



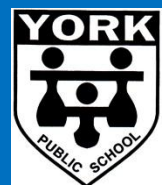
Education &
Communities

Public Schools NSW

4482

York Public School Annual School Report

2012



Our school at a glance

Students

Our enrolment at the end of 2012 was 525 students including 276 boys and 249 girls. Ninety-four percent of students attended school on average each day. This rate of attendance was consistent with the average rate of attendance at the school over the previous five years.

Staff

As the school continues to grow in its student enrolment so too does the number of staff at the school. In 2012 we had 49 members of staff filling both full-time and part-time positions. This included 29 classroom teachers, seven specialist support teachers, seven student learning support officers and six administrative support staff.

Significant programs and initiatives

In 2012 the school continued to provide a broad variety of academic, creative and sporting programs to engage and enrich students' learning. These programs included:

- Best Start assessment and learning tracking in Years 1 and 2
- Positive Behaviour for Learning
- Peer Support
- Environmental Education
- CSIRO Scientists in Schools Program
- Volunteer School Chaplaincy
- Premier's Reading Challenge
- Premier's Sporting Program
- Chess Club
- Debating Teams
- Public Speaking
- Spelling Bee
- Performing Arts groups including drama, dance, choir and instrumental music
- Information Technology and Computer Skills
- Secondary School Links
- Pre-school Links

Student achievement in 2012

The results in the National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) in 2012 indicated significant growth in literacy and numeracy learning for our students as they moved from Year 3 to Year 5. The results across Year 3, however, were not strong as the results for our Year 5 students.

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 3

The results for Year 3 indicate that student performance in reading was below the average performance of a grouping of similar schools as well as the State.

Our results in writing were consistent with the State result and the same as a grouping of similar schools

Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 3

Results for our school in numeracy were below the Stage average as well as a group of similar schools. Over 60% of the students at York were in the two mid-range bands of achievement.

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 5

The results for our school were better in reading, spelling and writing than a grouping of similar schools. The school's results in writing were better than the average result for all students across N.S.W.

Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 5

The results for our school in numeracy were better than a grouping of similar schools but below the average result across the State.

Messages

Principal's message

The strengths of York Public School are its people; the happy students, the encouraging and supportive parents and the outstanding teaching and support staff.

Our core purpose is student learning and the teachers continue to strive for quality teaching through rigorous professional learning, the investigation of new and innovative approaches to teaching and the inclusion of the latest technologies in their classrooms.

In 2012 the school continued to grow in size. Four kindergarten classes were formed and we welcomed new teachers; Mr. Hill and Mrs. Pellizzari.

We bid a fond farewell to Mrs. Parbery and Mrs. Kilminster who moved towards retirement after many years of dedicated service to children. Mrs. Meaney remains on secondment to the Department of Education and Communities as a leader of teacher development in literacy and numeracy.

In 2012 we also bid a fond farewell to Mrs. Delanoue, the school's administrative manager. Her leadership of the school's administrative functions was at a level of excellence and we wish her well for the future.

I would like to thank every member of the York Public School community for the ways in which you have worked together to ensure a cohesive, happy and successful school.

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.

David Pettitt

P & C message

2012 was a rewarding and successful year for the York Public School P & C Association. The year saw a newly elected executive committee; a team that has worked well together with the assistance of all other P & C members.

Without the assistance of so many volunteers throughout the year our fundraising and the support we offer the school would not be possible.

During 2012 we held many fundraising events at the school. These events included discos, Mothers' and Fathers' Day stalls, a trivia night, a walkathon, a cake stall and a Christmas Raffle.

Our most successful fundraiser for 2012 was the walkathon which raised over \$9000.00.

The introduction of the school banking program by members of the P & C and with the assistance of the Commonwealth Bank has been a strong success. In August 2012 our school was recognised by the Commonwealth Bank as one of the top three schools in NSW for student saving. Thank you to all our parent volunteers who assist with banking each Friday.

In 2012 the P & C purchased a range of new reading materials for the school and Easter eggs for the K-2 students. Funds were provided to support students who represented the school in academic and sporting events at a State and National level and over \$2,000.00 was provided to purchase new mathematics equipment.

The York Public School Parents and Citizens Association is justifiably pleased with its efforts to support the students' learning in 2012.

Melissa Amey

P & C President

Student representative's message

In 2012 the student body helped to introduce a wider range of play equipment for the use of all students at recess and lunch play times. We also raised almost \$2000 for Stewart House and over \$3000 for the McGrath Foundation. The students also raised over \$1500 towards the purchase of new sound equipment for our school hall.

The Year 6 students engaged in various activities and fund raising stalls throughout the year. We all had a lot of fun on the Canberra and Snowy Mountains excursion at the end of Term 2 and the whole school learnt a lot about the other countries of the world during our very own Aussielympics in August. The involvement of every student in the Grandparents' Day in June was a fantastic and memorable experience for everyone.

As School Captains we enjoyed the opportunity to represent the school at the NSW Schools' ANZAC Service in Hyde Park,

York Public School is a great school. On behalf of all of the students at York we would like to say thank you to the teachers and school staff who

have done so much along our way to high school.
We will never forget you.

Christopher Agatsiotis

Rebecca Martin

School Captains



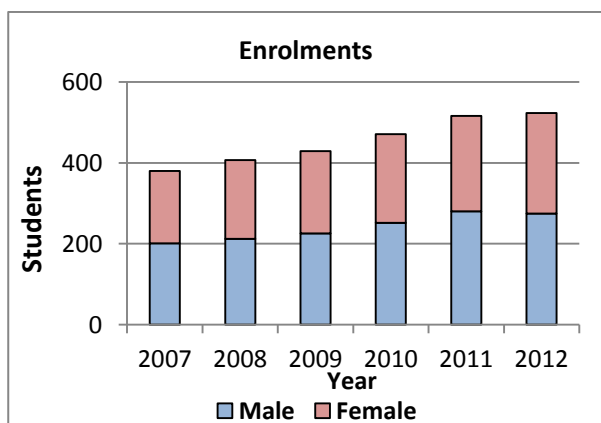
Our Year 5 and Year 6 students enjoyed their welcome and tour at Parliament House, Canberra

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 attendance profile

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
K		95.4	96.1	96.2	94.0
1		94.3	92.7	95.6	94.7
2		94.6	93.7	94.4	92.8
3		95.3	93.5	94.8	94.6
4		94.8	93.5	94.2	93.3
5		93.6	94.2	94.1	93.9
6		95.2	92.2	93.9	94.2
Total	95.1	94.8	93.8	94.8	94.0

Management of non-attendance

The average attendance rate at York Public School was once again consistent with that of the Western Sydney Region and the rest of the State. Factors such as a safe, happy learning environment are allied to effective student welfare procedures to ensure that children are at school every day.

Staff information

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

The school has a number of staff in part-time or shared classroom teaching positions.

Staff establishment

Position	Number
Principal	1
Deputy Principal(s)	1
Assistant Principal(s)	4
Head Teachers	0
Classroom Teachers	21
Teacher of Emotional Disabilities	1
Teacher of Mild Intellectual Disabilities	0
Teacher of Reading Recovery	0.5
Support Teacher Learning Assistance	1.3
Teacher Librarian	1
Teacher of ESL	0
Counsellor	0.4
School Administrative & Support Staff	4.8
Total	36

The National Education Agreement requires schools to report on Indigenous composition of their workforce.

In 2011 there was one member of the school staff with an identified Indigenous background.

Staff retention

York Public School has a high retention rate for permanently appointed staff. At the end of 2012 two long-serving teachers, Mrs. Parbery and Mrs. Kilminster went on long-service leave pending retirement from the N.S.W. teaching service. Mrs. Delanoue, the school's administrative manager also retired from the N.S.W. Department of Education and Communities.

Teacher qualifications

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

Qualifications	% of staff
Degree or Diploma	85%
Postgraduate	15%

Financial summary

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

Date of financial summary	30/11/2012
Income	\$
Balance brought forward	201882.19
Global funds	289926.80
Tied funds	261067.50
School & community sources	107623.59
Interest	10163.99
Trust receipts	28506.49
Canteen	0.00
Total income	899170.56
Expenditure	
Teaching & learning	
Key learning areas	45763.89
Excursions	41925.28
Extracurricular dissections	41126.49
Library	10832.21
Training & development	18694.37
Tied funds	242656.98
Casual relief teachers	89258.19

Administration & office	64434.06
School-operated canteen	0.00
Utilities	56707.53
Maintenance	53010.78
Trust accounts	25915.06
Capital programs	0.00
Total expenditure	690324.84
Balance carried forward	208845.72

A full copy of the school's 2012 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 2012

Achievements

Arts

The highlights of our programs in the Arts for 2012 included:

- performances at the Blue Mountains Dance Festival by the dance group,
- performances at the Penrith Valley Performing Arts Festival by the dance group, drama group and school choir,
- performances by the school band, drama group, choir and dance group at Jamison High School for the Jamison High School and Community of Schools Showcase and
- involvement of targeted students in Operation Art workshops.

Sport

Highlights of our sports program in 2012 include:

- the senior Rugby League team premiers in the Penrith District schools' competition,
- the senior boys' soccer team undefeated premiers in the Penrith District competition,
- the senior kanga cricket team premiers in the Penrith District competition,

- the tee-ball team were undefeated premiers in Penrith District competition,
- the senior netball team were undefeated premiers in Penrith District competition,
- 60 students participated in the Learn-to-Swim program,
- 50 primary students competed in the Milo Cup one day cricket tournament,
- Western Sydney Regional representation for Lachlan Wiffen in Rugby Union, Romeo Opelu Rugby League and Hayden Brown in cross country 800m and athletics, Mathew Alcock in swimming, Malachi Monaghan district 11year old swimming champion,
- Mathew Alcock broke three York swimming records,
- Jade Sweeny came 4th in the School Sports Australia Junior Girls' Diving Championships and
- twelve primary students participated in the Premier's Sport Leadership program.

Academic

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*.

Significant programs and initiatives

Aboriginal education

Seven percent of our students have an Aboriginal background. In 2012 the school continued to implement the strategy of personalized learning programs (PLP's) for its Aboriginal students. These plans involve the students and their parents in planning for and reflecting on their own learning experiences.

The teachers once again revised their knowledge of the Aboriginal Education and Training Policy

and reaffirmed their commitment to its aims and targets.

Aboriginal students at York Public School consistently achieve at a higher rate in literacy and numeracy than the average for Aboriginal students across the rest of the State. Their learning is not only supported by PLP's but also:

- input from the school's Aboriginal Education Committee that has staff, community and Aboriginal Education Consultative Group representation,
- the integration of our students with Aboriginal education programs at the adjacent Jamison High School and the use of secondary school 'learning buddies,'
- classroom units of work and the integration of Aboriginal studies across the curriculum and
- school celebrations of NAIDOC Week and Harmony Day.

Multicultural education

Cultural diversity is celebrated and included in curriculum areas through studies of other nations, cultures and religions in Human Society and its Environment, Creative Arts, Literacy and Personal Development.

The student welfare policy also ensures an inclusive school community that is committed to racism-free learning.

In 2012 the school observed Harmony Day to celebrate our differences and what unites us as Australians. Students also successfully participated in the Aussielympics, a day that celebrated cultural differences and the 2012 London Olympic Games.



Our students develop an understanding of what is different and what unites the variety of cultures in our school and within our community.

Other programs

York Public School Chess Team

Chess involves up to forty students from across all grades in school-based competition as well as tournaments across the Sydney metropolitan area.

In 2012 our senior chess team defended their position as Penrith District Chess Champions for the second year in a row. The team members, Rachel Davison, James Chirgwin, Ethan Marlow and Rocco Chirgwin were presented with the championship trophy from the NSW Governor, Dr Marie Bashir.

York Public School Debating Team

In its second year of operation, debating at York Public School has grown to become one of our premier programs involving Year 5 and Year 6 students. In 2012 the senior team comprised of Ebony Worth, Rachel Davison, Thomas Gates and Rebecca Martin competed in the Penrith District Debating Competition and led this competition throughout the year. The team members developed a high level of skill and worked well together. They won the Grand Final and the trophy as 2012 Penrith District Debating Champions. Ebony Worth also had the distinction of being selected in the Western Sydney Regional

Debating Team which competed against schools across the Sydney metropolitan area.

Sydney's Favourite Teacher

In September 2012, our Year 6 teacher, Mr Eggs, received the award of Sydney's Favourite Teacher after a month long competition on radio station 2UE. Mr. Eggs was selected from 1500 nominees and the award received widespread coverage by newspapers and television across N.S.W.



Mr. Eggs with his family at the award ceremony for Sydney's Favourite Teacher.

Progress on 2012 targets

This past year has seen the commencement of work on the school's School Improvement Plan 2012 - 2014. This plan, along with regular progress evaluations and strategic reviews, has contributed to the following achievements in 2012:

Target 1

The improvement of all students' achievements in reading, spelling and grammar

Our achievements include:

- growth in reading progress for Year 5 students that is consistent with the State and which exceeds a grouping of similar schools,
- the strongest results in Year 5 spelling in the past three years and
- the introduction of a scope and sequence in grammar, punctuation and spelling that has been incorporated in teaching across the school.

Target 2

The improvement of all students' achievements in numeracy

Our achievements include:

- NAPLAN results in mathematics for our Year 5 students that exceed those of a grouping of similar schools and which are consistent with the results across the State,
- a 3% increase in the number of students in the top two skill bands in the 2012 NAPLAN mathematics test and
- completion of the TENS mathematics professional learning program by all Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 teachers.

Target 3

Enhance quality teaching practices and develop innovative teaching strategies as we work to implement the new Australian Curriculum

Our achievements include:

- the training of all Stage 1 and Stage 2 teachers in the use of literacy and numeracy continuums that incorporate the aims of the Australian Curriculum,
- expansion of the use of running records and PM benchmarking throughout Kindergarten to Year 4,
- cooperative planning to develop practices in the differentiation of the curriculum for the range of learners' abilities and interests and
- full implementation of the use of technology and installation of interactive whiteboards in every classroom to motivate and engage students in student-centred inquiry learning.

School evaluation

NSW public schools conduct evaluations to support the effective implementation of the school plan. These evaluations include an area of school management as well as an area of curriculum

Student Welfare

Background

York Public School has developed a variety of practices and policies to ensure positive student welfare and a school environment that supports quality learning. In 2012 the school made the decision to evaluate the effectiveness of these practices with a view towards expanding welfare options for students as well as the monitoring of student behavior.

Findings and Conclusions

- The classroom reward system is effective and well-supported by students, staff and parents. Ninety-two percent of students were consistently recognised for positive behaviour and received a Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) coloured wrist band.
- Direct teaching about social skills and school rules was seen as the preferred whole-school method for improving

cooperation and behaviour in the classrooms and the playground.

- The series of welfare strategies such as the Volunteer School Chaplain, the Life Raft program for stage 3 students, Peer Support and Circle Time were seen to be strong factors in the development of a settled school tone and positive self-esteem amongst students.
- An evaluation of the PBL program indicated that ninety-seven percent of staff value and use PBL strategies and there is broad knowledge of supports that are available to students and teachers.
- The annual Community Satisfaction Survey indicated that there continues to be high levels of parent satisfaction with the school's welfare programs and a widespread view that the school has a safe and secure environment.
- Over ninety-percent of parents and carers believe that the school takes positive steps to eliminate or to deal with incidents of bullying.

Future directions

The information gained from an evaluation of student welfare initiatives has led to the following recommendations:

- An increased availability of play equipment at break times.
- The development of a 'safe haven' garden for students.
- The implementation of the Kids Matter initiative to support students' mental health
- Regular collection and interpretation of data about student behaviour, playground management and play activities.
- The inclusion of stage 3 students in an anti-cyber bullying program conducted by the Federal Government.

Science and Technology

Background

For the past two years it has been acknowledged by staff and parents that there needs to be an increased emphasis on the key learning area of science and technology at York Public School. This emphasis should include a range of staff training activities in this curriculum area, a new and improved range of resources and the move towards the implementation of the Australian Curriculum in science and technology. As part of this development, a survey was conducted involving staff and parents. The findings of this survey are included here.

Findings and conclusions

The survey of staff and parents undertook to gather opinions and beliefs about teaching strategies, the uses of technology, teacher professional learning and curriculum planning.

- it was unanimous amongst parents that the use of an inquiry learning approach and the development of thinking skills in science and technology were the preferred method of teaching
- 84% of the teachers indicated that they feel confident to teach the science and technology curriculum
- Whilst all parents agreed that technology was essential in the teaching of the subject, 16% of the teaching staff felt that this was not essential to their teaching in this area
- 24% of the teachers indicated that they would not require additional time off class to prepare lessons in science and technology
- Although 40% of the staff indicated that they felt it was not essential to collaborate with other local schools to prepare work for students or to share ideas, this point was supported by all of the parents who were surveyed

Future directions

The preparation for the full implementation of the new Australian Curriculum in 2015 will require the development of teachers' understanding and skills in the use of the new curriculum throughout 2013 with the development of units of work and lesson planning to take place in 2014. Additional to this preparation, and indicated by the results of an evaluation of the teaching of science and technology at the school, the following directions are indicated:

- Teacher professional learning will focus on the development of students' inquiry and thinking skills.
- Teachers will require additional support and practice in the use of the new curriculum and the use of scientific method.
- A range of explorations regarding the wide range of use of technology by students and the notion of student-centred learning is advised.
- The work of the John Jamison Community of Schools can incorporate a shared approach to the implementation of the new syllabus in science and technology.

Parent, student, and teacher satisfaction

In 2012 the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school.

Their responses are presented below.

- All parents who were surveyed in 2012 indicated that they are pleased that their child attends the school and 97% of parents stated that they feel welcome at the school.
- Parents and staff were unanimous that the school has a safe and secure environment.
- There has been a significant increase over the past twelve months in the number of parents who have Internet access in the home which has risen to 96% of families.
- Over 94% of parents agreed that the school's aim is to improve the quality of

its teaching and the quality of student learning.

- 100% of staff believe that they have high expectation for their students, however, only 57% of the surveyed parents felt that the school provides sufficiently challenging experiences for its gifted and talented students.
- All teachers believe that the school is successful in its educational, welfare and cultural aims.
- 97% of the parents are very satisfied with the performance of the school across its range of operation.
- 100% of parents stated that teaching and learning about multi-cultural Australia is an important element in their child's learning. This is a very significant increase in the positive response to this question when compared to previous years.

Professional learning

Throughout 2012 the teachers and support staff were engaged in professional learning experiences within the school as well as State and Regional courses. These courses complemented the schools targets for 2012. The professional learning undertaken included:

- developing teacher skills in using computer technology in the classroom,
- implementing quality teaching across all key learning areas with particular reference to literacy and numeracy,
- supporting the development of teachers' leadership skills,
- increasing teachers' knowledge and skills in the support of students with specific behavioural and learning needs,
- staff workshops about the implementation of the new Australian Curriculum in English and
- mandatory training about child protection, anaphylaxis, asthma, cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, anti-bullying and occupational health and safety

School planning 2012–2014

The school planning policy provides direction for the preparation and implementation of school plans including the identification of priority areas, intended outcomes and targets that are consistent with the NSW State Plan and the Department's planning documents.

School Priority 1

Improve students' achievements in literacy

Outcome for 2012–2014

Reduce the number of students in the lowest bands of achievement in literacy and increase the number of students in the highest bands of achievement.

2013 Targets to achieve this outcome include:

- 92% of Year 3 students achieve at or above the national mean standard in reading,
- 94% of Year 5 students achieve at or above the national mean standard in reading,
- 20%+ of Year 3 students achieve in the top two bands in literacy and
- 25%+ of Year 5 students achieve in the top two bands in literacy

Strategies to achieve these targets include:

- K-6 teachers adopt best practice literacy strategies from National Partnership schools,
- teacher professional learning in improved teaching practice incorporating strategies from the program, Comprehension K-2,
- teacher professional learning in improved teaching practice incorporating strategies from Focus on Reading 3-6,
- teacher professional learning on benchmarking, the literacy continuum K-6 and curriculum differentiation and
- implementation of 'Booster Groups' in Year 4 and Year 6 whereby L.A.S.T. teachers identify and support students who can move to a higher band of achievement

School priority 2

Improve students' achievements in numeracy

Outcome for 2012–2014

Reduce the number of students in the lowest bands of achievement in numeracy and increase the number of students in the highest bands of achievement.

2013 Targets to achieve this outcome include:

- 92% of Year 3 students achieve at or above the national mean standard in numeracy,
- 94% of Year 5 students achieve at or above the national mean standard in numeracy,
- 20%+ of Year 3 students achieve in the top two bands in numeracy and
- 25%+ of Year 5 students achieve in the top two bands in numeracy

Strategies to achieve these targets include:

- K-6 teachers adopt best practice in the teaching of mathematics from National Partnership schools,
- teacher professional learning in the use of the new Australian Curriculum in mathematics,
- extend TENS number program into stage 2 classes and reinforce the automaticity of recall of number facts K-6 and
- teacher professional learning, coaching and lesson sharing on the introduction of concepts in problem-solving, thinking skills and inquiry learning

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.

David Pettitt	Principal
Ross Sinfield	Deputy Principal
Melissa Amey	P & C President
Kristen Barglik	Assistant Principal
Bilynda Robins	Staff Representative
Viloshini Govender	Staff Representative
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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:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/asr>