

YORK PUBLIC SCHOOL Annual School Report 2013



School context

Our enrolment at the end of 2013 was 566 students. This is an increase of 135 students since the end of the school year 2009. Our student ratio is exactly 50 % boys and girls.

As our school continues to grow so does the number of staff at the school, in 2013 we had members of staff filling both full-time and part-time positions. This included 26 classroom teachers, 7 specialist support teachers, 10 student learning support officers, 6 administrative and ground staff, a non-teaching Deputy Principal and Principal.

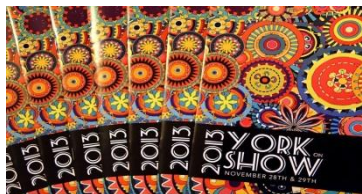
Principal's message

York Public School prides itself on its involvement with the local community. We have a very positive reputation within the local community as we provide a quality education for an increasing number of students.

2013 saw a change of leadership when Mr David Pettitt retired in July. I am very pleased to be able to welcome in 2014 our new principal Ms Kelly Paton. Ms Paton has been a principal at Regents Park Public School and Bronte Public School before taking up the position here at York Public School. For the last 12 months she has been based at regional office supporting the introduction of Learning Management Business Resource (LMBR).

At the end of 2012 we said goodbye to Mrs Parbery and Mrs Kilminster who both retired after many years of dedication to the education and welfare of children. We welcomed Mr Grady as our new Assistant Principal. Mrs Meaney was again seconded to the role of educational leader and Mrs Wood continued to fill her Assistant Principal's role. Upon Mr Pettitt's retirement, Mrs Barglik relieved in the deputy's role and Mrs Robins became the acting Assistant Principal for Stage 3.

This year saw the school hold a major fete (our first in many years) and a major series of 4 concerts (involving all students). All were an outstanding success and confirmed the involvement the school and the community share.



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 of development.

Ross Sinfield (relieving principal)

P & C message

2013 was a great year for the York Public School P & C Association.

We held a number of small fundraisers (cake days, school discos, and grandparents' day) throughout the year. Our major fundraiser was our school fete. As a result of these functions the P & C was able to supply 3 interactive whiteboards into rooms that previously did not have them. We are proud to be able to say that all classrooms now have electronic interactive whiteboards. We are also in the process of replacing older air conditioners in classrooms.



At the beginning of the year we supplied new school hats to each member of Kindergarten. Over \$1000 was also spent on providing the K-2 classes with hands on mathematical equipment.

I have enjoyed my second year as President of the P & C and I thank the wonderful executive committee for their hard work and support.

Melissa Amey P & C President

Student representative's message

We had a very busy 2013. As members of Year 6 we had the opportunity to experience many firsts.

Stage 3 had a great time at Narrabeen Sport and Recreation Camp and a majority of Year 6 were lucky enough to have a sleepover at the Western Plains Zoo. As a result of our zoo visit we raised over \$1200 to help the endangered white rhino. We received our own rhino sculpture to decorate and in 2014 it will come back to the school (after it travels around the state) to be kept and displayed here. Another piece of art work was added to Grand Dad's Garden. Our aboriginal students, other members of the student body and our Aboriginal artist friend, Chris Edwards, made over 20 friendship poles which now welcome visitors to the school.



Throughout the year we held a number of fundraisers. Pink day (for breast cancer nurses) saw everyone in pink. Our cricket teams played in pink clothes and with pink equipment. We raised well over \$1000 on that day for cancer research.

As school leaders we lead major gala days. These included Harmony Day, NAIDOC week, Grandparents Day. These were great days as the whole school and the local community got together. We had great fun performing.

At the beginning of the year, Year 6 got a buddy each. We become friends with the new kindergarten students. This was great fun. We played games, read to them, helped with maths and even ate with them.

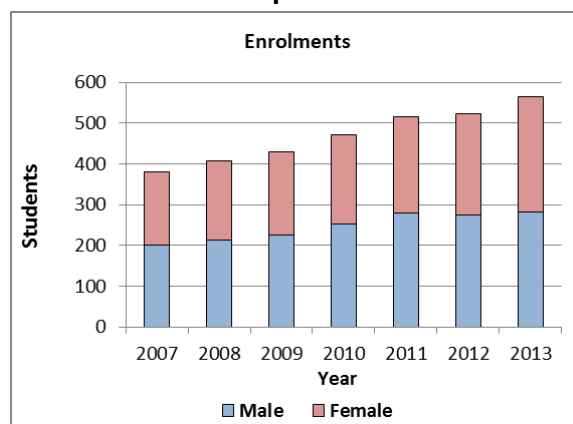
We are now leaving York and we will miss it greatly. We had a great education but just as importantly, we had a great time and made many, many friends.

Ruby Turner & Ben Stewart. Captains 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



Class sizes

Roll class	Year	Total in class	Total per year
KP	K	20	20
KR	K	17	17
KS	K	20	20
KW	K	17	17
K/1L	K	10	
	1	12	22
1I	1	20	20
1RJ	1	20	20
1S	1	20	20
1/2Z	1	8	
	2	16	24
2D	2	26	26
2G	2	26	26
2N	2	26	26
3G	3	28	28
3L	3	28	28
3/4K	3	20	
	4	8	28
4R	4	28	28
4ZF	4	27	27
4/5W	4	10	
	5	18	28
5H	5	31	31
5/6K	5	16	
	6	15	31
6B	6	30	30
6R	6	30	30

Student attendance profile

	Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
School	K	95.4	96.1	96.2	94.0	97.1
	1	94.3	92.7	95.6	94.7	95.8
	2	94.6	93.7	94.4	92.8	95.3
	3	95.3	93.5	94.8	94.6	94.4
	4	94.8	93.5	94.2	93.3	96.7
	5	93.6	94.2	94.1	93.9	93.1
	6	95.2	92.2	93.9	94.2	97.2
	Total	94.8	93.8	94.8	94.0	95.7

Management of non-attendance

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

Workforce information

Workforce composition

Position	Number
Principal	1
Deputy Principal(s)	1
Assistant Principal(s)	4
Head Teachers	0
Classroom Teacher(s)	22
Teacher of Reading Recovery	1
Learning and Support Teacher(s)	1
Teacher Librarian	1
Teacher of ESL	0
School Counsellor	1
School Administrative & Support Staff	6
Total	34

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

In 2013 there was one member of the school staff with an identified indigenous background.

Teacher qualifications

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

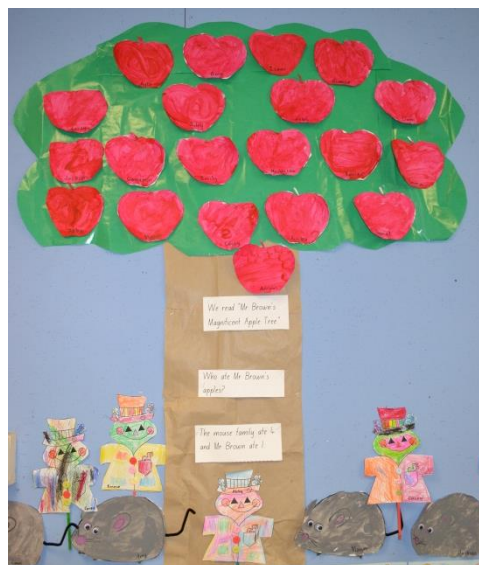
Qualifications	% of staff
Degree or Diploma	100%
Postgraduate	85%

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	30/11/2013
Income	\$
Balance brought forward	208845.72
Global funds	292669.98
Tied funds	329464.29
School & community sources	113764.21
Interest	7775.08
Trust receipts	38890.17
Canteen	0.00
Total income	991409.45
Expenditure	
Teaching & learning	
Key learning areas	32582.64
Excursions	44843.11
Extracurricular dissections	45013.56
Library	9250.96
Training & development	7201.32
Tied funds	299984.42
Casual relief teachers	114058.97
Administration & office	88264.41
School-operated canteen	0.00
Utilities	70807.63
Maintenance	40767.07
Trust accounts	37736.03
Capital programs	0.00
Total expenditure	790510.12
Balance carried forward	200899.33

A full copy of the school's 2013 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.



NAPLAN

In the National Assessment Program, the results across the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 literacy and numeracy assessments are reported on a scale from Band 1 to Band 10.

The achievement scale represents increasing levels of skills and understandings demonstrated in these assessments.

Year 3: from Band 1 (lowest) to Band 6 (highest for Year 3)

Year 5: from Band 3 (lowest) to Band 8 (highest for Year 5)

The *My School* website provides detailed information and data for national literacy and numeracy testing (NAPLAN).

Click on the link <http://www.myschool.edu.au> and enter the school name in the *Find a school* and select *GO* to access the school data.

NAPLAN Year 3 - Literacy

Year 3 NAPLAN Reading

Year 2013 Data Reading						
Average score, 2013	School		SSG		State DEC	
	391.5		389.6		418.7	
Skill Band Distribution						
Band	1	2	3	4	5	6
Number in Bands	8	10	16	15	15	13
Percentage in Bands	10.4	13.0	20.8	19.5	19.5	16.9
School Average 2009-2013	5.7	11.6	23.9	26.3	18.2	14.3
SSG % in Bands 2013	4.8	16.6	22.1	28.3	14.9	13.3
State DEC % in Bands 2013	3.5	11.2	17.3	24.3	17.7	26.0

Year 3 NAPLAN Writing

Year 2011-2013						
Average score, 2013	School		SSG		State DEC	
	404.3		400.0		416.0	
Skill Band Distribution						
Band	1	2	3	4	5	6
Number in Bands	5	5	8	23	20	13
Percentage in Bands	6.8	6.8	10.8	31.1	27.0	17.6
School Average 2011-2013	4.4	3.9	14.5	28.5	34.8	14.0
SSG % in Bands 2013	3.2	9.5	21.4	25.9	30.4	9.6
State DEC % in Bands 2013	2.6	6.7	16.9	23.6	34.9	15.3

Year 3 NAPLAN Spelling

Year 2013 - 2014 Opening						
Average score, 2013	School		SSG		State DEC	
	387.1		398.6		418.1	
Skill Band Distribution						
Band	1	2	3	4	5	6
Number in Bands	9	10	14	17	12	13
Percentage in Bands	12.0	13.3	18.7	22.7	16.0	17.3
School Average 2009-2013	6.3	9.3	19.8	26.7	24.9	12.9
SSG % in Bands 2013	6.9	9.9	21.2	25.0	21.3	15.7
State DEC % in Bands 2013	5.4	6.4	18.4	22.7	23.3	23.9

Year 3 NAPLAN Grammar and Punctuation

Year 5 STAR LAR Grammar and Punctuation						
Average score, 2013	School	SSG			State DEC	
	412.5		402.6		430.3	
Skill Band Distribution						
Band	1	2	3	4	5	6
Number in Bands	2	15	11	10	22	15
Percentage in Bands	2.7	20.0	14.7	13.3	29.3	20.0
School Average 2009-2013	3.6	11.7	17.4	25.8	24.6	16.8
SSG % in Bands 2013	6.0	11.8	20.4	23.4	20.9	17.6
State DEC % in Bands 2013	3.9	8.6	15.3	20.8	22.8	28.5

York has improved its results by 23 points in Reading, 6 points in Spelling, 27 points in Grammar and 6 points in Writing when compared with statistically similar groups (SSG) of schools in 2012.

79% of our Year 3 is in the top 3 bands for writing

NAPLAN Year 3 - Numeracy

Year 3 NAPLAN Numeracy

Year 5 State Literacy Numeracy						
	School		SSG		State DEC	
Average score, 2013	383.5		373.0		399.7	
Skill Band Distribution						
Band	1	2	3	4	5	6
Number in Bands	4	6	17	31	13	4
Percentage in Bands	5.3	8.0	22.7	41.3	17.3	5.3
School Average 2009-2013	5.1	17.8	23.2	34.0	13.3	6.6
SSG % in Bands 2013	4.8	16.6	27.8	28.6	16.3	5.8
State DEC % in Bands 2013	3.5	9.7	22.7	27.8	23.0	13.3

This is a gain of 24 points when compared to SSG in 2012

64% of our students are in the top 3 bands.

NAPLAN Year 5 - Literacy

Year 5 NAPLAN Reading

Year 5 STAR Exit Reading						
Average score, 2013	School		SSG		State DEC	
	481.6		478.8		500.6	
Skill Band Distribution						
Band	3	4	5	6	7	8
Number in Bands	0	10	20	22	9	3
Percentage in Bands	0.0	15.6	31.3	34.4	14.1	4.7
School Average 2009-2013	8.2	17.3	32.7	22.3	12.9	6.6
SSG % in Bands 2013	2.9	15.6	32.8	27.1	16.0	5.7
State DEC % in Bands 2013	2.2	11.2	24.3	28.2	20.3	13.8

Year 5 NAPLAN Writing

Year 5 NAEP Writing						
	School		SSG		State DEC	
Average score, 2013	462.9		461.6		476.6	
Skill Band Distribution						
Band	3	4	5	6	7	8
Number in Bands	4	4	27	23	6	1
Percentage in Bands	6.2	6.2	41.5	35.4	9.2	1.5
School Average 2011-2013	3.0	5.5	35.7	36.2	14.6	5.0
SSG % in Bands 2013	9.3	14.1	37.4	26.5	9.5	3.2
State DEC % in Bands 2013	8.0	10.3	33.4	28.0	13.6	6.7

Year 5 NAPLAN Spelling

	School	SSG	State DEC			
Average score, 2013	484.0	480.2	499.7			
Skill Band Distribution						
Band	3	4	5	6	7	8
Number in Bands	5	5	16	22	16	1
Percentage in Bands	7.7	7.7	24.6	33.8	24.6	1.5
School Average 2009-2013	6.6	11.9	25.1	30.7	21.9	3.8
SSG % in Bands 2013	9.3	13.0	26.0	24.8	19.5	7.4
State DEC % in Bands 2013	6.9	9.2	21.7	26.2	23.1	12.9

Year 5 NAPLAN Grammar and Punctuation

Year 5 Math Exam Grammar and Punctuation						
Average score, 2013	School		SSG		State DEC	
	482.3		477.5		501.3	
Skill Band Distribution						
Band	3	4	5	6	7	8
Number in Bands	3	5	24	18	12	3
Percentage in Bands	4.6	7.7	36.9	27.7	18.5	4.6
School Average 2009-2013	10.3	13.8	24.8	27.6	17.9	5.6
SSG % in Bands 2013	8.3	14.9	29.5	20.5	17.8	9.0
State DEC % in Bands 2013	5.8	10.9	23.0	21.4	21.4	17.4

NAPLAN Year 5 – Numeracy

Year 5 NAPLAN Numeracy

	School	SSG	State DEC			
Average score, 2013	470.2	459.1	490.1			
Skill Band Distribution						
Band	3	4	5	6	7	8
Number in Bands	3	8	29	16	6	2
Percentage in Bands	4.7	12.5	45.3	25.0	9.4	3.1
School Average 2009-2013	7.6	18.2	35.5	25.8	8.5	4.4
SSG % in Bands 2013	10.1	24.1	30.0	21.8	8.8	5.1
State DEC % in Bands 2013	6.3	17.0	25.9	24.8	11.8	14.2

Again gains of between 2 and 11 points in the above areas when compared to statistically similar groups (SSG) of schools in 2012.

School performance 2013

Achievements

Arts

2013 saw many highlights in the area of performing art:

- Performances at the Blue Mountains Dance Festival,
- Performances at the Penrith Valley Performing Arts Festival by our choir and ukulele group,
- Formation of school ukulele group,
- Formation of the school drumming group,
- The growth in members of the school concert band.
- Production of a whole school concert held over 4 performances.
- Establishment of Aboriginal friendship garden to welcome visitors to York.
- Our debating team took part in 2 competitions and attended the Sydney West Debating Camp.



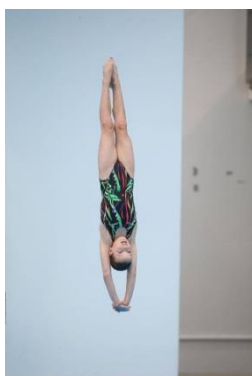
Sport

Highlights include

- Increased number of students involved in interschool sport
- Senior rugby league team premiers in the Penrith District Schools' competition,
- Senior league team winners of the Penrith Greg Alexander Shield,



- Senior blast cricket team premiers in the Penrith District competition,
- Junior girls t-ball were minor premiers,
- 60 students participated in the Learn to Swim program.
- 50 primary students competed in the Milo Blast cricket tournament.
- Western Sydney representation for Riley Wiffen in Rugby Union and Rugby League.
- Western Sydney representation for Brock Friedrichs and Luke Jennings for 11 year old Rugby League.
- Regional representation for Hayden Brown in state for cross country.
- Jade Sweeney won gold at the Australian National Championships for diving and was NSW champion in primary diving.
- Twelve primary students participated in the Premier's Sport Leadership program.
- Whole school participation in the Premier's sporting Challenge.



Academic achievements

Significant programs and initiatives

Aboriginal education

Garden and art NAIDOC celebration

Eleven percent of our students have an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background. In 2013 the school continued to implement the strategy of personalized learning programs (PLP's) for these students. These plans involve the students and their parents in planning, setting goals 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.



Their learning was not only supported by individual 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 Jamison High School.
- Classroom units of work and the integration of Aboriginal studies across the curriculum.
- School celebration of NAIDOC week, Harmony Week and
- The establishment, with Aboriginal artist, Mr Chris Edwards, of an Aboriginal friendship garden at the entrance to the school.

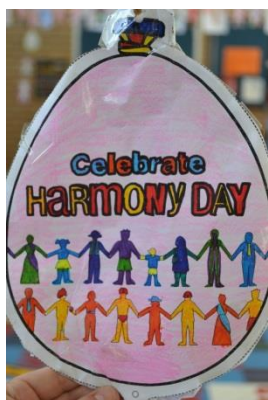
Multicultural education

Our school has students from 47 different national backgrounds.

Cultural diversity is celebrated at York Public School through curriculum study of other nations, cultures and religions in Human Society and its Environment, Creative Arts, Literacy and Personal Development.

The student welfare policy and the position of Anti-Racism Contact officer (ARCO) has also ensured an inclusive school community that is committed to racism-free learning.

Our school observed Harmony Day to celebrate our differences and what unites us as Australians. Our special needs students also attended a number of days promoting special needs physical education.



Other programs

York Public School Chess Team

The school has maintained a high interest in chess. York Public participated in school-based competitions as well as tournaments across the Sydney metropolitan area.

In-school training and competitions saw over 40 students and teachers participating on a weekly basis.

York Public School Debating Team

The school debating team is now in its third year and is one of our premier programs involving Year 5 and Year 6 students.

The school team enters in both local and regional based competitions.

Part of their program includes participation in the regional debating camp and district study days.

Grand Dads Garden

As part of our commitment to the welfare and safety of our students we created a safe haven garden adjacent to our main school gate.

This garden gives our students a quiet place to sit and think. At lunch times we have a number of students who take advantage of the garden as a quiet sanctuary.

A number of classes use the garden for quiet reading and outdoor art sessions.

It is a popular meeting place in the afternoons for our parents when waiting for their children.

Students working with a local Aboriginal artist, Mr Chris Edwards, saw 24 friendship poles constructed and placed at the start of the garden to welcome visitors to our school.



National partnerships and significant Commonwealth initiatives

In 2013 York Public Schools was fortunate to receive funds to improve students' literacy skills through the Improving Literacy and Numeracy National Partnership.

The focus area was identified, based on NAPLAN and PLAN data, as comprehension. K-2 teachers participated in professional learning based on Reading Comprehension K to 2. The primary teachers participate in Focus on Reading program.

Educational research has shown that teacher professional development is the major contributing factor to the improvement of student outcomes.

At York Public School we are committed to ongoing professional development. In 2013 the focus was on the new NSW Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum and comprehension.

All teachers' skills in these areas were strengthened and a structured approach towards the teaching reading comprehension was developed.

During 2014 these skills will further be enhanced through K-2 teachers engaging in phrase 1 of Focus on Reading and 3-6 teachers engaging in Focus on Reading phrase 2. By each teacher using a uniform approach to the teaching of reading we expect to see an improvement in moving students forward in literacy.



School planning and evaluation 2012—2014

In past year has seen the continuation of work on the school's strategic plan. This plan, along with regular progress evaluations and strategic reviews, has contributed to the following attainments in 2013:

School planning 2012—2014: progress in 2013

School priority 1

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

Outcomes from 2012—2014

- Teacher training in Reading Comprehension K-2 and Focus on Reading 3-6.
- Use of external assessment data and learning continuums in class programs
- Improved performance in reading and comprehension.

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2013:

- 36.4% of Year 3 students performed at Band 5 or 6 in Reading compared to 25.7% in 2012.
- 49.3% of Year 3 students performed in Band 5 or 6 in Grammar and Punctuation compared to 32% in 2012.
- 100% of Year 5 students at or above national mean standard in reading.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014

- Continued professional development of all teaching staff in reading and literacy
- Further introduction of across the school benchmarking up to Year 6.
- Consistent plotting of students on the Literacy Continuum.



School priority 2

The improvement of all students' achievements in numeracy.

Outcomes from 2012–2014

- Improved performance of students K-6 in number
- Increase the range of resources to support quality teaching.
- To have 95% of students achieve at or above the national mean standard in numeracy

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2013:

- 94.7% of Year 3 students at or above national mean standard.
- 95.3% of Year 5 students at or above national mean standard.
- Critical analysis of NAPLAN results and school based assessments to improve teaching strategies.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:

- Continued professional learning in mathematics.
- Targeted Early Numeracy Strategies (TENS) in infants classes.
- Structured support in numeracy for students across the school.
- Implementing a mental mathematics explicit teaching program to help build stronger foundations in number work.

Professional learning

Professional learning is recognized at York Public School as a major contributing factor in the improvement of learning outcomes for students.

All of our teaching staff was involved in professional development during 2013.

Our main emphasis was on the new NSW Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum and comprehension.

Staff has continued to organize, present, as well as participate in teacher professional learning sessions on a regular basis throughout the year. These sessions include mandatory compliance training, Positive Behaviour for Learning, 'KidsMatter', Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation and welfare.

Staff also attended sessions on XO computers and use of technology in the classroom involving interactive whiteboards.

York staff also participated in the Live Life Well program resulting in the establishment of class vegetable gardens.



Parent/caregiver, student, and teacher satisfaction

In 2013, the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school.

York Public takes great pride with its involvement in the local community. Healthy communication between parents and community, students and staff is encouraged. The development of the school web site has proved very popular.

This year York introduced its own Facebook page. This page has proved to be extremely popular as it ensures quick access to all parents and the local community.

As part of the professional learning program, 'KidsMatter', the parents at York were surveyed on how they felt about the school and their child's safety.

Overall parents feel that their child is welcomed into York as it is a safe and educational environment. They appreciated the care and interest taken in the education of their child by the staff.

Over 92% of those taking part in the survey indicated that:

- They and their children are made welcome in the school
- The school has a safe and attractive environment.
- The school has a positive and consistent approach to safe behavior expectations.



Program evaluations

Background

York Public School became involved with the Federal Government program titled 'KidsMatter' during 2013. This program is a whole school approach to children's mental health and wellbeing for primary schools. This program works together with our welfare policy and Positive Behaviour for Learning Program (PBL)

Findings and conclusions

Initial training in the program was given to York's Deputy Principal and the LST. They then conducted further staff meetings with the remainder of the teaching staff and parent body.

The program has 4 main components to be covered over 2 years. During 2013 York completed and initiated concepts from the first two components.

Implications from this program:

- Increased awareness from staff on children's mental health issues.
- Confidence in handling mental issues at school.
- Increased positive signage around school.
- Creating of a safe haven garden for the students.
- Review of student welfare policy.

Future directions

- Continuation with implementation of components 3 and 4.
- Continued development of safe haven garden.
- Provide updates to parents the school's social and emotional curriculum.
- Continue identification of students experiencing mental health difficulties.
- Develop stronger ties with parents and carers, especially those with students needing assistance.

About this report

In preparing this report, the self-evaluation committee has gathered information from evaluations conducted during the year and analyzed 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.

Ross Sinfield - Relieving Principal

Kristen Barglik - Relieving Deputy Principal

Bilynda Robins - Relieving Assistant Principal

Melissa Amey - P & C President

Ruby Turner - Student Representative

Ben Stewart - Student Representative

School contact information

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School Code: 4482

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:

<https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/high-performance/annual-school-reports>