Our school at a glance

Students
Black Mountain Public School is a small rural school with 36 students from Kindergarten to Year 6.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Staff
The staff at Black Mountain Public School are dedicated professionals who aim to make a difference in the daily lives of the students through a caring approach to quality teaching.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mr Michael Coleman</th>
<th>Principal 3-6 Class Teacher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Anne Cormie</td>
<td>K-2 Class Teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Carole O'Hara</td>
<td>STLA Teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Peta Bale</td>
<td>RFF Teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Barbara O'Neill</td>
<td>School Administration Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Bob Norman</td>
<td>General Assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Audrey Strangeways</td>
<td>School Learning Support Officer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Significant programs and initiatives
2008 has been a very productive year with many programs and initiatives improving our school environment and learning opportunities for our students including:

- The completion of a major building program providing the school community with a new staff room and administration area.
- Students participated in a variety of visual and creative arts exhibitions and performances including Guyra Show, Waste into Art and CAPERS.
- The installation of an Interactive Whiteboard and the purchasing of 5 laptops for student use.

Student achievement in 2008

Literacy - NAPLAN Year 3
The average mark for literacy in Year 3 was 326.5 compared to the state average of 420.5 with 25% of students in the top 3 bands.

Numeracy - NAPLAN Year 3
The average mark for numeracy in Year 3 was 365.5 compared to the state average of 409.6, with 50% of students in the top 3 bands

Literacy - NAPLAN Year 5
No students in Year 5 completed NAPLAN in 2008

Numeracy - NAPLAN Year 5
No students in Year 5 completed NAPLAN in 2008

Principal's message
2008 was a year of growth. Our student enrolments grew, our students' learning grew and our school's facilities grew with the completion of our new entrance, administration area and staff room.

Our students now have access to the latest technology in their classrooms with the installation of an Interactive Whiteboard and Video Conferencing Facilities through the Connected Classrooms Program, and the purchase by the school's P&C of a number of laptops for student use.

The staff at the school have continued to grow and develop their teaching skills through a variety of professional learning opportunities in Technology, Literacy and Numeracy.

My time as Principal at Black Mountain Public School has been very rewarding and I am proud of our many achievements. I wish all staff, students and community members the best with new Principal, Ms Margaret Cobb, in 2009.
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.

Mr Michael Coleman
Principal

P&C and/or School Council message

Here at Black Mountain Public School the P&C are very active and dedicated to working hard to raise funds for the things the students and the school need. We work together with the teachers and staff to ensure our students receive the best education and opportunities available.

The P&C have assisted the school in obtaining a grant for extensions to the school which are being used to their full capacity. The extensions have enhanced the appearance of the school and are of great benefit to teachers, staff and students.

Mrs Vicki Bell
President, Black Mountain P&C

School context

Student information

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

Student enrolment profile

Student enrolment increased in 2008 to 35 students, then moderated to 31 students throughout the year.

Class sizes

In March 2003 the Government announced its commitment to publish primary class sizes in annual school reports in order to provide parents with as much local information as possible.

The following table shows our class sizes as reported at the 2008 class size audit conducted on Tuesday 25 March 2008.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roll Class</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total per Year</th>
<th>Total in Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Class</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Class</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Structure of classes**

Our students are split into two classes. A Junior Class which has all students from Kindergarten to Year Two and a Senior Class which has all students from Year Three to Year Six. The school also funds a Transition to School class for preschool aged students wishing to start their schooling the following year. This class is held for one day each fortnight throughout the year.

**Staff retention**

There were no changes to staff in 2008. A new Principal has been appointed to commence the 2009 school year.

**Staff attendance**

Staff have access to leave entitlements such as sick leave and Long Service Leave. In 2008, one staff member took Long Service Leave. No other long term absence was recorded by staff.

**Teacher qualifications**

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

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

2008 Clean Up Australia Day – Students clean up the Black Mountain Railway Station

**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>30/11/2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>129 207.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
<td>55 287.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>33 820.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
<td>9 940.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>4 452.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
<td>1 035.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td>104 535.64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Expenditure</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching &amp; learning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key learning areas</td>
<td>5 610.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excursions</td>
<td>4 663.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extracurricular dissections</td>
<td>2 163.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>383.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training &amp; development</td>
<td>1 170.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>130 094.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual relief teachers</td>
<td>4 956.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; office</td>
<td>33 540.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School-operated canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>6 849.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>2 717.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust accounts</td>
<td>1 138.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital programs</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditure</strong></td>
<td>193 287.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance carried forward</strong></td>
<td>40 455.40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A full copy of the school’s 2008 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 2008

Our student achieved wonderful improvements in all Key Learning Areas in 2008. The combination of the great work of our support teachers and the quality teaching programs of classroom teachers ensures that our students maximise their learning potential.

Achievements

Arts

2008 was an exceptional year of arts education and experiences for the students at Black Mountain Public School. Students participated in the following arts activities:

CAPERS - the Senior Class participated in 3 combined schools dance performances at the Tamworth Regional Entertainment Centre in front of over 6000 audience members. They performed in the Boys Dance, the P5 Dance and the finale.

In Visual Arts, the students continued the tradition of their successful participation in the Guyra Show Art Competition, Waste into Art and the University of New England Art Acquisition.

2008 Guyra Show Art Winners

We also had a very successful guitar group who performed at school assemblies and our end of year concert.

Sport

In 2008 our students participated at district and regional level in athletics, swimming and cross country. They participated in a very successful Active After School Care program and in a variety of workshops including soccer, cricket and swimming.

Technology

In 2008, our school had a major focus on technology. Technology is the new frontier of quality teaching and is a vital ingredient in achieving student engagement in our classrooms.

Through the DET Connected Classrooms Program, our school received an Interactive Whiteboard and Video Conferencing facilities.

Our P&C donated funds to purchase a number of laptop computers to use in the classrooms. These provided students with access to technology on their desks for use in all lessons.

Our staff participated in a variety professional learning activities in Technology to increase their knowledge and skills to allow further allow integration of ICT into daily classroom teaching. Staff learnt how to use Word, PowerPoint and how to access DET Staff Portal and their emails.
We once again ran the very successful Transition to School Program. Four transition students attended and were well prepared for Kindergarten in 2009.

**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)

**Literacy – NAPLAN Year 3**

At Black Mountain Public School, the number of students in Year 3 that participated in NAPLAN is less than 10 and therefore we can not report on specific data, just trends in the data provided.

In Reading in Year 3, we had no students in Band 1 which is a significant improvement on recent trends. 25% of students achieved results in Band 6.

In Writing and Spelling, 50% of students achieved results in Band 3.

In Grammar and Punctuation, 25% of students achieved results in Band 6.

Classroom focus will continue in Spelling, Writing and Grammar in 2009.

**Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 3**

At Black Mountain Public School, the number of students in Year 3 that participated in NAPLAN is less than 10 and therefore we can not report on specific data, just trends in the data provided.

50% of students achieved results in Band 3 or higher which is a pleasing result.

**Literacy – NAPLAN Year 5**

No students completed NAPLAN in Year 5 in 2008.

**Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 5**

No students completed NAPLAN in Year 5 in 2008.

**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 2008

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

Percentage of Year 5 students in our school achieving at or above the minimum standard in 2008

No students in Year 5 participated in NAPLAN in 2008

Significant programs and initiatives

Respect and responsibility

Black Mountain Public School’s Student Welfare program is based on the study of the Three R’s - Respect, Responsibility and Rights. All staff program classroom lessons based on these values to ensure that they become the foundation of Behaviour Management discussions with all students. This ensures that a common language is developed across the school allowing conversations about the choices students make in regards to these values and their behaviours. The Student Welfare program has been extremely successful across the school with improvements in student behaviour and in 2008 there were no suspensions or serious behavioural issues.

Other programs

After School Care & Homework Centre

In 2008, the school continued to provide a Homework Centre and an After School Care program. The Homework Centre was subsidised by the P&C and allowed students access to assistance with their homework three days a week.

Our Active After School program was funded through the Federal Government and provided access to a variety of sports for our students after school for three days each week. Sports included swimming and tennis.

Students enjoy the activities at the Active After School Care Program

Progress on 2008 targets

Target 1

To improve students literacy skills in reading and writing as measured by school and State data

Our achievements include:

All students improved their reading ability as shown by in school assessment such as running records and reading tests.

Programmed writing lessons on various text types using scaffolds and marking rubrics assisted identification and further lesson development to target problematic grammatical, structural and planning issues for the students. This led to a significant improvement in student work samples.
The introduction of a whole school spelling program provided consistency across K-6 which improved student spelling in class lists as well as in their daily writing.

Targeted small group work for Year 3 students in literacy skills in preparation for the new National Assessment Program proved beneficial.

NAPLAN data for Year 3, 2008 showed significant improvement in results in reading with no students in Band 1 and 25% of students in Band 6.

50% of students in Year 3 achieved results in Band 3 in spelling.

**Target 2**

*To lift the levels of achievement of students in Numeracy as measured by school and State data.*

Our achievements include:

All student achieved stage appropriate marks in SENA 1 & SENA 2 by end of Stage 1

One student achieved Distinction rating and six students achieved Credit ratings in the NSW Mathematics Competition.

NAPLAN data for Year 3, 2008 showed that 50% of students achieved results in Band 3 or higher.

75% of students in Year 3 achieved the National Benchmark in Numeracy.

**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 2008 our school carried out evaluations of Technology and School Culture.

**Educational and management practice**

In 2008 we repeated our 2007 survey of school culture to gauge the degree of happiness with the ongoing change process that has occurred within the school in the previous 12 months. Over that time the school has undergone reviews in many curriculum, system and procedural areas.

**Background**

The culture of a school encompasses all programs, policies, communication and relationships within the school. In essence, culture can be described as the extent and degree of success and satisfaction in which we go about our core business of teaching children. The entire school community has a role to play in the development of a positive school culture.

**Findings and conclusions**

Black Mountain Public School is very lucky to have a highly involved, supportive, interested and informed school community.

Parents, staff and students were surveyed and results showed that:

40% of respondents stated that they were “Almost Always happy with all aspects of school culture”. This was an increase of 10% from 2007.

50% of respondents stated that they were “Usually happy with all aspects of school culture”.

10% of respondents stated that they were “Sometimes happy with all aspects of school culture”.

Specific questions that respondents had a lower degree of satisfaction with included “The school is continually finding ways to improve what it does and the students are proud of their school”.

Specific questions that scored 100% positive satisfaction included: “The school knows about the parents and community it serves”; “The school often praises and rewards students who are successful”; “New students are made to feel welcome”; “The school encourages students to achieve their best”; and “The school caters for the learning needs of all students”.

**Future directions**

A continued focus by the entire school community on our core beliefs of Respect, Rights and Responsibilities, will see our
students develop further a sense of positive behaviour, school pride and citizenship.

Curriculum

In 2008 we evaluated Information & Communications Technology (ICT)

Background

The DET Strategic Plan lists "connected classrooms" as a priority in its state and regional plans. To help our school maximise ICT as a learning tool we needed to look at our infrastructure, hardware, software, professional development and parental support. Throughout the year, staff attended professional development in using the IWB and in programs such as Word and PowerPoint. They also learnt how to utilise the DET Portal and their DET emails effectively. The school received an IWB and Video Conferencing facilities as well as 5 laptop computers to improve student access to technologies.

Findings and conclusions

70% of families, 100% of staff and 90% of students returned the surveys.

25% of students do not have access to computers at home and 45% of families do not have the internet connected at home. This shows that our school is the major access point to ICT use for many of our students.

90% of families believe that the school is providing adequate lessons in technology.

70% of families believe that technology lessons are a vital part of their child's education.

100% of staff are interested in improving their technology skills.

70% of students enjoy technology lessons at school.

100% of students prefer lessons that include a technology focus.

One of the biggest problems with technology in the school is the cost and installation of the infrastructure needed to support the new resources. The new laptops will eventually need to be wireless connected to allow them to be used optimally. A new server is needed to allow students to save their work from any computer into one central place for easy access. Maintaining the computers and the network is another area that requires constant assistance.

Future directions

Black Mountain Public School has a strong commitment to ensuring that all students have access to ICT.

All teaching staff are making great improvements in their own ability to utilise ICT in daily classroom practice. Further professional development in ICT is essential to ensure that teachers have the knowledge and skills to program and integrate ICT into their classroom practice.

Budgeting and fundraising for further upgrades in hardware and wiring to meet the evolving needs of ICT in the school environment is essential.

Professional learning

In 2008 teachers and support staff participated in a wide variety of professional development. School Development Days, fortnightly staff meetings, DET training opportunities and workshops by external providers were all accessed by staff.

The School Development Days focussed on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th>School Mission Statement Technology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>Small Schools' Conference Technology Literacy Numeracy Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>Numeracy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other professional learning included:

STLA training days, Aboriginal Education Officer training days, IWB training, ERN training, CPR training, First Aid training, Child Protection, Literacy, ICT Integration and Count Me In Two.
School development 2009 – 2011

Targets for 2009

Target 1
Year three NAPLAN results reflect a reduction in the number students in the minimum band for Grammar and Punctuation. Aboriginal students in Year three achieve the same or better results than non-Aboriginal students in 2009 NAPLAN in Grammar and Punctuation.

Strategies to achieve this target include:
- Analysis of smart data to identify items poorly done to identify student needs.
- Utilise the Connecting the NAPLAN to Syllabus document to identify appropriate teaching strategies.
- Employ Aboriginal School Learning Support Officer to assist with the engagement of Aboriginal Students.
- Targeted teaching of Grammar and Punctuation.
- STLA support across the school in literacy.

Our success will be measured by:
- Year three NAPLAN results reflect a reduction in the number students in the minimum band for Grammar and Punctuation.
- Aboriginal students in Year three achieve the same or better results than non-Aboriginal students in 2009 NAPLAN.
- Students writing in class will reflect an improvement in Grammar and Punctuation.

Target 2
Decrease in the number of Year Three students in the minimum band for Number Patterns and Algebra in 2009 NAPLAN testing. Aboriginal students achieve the same or better results than non-Aboriginal students in Number Patterns and Algebra in 2009 NAPLAN.

Strategies to achieve this target include:
- Utilise SMART data to identify items poorly done in the NAPLAN.
- Employ Aboriginal School Learning Support Officer to assist with the engagement of Aboriginal Students.
- Utilise the Connecting the NAPLAN to Syllabus document to identify appropriate teaching strategies.
- Implement the Go Maths in the senior classroom.
- Senior Classroom teacher attend Professional Development on Go Maths.

Our success will be measured by:
- Decrease in the number of students in the minimum band for Number Patterns and Algebra in the 2009 NAPLAN.
- Aboriginal students achieve the same or better than non-Aboriginal students in Number Patterns and Algebra in 2009 NAPLAN.
- Students show growth in Number Patterns and Algebra in school based in class testing.
- Professional Development attended by senior class teacher and Go Maths Program implemented in the senior classroom.
- Students displaying confidence and satisfaction with maths when surveyed.

Black Mountain primary students enjoyed their major excursion to Lake Ainsworth
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.

Michael Coleman, Principal
Vicki Bell, P&C President
Anne Cormie, Classroom Teacher

School contact information

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Fax: 02 67750228
Email: blackmtn-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
School Code: 1249

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: