Cattai Public School
Annual School Report
2011

Celebrating 125 Years of Quality Education
1886-2011

School Code: 5153
Our school at a glance

Cattai Public School is a semi-rural public school which caters for students from Kindergarten to Year 6. In 2011 the school had a total of 61 students. All students are involved in English and Mathematics sessions daily, along with several fitness Active School Sports sessions per week, weekly music programs and scripture. Our students are also taught components of the Human Society and Its Environment and Science and Technology program, along with Health and Personal Development. All students have daily access to Interactive Whiteboards and Connected Classroom programs. In 2011 the stage 2 and 3 students participated in several debates utilising the connected classroom with the Windsor Learning Community; and also participated in Connected Classroom lessons in English, Maths and Science. Our students also participated in a very successful Hawkesbury Dance Festival and produced an excellent whole school play on the Wizard of Oz at Windsor High School.

Staff

Cattai Public School has 3 permanent teaching staff including the Principal. In addition the school has 1 part-time teacher, 1 school administrative manager, 1 office assistant and 1 grounds assistant. The school and community contribute funds to include a music teacher for weekly lessons and choir. All teaching staff meet the professional requirements for teaching in NSW public schools.

Significant programs and initiatives

A number of programs have been refined and developed to ensure we are addressing the individual needs of our students and continuing to challenge our students to achieve their personal best. Some key programs were:

- Reading Recovery
- Peer Reading
- Kindergarten Transition Program
- Student Representative Council
- Debating and Public Speaking (State and District; and Rotary Public Speaking)
- Interactive Classroom Technologies (ICT) including connected classrooms
- Active After Schools Sports & Gala Days (sport)
- Music Tuition and Choir
- Biannual Drama performances
- Whole School Excursions and Senior Camp
- Well resourced computer room

Messages

Principal’s message

2011 was a year of celebration as Cattai celebrated 125 years of education in the Hawkesbury Area. A successful day was conducted in April with former staff, students and families visiting Cattai for a day of festivities. Our school community and former friends did a wonderful job in organising events for the day such as bands, stalls, horse and cart rides, memorabilia and a wonderful book.

As we are in the final year of our school plan many areas have been accomplished. Academically the students participated in the National Assessments with outstanding success. The academic growth for students in year 5 was again exceptional and we as a school topped the district in several areas - not bad for a small school!! This is a reflection on the perseverance, dedication and hard work by the students and staff. Particular attention needs to go to reading and numeracy whereby both year 3 and 5 students achieved remarkably high results.

Our students are meeting national benchmarks and in some areas going comfortably beyond these. This year we had the expertise of a reading recovery teacher (Mrs Jo Evans) who worked with year 1 student. The results and confidence given to these students was extremely beneficial. In 2012 Miss Mellefont will be trained in reading recovery for 2 years with Mrs Evans sharing the class.

It has been a rewarding and fun-filled year. Our students participated in many extracurricular activities in including Longneck Lagoon sessions, Life Education, Rock Climbing (in-school), Zoo Excursion, Three day Small Schools’ Camp to Great Aussie Bush Camp, Oz Tag gala days, Milo Cup Cricket, Premier’s Debating competitions, Hawkesbury Public Speaking and Rotary Public Speaking events. Special mention goes to the staff (particularly Mrs Walker), students and parents for their wonderful work and execution of the school musical The Wizard of OZ. The effort and time put in by everyone was immense and it paid off again with a fantastic performance by the students at Windsor HS. Many rehearsals and planning went into the event and it particularly showcased the wonderful talents of the students and staff. Our parents and surrounding community friends certainly enjoyed the evening and the success. We received wonderful support from the staff and students of Windsor HS (Mrs Cam and Mr Bonaccorso).
Physically, the school planned and implemented some projects this year to beautify the school. The new native garden and garden seats were a welcome addition to the school and we thank the kind donation of bush rock by Mr Luke Smith. We also saw the finalisation of the SRC garden bed, ‘Sparky’ the Scarecrow, fencing and vegetable plants (tomatoes, silverbeet, potatoes). The office also purchased much needed flyscreens. The school also purchased a beautiful mural to commemorate the 125th Celebrations of the school.

I thank the school P&C for their valuable contributions made to the school. It never ceases to amaze me what a terrific community we have here in the Hawkesbury (Cattai). This year the P&C contributed to our sensational 125th Quasquicentennial celebrations - try saying that quickly! The parents organised events, stalls, food and entertainment for the day - and a huge amount of time and effort went into this one, as you will note by the P & C message below. The P & C also contributed to our new PA system, Movie Day for the students, Presentation Night medals / awards, Music Program (paying half of the costs) school resources and shade shelter for events. We have asked the P & C to organise a new shed for the school next year and hope it can be built behind the weather shed.

The contributions are made by all families and the P & C committee itself is made up of tireless hard working people who make invaluable contributions to the school. I also note the weekly / monthly contributions made in areas such as classroom assistance, cake days, assembly lunches, uniforms, book clubs, carnivals, election barbecues and 125th Anniversary raffles, Mother’s and Father’s Day and many more.

I acknowledge these special students for their outstanding results academically and for sport and arts. Tamara Dimech - a finalist for the Richmond Rotary Public Speaking competition. This young lady has built upon her confidence over the years and is becoming a strong and confident public speaker. Emily May – finalist in the Small Schools public speaking competition. Emily has shown great improvement in this area and takes her role very seriously. Jayden Davies – an outstanding result in the Sydney West Cross Country whereby he just missed a place on the team for the State Championships. Jayden has terrific determination and effort. Our students participated in the respective small school and district carnivals very admirably. Special mention goes to Riley and Jayden Davies, Ameysha and Jearnah Olivares and Aisha Tayeh for their efforts at the District events. These students performed very well at this event and narrowly missed selections.

As this is my final year at Cattai Public School I am saddened to leave but also proud of the achievements of the school and particularly the students. The school has a terrific name in the area and I believe it has a lot to do with the expectations, partnerships between home and school and the emphasis placed on education between the wonderful parents and staff. This makes the job of the teachers somewhat easier when parents work alongside the school. The community is the cornerstone of the school. The students and parents contribute in many positive ways and make the school a great place to work in.

I thank the entire teaching and ancillary staff for their tremendous work, to ensure the students receive the best possible learning experiences, resources and support. I know this will always continue on that little school high upon the hill.

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.

Todd Miladinovic

P & C message

Another year has passed and what a great year it has been for the P & C with our school celebrating a milestone Birthday turning 125 years old this year. We had a huge celebration starting with an assembly and speeches from our Principal Todd Miladinovic, staff members, school captains this year and past, principals/staff members and students including Cattai’s oldest student Gordon Johnston (who sadly passed away during this year). After the official welcoming, we continued celebrations with stalls selling hot food/drinks, merchandise, raffles (Quilt and Holiday raffle to the Gold Coast SeaWorld Nara Resort), silent auction, art displays, old time memorabilia, games from the past including hop scotch and lots more. The day then continued into evening with our Cattai Day on the Green (which we have held last year and was a great fundraiser for our school) with some local bands playing, even some of our parents volunteered with their bands such as The Golden Fang, 2 Girls Will, & Mustard Seeds, we also had Jack Perry and Sam Newton playing. It was a great day by all and so much work went into this day. So a very Big Thank
You to all who helped out or donated to make this day so great, it is much appreciated. We raised around $5,000.00 after expenses were taken out and another $3,000 for the holiday -what a great effort by all.

Other events the P & C have been involved in this year are:

*Fun Run, Small Schools Athletics Carnival Canteen, Hot Lunches, Book Club, Uniforms, Canteen for Wizard of Oz Musical, and Ice block day.*

The culmination of all these events have contributed to an overall fundraising effort of just over $21,000.00 less the costing of fundraising, which leaves us with just over $10,000.00 profit for the year which, given the size of the school is truly remarkable!

As a result we have been able to continue our extended Music program with Mrs Walker which the children all thoroughly enjoy, so thank you to everyone for their support and I hope next year we can continue our great work. We contributed with the school for half of the PA system, New BBQ (For P & C), Movie Day (Richmond Picture Theatre), Kindergarten Water Equipment, Storage Containers & Awards and Medals for the Presentation Night.

I would like to thank all of the P & C Committee for their fantastic work they have done this year. Without their help it would make my job harder, so thank you to: Kim Clark (Treasurer) Mark Mitchell & Natalie O’Keeffe (Vice President), Aileen Bridgman (Secretary), Justine Thompson (Book Club), Tarin McIntyre (Publicity Officer), Rebecca Lehrer (Hot Lunch Co-ordinator), Kate Boland (Uniforms) and Kim Smith (Correspondence Secretary).

Sadly another family is leaving us for High School. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Taylor Family (Steve, Leslie, Shey and Renee) for all their hard work and support to the P & C. They will be sadly missed, but we wish them all the best.

Finally on behalf of the P & C, I would like to thank the teachers for all the hard work they have done this year and the help they have given to the P & C.

Nicole May- President

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**Student representatives’ message**

We have both been extremely proud to be captains of such a wonderful school. We have enjoyed our 7 years here at Cattai with many, many happy and some sad memories of this great little school high upon the hill. We thank our wonderful teachers over the years and the terrific teaching they provided- we also thank our peers in year 6 for being great friends over the years. What is unique about Cattai is that we have the same opportunities as that of other students in larger school but we know everyone so well here and are friends with them all.

We wish everyone the best for the New Year and hope 2012 is great for everyone- thank you Cattai for a great education!!

Tamara and Jearnah

**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**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
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<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
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<td>Female</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>26</td>
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**Enrolments**

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<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
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<td>24</td>
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<td>25</td>
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Student attendance profile

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<tr>
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<th>Total in class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>14</td>
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Class sizes

Primary class sizes are included in the annual school report in order to provide parents with as much local information as possible. The following table shows our class sizes as reported at the 2011 Class Size Audit conducted on Monday 21 March 2011.

Structure of classes

Class Sizes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roll Class</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total per year</th>
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<tr>
<td>K</td>
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<td>14</td>
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<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5/6</td>
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<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5/6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/5/6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>25</td>
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Staff information

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

Staff establishment

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<th>Position</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<td>Principal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classroom Teachers</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Librarian</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Counsellor</td>
<td>9 days</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Administrative &amp; Support Staff</td>
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Staff retention

At the conclusion of 2011 the Principal Mr. Todd Miladinovic was successful in gaining a promotion to Lethbridge Park Public School. Cattai Public School welcomes Mrs Grace Palamara for term 1 2012. There were no other staff changes. Mrs Jo Evans will share a class with Miss Mellefont who is being trained in the Reading Recovery program.

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>
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<tr>
<td>Degree or Diploma</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td>33%</td>
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Financial summary

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date of financial summary:</th>
<th>30/11/2011</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>67730.71</td>
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<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
<td>18496.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>2372.43</td>
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<td>Trust receipts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total income</td>
<td>204600.26</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching &amp; learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Key learning areas</td>
<td>9633.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Excursions</td>
<td>9320.75</td>
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<td>Extracurricular dissections</td>
<td>5966.48</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training &amp; development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
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<td>Casual relief teachers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; office</td>
<td>15684.70</td>
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<tr>
<td>School-operated canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>8802.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>5841.35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trust accounts</td>
<td>1757.26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital programs</td>
<td>16433.76</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total expenditure</td>
<td>97677.03</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance carried forward</td>
<td>106923.23</td>
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A full copy of the school's 2011 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 2011**

**Achievements**

**Arts**
- The Cattai school dance group participated in the Hawkesbury Dance Festival. After a number of rehearsals, the dance group performed at Windsor Function Centre. The night was a terrific success, with the students showcasing their wonderful dance talents with Miss Mellefont coordinating the routines.
- Weekly music lessons were held throughout the year with our specialist teacher Mrs Walker. All students entered artwork in the Hawkesbury Show. Several students received commendation certificates.
- The students attended a school disco in Term 2. All enjoyed the games, dancing and dinner throughout the evening.
- In Education Week, our dance group performed at Riverview Shopping Centre.
- Years K-3 went on an excursion to the Zoo at Taronga Park. Years 4-6 went on their annual camp away to The Aussie Bush Camp at Tea Gardens. This was an exceptional camp, with many challenging and enjoyable activities including canoeing, flying fox, obstacle course, fencing, high ropes and more. The students had a great time and thoroughly enjoyed the week with several other schools (Colo Heights, Castlereagh, Vineyard, Marsden park, Wisemans Ferry and Maroota)
- All students participated in a dance program with a specialist teacher for six weeks.

**Sport**
- Misty, William and Jearnah performed well in the Hawkesbury District Swimming Carnival.
- Most of the girls from years 5/6 participated in an Oz Tag League day at Panthers.
- Cattai Public School participated in the AASC program. The school offered two activities each term for the children as well as fresh fruit. The activities offered this year included: Rugby League and Ball Games (Term 1), Athletics and Dance (Term 2), Circus Skills and Netball (Term 3) and Gymnastics and Tennis (Term 4).
- The students participated in the School Fun Run, which is also a fund-raising activity for the school.
- Jearnah gained selection in the Hawkesbury District Football team.
- The following students had great success at the Hawkesbury District Cross Country: Ameysha (5th), Jearnah (13th), Riley (4th) and Jayden (3rd). Ameysha, Jayden and Riley went on to represent the Hawkesbury District in the Regional Cross Country where Jayden finished (8th), Ameysha (19th) and Riley (22nd).
- The students enjoyed the opportunity to participate in rock climbing at the school.
- The students participated in the in2cricket program offered by Cricket NSW.
- In August, staff and parents from Cattai Public School held the Small Schools Field Events at McMahons Park, Kurrajong.
- In August, the following students from Cattai Public School participated in the Hawkesbury District PSSA Athletics Carnival: Ameysha (800m & Long Jump), Jayden Davies (800m), Jearnah (800m, 200m, 100m and High Jump) and Aisha (100m).
- In September most boys from Year 5 attended the Hawkesbury Cup Rugby League Day.
- Students from Years K-5 completed a two week swimming program run by Lee Delaney. The program catered for students with a wide range of skills, from beginners through to more advanced for stroke correction.
- In November most boys from Year 4 & 5 attended the Milo Cup.
- In December the school participated in a tennis gala day at Richmond Tennis Courts.

**Other**
- All Year 6 students participated in Leadership Camp at Kurrajong.
- Four Year 5 students attended an Enrichment Day at Longneck Lagoon.
- Several students participated in various Gifted and Talented programs.
- Tamara (Stage 3), Ameysha (Stage 2) and Matiese (Stage 1) won Cattai’s in-school Public Speaking Competition.
- Students from Years 5&6 participated in the Sydney West Debating Competition.
- Tamara reached the final of the Rotary Public Speaking Competition.
- Tamara, Emily, Daisy and Ameysha participated in the Hawkesbury District Public Speaking Competition. Tamara gained 2nd place and Ameysha gained 3rd place.
- K-3 went on an excursion to Taronga Park Zoo.
• Cattai held its BER library opening ceremony with special guests attending.
• Years 4/5/6 went on a three day combined Small Schools excursion to the Great Aussie Bush Camp at Tea Gardens.
• Cattai School celebrated a very successful 125th Anniversary at the school. This was well supported by the community and past and present families.
• Cattai School won 3rd prize in the Annual Hawkesbury Garden Competition in the “Best New Garden” category.
• The school held ANZAC and Remembrance Day services.
• Most students participated in the “Healthy Harold” program run by Life Education.
• Year 5&6 students attended Windsor High School Enrichment Day.
• 53 students successfully completed the Premier’s Reading Challenge.
• Students participated in the “Mathletics” program.
• K-3 students participated in the “Reading Eggs” Computer Program.
• Years 5&6 held a very successful mini-fair.

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 these 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

Analysis of Year 3 data shows that Cattai PS students overall continue to perform well in literacy in comparison with students across the state and region. Key aspects for Year 3 literacy are set out below.

- Overall in reading 25% of students reached the top two bands.
- Students in the top three bands were 69% of the group cohort.
- Overall in grammar and punctuation 53% of students reached the top three bands.

Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 3

Analysis of Year 3 data shows that Cattai PS students overall continue to perform well in Numeracy in comparison with students across the state and region. Key aspects for Year 3 numeracy are set out below.

- Overall in numeracy students in this cohort represented 50% in the top two bands compared to 38% of the state.
- In number, patterns and algebra 66% of students were in the top two bands
- In data, measurement, space and geometry there was 33% of the group cohort in the top two bands.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Band</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percentage in Band</td>
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<td>20.0</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>40.0</td>
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<td>Percentage in Band</td>
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<td>37.8</td>
<td>29.7</td>
<td>21.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSG % in Band 2011</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>28.2</td>
<td>24.9</td>
<td>22.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State DEC % in Band 2011</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>25.7</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>16.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Literacy – NAPLAN Year 5

Analysis of Year 5 data shows that Cattai PS students overall continue to perform very well in literacy in comparison with students across the state.

Key aspects for Year 5 literacy are set out below.

- Overall 80% of students were in the top band for reading compared with 17% for the state.
- 100% of students were in the top two bands for spelling compared to 36% of students in the state.
- In grammar and punctuation 60% of students were in the top band compared to 17% of the state.
- In writing 80% of the students were in the top three bands whereas the state percentage was 65%.
Numeracy NAPLAN Year 5
Analysis of Year 5 data shows that Cattai PS students overall continue to perform very well in Numeracy in comparison with students across the state.

Key aspects for Year 5 Numeracy are set out below.

- Overall in numeracy, 66% of students were in the top two bands.
- Overall in number, patterns and algebra 67% of the students were in the top two bands.
- In data, measurement, space and geometry 100% of the students were in the top three bands with NO student in the lower portion of bands.

Significant programs and initiatives

Aboriginal education

Our school continues to provide programs designed to educate all students about aboriginal history, culture and contemporary aboriginal Australia. Human Society and its Environment units were implemented K-6 with an aboriginal perspective studying the beliefs, traditions, customs and culture of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders. Awareness of aboriginal artworks and music within the local and surrounding areas was developed during creative and practical art lessons.

Multicultural education

The school has maintained a focus on multicultural education in all areas of the curriculum by providing programs, which develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes required for a culturally diverse society. Implementation of connected outcome groups (COGS) units K-6 with a multicultural perspective developed students’ knowledge and understanding of the beliefs, traditions and customs of other cultures.

Respect and responsibility

Students are taught respect and responsibility through specific programs such as student welfare and student leadership programs and through the care, respect, dedication and behaviour of staff. Some of the features of these programs are listed below.

Each class in Years 1 to 6 also has yearly SRC members. The Student Representative Council (SRC) met regularly and extended its classroom and playground recycling this year. They also saw the continuation of work on the vegetable garden along with organising some mufti days for charity. Students made pastry puffs with silverbeet and cheese for the school and staff using this produce.

Connected learning

The technology component at Cattai has not changed dramatically in 2011. Three new computers were the only new items added. The 4/5/6 class participated in a number of video conferences with schools in the area and also with Lachlan Macquarie College. Our teachers completed many afternoon training sessions focusing on accessing the Internet, Smartboards, notebook software and lesson planning websites. The school purchased a site licence for Reading Eggs for the children from class K-2

Progress on 2011 targets

Target 1
To have 95% of all students achieving national benchmarks in Reading and Writing. Our achievements include:

- Year 3 & 5 National Assessment results 2011 indicate all students are at National minimum standard and some considerably above.
- Successful results in talking and listening programs at district and regional level in Premier’s Debating, Richmond Rotary Finalist (Tamara) and Finalists in Public Speaking competitions.
- Exceptional results in year 3 and 5 NAPLAN assessments 2011.
- Further improvements in resource acquisition and staff professional development; as well as a staff member being trained in reading recovery.

Target 2
To have 95% all students achieving national benchmarks in Number. Our achievements include:

- Year 3 & 5 National Assessment results 2011 indicate all students are at National minimum standard and some considerably above.
- Exceptional results in year 3 and 5 NAPLAN assessments 2011.
Increased resources purchased to support all students K-6

Target 3
For students to have technology embedded in daily lessons, in innovative ways, within the classroom.
Our achievements include:
- Interactive Whiteboard and the ICT suite resources utilised.
- Regular involvement of senior classes in debating and public speaking with Windsor North Learning Community utilising the connected classroom.
- Further ongoing professional development in Mathematics with teaching learning / IWB lessons and pedagogical processes.

Target 4
To implement a fully functioning, positive, consistent student welfare policy that includes a Learning Support Team.
Our achievements include:
- SRC initiatives (garden competitions; meetings; district leadership) being implemented throughout the school and area.
- High percentage of students receiving high level awards (Principal, Morning Tea) throughout the year which can lead to an ‘honours level’ nomination.
- Staff ownership and collaborative leadership of student welfare practices and Learning Support Team initiatives.

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.

School Organisation
Findings and conclusions
ALL survey data
80% of respondents agreed that the school organises all teaching and learning programs efficiently. They felt that the school plans activities very well (75%) with parents normally given enough time to plan and pay for any activities. Some parents expressed a concern to have more warning for activities (8%).

94 % of respondents agreed that excursions and activities are beneficial to their children and learning outcomes are meaningful and rich for their children. Some parents expressed concern that there are too many events at times (8%). All staff are happy with the activities offered and expressed concern over the increasing costs of events particularly bus costs, which are taken into consideration prior to any event being planned.

Future directions
The findings of this survey indicate that students and parents are highly satisfied with the organisational practices of the school. Some parents were not aware that the school website has events for each term available. Term planners are distributed at the beginning of each term or at the end of each term for the following one.
Most parents (78%) understand the issues relating to the school being somewhat isolated therefore some excursions have late arrivals due to this. Costs are becoming more of a concern for the staff when organising events and more communication with parents before an event will be forthcoming.

Homework
Background
Parents were surveyed about the area of Homework. At Cattai homework is offered to all students and is expected to be completed by the week or fortnight.

Findings and conclusions
Parent/Caregiver / Students survey data
- Over 80% of parents agree that Homework should be given to their children;
- However, over 80% of respondents said that Homework does cause issues in the home;
- On average parents believe homework should be between 10 minutes (Kindy) to 30 minutes (years 1-6) in total each day for children;
- Over 80 % of respondents agreed that there should be no homework on weekends.
- And parents agreed that Friday is the most suitable day for children to hand in homework.
- All students agree that their homework should be marked and returned as soon as possible to them.
- Students believe (78%) that homework should be varied in content, but spelling / maths type work be tested each week.
- All students agree that there should not be any homework on the weekends.
Future directions
As a result of the findings the following strategies will continue to be adopted:
- Homework will continue to be handed out each week or fortnight, marked as soon as possible as it is handed in and be relevant to school content.

Professional learning
Professional learning is an integral part of each staff member’s professional development. All our teachers at Cattai Public School are committed to enhancing their teaching skills and attending quality learning experiences, which enhance their teaching. All staff participated in a number of professional development opportunities including:
- Staff development days in Terms 1, 2, 3 and 4 on Best Start, Student Welfare initiatives and policies, Smartboard training, integrated technology, reading recovery assessment training, science experiments and working mathematically;
- Learning Community numeracy teaching and learning, and data analysis workshops;
- Live, Life Well (health) training
- Grammar - Beverley Deriwianka
- Weekly staff development sessions focussing on compliance training such as CPR training, code of conduct, child protection, curriculum based discussions and programming and planning sessions enabling teachers at each stage to program and work together on their teaching and learning programs.

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
Outcome for 2012–2014
Increased school leadership capacity to lead and manage high quality education
Targets to achieve this outcome include:
- To develop leadership capacity for all staff

Strategies:
- To deliver high quality registered learning programs to improve quality teaching, leadership and management

School priority 2
Outcome for 2012–2014
Increased levels of overall literacy achievement in reading and writing
Targets to achieve this outcome include:
- To increase the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard in Reading
  - Year 3 (50%) in 2012, (55%) in 2013, (60%) in 2014
  - Year 5 to show significant growth in all aspects of literacy
  - By the end of Kindergarten, 70% of students will exit at reading recovery (RR) level 8 or above
  - By the end of Year 1, 80% of students will exit at RR level 16 or above
  - By the end of Year 2, 80% of students will exit at RR level 26 or above

Strategies:
- Provide professional learning for all staff
- Professional learning of analysing data and new syllabi
- Professional learning for the preparation of the new Australian curriculum

School priority 3
Outcome for 2012–2014
Increased levels of overall numeracy achievement
Targets to achieve this outcome include:
- Student numeracy achievement to equal or exceed national and state benchmarks
  - Year 3 (55%) in 2012, (60%) in 2013, (65%) in 2014
  - Year 5 to show significant growth in all aspects of numeracy
School priority 4
Outcome for 2012–2014
Clear alignment between the implementation of curriculum, professional learning and student learning needs

Targets to achieve this outcome include:

- To develop an innovative, competency based professional learning program for staff at all levels
- 100% of teachers to use SMART2 to identify grade targets and develop customised class learning plans and access online teaching strategies
- 100% of teachers to negotiate individual professional learning plans, set goals and record professional learning to meet relevant accreditation requirements
- 100% of teachers to implement reflective collegial teaching practices that focus on effective feedback to students and colleagues
- 100% of teachers embedding ICT into literacy practices through RFF / technology / library programs

Strategies:

- Participate in collegial actions supporting implementation of new syllabuses
- Adapt and use online professional learning modules and teaching and learning resources to develop teachers' ability to use the new syllabuses to meet the needs of the students
- Professional Learning for all staff in data analysis including SMART, Best Start and school based assessment to inform classroom programs and to support the implementation of new syllabus
- Develop relevant and effective curriculum policies for each KLA’S

School priority 5
Outcome for 2012–2014
Increased student satisfaction, engagement and attainment in learning

Targets to achieve this outcome include:

- To improve school attendance rates to exceed state average
- Increase student participation rates in extracurricular and co-curricular activities K-6 (excursions, G & T, school programs).
- Reduce partial absences by 10% in 2012, 20% in 2013 and 40% in 2014
- Increased parental capacity to support the learning needs of student, involvement in workshops and P&C events

Strategies:

- Vigorous TARS process
- Class programs show evidence of differentiation of the curriculum
- Improved opportunities for gifted and talented student
- Further develop transition programs
- Deliver parent workshops

School priority 6
Outcome for 2012–2014
All Aboriginal students to achieve literacy and numeracy results comparable or above that of their cohort and Aboriginal state averages

All students to have an enhanced understanding of Aboriginal culture, traditions and issues faced in Australian society today

Targets to achieve this outcome include:

- Aboriginal students achieving at a level equal to or above that for non-Aboriginal students in NAPLAN literacy and numeracy.
- Teaching and learning programs reflect understanding of Aboriginal Education Plan
- Improve education outcomes for all Aboriginal students through supportive attendance programs
- All Aboriginal students will have Personalised Learning Plans (PLP’s)
The school will develop a Partnership Agreement with their local AECG

Strategies:
- PLPs are developed for all Aboriginal students
- Strengthening Aboriginal Education Committee with community representation
- Link made with local AECG
- Celebration of significant days for Aboriginal Australians
- Professional learning for staff
- Monitor attendance rate, instigate Attendance Plans

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.

Todd Miladinovic – Principal
Kerry Pennycuick – Teacher / Librarian
Jennifer Mellefont – Teacher
Jeffrey Shirvington – Teacher
Nicole May – President P&C
Maryce Weatherstone – School Administration Manager
Tamara Dimech & Jeannah Olivares – 2011 Captains

School contact information

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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: