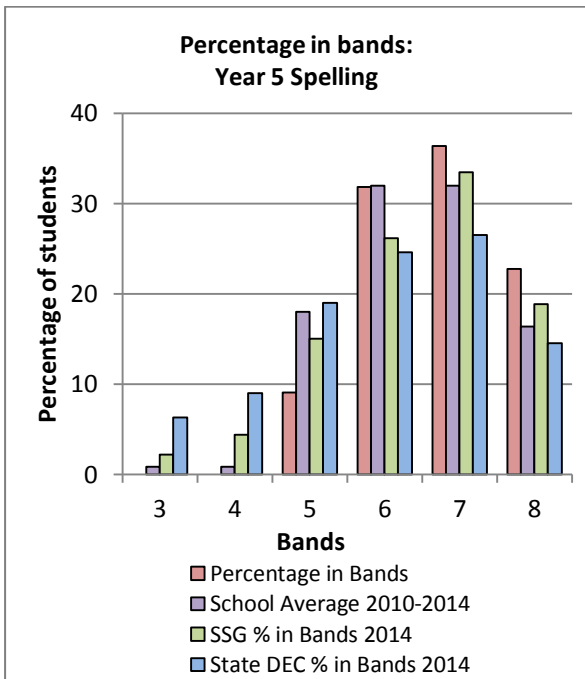
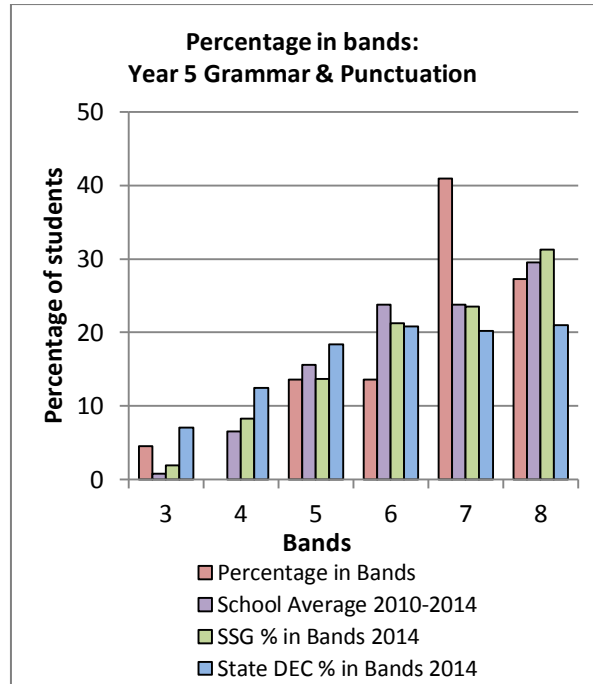
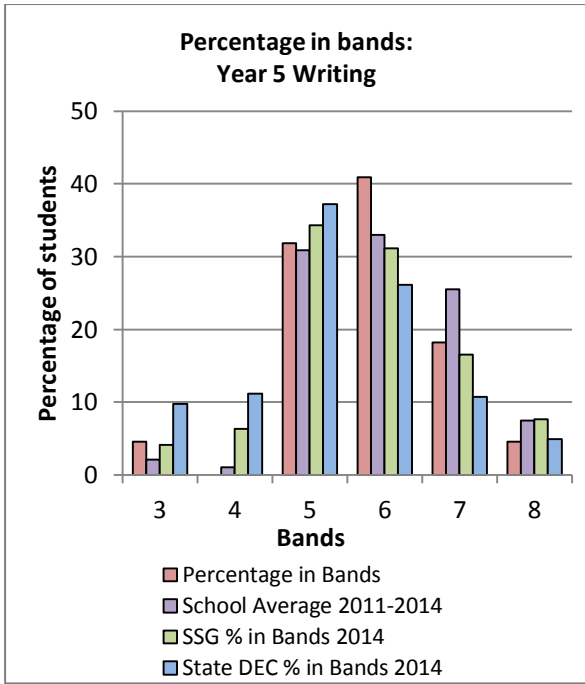


NAPLAN Year 5 - Literacy (including Reading, Writing, Spelling and Grammar and Punctuation)

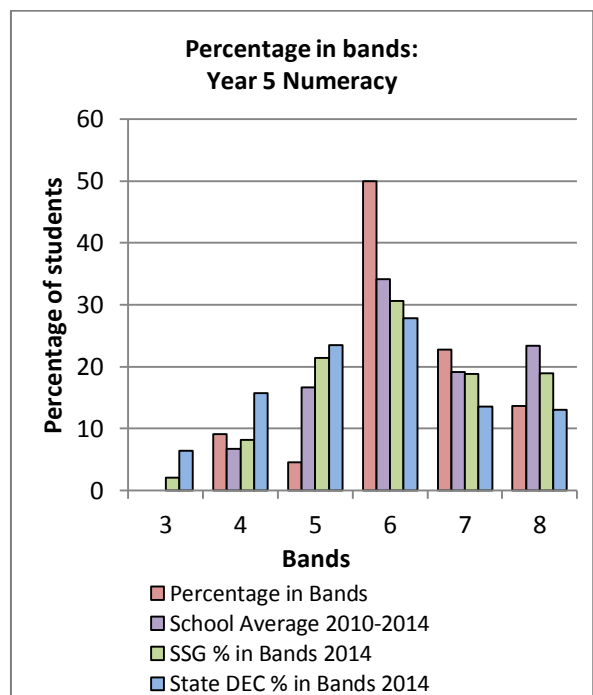


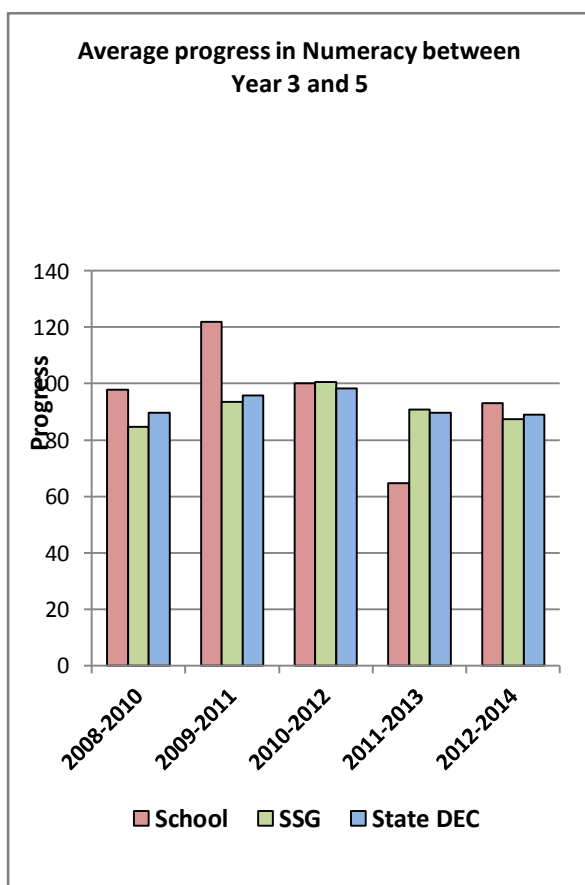
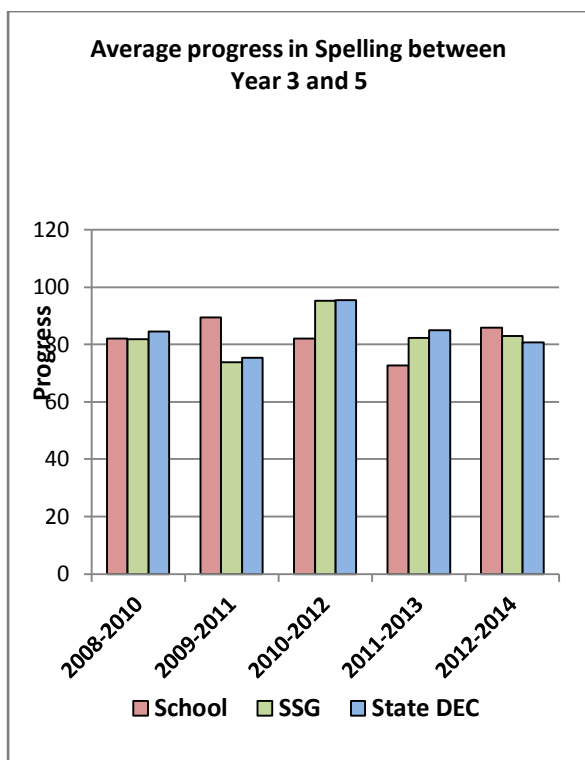
NAPLAN Year 3 - Numeracy





NAPLAN Year 5 - Numeracy





Significant programs and initiatives – policy

Aboriginal education

Pleasant Heights has continued to maintain a strong focus on Aboriginal Education, with respect to our Indigenous students’ academic progress and with ensuring the delivery of quality Indigenous units of work.

Aboriginal perspectives permeate our school’s entire learning curriculum. In 2014, staff completed modules 4 and 5 of the program, ‘No Gaps, No Excuses’ with our community of schools (COS). This program increased staff’s knowledge, skills and respect for Aboriginal people, their histories, culture and experiences, which was and always will be passed on proudly to all Pleasant Heights students.

Personal Learning Plans (PLP) were updated and implemented in respective classrooms for all Aboriginal students in consultation with family members. All special school events and fortnightly assemblies are preceded with ‘Acknowledgement of Country’ which demonstrates our ongoing support of this important tradition and Australia’s Aboriginal history.

To celebrate NAIDOC Week, every class participated in a range of innovative and creative activities, history and cultural lessons. With the help of technology and the interactive whiteboard, Indigenous lessons can be further enriched and enhanced by watching documentaries and participating in Departmentally approved interactive activities.

Two classes (1-2R and 3N) also participated in a connected classroom activity this year with schools from around Australia. The students were educated about native plants with an Aboriginal perspective. The initiative was coordinated through Clarence Slockee and the Australian Royal Botanic Gardens Education Committee.

In December this year, Clarence Slockee, one of our parents, kindly donated his time to visit our students and impart his vast knowledge about Aboriginal culture. Mr Slockee kept the students entertained with rhythm tasks and mesmerised them with historical recounts. He explained and

demonstrated how hand crafted tools were used in traditional Aboriginal Language groups. He passed around plants that were obtained from our local Mount Pleasant Area and school grounds that gave off a pleasant scent and could ward off mosquitoes. The students learnt about the importance of our native flora to our native fauna. It was an excellent experience that enhanced our school's Aboriginal Education Units.



Clarence with PHS students

Multicultural education and anti-racism

Multicultural education is provided for all students and promotes a shared vision of Australia based on cultural understanding and community harmony. Multicultural education aims to equip all students with the knowledge, skills and values needed to participate successfully in Australia's culturally diverse society. ⁷

The school addressed multicultural education by teaching units of work with a focus on our own and other cultures to gain an understanding of the world in which they live.

As part of our acknowledgement of our diverse cultural school, each year we celebrate **Harmony Day** within the school. Our school loves to embrace our multicultural student population. On the 19th March the students participated in an in-school event. They wore orange to acknowledge the day and the message behind Harmony Day, is that 'Everyone belongs!' It is the 15th year that this initiative has been running for. In addition, every class and teacher attended a special Harmony Day Assembly, where they observed footage from the Harmony Day website of students from around Australia discussing their cultural heritage, family traditions and what Harmony Day means to them. In response, two students from each stage were invited to discuss one of these topics. The assembly culminated with the whole

school singing, 'What a Wonderful World' by Louis Armstrong. It was a very special day.



Significant programs and initiatives – equity funding

Aboriginal background

Pleasant Heights Public School had 5 students enrolled as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders in 2014. Each of the students had a Personalised Learning Plan developed by their teacher in partnership with the student and their family.

In 2014, Pleasant Heights Public School worked to further increase the level of indigenous cultural awareness throughout the school, from Kindergarten to Year 6. Both teachers and non-teaching staff participated in No Gap No Excuse training with a trained facilitator.

All students at Pleasant Heights took part in NAIDOC Week activities

English language proficiency

Due to increasing numbers of English as an additional language or dialect (EAL/D) students enrolling in the school, in 2014 we had a one day per week EALD teacher. The teacher provided specific support to build English skills as well as assistance with learning language structure and vocabulary with our EAL/D students.

Learning and Support

The Learning and Support Team (LAST) consisted of a team of Assistant Principals, teachers and the School Counsellor. The team met twice per term to monitor students with specific needs

within the school, to determine ongoing support /and or intervention.

Other significant programs and initiatives

Education Week

Education Week began in the week of, Monday 28 July – Friday 1 August, celebrating the 60th Education Week. The tagline for the original, 1954 Education Week was: "Lighting the way to a better world". NSW schools adopted that slogan and artwork from the 1954 poster for this anniversary celebration.

Our school's Open Day was a wonderful opportunity for parents and carers to visit classrooms and interact with their own children and other students during the planned activities. There were a pleasing number of parents and family members who were able to join us during the day. The pleasure the students get from demonstrating and sharing their work illustrates the value and importance of the home/school relationship in building their confidence and success. Teachers greatly valued the opportunity to share the work they are doing with students and appreciate the ongoing support and encouragement shown by community attendance and comments throughout the day.

To support research into heart disease and stroke, the students at our school were encouraged to participate in the 'Heart Foundation Jump Rope for Heart' program. In addition to supporting a worthy cause, it is a fun and healthy program in which students learned physical activities related to rope-jumping to improve their strength, stamina and confidence. The Jump Rope for Heart "Jump-Off" was held in the afternoon as part of our Education Week Open Day activities. It was great to see our students enjoying an afternoon of jumping to raise money for the Heart Foundation.



Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on Students with Disability – 2014

Pleasant Heights took part in a new national data collection on school students with disability. This important data collection was to reflect the support that is already being provided to students and will focus on the steps the school is taking to ensure that all students can access education on the same basis.

With the new data collection, every school in Australia will use the same method to collect this information on students who have been identified as requiring an adjustment to their learning. An adjustment is a measure or action taken to help a student with a disability participate in education on the same basis as other students. Adjustments can be made across the whole school setting, in the classroom and at an individual student level (like extra tuition for a student with a learning difficulty).

The information provided through this new national data collection will enable all Australian governments to better target support and resources to benefit students with disability.

Positive Behaviour for Success (PBS)

Pleasant Heights has been a PBS school for over 5 years. With the key values of Respectful, Responsible, being Safe and having Fun being taught, the students at Pleasant Heights continue to demonstrate positive behaviours. Detentions or suspensions are rare at Pleasant Heights Public School



Our PBS wall mural

Kindergarten Orientation Program

Our Kindergarten Orientation Program commences in Term 3 each year with an information evening for parents. This session is important for new parents to learn about the school and the opportunities available to our students. At this evening, parents are given a comprehensive information pack. This first stage of the Orientation Program enables parents to see the school and ask questions.

The second stage of the Kindergarten Orientation Program is in Term 4 after parents have enrolled and their children will be starting school the following year. This stage begins with morning visits for pre-schoolers over the following four weeks.

These morning visits are a valuable experience for parents and pre-schoolers. It allows the pre-schoolers to make new friends and become familiar with the way we do things at 'big school'. It is a great way to ease them into the change from pre-school to primary school.

Parents are invited to take part in workshops while the preschoolers are busy in the classrooms. The workshops give parents further information about school readiness and ways to assist with the transition to 'big school'. There are also sessions on literacy and numeracy that explain how these areas of the curriculum are taught and how parents can help their child at home.

Our orientation program culminates with an evening BBQ where staff, students and parents of the current Kindergarten welcome our new students and families into the school community.

Pleasant Heights Public School Buddy Program.

At Pleasant Heights, 'Big Buddies' play an important role in making the transition to the school environment more relaxing and enjoyable for new Kindergarten students.

'Big Buddies' are selected from our Stage 3 classes. The students selected to be buddies are actively involved in helping our new Kindergarten students settle into school.

The Buddy Program commences during Kindergarten orientation where new 'Big Buddies' get the opportunity to meet and talk to the Kindergarten students. 'Big Buddies' also assist the Kindergarten students throughout the first few weeks of the new school year, joining them for lunch and planned activities. 'Big Buddies' can also be peer tutors listening to our younger students read.



Buddies

Language, Literacy and Learning (L3)

Throughout 2014, the Kindergarten teachers, Miss Greig and Mrs Claridge, continued their ongoing training and successful implementation of L3 – Language, Literacy and Learning. The L3 program provides explicit and personalised instruction to students in both small and large group activities based around reading and writing. L3 facilitates guided and independent

activities and consistently provides class teachers with measurable results. This year, the course was made up of 5 half day sessions. The program will continue to be implemented in the school in the year to follow, with teachers receiving more training sessions during 2015.

By the end of the year, 90% of students in Kindergarten were reading at or above the target reading level.

Author Visit

During 2014 the students of Pleasant Heights Public School were fortunate enough to be visited by two authors and an illustrator. Belinda Murrell, author of the Lulu Bell series, along with her illustrator, Serena Geddes presented a workshop on writing, illustrating, books and the joys of reading. The children enjoyed learning about Belinda's life and how she used her experiences to help inspire her writing. Serena kindly donated an autographed illustration of Lulu Bell which is now framed and hanging in the library.

Pleasant Heights Public School also enjoyed hosting author Di Bates as she launched her new novel "A Game of Keeps". Di entertained the children with her jokes and poetry as well as explaining how her role as a foster-mother, led her to write her latest novel. Di's books were for sale and following the workshop, Di autographed the children's copies.



Author visit from Belinda Murrell

Book Week



Book Week friends.

On Wednesday 13th August, PHPS celebrated books and reading with our Book Week events. The day included the K-6 Book Week Dress-Up Parade and classroom book activities. Parents were invited to the school to enjoy a picnic lunch and the chance to purchase books from our Carnival Book Fair. Through the sale of books at the Book Fair, PHPS families earned \$600 worth of books from Carnival for the school. To conclude the day, students enjoyed the educational musical by *Perform*, called "World's Apart". The musical explored how, in an ever changing world, books remain a consistent way to connect with others and celebrates the fact that a good story is timeless.



Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC)

Pleasant Heights Public School participated in the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) again this year. 'The Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read more and to read more widely. The Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) is available for all NSW students in Kindergarten to Year 9, in government, independent, Catholic and home schools'. In 2014 at Pleasant Heights Public School, 173 students completed the Challenge.

Premier's Spelling Bee

In 2014, over 130 000 students from 920 schools across NSW took part in the Premier's Spelling Bee Competition. All our students from Years 3 to 6 took part in the competition. Each class was represented by four students who went on to the stage finals. Two students from each stage were selected to compete at the regional finals. Our school representatives were Remi C and Rubin G in the Junior Division and Eve S and Ben P in the Senior Division.

CBCA Literary Lunch

On Wednesday 6th August students from Pleasant Heights Public School attended the Illawarra-South Coast Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) annual Literary Lunch. Students from various primary schools in our local area attend a lunch and author/illustrator workshop. Eight PHPS library monitors attended the lunch and enjoyed meeting authors such as Di Bates, Wei Chim, Oliver Phommevan, Di Ellis, Jodie Wells Slowgrove, Michelle Morgan, Leslie Vamos, Bill Condon, Susie Brown and Jill Bruce. Following the lunch, the students were enthralled with Lilli Pang as she took them on an adventure to South America through her exciting story-telling technique.

SRC

The hard-working members of the PHPS Student Representative Council were very busy and productive in 2014. Each member experienced the role of chairperson and minutes secretary as well as being involved in organising and fundraising for various charities. Throughout the year, the SRC ran lunchtime activities for the students, including; gardening, origami, chess or board games and handball competitions. The SRC charity events for 2014 supported the following groups;

Kidzwish - a local charity that supports the needs of disabled, sick and disadvantaged children in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven.

Fred Hollows Foundation - inspired by the work of the late Fred Hollows, the Fred Hollows Foundation's vision is for a world where no person is needlessly blind.

Operation Christmas - This project involved filling a shoebox with gifts for a child aged 2-14 years

SCARF - Strategic Community Assistance to Refugee Families is a not-for-profit community-based service that supports refugee families when they arrive in the Illawarra, through helping with education, training and job-seeking.



Supporting SCARF Day at PHPS

School Swimming Scheme

In Term 4, 30 students from Years 2 to 5 participated in the School Swimming Scheme at Western Suburbs Pool. Students attended ten 40 minute sessions over a period of two weeks. The developmental program involved instruction

in water safety, water confidence, swimming skills and stroke correction. The program is subsidised by the Department of Education and Communities School Sport Unit and is intended for non swimmers, new arrivals to the country and those with special needs.

Point Wolstoncroft Camp:

During term 4 students in Stage 3 attended a 5 day Camp at Point Wolstoncroft Sport and Recreation Centre, Kanangra Drive, Gwandalan NSW. The camp provided worthwhile opportunities for socialisation, experience and fun and was a valuable learning time for all students. The varied activities included archery, sailing, canoeing, ropes courses, BMX riding, swimming and bush walking. Point Wolstoncroft Camp provided a supportive, non-competitive and friendly environment for students to learn that being active and healthy can be great fun. Students also learnt about team work, leadership, communication, personal development and cooperation skills.



Interrelate

Students in Years 5 and 6 participated in the Interrelate program during semester 2. Interrelate is a relationship and sexuality education programs delivered by Interrelate Family Centres. It involves two 90-minute class-based sessions, designed to improve Year 5 and 6 students' understanding about and development of healthy relationships and to support them to make healthy choices and build resilience in their relationships. The program involved suitable activities and resources and was enjoyable and useful for students. It is facilitated by a specially trained Educator and correlates to the NSW Board of Studies PD/H/PE syllabus.

University of NSW Competitions

Students in Years 3 to 6 were given the opportunity to participate in the University of NSW Competitions in Spelling, Writing, Science, Computer Skills and Mathematics. We had 28 students participated in 2014.

Environmental Education Earth Hour

Beginning in 2007, this initiative is promoted by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to inspire the world's population to show their support for climate change action. Pleasant Heights students have become quite well informed of this issue, being our third year of support for this cause. This year the initiative focused on global warming's effects on crop production and its impact on farming. The students came up with excellent suggestions of how Australia as a nation can help reduce its impact on the environment and what we can do at a school level. On Friday 22nd March, to show our support, each class turned its lights and technology off for one hour, just as hundreds of schools around Australia did. On Saturday, businesses and homes around the world did the same. Pleasant Heights students and staff are working towards creating a more sustainable school.

Clean Up Australia Day

From Wednesday 25th February through to Wednesday 4th March, each class supported Clean Up Australia Day. Some classes went with their teacher and other classes buddied together to collect rubbish in our school grounds. Teachers discussed the importance of keeping our environment clean and the impact on our flora and fauna if we do not. Pleasant Heights students actually take pride in their school all year round, because there wasn't much rubbish to find!



Clean Up Australia Day

Stage 2 Garden

For the second year, Stage 2 cultivated, fertilised and maintained a garden, but this year, they only grew lettuces, so that they could each take one home at the end of the growing period. The gardening experience supported the science unit, 'Feathers, Fur or Leaves'. Additionally, the aspect of the garden, demonstrated the sun's position in Summer and Winter, further explaining the scientific phenomena of the Earth's tilt.

Schools Tree Day

Our school recognised National Tree Day on Friday 25 July. Students in years 3 -6 participated in some educational bushcare lessons and activities with parent Kerry Neubecker and local resident and bushcare volunteer, Emma Rooksby. The students also planted some small plants to enhance the school's environment and totem pole garden.

Music Count Us In

This is Australia's largest school initiative and Pleasant Heights are proud to have supported it for our third time. It has been running for 8 years and was designed to promote music in schools as an important part of their educational development. Secondary and Primary Schools are invited to join in the fun, with self-nominated Australian schools signing up, learning, rehearsing and performing a specially created song each year on the same day at the same time. 2014's song was entitled, 'Paint you

a song' and was written by a small group of secondary students in collaboration with composer, John Foreman. On Thursday 30th October, we sang with countless other schools via livefeed, enjoying an harmonious atmosphere and fostering a love of music.

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:

- Staff analysis of NAPLAN
- Staff analysis of L3;
- Staff analysis of TEN;
- Staff analysis of PLAN and
- Parent surveys.

School planning 2012-2014:

School priority 1 – Numeracy

Outcome for 2012–2014

Increasing student achievement in Numeracy

Evidence of achievement of outcomes in 2014:

- Increase in % of Year 3 students in top two band for Numeracy from 32% in 2013 to 44% in 2014
- Increase in % of Year 5 students in top two band for Numeracy from 20% in 2013 to 36% in 2014

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:

- Systemically using smart data
- Familiarisation and implementing student achievement using Plan
- Teachers using Numeracy continuum to plan teaching and learning
- Ongoing TPL in TEN

- Rich tasks focusing on modelled, guided, independent and reflective hands on activities
- Collaboration is evident between parent/carers of Aboriginal students and school staff.

School priority 2 - Literacy

Outcomes from 2012–2014

Increasing student achievement in Literacy

Evidence of achievement of outcomes in 2014:

- Increase in % of Year 3 students in top two band for Reading from 50% in 2013 to 69% in 2014
- Increase in % of Year 3 students in top two band for Spelling from 60% in 2013 to 69% in 2014
- Increase in % of Year 3 students in top two band for Grammar and Punctuation from 64% in 2013 to 75% in 2014

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:

- Systemically using smart data;
- Familiarisation and implementing student achievement using Plan;
- Continued implementation on Focus on Reading;
- Staff development using interactive Literacy Continuum and
- Understanding of six key comprehension strategies and plotting and monitoring student progress.

School priority 3 – Aboriginal Education

Outcomes from 2012–2014

All students to participate in a planned Indigenous Education Program

Evidence of achievement of outcomes in 2014:

- Whole school ownership of commitment to Personalised Learning Plans;
- Teachers are committed to closing the gap for Aboriginal students;
- Targeted teaching strategies are developed to support students in meeting their learning goals and

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:

- All staff trained in No Gaps No Excuses;
- All Students participated in Aboriginal cultural performances;
- Utilise Aboriginal literacy resources to program learning activities;
- Focus on Aboriginal texts within the classroom and
- All students participate in NAIDOC week activities.

Parent/caregiver, student, and teacher satisfaction

In 2014, the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school. An overwhelming 87% of parents responded to the survey.

Their responses are presented below.

- 98% of parents believe the school is a happy and safe place for their child
- 97% of parents believe the school places importance on student achievement and success
- 93% of parents were happy with the opportunities that the school provided for their children
- 96% of parents believe that the school maintains a focus on Literacy and Numeracy
- 91% of parents believe the school's student welfare and discipline measures are effective
- 86% of parents believe a wide range of extra-curricular activities are provided by the school
- 86% of parents believe that information about their children is shared with parents

Future Directions

2015-2017 School Plan

NSW DEC is implementing a new school planning process for 2015-17. The new plan will be published on the school's website from the beginning of Term 2 2015.

Strategic Direction 1 – Student Learning and Engagement

To ensure that all students are engaged through innovative and relevant curriculum that inspires them to achieve and learn in the 21st Century. A modern learning environment with planned explicit and systematic learning activities will ensure students achieve their social and academic potential

Strategic Direction 2 – Professional Practice

To embrace professional leadership and learning opportunities that maximise teacher quality. This will ensure an environment that will provide innovative teaching and learning programs which create independent learners, achieving excellence and success

Strategic Direction 3 – Positive Partnerships

To build and sustain a culture of excellence by maximising student opportunity through active partnerships between students, staff, and parents/carers. High expectations are fostered by an equitable and inclusive school culture, supported by positive and authentic relationships.

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.

Lee Venables – Principal

Daliya Phipps - Assistant Principal

Karen Knobel - Assistant Principal

David Roberts – Teacher

Lyn Nicholls – Teacher

Leonie Claridge – Teacher

Benjamin Swan - Teacher

Ana King – Teacher

Janelle Appleby – School Administration Manager

Annabel Ecroyd - Librarian

Gail Isedale – School Learning Support Officer

School contact information

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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:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/emsa/d/asr/index.php>