2009 Annual School Report
O’Connell Public School

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

Students
End of year enrolments for 2009 totalled 60. The school is divided into three classes: a K-1, 2-4 and a 5-6 class.

Staff
There are two full time classroom teachers on the K-1 and 2-4 classes and one full time teaching principal on the 5-6 class. The school also has a one day a week casual Librarian and part time specialist art and music teachers.

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

Significant programs and initiatives

*Interactive Classroom*
Email and internet use by students and staff. Two classrooms have Interactive Whiteboards.

*Student leadership*
The development of leadership skills in the senior students, with the promotion of active citizenship and positive interactions. Senior students also attended a leadership camp earlier in the year as well as a leadership day in at the Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre.

*Instrumental Musicianship*
A program was implemented where students are able to access piano and guitar lessons during school time.

*School Music Program*
A specialist music teacher visits the school each week to conduct lessons in percussion and Musica Viva.

*Visual Arts Program*
A specialist art teacher visits the school each fortnight to conduct lessons in the visual arts.

*School Rock Band*
A specialist music teacher is employed to take the school Rock Band every Tuesday afternoon for 45 minutes. The Occa Rockers have competed in the Bathurst Eisteddfod, Education Week, at the school dance and presentation night.

*Spelling Mastery*
A comprehensive tutoring scheme in spelling. Each morning teachers take a small group and a well defined program is delivered.

Major Excursions
This year each stage undertook a number of excursions. Stage one toured Bathurst, visiting historical sites and the local Dinosaur museum, as well as visiting local sites of interest.

K-1 children visited Yarrabin

Stage 2 had an overnight excursion to Red Hill and Stage 3 attended a Sport and Recreation Camp at Broken Bay.

Student achievement

*Literacy & Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 3*
Ten Year 3 students sat the Naplan test in 2009. The school's average performance in reading, writing, spelling and grammar and punctuation was well above state average. The school's average performance in numeracy was also well above state average.

*Literacy & Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 5*
Twelve students sat the Naplan test in Year 5 in 2009. The school's average performance in reading, writing, spelling and grammar and punctuation was well above state average. The school's average performance in numeracy was also well above state average.
Messages

Principal's message

At O'Connell Public School we deliver a comprehensive education in a friendly, caring and vibrant school environment. Our school prides itself on having highly qualified, friendly, dedicated staff and a parent body who are enthusiastic and committed to our school community.

Students participate in a wide variety of educational activities and experiences. The school is central to the community of O'Connell as it is one of only a few meeting places for the community. Students are driven, by parents and caregivers, to and from the school each day, thereby providing a friendly and relaxed venue for developing friendships through close community involvement.

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.

Patricia Forsyth

P&C and/or School Council message

The O'Connell P&C meet twice a term. With a very willing community they have had an active year of fundraising. The P&C raised money for the employment of a specialist music teacher, provided busses to and from swimming lessons, for presentation night, to maintain and replace canteen equipment, as well as provide financial help with school gardens and grounds. The canteen is run by parent volunteers. Some of this year fundraisers included the Community Picnic Day and the open days at Mayfield Garden.

Karen Casey P&C President

Student representative's message

O'Connell has been a wonderful school to attend for our Primary schooling. It is a very welcoming school where we received the highest level of education. The teachers at our school make it the special school that it is. Our parents are very supportive and the P&C raises money to pay for our terrific music teacher, as well as for busses to take us on excursions. Our school has lots of great equipment and we are given every opportunity to do so many different activities.

Jack Phillips and Peta Morris

School context

Student information

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

Student enrolment profile

![Enrolments graph]

Student attendance profile

![Student attendance rates graph]

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 2009 class size audit conducted on Wednesday 18 March 2009.
### Structure of classes

<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>2/3/4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3/4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3/4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K/1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K/1</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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>Principal</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Teachers</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT Teacher Librarian</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Administrative &amp; Support Staff (SASS)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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>80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30/11/2009</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Income</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Expenditure</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Teaching &amp; learning</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key learning areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excursions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extracurricular dissections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training &amp; development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual relief teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School-operated canteen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Utilities</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maintenance</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trust accounts</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capital programs</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditure</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance carried forward</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that the large increase in income for School & Community Sources, and similar in expenditure for Administration & Office, is a consequence of a bank change-over abnormality to the amount of around $69,000.

A full copy of the school’s 2009 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 2009

Achievements

Arts

O’Connell Public School excels in the Creative and Practical Arts. This year saw the development of the visual arts through the employment of a specialist teacher, with students producing outstanding work. Other highlights included:

- Performances by the school band.
- The school’s participation in the Bathurst Eisteddfod, with the Band taking out 3rd place in their section, the K-2 percussion group placing 2nd, and the choir receiving a highly commended.
- Involvement in the Monster Band Day.
- Lessons in guitar, piano and drum conducted in school time.

Sport

Many of our children were chosen to represent the Bathurst Small Schools in sports such as soccer, cricket, hockey, cross country, swimming and athletics. 10 students represented Bathurst Small Schools at the District Cross Country, with 5 students going onto regional level and then 1 student progressing to state level.

In-school sports clinics included workshops on rugby league, soccer and golf.

One senior child played district and state hockey, finishing the season as state champion.

Students were active participants in both Small Schools Gala Days, as well as Triangle Sports day.

We had 12 students compete in their first inter-school horse sports day. The school and community organised the inaugural Evans Crown Horse Sports Day.

Age Champions – Athletics Carnival

Evans Crown Horse Sports Day

Horse Sports Day at Kandos
**Other**

Continuation of Crunch & Sip Program, K-6.

The community of O’Connell held its first Community Picnic which was a combined fundraiser between the Rural Fire Service and O’Connell Public School.

*Tug ‘O War*

*Memorial Service for Armistice Day*

**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**

The average mark for literacy in Year 3 was above the state average with students being placed in band 4 or above.
Percentage of students in bands:
Year 3 spelling

Percentage of students in bands:
Year 3 numeracy

Percentage of students in bands:
Year 3 grammar and punctuation

Percentage of students in bands:
Year 3 writing

Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 3

The average mark for numeracy in Year 3 was above the state average with students being placed in band 3 or above, with the majority of students placing in band 5.

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 5

The average mark for numeracy in Year 5 was above the state average with students being placed in band 5 or above, with the majority of students placing in bands 6 and 7.
Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 5

The average mark for numeracy in Year 5 was above the state average with students being placed in band 4 or above, with the majority of students placing in bands 7 and 8.

Progress in Literacy and Numeracy

Average progress in reading between Year 3 and Year 5

School LSG State
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.

% of Year 3 students in our school achieving at or above the minimum standard in 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Year 3 students achieving at and above minimum standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

% of Year 5 students in our school achieving at or above the minimum standard in 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Year 5 students achieving at and above minimum standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Significant programs and initiatives

Aboriginal education

This year school captains introduced an Acknowledgement of Country into the fortnightly assembly routine.

Staff undertook professional development on the Aboriginal history of the local area.

Students in Years 2-4 undertook an in depth study of the Traditional life of the Aboriginal people.

Multicultural education

A country study of Egypt was undertaken.

The multicultural nature of Australia was looked at in both HSIE and science units K-6.

Respect and responsibility

Student leaders took on a range of responsibilities which included public speaking, running assemblies and fundraising. They raised $190 for St Judes School in Tanzania, and a further $250 for Stewart House. The values program was incorporated into school rules and classroom management.

Progress on 2009 targets

Target 1

To provide the opportunity for all students to participate in a wider variety of performance opportunity.

Our achievements include:

All students participated in Bathurst Eisteddfod for either our Rock Band, K-2 percussion group and/or our recorder group.

School Rock band performed during Education Week in a street performance in Bathurst.

Band performed at school dance and Presentation Night.

A specialist music teacher was employed for one day a fortnight to teach music K-6.
Target 2
To implement the Best Start Program.

Our achievements include:
Kindergarten teacher and casual teacher trained in Best Start practices and program.
Program implemented and children’s needs identified.

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 2009 our school carried out evaluations of computer education and school leadership.

Educational and management practice
School Leadership

Background
School leadership was identified as an area of interest, given that there had been a change in leadership during the past year.

Findings and conclusions
It was found that 95% of parents were generally happy with the schools leadership. Parents thought that school leaders ensured that everyone was treated fairly and that they introduced changes that were good for the school. The school was seen to involve all groups within the community in different ways. Only 70% of parents surveyed felt that school leaders discussed ways to improve their child’s learning.

Students felt that the leadership of the school motivated them as learners and 98% of senior students said that they were encouraged to take on leadership roles within the school.

Future directions
School leaders are to discuss ways to improve child’s learning at P&C so that such discussion can be documented.

Curriculum
Computer Education

Background
To investigate the effectiveness of the schools current computer program.

Findings and conclusions
98% of students said that they usually and/or always enjoyed using computers. All Year 6 students said that they found it to be advantageous to have their own lap top for use in the classroom. Internet linked programs like Mathletics and online challenges were well received by both staff and students.

85% of parents felt that there were lots of different computer programs to use. With all parents stating that they felt that teachers expected their children to learn things using computers and 98% felt that teachers gave their children clear explanations when using the computers, similar to the responses of the students. Only 61% of parents had viewed their child’s samples of work on the computer and most parents said that the teacher had not talked about their child’s progress in this area.

Future directions
Have a specialised computer and Technology time in the week.

Ensure that students have access to computers on a daily basis.

Reporting on computers will be embedded into the school reports, children's progress will also be communicated to parents during semester one interviews.

Staff will be trained further in the use of interactive whiteboards.

Video conferencing is established and staff are trained in its use.

Parent, student, and teacher satisfaction
In 2009 the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school.

Their responses are presented below.
“Students are offered great extra curricular activities throughout the year”.
“Students are encouraged to do their best at all times”.
“O’Connell enjoys a wonderful sense of community”.
“O’Connell is a wonderful school, I just love coming here”.
“O’Connell is a very welcoming school, where everyone is included”.

Presentation Night for 2009 was described as “being very professionally run and extremely entertaining”, as well as having “a great deal of community warmth”.
Professional learning
This year staff undertook training in the use of the Interactive Whiteboard, Literacy, Best Start, and Aboriginal Education.

School development 2009 – 2011

Targets for 2010

Target 1
To Improve writing outcomes for students.
Strategies to achieve this target include:

- Staff to be trained in Reading to Learn strategies.
- Strategies to be implemented into classrooms.
- Continued implementation and use of NAPLAN marking criteria in Years 2-6.

Our success will be measured by:

- 90% of Students in years 3 and 5 will place in the top two bands for writing in the NAPLAN test.
- Overall growth in literacy band will be greater than 70 points for Year 5 students.

Target 2
To improve visual arts outcomes for students.
Strategies to achieve this target include:

- Employment of specialist art teacher on a fortnightly basis.
- Art exhibition and sale to occur in Term 2.
- Bathurst Small Schools Visual Arts Festival to be held in term 3, where student’s art work will be on display.

Our success will be measured by:

- Success of art exhibition and visual art festival.
- Creative and Practical arts will be the focus of our educational evaluation in 2010.
- Development of student skills.

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.

Trish Forsyth - Principal
Karen Casey – P&C President
Peter Harrison - Parent
Ian Browne - Teacher
Brenda Doney - SAM

School contact information
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School Code: 2798

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: