2009 Annual School Report
Stratheden Public School

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

Stratheden Public School is a two teacher school located midway between the towns of Kyogle and Casino in the foothills of the Border Ranges in northern NSW.

At the end of 2009 there were 29 students enrolled at Stratheden Public School. Stratheden PS provides a balanced range of academic, creative, sporting and social opportunities.

Grandparents getting involved with students learning.

We take pride in our tradition of nurturing children in a caring, family environment where committed staff and supportive families provide a positive, stimulating, happy teaching and learning environment, for all students.

Students

Our students work hard to achieve their best. They are a credit to their school, their teachers, their families and, most importantly, themselves. They are polite, respectful and well behaved and make the most of the various learning opportunities presented to them. We are very proud of our students at Stratheden PS.

Staff

Stratheden’s staff is dedicated and hard working.

The Teaching staff work hard to meet the needs of all their students. There are important objectives that Stratheden teachers have foremost in their mind when planning the activities for each school year, they are: to focus on the basic skills of learning [in particular Literacy and Numeracy], to nurture personal development, to provide challenges where the students have the opportunity to excel and experiences to overcome isolation and.

The SASS staff support the students in their learning by keeping the grounds and buildings well maintained and the school well resourced in terms of equipment and learning materials.

Teaching

- 1 Primary Teaching Principal
- 1 classroom teacher
- 1 part time teacher
- 2 part time teacher’s aides, special (integration and learning support)

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

SASS (Administrative and Support Staff)

- 1 School Administrative Manager (3 days a week)
- 1 General Assistant (one day a week)
- 1 part time Technical Assistant
- 1 School Cleaner

Significant programs and initiatives

Significant areas of focus during 2009 included:

- Moviemaking/Video Literacy Project
- Priority Schools Funding Program, which includes a Home/School Sightword Program.
- Learning Support Program
- Small Schools Maths Tabloid
- Clubs: a community partnership program
- Transition programs for Kindergarten and Yr 6-7 orientation are offered in Term 4.
Messages

Principal's message

2009 has been a year characterised by student achievement, community support, capital outlay and change.

The school’s programs have encouraged students to develop as active, effective learners and contributing members of society. Student achievement has been brought about by the diligence and enthusiasm of the teaching staff and Stratheden students. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Teaching Staff and students of Stratheden PS for their hard work in 2009.

Stratheden P&C fundraising have contributed towards and made possible a number of important acquisitions in 2009: a new lawnmower and photocopier, a storage container and a new secure ‘yard equipment’ shed.

Community partnerships have played a major role throughout 2009 in providing quality educational experiences. I will take this opportunity to acknowledge and express the school community’s appreciation for the following:

- The Stratheden P&C for their financial support of Stratheden PS sport programs ie: Intensive Swimming, State Touch Football, Athletics.
- Our tireless classroom helpers; Mrs Sullivan for scripture, Mr Ivanshenko for computer expertise and Mr Robinson for Sport.
- Families for support of the ‘Home-School’ Sightword Program which has contributed to substantial growth in student literacy outcomes.
- Parents who volunteered their time, energy and expertise to support the Intensive Swimming and Clubs programs.

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.

And finally 2009 has been a year of change. The school has a new ‘permanent’ classroom building and a new principal. It has been my privilege to lead Stratheden PS in 2009.

Damien Cox - Principal

P&C message

This year we had some children represent our school in the State Touch Football competition in Sydney. There was a lot of fundraising (chocolate drive, raffle days at the Casino Greyhounds and plenty of donations). We would like to thank everybody who contributed to our fundraising.

The children had a wonderful time in Sydney, seeing the Opera House, walking across the Harbour Bridge and going to the IMAX theatre at Darling Harbour and visiting the Powerhouse Museum all on the first day. The second day we played 3 games of touch football. Stratheden PS came fifth in the competition. Well done students. It was a great experience for the children and a good time was had by all.

Stratheden students look great in their uniform and are ready for the competition.

The P & C also contributed to running a bus to swimming lessons for 10 days, the purchase of a photocopier and a shipping container.

The P & C is very keen to work with the school on increasing enrolments to guarantee the school’s future. We have good relationships with the school staff and believe we contribute to the school’s success.

Toni Northfield - P & C President

Student representative’s message

This year the SRC have done many different things.

On the 13th of February we had a Gold Coin Day, where everybody donated a gold coin or note, we raised $300 in total. It all went towards the Victorian Bush Fire appeal.

On the 9th April 2009 we had an Easter Lunch. The parents helped by donating the lunch. We raised $117.50 for the SRC.

On the 27th May we held an Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea. We raised $452.
On Wednesday 11th November we held our annual mini fete. We raised $508. This is the most money we have ever raised.

Alex Sullivan Yr 5   Hope Hancock Yr 4

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student attendance profile

Management of non-attendance

Our student attendance is above the State and Regional average. A supply of “Absent Forms” is sent home to each family at the start of every term to promote the importance Stratheden PS places on good attendance and its impact on the students’ education. Non attendance is closely monitored and followed up when left unexplained.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roll</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total per Year</th>
<th>Total in Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yr K,1,3</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 4,5,6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Structure of classes

There were two classes at Stratheden PS in 2009—a junior class of Kinder, Yr 1 and Yr 3; and a Senior class of Yr 4, Yr 5 and Yr 6.

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/ Classroom Teacher</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Teachers</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Librarian</td>
<td>1 P/T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counsellor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Administrative &amp; Support Staff (SASS)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8</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></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.

Voluntary School Contributions is an amount set by the school’s P & C ($25 per student or a maximum of $50 per family) to support the purchase of quality textbooks.

Tied funds refer to funds allocated for specific purposes including Priority Schools Programs, student assistance, learning support, technology support, special programs and staff professional learning initiatives.

Other financial commitments for 2009 include asset replacement; new photocopier, new ride on lawnmower, $4000 went towards a secure “Yard Equipment” shed, casual salaries, unpaid orders and utilities.

A full copy of the school's 2009 financial statement will be tabled at the 2010 annual general meeting of the Stratheden P&C. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.

School performance 2009
The staff and community of Stratheden Public School are committed to providing their students with a quality education by ensuring every child has the opportunity to participate in a wide range of learning activities.

Achievements
Arts
Creative Arts is a valued key learning area at Stratheden PS. All students are encouraged to experience and participate in a variety of creative and performing arts to enhance their skills, talents and social development.

- The Student Representative Council (SRC) ran monthly assemblies featuring student performances and displays of work which parents and community were invited to attend.
- Six students were selected for the Combined Schools’ Choir at the Casino/Kyogle Performing Arts Festival.
- All students participated in the performance of an item involving recital and choreography to an Australian poem, The Geebung Polo Club, at the Casino/Kyogle Performing Arts Festival and the annual school concert.
- Parents and friends of the school shared their skills, through a Clubs Program, which allowed students to experience various creative activities such as gardening, origami, dancing, painting and paper decorating.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of financial summary:</th>
<th>30/11/2009</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>76302.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
<td>38107.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>46762.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
<td>12014.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>2356.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
<td>14111.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income</td>
<td>189655.23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching &amp; learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key learning areas</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>Utilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust accounts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenditure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance carried forward</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• All students participated in choral, poetry and drama performances at our annual school concert and Christmas prize giving evenings.

• Students’ art/craft work was displayed at the Casino Show as part of the Casino District Small Schools’ Exhibit.

• Students participated in the production of artworks to be competitively displayed at the Bentley Art Show.

**Sport**

Stratheden PS emphasises skills development, participation and sportsmanship.

Achievements for 2009 included:

• Student participation in Primary Schools’ Sports Association (PSSA) athletics, cross country and touch football with a number of students representing the school at district level. One student, Bridie Andrew, represented Stratheden PS at regional level and our touch football team advanced to the State Finals in Sydney. They came fifth.

• In 2009 Stratheden PS trialled an innovative Yoga program. Students demonstrated improved gross motor, flexibility and balance.

**Other**

**Video Literacy**

Years 4 – 6 were again involved in the production of a movie, ‘Jack Russell’s Australian Adventure’. This year’s theme was ‘Light and Dark’.

Our resourceful students were able to use materials and the surrounding environment to produce a unique story.

Students continued to gain valuable literacy, creative, organisational, technical and performance skills in the production of the movie, culminating in a screening at the Star Court Theatre in Lismore in December.

**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)

Four students in Year 3 and three students in Year 5 sat the NAPLAN tests in 2009. Due to the small cohort of students comparative graphs and data are not included in this report.

It must be noted here that the number of students who sat for the NAPLAN is so small that the trend and group analysis do not provide reliable or
informative data. Individual differences are noted and form the basis of learning plans.

**Literacy – NAPLAN Year 3**
In Reading students achieved between Band 2 and Band 5.
In Writing students achieved between Band 2 and Band 4.

**Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 3**
In Numeracy students achieved between Band 1 and Band 4.

**Literacy – NAPLAN Year 5**
In Reading students achieved between Band 4 and Band 6.
In Writing students achieved between Band 4 and Band 5.

**Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 5**
In Numeracy students achieved between Band 4 and Band 5.

**Progress in Literacy**
Progress in Reading between Year 3 and 5 was most pleasing and substantially above the average growth in the State and ‘Like Schools Group’.

Our progress in Writing was substantially below the historical growth average of Stratheden. We will promote writing as a major focus in 2010.

**Progress in Numeracy**
Progress in Numeracy was close to the average growth in the State and ‘Like Schools Group’.

**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 2009**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</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>75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</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>

**Significant programs and initiatives**

**Aboriginal education**
The school curriculum incorporates Aboriginal perspectives, where possible, in all teaching programs, to raise student awareness, understanding and appreciation of historical and contemporary Aboriginal society, cultural issues and achievements.

During 2009, the students of Stratheden PS participated in Reconciliation Week by attending an activity day at Manifold PS, that developed understandings of and celebrated indigenous Aboriginal culture.

Stratheden student involved with indigenous artwork.
Multicultural education

Multicultural perspectives are integrated into teaching programs across key learning areas such as English, HSIE and Creative Arts to ensure that our students develop the skills, knowledge and attitudes required to be part of a culturally diverse society.

Respect and responsibility

Stratheden PS is respected by its community for providing students with a learning environment which is both safe and caring.

It has strong policies and procedures which support fair access to learning and management of student behaviour in line with Core Values.

As part of school programs, core values are being developed and encouraged through our learning and welfare programs. Students are expected to work and participate to the best of their ability, to work together and respect each other and to take responsibility for individual actions.

Students are encouraged to support each other and participate as responsible and active citizens of our school and community in a number of ways. Linking fundraising activities, organised by the SRC, to curriculum areas, helped raise awareness of themselves and others.

Students shared their achievements with parents, grandparents and community members when hosting Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea and Beef Week Activities.

Parents, grandparents and community members were regularly invited to share special days, activities and performances which gave relevance to the school being an integral part of our local community.

Other programs
Priority Schools Program (PSP)

Focus Areas

- Supporting learning groups in Literacy and Numeracy to improve student outcomes.
- Home School Links/ Community Partnerships

Implementation

a) Improved student outcomes in Literacy and Numeracy

Action:

Employed a teacher aide to support student learning and promote student achievement in Literacy and Numeracy.

Resources Allocated:

$7 800

Data Collected :

- Reading Benchmarks
- Numeracy assessment tasks
- NAPLAN results

b) Community Partnerships

Action:

- Implemented a Kinder to Yr 6 School to Home sightword program.
- Purchased attractive homework texts: maths mentals & reading diary.
- Utilised community expertise to run a ‘Clubs’ program.

Resources Allocated:

The PSP staffing component was utilised to employ a teacher to test the students on their sightwords each week and attend to the necessary record keeping.

Data Collected :

- Sightword assessments
- Homework records
- Community participation

Students participating in ‘Jump Rope For Heart’ activities to raise money for the Heart Foundation
Findings

Literacy Progress

Substantial achievement in Reading was demonstrated throughout the school. *Average improvement in Reading [Stage 1-3]:*

**Stage One:** Six students  
Avg. progress in Sightword Levels: **10.5 levels**  
Avg. progress in Reading Levels: **6 levels**

**Stage Two:** Ten students  
Avg. progress in Sightword Levels: **9.6 levels**  
Avg. progress in Reading Levels: **5 levels**  
**50% of Stage 2 students are reading at or beyond the stage appropriate fluency rate of 80 correct words per minute**

**Stage Three:** Seven students  
Avg. progress in Sightword Levels: **9.1 levels**  
Avg. progress in Reading Levels: **all levels completed**  
**75% of Stage 3 students are reading at or beyond the stage appropriate fluency rate of 100 correct words per minute.**

Numeracy Progress

**Stage Two**  
In Numeracy the majority of Stage 2 students achieved in the middle range of bands.

**Stage Three**  
In Numeracy all Stage 3 students achieved in the middle range of bands.

Small Schools ‘Maths Tabloid’

2009 saw Stratheden PS combine with Doubtful Creek PS to develop an exciting inter school Maths program: “The Small Schools Maths Tabloid”.

The aim of this program is to target the numeracy needs of the students of Stratheden and Doubtful Creek Public Schools. The theme for the 2009 Maths tabloid activities was ‘Time’ and ‘Money’. The students from both schools formed 8 groups comprising kinder to Yr 6 students.

The day was very successful in terms of student learning, participation and fun.

Newspapers in Education

The Northern Star’s ‘Newspapers in Education’ (NIE) program provided a major focus in Term 1. The students of Years 4 - 6 wrote and edited newspaper articles based on their various experiences at Stratheden. A selection of these articles was published in the Northern Star.

Stratheden PS articles won an award for excellence while one student, Chloe Hayward, received an award for her outstanding article.

Murder Under The Microscope

Murder Under The Microscope is an innovative Environmental Education program where students investigate the behaviour of water in the environment and its impact on plant and animal life.

The Yr 4,5 & 6 students were set the task of solving a crime that had been committed in the environment. The crime involved a villain, a victim and a location. The 2009 investigation was titled ‘Crisis On The Coast’.

The students and teachers worked very hard and successfully identified the villain- habitat clearing, the victim- blue banded bumblebee and the location- Caboolture River in Queensland. Well done students.

Progress on 2009 targets

Target 1

**Demonstrative achievement by all students within literacy, particularly in the areas of grammar, punctuation and spelling.**

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- Participation of Early Stage 1 teacher in Best Start training.
- Participation of students in writing opportunities in the wider community e.g. Newspapers in Education, Eagle.
- Utilize district consultant to work with staff to investigate a variety of strategies to improve student outcomes in narrative construction.
- Explicit teaching of writing conventions and their appropriate use.
- Implementation of the North Coast Region Spelling.
- Individual programming implemented using NAPLAN results.
- Employing a teacher’s aide to support class and individual programs.
- School Based Assessment of sound and word knowledge.
- Fluency in reading assessed by running records.
Our success was measured by:

- Early Stage 1 teacher confidently implementing Best Start.
- Improved student engagement in writing tasks, as evidenced by awards for excellence in the ‘Newspapers in Education’ program and stories for the Eagle magazine.
- NAPLAN test results
- Spelling awareness in text writing
- Use of correct punctuation, grammar, sentence structure and usage in text.
- Diagnostic testing in Feb and Oct.
- Improved overall literacy outcomes for identified students, with measurable % increase in sound and word knowledge and fluency in reading.

Results
Awards for excellence were received for our Newspaper In Education articles. This reflected a strong focus on writing in 2009. Substantial progress in sound and word knowledge and fluency in reading was assessed across all stages of learning. Quality of students’ narrative output reflected improved student engagement.

Target 2
80% of the students will achieve Stage outcomes in Numeracy.

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- Review present numeracy programs and ensure that these programs provide effective learning in line with the Quality Teaching model of delivery.
- Provision of opportunities to transfer numeracy skills to solve problems and within other Key Learning Areas i.e. “hands on”.
- Use Best Start analysis to inform individual learning needs of Kindergarten students.
- Use Count Me In Too and Counting On to assess students and identify needs.
- Targeted support for individuals indicated with specific numeracy needs by analysis of school-based and NAPLAN numeracy data.
- Participation in parent workshop/s in numeracy.

Our success was measured by:

- Improvement in transference of numeracy skills, as demonstrated in school-based assessment tasks and NAPLAN results.
- Targeted groups to show growth in line with the target, as evidenced in assessment tasks, including NAPLAN.
- Parents report greater understanding and ability to assist their children at home during parent-teacher interviews and discussions throughout the year.

Results
Naplan results and class assessments demonstrate the achievement of this target.

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 School Culture.

Educational and management practice
The area of School Culture is vital to the success of Stratheden Public. How we are perceived and how we interact with our community impacts directly on our students’ learning.

60% of Stratheden’s families returned their surveys. Survey results were very positive indicating that the participants strongly agreed that:

- Stratheden PS has a good reputation and clear educational goals;
- Students are the main concern and there is sufficient reporting to parents and carers;
- The staff and students work well together and the students receive a ‘good’ education;
- Students are adequately rewarded and acknowledged for achievements and that deterrents for poor behaviour are appropriate (only one survey indicated a lack of rewards and deterrents);
- Parents have the opportunity to express interest or concerns (only one survey indicated a lack of opportunity).

Future directions
As well, a variety of areas for Stratheden to focus on in 2010 were surveyed. The responses were prioritised.
Areas to focus on in 2010:

1. Fairness and Justice for all
2. Realization of individual potential
3. Team / school spirit.

Curriculum

Background
Creative Arts at Stratheden PS is a valued key learning area.

Findings and conclusions
The Student Representative Council (SRC) ran monthly assemblies featuring student performances and displays of work which parents and community were invited to attend.

A number of students were selected for the Combined Schools’ Choir at the Casino/ Kyogle Performing Arts Festival.

All students participated in the performance of an item involving recital and choreography to an Australian poem, The Geebung Polo Club, at the Casino/Kyogle Performing Arts Festival and the annual school concert.

Years 4 – 6 were involved in the production of a movie, “Light and Dark”, which was shown at the Star Court Theatre.

Parents and friends of the school shared their skills, through a Clubs Program, which allowed students to experience various creative activities such as gardening, origami, dancing, painting and paper decorating.

All students participated in choral, poetry and drama performances at our annual school concert and Christmas prize giving evenings.

Students’ art/craft work was displayed at the Casino Show as part of the Casino District Small Schools’ Exhibit.

Students participated in the production of artworks to be competitively displayed at the Bentley Art Show.

Students attended an operatic performance of “Hansel and Gretel”.

Growth in students’ skills, talents and social development has been extremely positive and well received by the parents and carers.

Future directions
Stratheden PS will continue to provide quality opportunities for our students where they are encouraged to experience and participate in a variety of creative and performing arts activities.

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.

The parents indicated that they were satisfied that Stratheden PS provided an interesting and relevant learning environment, with learning activities that are appropriate and well resourced.

Students indicated that they like to learn and that they want to do their best.

Staff indicated they provided interesting and relevant learning activities and that they had high expectations of all their students.

Professional learning
Staff of Stratheden PS participated in Teacher Professional Learning activities during 2009 to develop their skills and knowledge for the benefit of their students.

Some of the courses which the staff attended were:

- Best Start
- CPR
- Maths and Inferential Comprehension
- Writing: narrative structure and language features

School development 2009 – 2011

- Improved outcomes in Literacy.
- Improved outcomes in Numeracy.
- Incorporate “Interactive Classroom” technologies into Quality Teaching and Learning classroom activities.

Targets for 2010

Target 1

All Yr 3 and Yr 5 to show growth in the mechanics of writing ie: correct punctuation, grammar and the structure of their writing; and to be at or above the State average for writing.

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- Set whole school writing goals for each term.
- Each term culminates in the publishing of students’ writing that celebrates their efforts.
- Purchase writing resources that engender and support a whole school focus on writing.
- Explicit teaching of the mechanics of writing ie: punctuation, spelling, grammar, editing and writing structures to include the different writing genres.
- Identify specific writing needs of students having difficulty and provide learning support.

Our success will be measured by:
- Analysis of Yr 3 and 5 NAPLAN results.
- Student editing awareness in text writing.
- Spelling dictation results.
- School writing assessments.
- Student engagement with writing tasks.

Target 2
All Stage 2 and 3 students to show a 30% growth in the skill of using mental strategies for addition and subtraction.

Strategies to achieve this target include:
- Morning Maths session that includes activities that promote knowledge and skills of ‘times tables’ and addition and subtraction patterns.
- Utilize games that promote the use of mental strategies of addition ie: Crib
- Participate in the annual internet event: World Maths Day

Our success will be measured by:
- School testing that assesses accuracy and speed.
- Tracking student performance on the computer maths program: Ultimate Maths Invader.
- Improved student confidence and competence in utilizing mental strategies in class.

Target 3
Raise awareness and skill levels of staff regarding ‘Interactive Classroom Technology’ (ICT)

Strategies to achieve this target include:
- Installation of Connected Classroom.
- Staff attend professional learning to enhance teacher skills and confidence in Interactive Classroom Technology.

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.

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