Blyth Primary School
2010 Annual Report
Summary

Highlights

TERM 1
- African Drum performance in Snowtown
- Life Education
- Circus Oz excursion
- New classroom built through BER funding
- KESAB School’s Clean Up Day
- Young Leaders’ Day
- JP excursion to St Kilda mangroves
- Pancakes for Shrove Tuesday
- Harmony Day
- Upper Primary Enterprise activities
- Suki the Cow arrived
- Hockey clinic
- Parents providing cricket coaching

TERM 2
- Active After School - Basketball and Golf
- MP class singing for the community
- Seasons for Growth programs for students and adults
- SAPSASA - students representing the Mid North in athletics, football, cross country running and netball
- Back to School Day with Brian Eime
- Dance Workshops

TERM 3
- Christian Options seminar
- Eat Well Be Active program
- Australian Curriculum Trial
- Solar panels installed

TERM 4
-的新 library completed
- The Idea of North workshops and performance
- Active After School - Hockey and Lawn Bowls
- Year 7 Careers Camp in Adelaide
- Blyth Community Network lunch for staff
- Wakakiri performances in Blyth and in Adelaide
- Christmas Child Shoeboxes of Love for children overseas
- Mid North Sports Day hosted by our community

- Science Morning with Brinkworth PS
- JP excursion to see Mem Fox
- Book Week parade
- Landcare Day at Spalding
- School Support for Shear for Life

Singing

Singing has become a part of the Music Curriculum. Children sang at school, in the community, had a workshop (and performed with) The Idea of North. In 2011 a school choir will be a part of the Festival of Music and will perform in Adelaide.

School Staff

- Dzintra Richards, Principal, Literacy Support, 3/4/5 Class
- Kate Harvey, 3/4/5 Class, Music
- Jillian D’Cruze, 5/6/7 Class, Science Facilitator MidNorth Cluster
- Gabrielle Silvester, Rec/1/2 Class, Term 1
- Cheryl Pyrke, Rec/1/2 Class, Term 3/4
- Lesley Bray, 5/6/7 Class, Term 4
- Judy Goss, German
- Rebecca Jamieson, Acting Principal (Term 1), Maths Facilitator MidNorth Cluster (Term 3, 4)
- Brendan Ackland, 3/4/5 Class, Term 4
- Mignon Ottens, Christian Pastoral Support
- Heather Hancock, Finance, Administration
- Heather Clarke, Finance, Administration (Term 3)
- Shirley Jenner, Library, Curriculum Support
- Susan Newton, Clerical, Curriculum Support
- Julia Agnew, Rec/1/2 Class, Curriculum Support (Term 1 and 2)
- Janet Zweck, Curriculum Support
- Wayne Lee, Grounds

Governing Council

Sue Pratt, Chairperson
Andrew Clarke, Treasurer
Charmain Angel, Secretary
Greg Toholke, Vice Chairperson
Mark Eime
Julia Agnew
Brad Kennett
Clare Underdown
Phillip Bigg
Valerie Cartling
Gavin McElroy
Fiona Walkley
Gabrielle Silvester, staff rep
Kate Harvey, staff rep
Literacy

Targets 2010
All students achieve national benchmark for literacy

Student National Literacy Test Results as for state average or better in all areas

Outcomes
- All but one student (Yr 3) who sat NAPLAN test met national benchmarks in Grammar & Punctuation, all but two students (Yr 5) met the national benchmark in Reading, all but two students (Yr 7) met the national benchmark in Spelling and all students met the national benchmark in Writing.
- While individual students in Year 3 did very well in the NAPLAN tests scores were generally below the state average in Writing and Grammar & Punctuation. More than half of the Yr 5 students who sat the tests were above the state average in Reading but less than half achieved the state average in Grammar and Punctuation. More than half of the Year 7 students who sat the NAPLAN tests were above the state average in all aspects of the literacy tests.
- Uni NSW competitions: several students participated in English, Spelling and Reading competitions. Two students achieved a credit in Spelling and one student achieved a credit in English.
- Reading: all students showed growth.
- Student improvement in Spelling continued with more students now a year or more ahead in their Spelling Age
- The Site Validation Report reported evidence that focusing on “Multiple Intelligences” and endeavouring to tailor learning to the individual child were positive strategies contributing to improved learning outcomes in literacy.

Recommendations for the Future
- Continue staff familiarisation with the Australian English Curriculum and the development of a whole school approach to the teaching of spelling
- Maintain current strategies including Reading Recovery and MULTILIT
- Continue to use the Lexile Framework to monitor student reading comprehension once students are independent readers
- Maintain current levels of staffing and resourcing

Numeracy

Targets 2010
Student National Numeracy Test results as for state average or better in all year levels

All students achieve national benchmark for numeracy

Outcomes
- All of the students who sat the NAPLAN tests achieved the Australian benchmark for their year level
- Three students achieved a Credit in Uni NSW Mathematics competition
- The Year 7 result was outstanding with 6 of the 8 students achieving a numeracy score above the National average score.
- Of the 23 students who sat the National Numeracy Test, 10 (43%) achieved a score above the state average score and 8 (35%) were above the national average score for their year level.

Recommendations for the Future
- Teachers participate in the professional learning programme Maths For All provided by The Primary Science and Maths Strategy in 2011
- Teachers teach and report to the Australian Maths Curriculum in 2011
- Maintain strategies to support staffing and resourcing

Science

Target 2010
Student progress through Science standards even across the strands

Outcomes
- Parents actively supported Science studies in Life Systems and Matter when propagating plants and manufacturing products with Upper Primary students during Enterprise Education
- Positive student feedback about Science lessons
- All teachers in the school supported by the Science Cluster facilitator
- The school acquired additional science resources through its hosting of the Science Facilitator

Recommendations for the Future
- Purchase additional Primary Connections materials and resources to support the Australian Science Curriculum
- Teachers participate in the professional learning programme provided by The Primary Science and Maths Strategy in 2011.
Opinion Surveys

9 Surveys were completed by parents, 30 by students and 5 by staff.

This year showed improved parent satisfaction with the quality of teaching and learning, support provided to students, communication and relationships developed.

Student satisfaction continued to remain at a high level.

Above average agreement was shown by parents in the following areas:

- My child’s teachers provide help and support when it is needed.
- My child has access to quality materials and resources that help him/her to learn.
- My child is happy at this school this year.
- This school provides a safe and secure environment.
- This school encourages students to have a sense of pride in their achievements.
- I am comfortable in approaching my child’s teachers to talk about his/her progress.
- I have confidence in how the school is managed.
- Students from all backgrounds and cultures are treated fairly at this school.
- Students have enough materials and resources for their learning.

Staff opinion data was not provided by Data Management Services this year because of small staff numbers completing the survey.

I am pleased to present a brief report of my work with the school community over the past year. At work each Tuesday, I spent set time with each of the 3 classes, helping with school work, doing a group activity or perhaps reading a story. Remaining time was used to respond to whatever needs arose on the day; often one to one student support or perhaps chatting with parents. Sometimes, I provided a lunch time craft activity which is popular with several children who enjoy ‘making’.

This use of time helped me to connect with many children during the day.

Since school renovations have been completed, a small room next to the staff room became available for an office. This is a nice spot for private chats.

The school has purchased some good counselling resources, and funded my attendance at the Youth Mental Health First Aid Training course for which I am grateful. At this training course, the importance of a young person having a significant relationship with an adult was emphasized.

Two groups of students participated in Seasons for Growth this year, and follow up sessions were provided for the groups from last year as needed. Thank you to Brian Wundke for volunteering his time in this area.

Students enjoyed packing gifts given for Shoeboxes of Love in Term 3. Families donated food for Clare Valley Christian Outreach Christmas Hampers, some of which was given to the Stockport community. The enterprise education groups, which did a wonderful job of supporting a family in Africa, were another example of a spirit of generosity at our school. Community volunteers worked with the groups and deserve thanks for their help. It is pleasing to see the school connecting with community locally and globally.

The local Christian Options team presented three seminars. The team does a great job of affirming and encouraging the students, as well as having fun with them, while exploring the Christian faith and highlighting good values.

I continue to enjoy serving in the CPSW role at Blyth Primary School, and I wish students, staff and families continued success in all aspects of school life in 2011.

Mignon Ottens,
Christian Pastoral Support Worker
Chairperson’s Report

It is my pleasure to give you a brief Governing Council report for 2010.

Active after school continued to expose the students to golf, basketball, dance, swimming, fitness, hockey, martial arts, bowls, while SAPSASA added athletics, netball, football, golf, swimming, cricket, and cross-country. In March, the Blyth Development Board generously provided the funds for the students to attend Circus Oz which was a wonderful experience, and the Year 7s enjoyed the Careers and Canberra Camps. The whole school did us proud at the Wakakiri in August with a clever and thought-provoking performance. They were privileged to participate in a musical treat with the A’ Capella group “The Idea of North” and they continued to impress us with their confident public speaking at the community assemblies.

We hosted the Mid North Sports Day at Blyth and the student’s team work and hours of practice saw Blyth teams win all the trophies. The success of this day was due to hard work by our Governing Council and Parent Club and I would like to thank them for their continuing excellence – Secretary Charmain Angel, Treasurer Andrew Clarke, Vice Chairperson Greg Toholke, Bradley Kennett, Fiona Walkley, Julia Agnew, Valerie Carling, Gavin McElroy, Phillip Bigg, Mark Eime and Clare Underdown.

Governing Council has held nine well attended meetings across the year, with the major agenda items being the Principal appointment process, the DIAF review, the Student Centred Funding Model and the Site Improvement Plan. Through our Governing Council committees, especially Parent Club under Valerie Carling, Lynnie Barr, Fiona Walkley and Kylie Williams, the school’s families have completed an impressive number of projects this year including the much loved Tuck Days, a Cybersafety course for parents, supporting the Shear for Life event, running a Family Movie and tea, plus the major exercise of completely revamping the soft fill in the playground.

The school has seen some pretty significant building works with the installation of $50,000 worth of solar panels, the completion of the middle primary classroom and the fantastic new library. We were thrilled to welcome Playgroup back to the Primary School site and look forward to watching them settle right in.

Again our school staff have formed an extraordinary team. We thank Dzintira Richards, Bec Jamieson, Jillian D’Cruze, Gabrielle Silvester, Kate Harvey, Cheryl Pyrke, Lesley Bray, Brendan Ackland, Judy Goss, Deb Tobin, Wayne Lee, Heath Hancock, Heather Clark, Julia Agnew, Janet Zweck, Shirley Jenner, Sue Newton and Mignon Ottens for the wonderful work they do and the interesting, challenging curriculum they create. Together they take care of the leadership, teaching, classroom support, finances, grounds, after school hours care and chaplaincy. They cherish our children and give them every opportunity to shine and we are very glad to have them all on the Blyth team.

In the new year we will be holding a family fun day to officially open the new library and classroom, and our next projects include restoration of the small oval area now that the trucks have stopped driving over it and the commencement of improvements to the big oval.

Sue Pratt
Chairperson, Governing Council