2008 Annual School Report
Castlereagh Public School

NSW Public Schools – Leading the way
Our school at a glance

Castlereagh Public School is designated as a 1B rural school, situated in semi-rural surrounds in the Penrith Valley. It is a part of the Hawkesbury School Education Group within the Western Sydney Region. It has been in its present location for over 50 years. 2008 saw Castlereagh Public School celebrate 150 years of delivering public education to the children of the Castlereagh area.

Messages

Principal's message

It is a small community based school with a very active and supporting P & C Association.

2008 was an exciting year for Castlereagh Public School as it celebrated its 150th year of delivering quality public education to the children of the Castlereagh area.

Mr Trevor Fletcher, Deputy-Director of Education, with School Captains, Zachary Elson and Brooke Jensen

Celebrations included a special assembly attended by Mr Trevor Fletcher, Deputy-Director

P&C and/or School Council message

2008 –Year of Castlereagh Public School’s 150 Year Celebration of Public Education and what a celebration it turned out to be! The Parents and Citizens Association (P&C) were there, together with the staff, teachers and organising committee, assisting in organising and coordinating events for

by a special lunch in the Castlereagh Community hall. Also as part of the celebrations there was a fair held in the school grounds.

Castlereagh Public School is a part of the Hawkesbury District Small Schools network. The school entered a variety of sporting, artistic and academic activities, as a part of this network, during the year.

Castlereagh Public School has a strong ICT program with 3 interactive whiteboards installed and used in classrooms and good access to technology for all students.

I certify that the information in this report is the result of a rigorous school self-evaluation process and is a balanced and genuine account of the school’s achievements and areas for development.

Mr Keith Hayman

The Hon. David Bradbury, Mrs Diane Knight and the School Captains.
this momentous occasion providing the morning tea for the official guests from the Penrith City Council, State and Federal Members of Parliament, Department of Education and Training and current and former students of Castlereagh Public School (upper and lower) at the official opening of the celebration weekend. This was followed by the Fun Day Fair that was organised on Saturday 3rd May with various displays, stalls and a number of rides. The senior past members of the school community enjoyed a quiet luncheon at the Castlereagh Hall where they were able to reminisce and share memories of their time spent at Castlereagh School. A The P&C had enough energy left after the 150 Year Celebration to also coordinate the Working Bee, Healthy Breaks, Avon sales, Clothing Pool and Uniform sales, Mother’s and Father’s Day Stalls, our Annual Chocolate Drive, two Bunnings BBQ’s, the Council Election Day Cake Stall, Raffle and BBQ, Athletics Carnival Sausage Sizzle, Family Portraits and finally our Presentation Day Lunch and Christmas Hamper Raffle. The P&C also worked with Penrith Council to ensure the safety of our children by installing a ‘Kiss and Drop’ zone around the school. What an effort by the dedicated members of the P&C and parent helpers! Congratulations need to go to everyone involved for all that has been done this year. These efforts raised over $7500.00

So what did the funds go towards this year? Well, Years 1 & 2 have a new range of class & home readers (a welcome relief for parents with a few children going through the school reading the same books over and over), special needs books, the playground equipment has been refurbished and inspected for safety, insurance to cover the children and volunteers at the school.

We must acknowledge and thank the efforts of Mrs Diane Knight (former Principal till May 2008), Dale McFadden (relieving Principal) and current Principal Mr Keith Hayman for the work that has been done with the P&C. Without their strong leadership and guidance, our children would not have the up to date resources and equipment that they currently enjoy. We cannot forget to also acknowledge and thank Mrs Gillian Spray and Mrs Jacqui Lamey in the office for the assistance they particularly give to myself as President as they constantly put up with me ringing or emailing my news for the weekly newsletter. Without their help and support the P&C would not be able to communicate and function effectively.

Mary Vella
P&C President

Student representative’s message

We would like to thank everyone for giving the captains such a wonderful year. We are so grateful to have been able to host so many events this year and want to thank so many people for their huge efforts to help the school. First we would like to thank the children for participating in our school events as we had so much fun. We also would like to thank all the families for allowing their children to enjoy these activities with us and our school. We especially would like to thank those parents who took their time and effort into our school such as those who helped at our 150th celebration fair. Thank you to Mrs McFadden and all our S.R.C representatives for organising all our fun fundraisers like Bandaged Bear Day and our Jelly Cup Day which we all enjoyed very much.

Brooke Jensen & Zachary Elson
School Captains

Students

Student enrolment over the past five years has remained constant.

Our enrolment in 2008 was 89 students including 51 girls and 38 boys.
Student attendance profile
94.1 percent of students attended school on average each day. Castlereagh Public School follows region and state attendance averages. The Home School Liaison Officer monitored students causing concern with their daily attendance.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Principal (PP5)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Teachers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Teacher Learning Assistance</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Librarian</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Relief from Face-to-face</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Administrative Manager</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Office Assistant</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Assistant</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counsellor</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Staff
Castlereagh Public School had 6 members of staff in 2008. This included a teaching principal, 3 other classroom teachers. One classroom teacher job-shared with a temporary teacher. We had three specialist support staff – a Support Teacher Learning Assistance (STLA) 1.0 day per week, a Counsellor (0.5 days per fortnight) and an Itinerant Support Teacher - Vision who support students. The teaching staff is supported by a school administrative manager (5 days per week), a school administrative officer (1 days per week), a general assistant (3 days per fortnight) and a part time teacher's aide (5 days per week).

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

Staff retention

In Term 2, Mrs Knight was offered the principal’s position at Lapstone Public School and Mr Hayman replaced Mrs Knight as principal from Term 3.

Staff attendance
Staff have access to leave entitlements such as sick leave. In 2008 the average daily attendance rate for staff, as determined by the Department, was 98%.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>% of staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree or Diploma</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Class information
Structure of classes
Castlereagh Public School in 2008 had 3 composite classes – a Year 1/2, a Year 3/4 and a Year 5/6. We were able to form a straight Kindergarten class.

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

The following table shows our class sizes as reported at the 2008 class size audit conducted on Tuesday 25 March 2008.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roll Class</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total per Year</th>
<th>Total in Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Significant programs and initiatives
Healthy Lifestyle Challenge – each student is encouraged to develop healthy lifestyle skills through the awarding of badges when they achieve certain goals. In 2008, 33% students
achieved at least one badge (PE, Health or Swimming).

As a part of the Australian Government’s focus on physical fitness, Castlereagh Public School participated in an Active Lifestyles’ program. This involved visiting coaches developing our students’ skills in a variety of sports and drumming.

Small Schools Gifted and Talented programs – as a part of the Hawkesbury Small Schools Network several of our students attended one and two-day Gifted and Talented camps. These included areas such as dance, writing and art. Four Stage 2 students attended an enrichment program at Longneck Lagoon Environment Education Centre.

Public Speaking was encouraged throughout the school, which culminated with a competition in Book Week and four Year 6 students, Brooke Jensen, Tianah Bowden, Nathan Kocanda and Zachary Elson, competed in the Small School’s Public Speaking Competition at Maraylya Public School.

Teachers and students continued to develop their skills using Information and Communication Technology, in particular the use of Interactive Whiteboards as a tool for learning.

Environmental programs continued at Castlereagh Public School with recycling, composting and worm-farming a daily practice. Three water tanks harvest rainwater and it is now used to irrigate the playing fields and flushing toilets.

Student achievement in 2008

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 3

13 students sat for the NAPLAN Year 3 literacy assessments and performed very well, scoring an average 10% above the state average marks in each strand of literacy.

Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 3

13 students sat for the NAPLAN numeracy assessments and performed very well scoring an average 4.6% above the state average marks in numeracy.

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 5

9 students sat for the NAPLAN Year 5 literacy assessments and performed an average 7% below the state average marks in each strand of literacy.

Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 5

9 students sat for the NAPLAN Year 5 numeracy assessments and performed 5% below the state average in numeracy.

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.

Financial summary

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of financial summary:</th>
<th>30/11/2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>106 899.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
<td>70 957.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>98 549.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
<td>36 872.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>7 189.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
<td>1 819.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td>322 289.28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Expenditure</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching &amp; learning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key learning areas</td>
<td>9 402.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extracurricular dissections</td>
<td>11 259.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>3 859.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training &amp; development</td>
<td>544.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>125 258.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual relief teachers</td>
<td>14 382.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; office</td>
<td>40 509.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School-operated canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>11 256.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>5 089.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust accounts</td>
<td>1 884.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital programs</td>
<td>9 371.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditure</strong></td>
<td>241 107.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance carried forward</strong></td>
<td><strong>81 181.35</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A full copy of the school’s 2008 financial statement is tabled at the annual general meetings of the School Council and/or the parent body. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.

School performance 2008

Achievements

Arts

Students from Castlereagh Public School participated in a variety of art competitions and attending Gifted and Talented sessions in visual arts.

Three indigenous students, Courtney Wright, Rylee and Tianah Bowden entered the Patrick White Young Indigenous Writers competition. Rylee won the Short Story K – 6 competition while Tianah Bowden received the Encouragement Award for both the Poetry K – 6 and the Short Story K – 6.

Sport

Castlereagh Public School participated in Small Schools cross country, athletics and swimming carnivals, with several students progressing to District and Regional levels.

Joel Brown was our most successful swimmer representing the Sydney West region at the State Carnival.

Other

Years 5 and 6 competed in Murder Under the Microscope, an online environmental mystery challenge.

Academic

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

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

Yr 3: from Band 1 (lowest) to Band 6 (highest for Year 3)
Yr 5: from Band 3 (lowest) to Band 8 (highest for Year 5)

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 3

13 Year 3 students sat for the literacy tests. Our students performed well above average all areas of literacy in comparison with students across the state. 90% of Year 3 students were placed in the upper three bands for spelling, 85% in the upper three bands for reading and writing. We had no students in the 2 lowest bands in all areas of literacy.

[Bar graphs showing literacy results for Year 3 students compared to state average]
Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 3

13 Year 3 students sat for the numeracy tests. Our students performed well above average all areas of numeracy in comparison with students across the state. The majority of our students were placed in the upper 3 bands.

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 5

9 Year 5 students sat for the literacy tests. Our students performed below average in all areas of literacy in comparison with students across the state. 55.5% of Year 5 students were placed in the top 3 bands reading, 44% in the top 3 bands for writing.

Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 5

Year 5 students performed below state averages in numeracy.

Notes: The 'Percentage in Band' and 'School Average' columns are not shown if results are available for less than 10 students.

Student Growth

Literacy

8 students sat for both the Year 3 and Year 5 test at Castlereagh Public School. This represents 88% of Year 5 students.

Student performance growth from Years 3 to 5 in writing was well above our average growth over time (2004-2008). Further analysis of the Language component of the Year 5 Literacy Test revealed that our students would benefit from an increased focus on sentence structure. Improving student learning outcomes in this area forms the basis of our strategic targets for the next three years.

Student performance growth from Years 3 to 5 in reading showed an increase of 7.3%.
Greatest growth between Years 3 and 5 occurred in writing, where our students showed growth of 6.7% above state average.

**Numeracy**

8 students sat for both the Year 3 and Year 5 test at Castlereagh Public School. This represents 88% of Year 5 students.

Student performance growth from Years 3 to 5 in numeracy was well below our average growth over time (2004-2008).

**Minimum standards**

The Commonwealth Government sets minimum standards for reading, writing, grammar and punctuation, spelling and numeracy for years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

The performance of the students in our school in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy is compared to these minimum standards. The percentages of our students achieving at or above these standards are reported below.

**Percentage of Year 3 students in our school achieving at or above the minimum standard in 2008**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum standard</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punctuation and grammar</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum standard</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punctuation and grammar</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Significant programs and initiatives**

Castlereagh Public School continually aims at improving the implementation of programs and seeks to address the needs of all students through the implementation of major initiatives.

**Aboriginal education**

Castlereagh Public School is committed to meeting the needs of Aboriginal students and implementing programs that address issues concerning Aboriginal heritage and culture. Units of work treated within each class, particularly within art and Human Society and Its Environment include Aboriginal perspectives.

**Multicultural education**

The school has maintained a focus on multicultural education in all areas of the curriculum by providing programs, which develop knowledge, skills and attitudes required for culturally diverse society. We also highlight...
cultural diversity through teaching and learning activities by providing multicultural perspectives in the teaching and learning programs within the school.

Respect and responsibility

In 2008, Castlereagh Public School focussed on the values as outlined by the Department of Education and Training. The schools commitment in developing students with a high regard for respecting each other and the environment is indicated by programs implemented within the school. Our school values, which are advertised each week in the newsletter, continue to be the basis of all policies and student welfare programs.

Students from each class entertain and connect with residents from the Hawkesbury Valley Retirement Village each term.

Other programs

A healthy school aspect is strongly supported by staff, students and community with a fitness program designed to both physically and socially develop the students, active after school program and a new initiative of the Healthy Lifestyle Challenge (HLC). The HLC provides students with the opportunity to work towards gaining badges in swimming, health and PE. The badges are sewn onto their hats and worn with pride of achievement.

Progress on 2008 targets

Target 1

To improve student outcomes in literacy

Our achievements include:

- 100% of Year 3 students achieved minimum National benchmarks for literacy
- No Year 3 students were placed in lowest two bands
- 91.75% of Year 5 students achieved minimum National benchmarks for overall literacy
- Year 5 showed pleasing growth in reading and greater than state average growth in writing.

Target 2

To improve student outcomes in numeracy

Our achievements include:

- 100% of Year 3 students achieved minimum National benchmarks for numeracy
- Year 3 students were well above state averages for students in the top two bands in Numeracy
- 89.5% of Year 5 students achieved minimum National benchmarks for numeracy

Target 3

To improve student outcomes in HSIE

Our achievements include:

- Resources updated
- Use Interactive whiteboards in HSIE lessons increased
- Database of appropriate websites increased to give teachers and students wider variety of choices

Key evaluations

It is a requirement for all NSW public schools to conduct at least two annual evaluations – one related to educational and management practice and the other related to curriculum. In 2008 our school carried out evaluations of.

Educational and management practice

Curriculum

Physical Education and Sport

Background

Castlereagh Public School has been involved in a variety of programs designed to develop physical fitness and gross motor skills.

Findings and conclusions

Through interviews with staff and informal discussions with parents it was shown that –

- The programs were very valuable in the students' physical and social development.
- The amount of time spent participating in these programs exceeded DET guidelines.

Future directions

- Fitness program will remain but reduced from four sessions to three
- Involvement in the use of visiting experts will continue on a needs basis e.g. gymnastics instructors, representatives from various sporting organisations
- Castlereagh Public School will continue to offer involvement in Small Schools and District sports events

Parent, student, and teacher satisfaction

In 2008 the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school.
Their responses are presented below.

**Background**

The school community was surveyed on School culture and practices. Approximately 10% of families responded.

**Findings and conclusions**

The vast majority of respondents expressed satisfaction in the culture and practices of the school. Comments were made in regard to the school’s uniform policy, the promotion of anti-bullying strategies, updating of the school’s website and excursions.

**Future directions**

- Promotion of the expectations the school has in regard to the wearing of uniforms
- Use of anti-bullying programs and visiting show to develop strategies within students
- Use of new software to ensure website is kept up-to-date

**Professional learning**

An average of $744 was spent per teacher on professional development during 2008. Teachers were involved in courses that covered curriculum development, leadership, student welfare and technology.

**School development 2009 – 2011**

Our school has established target areas for 2009 – 2011 with the aim of achieving excellence in education and enhancing outcomes for all students, improving the transition through school, and providing the skills and values for personal growth and social cohesion. The following targets will be the major focus in our 2009 School Management Plan.

**Targets for 2009**

**Target 1**

*To develop students’ skills in inferential comprehension through a whole school approach to guided reading with an emphasis on the impact of questioning and effective strategies to elicit student thinking beyond the literal*

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- explicit and systematic teaching of reading skills through regular guided reading

- thinking strategies developed within our students to take them from the literal to the inferential
- focus on Visual Literacy in assisting reading comprehension

Our success will be measured by:

- staff using a variety of strategies and questioning techniques to develop inferential thinking in their students
- students are involved in regular guided reading sessions
- students use a variety of techniques to complete comprehension activities

**Target 2**

*Improved student learning outcomes in the strand of number, patterns and algebra and measurement*

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- implementation of timetabled numeracy sessions across the school
- evaluation and redevelopment of Mathematics Scope and Sequence K-6
- survey staff to evaluate classroom resource deficits and purchase resources to support the effective teaching of mathematics.
- professional learning activities provided for staff focusing on quality teaching, syllabus identification and familiarisation.

Our success will be measured by:

- explicit and systematic teaching of mathematics in modeled, guided and independent components of the Numeracy session
- 90% of Year 3 and Year 5 students are state average or above in NAPLAN Numeracy, measurement, patterns and algebra strand
- Quality teaching elements embedded into teaching and learning programs focusing on differentiated learning and working mathematically concepts
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.

Mrs D McFadden  Teacher
Mrs J Lennon   Teacher
Mrs S Zaia    Teacher
Mrs G Knothe  Teacher
Mrs Leslie Hillyard  Teacher
Mrs Mary Vella President P&C
Mr Keith Hayman  Principal

School contact information

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Web: www.castlereag-p.school.nsw.edu.au
School Code: 4148

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: