Our school at a glance

Students
2012 was another very successful for our school community with many highlights.
Enrolment in December 2012 was 464 students. This was an increase of 64 students over the 2011 enrolment. Enrolments will increase again in 2013.

Staff
In 2012, there were 19 class teachers, six specialist teachers, three administrative staff and six school learning support officers.

Significant programs and initiatives

Student achievement in 2012
Student achievement levels in the 2012 NAPLAN Assessments for Year 3 and Year 5 have continued at a high level. Students have demonstrated good growth between Year 3 and Year 5 in Literacy and Numeracy.

Messages

Principal’s message
Abbotsford Public School is committed to the development and maintenance of its ‘Rich Learning Environment’ where all students experience success across the academic, cultural, social and physical domains.

The commitment of students, staff and parents and carers to work together as a vibrant and effective school community remains critical to the success of the school.

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

Peter Widders
Principal

P & C message
2012 was another good year at Abbotsford Public School with the P&C raising almost $50,000 for the school to put towards additional projects over and above what the public system provides, thanks to continued parent & community support. The money has been spent on a range of items & small projects over the year, plus we leave some money in the pot for next year’s needs as well.

P&C contributed projects include the continued expansion of Interactive Whiteboards so we now have this technology in every classroom. The grounds have also been improved with new markings and the completion of the playground equipment as well as newly laid turf in the main playground area, significantly improving the play area for the children. Several computer upgrades were done for the Library, some of the canteen cabinets were replaced plus several other small projects covering a range of school activities as is the case most years, such as paying for the swimming lesson buses, contributing to the costs for the Year Six farewell etc.

Everyone had great fun at the P&C Olympathon.

The P&C Olympathon held this this Olympic year was a major fund raiser for
2012. Thanks to those who assisted both on the day and prior, as well as through sponsoring the children’s activities. The efforts were much appreciated and helped eclipse the funds raised last year. The Winter ‘Toasty and Trivia Night’ was also a fabulous success with 190 enthusiastic participants enjoying an evening of fun and friendly competition. The ‘Teachers’ Tables finished 1 and 2 on the night: reassurance that our children are in good hands! The ‘wish list’ for 2013 has been kept ‘relatively clean’ for the moment to allow for fresh ideas. That said, there continues to be healthy involvement in the school from parents and community members spanning roles from fundraising, special event management, grounds maintenance, classroom assistance, canteen & uniform shop staffing and assistance with extra-curricular activities.

Next year will see a few changes in the school with the retirement of principal Peter Widders who has overseen significant positive changes over the years. Also, several long standing parents who have been heavily involved in the school and the P&C are moving on as their children move from primary to the next level of education including the Cooper, Tosello, Kapetangianis and Schofield families, to mention a few. Thanks to all who assisted throughout 2012. All this effort adds to a great school atmosphere and healthy holistic education for our young children in what is clearly a rich learning environment at Abbotsford Public School with an engaging community spirit.

Regards
Glen Schofield
P&C President

Student representatives’ message
2012 has been an exceptional year at Abbotsford. Some of the things that have happened this year are the K-6 Musical, the new play equipment and the new turf area.

The play equipment was installed during the Term 2 holidays and we have had a lot of use out of it since then. It has been enjoyed by all of the students. It has been a worthwhile wait for this incredible equipment.

One of the most exciting things that happened this year was the K-6 Musical and it was a huge success. It was a very happy occasion for all students, teachers and parents. We can’t wait for the next musical in 2014.

In Term 3, birds ripped up the artificial lane markings on the oval and later we had it re-surfaced. We have been trying our very best to keep the birds away. We hung up some scarecrows on the oval fence and they have turned out to be very efficient caretakers.

In Term 4, a big new patch of turf was planted to improve our grounds. It was recently ready for use in the beginning of Week 6. All the students have been playing on the new grass and they have loved it.

Stage 3 enjoyed their 3 day excursion to Canberra

A very exciting time for all students is when we go on overnight excursions. Stage 3 went to Canberra for 2 nights and 3 days. This excursion was by far the best excursion Stage 3 has had. Stage 2 went to Jenolan Caves for a couple of nights. They thoroughly enjoyed it.

2012 has been one of the best years Abbotsford PS students have ever had.
Many improvements to the school were made and we hope there will be many in the years ahead. We hope next year will be just as exciting as it has been in 2012.

Ben Cody and Sarah Cooper
School Captains 2012

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>Gender</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>204</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>242</td>
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</table>

The Art Club developed some creative solutions to keep the Oval safe from wildlife.

Student attendance profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>95.5</td>
<td>95.9</td>
<td>95.2</td>
<td>95.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>96.1</td>
<td>96.5</td>
<td>93.4</td>
<td>95.4</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<td>94.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>95.2</td>
<td>95.0</td>
<td>95.6</td>
<td>94.5</td>
<td>95.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Management of non-attendance

The school works with the DEC Home School Liaison Officer to endeavor to resolve attendance issues.

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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Principal(s)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Principal(s)</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Head Teachers</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Classroom Teachers</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of Emotional Disabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher of Mild Intellectual Disabilities</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher of Reading Recovery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support Teacher Learning Assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher Librarian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher of ESL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Counsellor</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Administrative &amp; Support Staff</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>24.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The National Education Agreement requires schools to report on Indigenous composition of their workforce.

No staff identify as Indigenous Australians.

Staff retention

3 new staff were appointed to the school due to an increase of 3 classes in 2012. Two Classroom Teachers and an Assistant Principal were selected through the merit selection process.

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>92%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td>8%</td>
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</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>
<th>30/11/2012</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>$66,708.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
<td>$250,898.23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>$125,565.00</td>
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<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
<td>$302,344.41</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>$4085.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
<td>$80,187.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td>$763,079.88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Expenditure**           |            |
| Teaching & learning       |            |
|   Key learning areas      | $74,123.03 |
|   Excursions              | $34,660.89 |
|   Extracurricular dissections | $36,137.63|
| Library                   | $317.00    |
| Training & development    | $0.00      |
| Tied funds                | $140,914.67|
| Casual relief teachers    | $88,185.16 |
| Administration & office   | $105,004.08|
| School-operated canteen   | $0.00      |
| Utilities                 | $43,417.40 |
| Maintenance               | $47,910.37 |
| Trust accounts            | $79,746.00 |
| Capital programs          | $62,113.05 |
| **Total expenditure**     | $762,529.28|
| **Balance carried forward** | $67,258.85 |

A full copy of the school’s 2012 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 2012

Achievements

The Arts

School Musical 2012

The theme for the 2012 school musical was Books Alive!

The musical team, led by Angela Noble and Camille Hollingdale oversaw the development of the theme, schedule, ticketing and running of the shows. Preparations began at the end of 2011. Concepts were developed in term one with auditions and rehearsals commencing in term two. The culmination of all this hard work was another outstanding and successful show.

465 children K-6 were involved in the 2012 Musical 'Books Alive'.

Classes were paired to create an item based on popular children’s books. Teachers, students and parents worked together to write scripts, make costumes and paint backdrops for the event.

Due to enormous community interest there were three performances- two evenings and one matinee. The musical was extremely popular with evening performances selling out well in advance and the matinee only having a few seats available.

The Musical highlighted the vast array of talents of students and staff. All aspects of the Creative Arts program were covered with outstanding performances across Dance, Drama, Visual Arts, and Music.

It was another successful whole school event with all school members playing a vital role.

Stage Lighting

In the latter part of 2012, the Henry Lawson Community Hall had a stage lighting system installed. The lighting was first used at our 2012 Musical 'Books Alive'. The lighting equipment covers the front
and rear areas of the stage and comes with many features. Some of the features include strobe, disco and full-colour macro of red, blue or green. Staff have been trained in how to use this facility and we look forward to its further use in assemblies and special school events in the years to come. The installation was funded by the P&C and School.

**Raw Art**

As part of our Creative And Practical Arts program this year, each class participated in a master class with a visiting artist. Classes created diverse pieces of art using different materials and techniques. Some of these lessons included working with clay, creating mono prints and constructing mobiles.

All classes K-6 enjoyed the Raw Art experience.

As well, all teachers took part in a hands-on workshop where many interesting and new artistic methods were demonstrated.

**Boys’ Dance Group**

Strong negative attitudes relating to Boys performing through dance are still prevalent in today’s community. This year, Abbotsford PS has begun to turn its attention towards the different skills, talents and energy that, in particular, boys demonstrate through dance performance. A boys’ only dance group has begun to rehearse in the hip hop and freelance dance styles to encourage boys to cooperate in teams, increase their movement skills and take part in a demanding form of exercise. Boys have enjoyed using the pop and ‘R n B’ music of today to express themselves in a safe and accepting environment where they are seen as talented and skilled dancers.

**Chess, Art and Robotics Clubs**

The Chess, Art and Robotics clubs, run on Wednesday afternoons have continued to be popular in 2012, with over 40 students attending the three clubs in total. Since its inception in 2011, the Robotics Club has continued to grow in popularity. The students are developing new skills in computer programming and working with robots. Members of the Chess Club have represented the school on Friday afternoons in a competition against local schools. The Art Club has contributed to many school projects, including the main props for the school musical.

**String Ensemble**

Abbotsford PS has a well-established Instrumental Program offering tuition in Brass, Woodwind and Percussion instruments (including the piano). A number of students across the grades learn violin from external tutors. Much to our delight, Kathryn Zerk, a well-respected and qualified teacher of Music, offered to establish a String Ensemble as a way of contributing to the school community. Her son, Spencer, a Kindergarten student, is the youngest violinist. Three Year 6 students finally have a school group in which to play and those in between can continue to have the invaluable experience of ensemble playing. It has been a joy to watch the commitment and happiness these violinists display and to hear their sensitive performances.
Sport

PSSA Girls' Soccer

A great initiative for 2012 was the introduction of a P.S.S.A. Girls’ Soccer team at Abbotsford Public School. The school entered 3 teams into the competition – one senior team and two junior teams. In total 32 girls represented the school each Friday in terms 2 and 3 against 9 other schools in the zone.

The senior team competed in a full, 11 a side competition playing on a full-sized soccer field. They acquitted themselves well throughout the season, with some wins and some losses. The girls played with skill and sportsmanship and had a wonderful time playing as a team and learning new skills under the coaching of Miss Prater.

The Junior B Girls’ Football Team were undefeated premiers in 2012.

The two junior teams competed in a modified competition, playing on half-sized fields and with modified rules. They both had an amazing inaugural season. The Junior A team played well together and grew and grew throughout the season, finishing the season with their best results. The Junior B team had an extremely successful first season. With a team of mainly first time players they managed to remain undefeated all season and did not concede a single goal either! They competed in the grand final which they won convincingly 4-0.

Well done to all 32 girls involved in our inaugural season!

PSSA Netball

Two junior and two senior teams represented our school in PSSA Netball each Friday during Terms 2 & 3. There were 38 girls across the four teams who travelled to Cintra Park Netball Complex to compete against other schools in our zone with coaches Mrs Hudson and Miss Avramides.

Our teams were very competitive this year, with the senior B’s missing out on the semis by 1 point on the final table, Junior B’s reaching the semi-finals and Senior A’s winning their semi-final convincingly in hurricane-like conditions. Unfortunately, they lost the grand final but played fantastically with a tremendous effort on display. Well done to all the girls who learnt many ball and footwork skills during the season and represented our school with great sportsmanship.

PSSA Junior Football 2012

The Junior Football team, coached by Mr Matt Hull, had a great season in 2012. The team trained twice a week on a Wednesday morning and Thursday lunchtime, developing the skills required to compete and played a full round of matches every Friday afternoon. In the team, there were five year 3 students, seven year 4 students and four year 5 students. The team showed wonderful development throughout the year in fitness, technique and fair play. Our team ended up semi-finalists in 2012, a wonderful achievement with a relatively new line-up!

PSSA Senior Boys Football

The 2012 season was a very successful one for the PSSA Senior Boys Football team with Mr Hough as coach. It was the first
time that Abbotsford Public School won the competition and were crowned Premiers of the W.S.P.S.S.A. The team finished undefeated on top of its pool after the regular season round robin games. The Grand Final was a very close game with Abbotsford coming out winners 1-0. All the boys should be commended on their effort, sportsmanship and teamwork throughout the season.

The Senior Football Team were Undefeated Premiers in 2012.

Milo T20 Cricket

Abbotsford entered two teams in this year’s MILO T20 Cricket competition. The girls’ team, comprising players who had never played a real game of cricket before, enjoyed their experience and managed to improve with every game they played. The boys’ team performed superbly and won the Inner West competition and qualified for the Regional Finals. The team lost only one game at the Regional finals and were unlucky to miss out on the Grand Final, on a count-back, by one run. The team ended up finishing third and should be commended on their efforts.

Paul Kelly Cup AFL

Abbotsford Public School entered two teams in this year’s Paul Kelly Cup. The boys’ team in the competitive competition and the mixed team in the social competition. The mixed team had a lot of fun on the day and won some of their games. For many players on this team it was their first time playing AFL. The boys team managed to win all of their round games but were defeated in a very close grand final at the end of the day. All the players showed excellent sportsmanship throughout the competition.

Other Areas

Playground Equipment

At the beginning of Term Two, the installation of the long awaited fixed playground equipment was completed. The four pieces of equipment comprise a double slippery dip, a climbing net, a spinning supernova and two climbing blocks. Each class uses the equipment weekly for a 40 minute session. The equipment is also used daily during second half lunch. Before and after school hours, the equipment is used under parent supervision. This fantastic addition to our playground was jointly funded by the school, P & C and a number of grants. All teachers and students agree that the new equipment is a great source of exercise combined with fun.

The new Play Equipment has been exceptionally popular in 2012.

Play-Based Learning

In Kindergarten this year, we implemented a new Play-Based Learning Program. All activities were based on weekly sounds. Students were actively involved in the decision making process for each activity.
In Play-Based Learning sessions students participate in collaborative learning, open communication, designing learning centres and independently problem-solving. Kindergarten children became autonomous leaders of their own learning. Play-Based Learning has been a highly successful program at Abbotsford Public School.

New Turf

Seven hundred square metres of new turf was laid on the play area between the primary and infants playgrounds. The new turf consisted of both kikuyu and buffalo grass which were chosen for their hardiness in high traffic areas and tolerance to shade. After a period of 8 weeks, which allowed the grass to settle in and grow, the grass was mown and the children played happily. This project was jointly funded by the P&C and the school.

Lunchtime Stories

An initiative that began in the school this year was Lunchtime Stories. Every Thursday lunch a teacher would go to the library and read their favourite picture books. Students from all year levels would impatiently await the second lunch bell and then would rush off to the library.

The incentive to start a lunch reading program was to encourage a love of reading. It also gave students an opportunity to engage in an indoors listening activity. The response from the students was wonderful with many students turning up to enjoy the stories. The teachers also responded well, bringing many new books that meant something different to each teacher.

Lunchtime Stories in the Library were a very popular innovation.

Fencing /Pathway Project

Our school received a grant from the Department of Education and Communities as part of the School Refurbishment Program. We nominated to build a fence along Blackwall Point Road and Raynor Avenue. This fence provides security for our facilities and the students as well as being aesthetically pleasing. We also widened the path from Great North Road into the school grounds. This provides better access for all members of the school community. It is especially convenient when students are walking to buses for excursions.

The new pathway and fencing has greatly improved access to the school.
Book Week

This year we took a fresh approach to Book Week. Teachers swapped classes across Stages for one period and taught a special Book Week lesson to a new group of children. Each lesson was based on a short-listed book and tied in with the Book Week theme ‘Champions Read’.

A new Book Week focus was very popular in 2012.

In addition to this highly successful activity, students attended Book Week performances and participated in a Book Week poster competition. Once again there was enormous student support for this event. The library is vibrant with the new displays of posters and models which adorn the walls and shelves.

File Server

In Week 2 of Term 4 APS was cut over to its new eT4L file server, providing our school with a managed, flexible platform that assists us in providing the quality ICT skills we are renowned for.

This new platform provides a centrally monitored and maintained server ensuring problem solving occurs in a consistent, streamlined manner. It has also allowed secure storage for both staff and students, which is backed up off site automatically.

Due to this change our computers have speedier access to all programs and we have a consistent desktop operating system based on Windows 7. New software can be pushed out to any computer in the school by the administrators without having to visit each computer individually.

The new eT4L server has been a welcomed improvement to our ICT program across the entire school.

Trivia Night

The P&C held their 2012 Winter Wine and Toasty Trivia Night in mid-June this year and was thoroughly enjoyed by 190 people. It was a sell-out event and raised over $16,000 for our school. The evening began with a breathtaking operatic performance by sopranos Kathryn Zerk and Naomi Giselle and the string quartet, The Four Tunes. Each table competed against each other for the supreme prize of trivia champions, which was won by the Teachers. Parents were very happy with this result, confirming that their children were in safe hands!

Wests Ashfield Citizenship Awards

Our Student Representative Council (SRC) was selected as a joint Runner-Up in the 2012 Citizenship Awards conducted by Wests Ashfield. Student Leaders were interviewed by the Board of Directors of the club. This interview was to outline the role of the SRC at Abbotsford Public School. Six members of our school community attended the 2012 Wests Ashfield Citizenship Awards on Tuesday, 18 September.

The school received a prize of $1,000 and an additional $500 was donated to our designated charity, Stewart House. The SRC discussed how the prize money could be spent at their next meeting. It was a pleasing result that our citizenship and school service was acknowledged by this award.
Stage 1 enjoyed the Old School House Excursion

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

70 students sat the NAPLAN Assessment in Year 3 and they all performed above the state and regional average in the four areas tested. These areas are:

1. Reading,
2. Writing,
3. Spelling,

In the area of Writing, 91% of students scored in the highest bands of 4, 5 and 6 and 81% in Reading.

92% of students scored in the highest three bands in the area of Spelling and in Grammar and Punctuation 86% of students scored in these highest bands.

Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 3

Year three students preformed above the state average in all of the three areas tested. These tested areas were:

1. Numeracy,
2. Data, Measurement, Space & Geometry
3. Number, Patterns and Algebra.

77% of the students scored in the higher bands 4, 5 and 6 in overall Numeracy, 72% in Data, Measurement, Space and Geometry and 73% in Number, Patterns and Algebra.

---

Year 3 NAPLAN Reading

Average score, 2012

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<tr>
<th>Band</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>SSG</th>
<th>State DEC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>453.5</td>
<td>470.9</td>
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Skill Band Distribution

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<th>Band</th>
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<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number in Bands</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage in Bands</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>21.7</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>36.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Average 2008-2012</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>18.6</td>
<td>26.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSG % in Bands 2012</td>
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<td>4.1</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>16.1</td>
<td>26.5</td>
<td>43.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>State DEC % in Bands 2012</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>22.3</td>
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Year 3 NAPLAN Numeracy

Average score, 2012

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<td>410.1</td>
<td>445.9</td>
<td>400.2</td>
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Skill Band Distribution

<table>
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<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number in Bands</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage in Bands</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>17.1</td>
<td>38.6</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Average 2008-2012</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>19.9</td>
<td>30.6</td>
<td>28.0</td>
<td>15.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSG % in Bands 2012</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>25.2</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>33.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State DEC % in Bands 2012</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>10.6</td>
<td>21.1</td>
<td>26.9</td>
<td>19.9</td>
<td>16.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Year 2 always enjoy their 2 week Swimming Program.
Literacy – NAPLAN Year 5

Of the 41 students who sat the assessment in Year 5, the school performed above the state average in the four areas tested. These areas are:

1. Reading
2. Writing
3. Spelling
4. Grammar and Punctuation

The school performed above similar schools in the aspects of Writing and Spelling.

The number of students who scored in the higher bands of 6, 7 and 8 was 53.7% in Reading, 53.7% in Writing, 82.9% in Spelling and 58.6% in Grammar and Punctuation.

Year 5 NAPLAN Reading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill Band Distribution</th>
<th>Average score, 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>501.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Numeracy – Year 5

Of the 41 students who sat the assessment in Year 5, the school performed above the state average in the three areas tested. These areas are:

1. Numeracy
2. Data, Measurement, Space and Geometry
3. Number, Patterns and Algebra

The school performed below similar schools in all three aspects.

The number of students who scored in the higher bands of 6, 7 and 8 was 65.8% in Numeracy, 65.8% in Data, Measurement, Space and Geometry and 65.8% in Number, Patterns and Algebra.

Progress in reading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average progress in Reading between Year 3 and 5*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State DEC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Progress in numeracy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average progress in Numeracy between Year 3 and 5*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State DEC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Click on the link http://www.myschool.edu.au and enter the school name in the Find a school and select GO.

Significant programs and initiatives

Aboriginal education and Multicultural Education

Aboriginal and Multicultural education perspectives are incorporated into the Key Learning Area of Human Society and Its Environment throughout the year.
Stage 2 had a great time on their Jenolan Caves overnight excursion.

Progress on 2012 targets

Target 1

Learning Target: Continue the development and implementation of H.S.I.E and Science and Technology initiatives. To maintain support for students through the Learning Support Team referral and monitoring process.

Our achievements include:

- In H.S.I.E. skills-based learning has been implemented to promote higher order thinking skills
- Each term planning time / staff development days were used to update H.S.I.E. units.
- K-6 Children are now engaged in rich task experiences in H.S.I.E.
- Purchasing and implementing Primary connections K-6
- Development of scope and sequence linked to National Curriculum.

Target 2

Information and Communication Technologies Target: Extend the Interactive Whiteboard Installation Program to new classrooms and continue Teacher Professional Learning.

Our achievements include:

- Interactive whiteboards installed in two new classrooms so that entire school has interactive whiteboards installed.
- New server file installed and upgraded; Microsoft Windows and office on all computers.

School evaluations

NSW public schools conduct evaluations to support the effective implementation of the school plan. In 2012 our school carried out evaluation of Mathematics and Learning.

Educational and Management Practice

Learning

Background

In 2012, the school sought the opinion of students, parents and teachers. Their responses are presented below.

Findings and conclusions

Students appreciated the wide variety of different learning programs in operation at the school. Their preferred mode of learning was group work with requests for more practical and hands-on opportunities within learning programs.

Parents are aware of the variety of Learning Programs offered at Abbotsford Public School. All agree that there is a balance of programs and that their child’s classroom is an interesting place to learn. Parents appreciate the total school environment as being highly conducive to learning.

Teachers believe that the school’s Learning Programs are strong and provide a wide variety of opportunities both within the school day and as extra-curricular activities.

The School Musical ‘Books Alive’ was a great example of learning across the Key Learning Areas and teachers working with each other so that students could have such a rich learning experience. Teachers reflect on the challenge of providing such diverse
learning opportunities in a very busy timetable.

**Future directions**

- Teachers are always keen for Professional Development in each Key Learning Area. Staff meeting time will be further developed as a professional development focus.

- The school website will be further developed as a communication means to describe learning programs at the school.

**Foster Buddies is always a popular Term 1 Program**

**Curriculum**

**Mathematics**

**Background**

In 2012, the school sought the opinion of students, parents and teachers. Their responses are presented below.

Students believe that Mathematics is an important subject which they enjoyed. Students expressed a wish for more hands-on activities, group work and challenges in Mathematics.

Parents’ views are varied on this topic. Many would like to be more informed of teaching methods in order to assist their children at home. Communication from the school is considered to be important. 96% of Parents surveyed agreed their child had learnt new skills in Mathematics during the year.

Teachers are keen to have more professional development in teaching strategies in this Key Learning Area. Additional resources are required to support more interactive learning.

**Future Directions**

- The school’s K-6 Mathematics Programs will be rewritten to reflect the National Curriculum and the increased use of Interactive Whiteboards.

- The provision of additional support for students with mathematics learning will be investigated.

- Increased communication with Parents about Mathematics Learning Programs will be a priority in 2013.

**Play-Based Learning – Evaluation**

An innovation for 2012 was the introduction of Play–Based Learning in the Kindergarten Program. Two weekly sessions, each of 1 hours duration began at the start of Term 1 after extensive development in 2011.

Kindergarten Parents were surveyed in Term 4, 2012.

**Students enjoyed the twice-weekly Play Based Learning sessions in Kindergarten in 2012.**

**Findings and Conclusions**

Play-Based Learning (PBL) provides opportunities for students to be actively involved in a wide variety of learning
activities. This allows them to internalise and really understand the knowledge gained. Knowledge of physics (weight distribution) and problem solving were demonstrated in Lego constructions at home. PBL also proved to be an effective way of developing social skills and relationships.

**Future Directions**

PBL was an extremely successful component of the Kindergarten learning program. Parents are keen to have more information on the program and to see the program further expanded in the Kindergarten program.

**Parent, student, and teacher satisfaction**

**Background**

In 2012, the school sought the opinion of students, teachers and parents about the school. Data collected provided the school with information to determine strengths and areas for consolidation and improvement.

**Findings and Conclusions**

Students firmly believe that the school has supportive welfare programs such as Social Skills, Peer Support and Foster Buddies. They agree that the 2012 Random Act of Kindness award promotes a caring environment.

Teachers agree that Abbotsford is a good place to work. They strongly agree that teachers are highly competent and set high standards of achievement for their students.

Parents expressed the value of there being a wide range of extracurricular programs offered at the school such as sport, performing arts, music, bands, public speaking and debating. Kindergarten parents are satisfied with the implementation of Play Based Learning Program.

Parents and teachers recognise the importance of both the weekly newsletter and the school website as useful resources for informing the community about coming events and achievements.

**Future directions**

In 2013, Random Act of Kindness awards to be extended into K-2. Teachers will receive training and development in National Curriculum Standards.

**Professional learning**

Professional learning in 2012 continued to focus on ICT Program use with a particular emphasis on use of the new Interactive Whiteboards. A new IWB Unit File was developed with all Teachers able to access this resource for Literacy and Numeracy files.

The installation of a new File Server was a major boost to the school's ICT Programs and Projects.

The school’s HSIE and Science and Technology plan were areas of development in 2012 with new teaching resources and equipment being linked to modified units of work.

Training for all staff in Emergency Care, CPR, and Anaphylaxis care measures was completed during the year.

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*Stage 3 enjoyed the Biodiversity Survey on the school grounds as part of the Field of Mars Unit.*
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.

Outcome for 2012–2014

Target 1 – Learning

Targets to achieve this outcome include:

- Continue teacher professional learning programs with the National Curriculum.
- Maintain resource acquisition programs to support the National Curriculum.
- Provide information for Parents about National Curriculum initiatives.
- Continue Learning Support and Enrichment provisions.

Strategies to achieve these targets include:

- Staff workshops and projects to familiarise teachers with National Curriculum content.
- Resource purchases linked to identified needs in Learning Programs.
- Communication with Parents facilitated through a variety of means including P&C Meetings, Stage Newsletters and School Website items.
- Learning Support Team management of school programs in Learning Support and Enrichment.

Target 2 – Information and Communication Technologies

2012 Targets to achieve this outcome include:

- Complete the wireless infrastructure project and purchase additional devices.
- Continue the Interactive Whiteboard ‘Files’ Project to support learning programs K-6.
- Complete the Stage 2 and Stage 3 Film Festivals.
- Expand Video Conference opportunities across learning programs.
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.

Rob Vellar – President of the School Council
Glen Schofield – President of the P&C
Camille Hollingdale - Teacher
Sue McKay- Assistant Principal (Rel)
Fiona Baird – Assistant Principal (Rel)
Michelle Prater – Teacher
Courtney Avramides - Teacher
Peter Widders- Principal

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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: