Our school at a glance

Students

Blackville Public School is a small rural school located on rich farming land in the Liverpool Plains. It has a proud history of excellence producing confident, well rounded young people who have gone on to achieve great things. In 2013 our K-6 students benefited from outstanding educational opportunities in an extremely positive learning environment, as well as involvement in a wide range of extra-curricula activities.

Staff

Blackville Public School benefits from dedicated staff that are completely committed to our school. The teaching, ancillary and support staff work extremely hard throughout the year ensuring that our students receive the best education. They provide so many opportunities for our students and have made schooling such a memorable experience. Our staff are continually striving for best practice in providing strong support and excellent learning programs for our students.

Principal’s message

What a wonderful opportunity I have had this year to fill the role of Acting Principal at this amazing little school. The year has been filled with highs and lows but through it all our school community has remained strong and determined to support and stand behind the gem of Blackville, Blackville Public School. During 2013 we had a disturbing number of enrolments and Blackville’s future for the first time in many years was unsure. Through persistence and community support Blackville Public School is still open and offering quality education to children in an isolated area. New students and parents to Blackville have enabled our little school to continue providing quality education.

This year we bid farewell to two long-standing staff members, Amanda Maxwell and Wilfred MacBeth, who have worked tirelessly for the school for many years. Amanda has been Principal of Blackville for 8 years. In this time she has played an integral role as a Principal, classroom teacher, community member and friend to the students and families incorporated with the school. Both Amanda & Wilf have been an incredible asset to our school and their commitment to delivering excellence in education is evident in many adolescents in the region.

During 2013, we have continued to receive outstanding support from our parents and community. The Blackville P&C donated $500 towards the library, allowing the purchase of all the 2013 Short-listed books. Their contribution towards our annual excursion greatly reduced the financial burden on every family. The Blackville Community Art Show Committee supported our school to the value of $11,200 which allowed us run a Ready Set Go program for pre-school aged children and to continue to provide an enviable student-teacher ratio and supporting staff in maximizing outcomes for every student.

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.

Shelley Clews (Acting Principal)
P & C Message

2013 has been another great year at Blackville Public School. The students have been given so many opportunities some of which included; public speaking, spelling bees, a variety of sporting opportunities and exciting excursions.

The students at our small school are enthusiastic and always keen to give everything their best. They had a wonderful Principal in Amanda Maxwell and Acting Principal in Shelley Clews. Both these educators have worked hard to instill confidence and skills in the children in their care.

The staff recognizes the necessity to provide as many opportunities for socialization and multiple learning experiences outside of their regular environment. Students went on an excursion to Canberra for a week, they also went to Pilliga Pottery and Burning Mountain amongst other sporting excursions.

The P&C have contributed funds to purchase shortlisted books for the library and we have also contributed to the cost of the Canberra excursion.

We wish all staff and students all the best for 2014. We are sure it will be another great year for Blackville Public School.

The P&C Committee

Student representative’s message

We love being students at Blackville Public School. We love our small school because it is easy to learn when the classroom isn’t full of kids. Our classroom is quiet when we are working independently but it can become just as loud as a normal classroom when we are learning about music and drama, exploring the world of science or when Mrs Clews gets excited about our learning.

When we are doing Maths, Writing, Spelling, Art, HSIE and Science we are always happily learning because we get to ask so many questions and Mrs Clews helps us with everything. Mrs Clews has given us lots of opportunities to participate in many fun and exciting activities in the classroom, outside the classroom and at other schools too.

Mrs Clews is a lovely teacher and a great principal. She cares about us and makes sure we work as hard as we can. Mrs Waldron comes once a week and we look forward to having her teach us. Mrs Waldron is a gentle and fun teacher. She makes learning exciting because she believes in us and has a great sense of humour.

We are lucky to be students at Blackville because we are given opportunities that other children in big schools never get to experience. Setting up our own vegetable garden, attending public speaking in Boggabri, travelling to Spring Ridge for sport every Friday, Active After Schools every Monday, special visitors to the school to teach us Aboriginal art, exciting excursions and much more.

Blackville Public School is the best.

Brodie Saunders & Paige Anderson

Student information

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

Student enrolment profile

4 Enrolments at the beginning of the year dropping down to 2 enrolments by the end of 2013.
Student attendance profile

We are very pleased with our attendance rates here at Blackville Public School.

Management of non-attendance

In NSW it is a legal requirement that children attend everyday unless sick or on a planned holiday. Attendance at Blackville is recorded daily. After 7 days unexplained absences are followed up with a phone call or letter. In the event that improvement did not occur the Department’s Home School Liaison Officer would be contacted and due process followed.

Workforce composition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Number</th>
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</thead>
<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></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Teachers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Teacher(s)</td>
<td>.126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of Reading Recovery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learning and Support Teacher(s)</td>
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<td>Teacher Librarian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher of ESL</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Counsellor</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>School Administrative &amp; Support</td>
<td>.996</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2.206</td>
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The Australian Education Regulation, 2013 requires schools to report on Aboriginal composition of their workforce.

At present there are no indigenous staff employed at our school.

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>
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Financial summary

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of financial summary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
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<td>Global funds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>24091.94</td>
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<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
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<td>Interest</td>
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<td>Trust receipts</td>
<td>128.77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
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<td>Total income</td>
<td>96021.88</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching &amp; learning</td>
<td>13102.26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Key learning areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Excursions</td>
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<td>Extracurricular dissections</td>
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<td>Library</td>
<td>656.82</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training &amp; development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Casual relief teachers</td>
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<td>Administration &amp; office</td>
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<tr>
<td>School-operated canteen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
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<td>Maintenance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trust accounts</td>
<td>103.76</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total expenditure</td>
<td>56417.57</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance carried forward</td>
<td>39604.31</td>
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A full copy of the school’s 2013 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 2013**

**Achievements**

2013 has been a successful year for Blackville students in public speaking, music and visual arts.

**Public Speaking**

Gunnedah Eisteddfod allowed the children to present their polished poetry recitals. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience with Cate Arnold receiving 3rd place in the Year One Humorous Poetry Section and also 3rd place in the Infants Australian Poetry Section. Takira Corcoran received a 1st place in Year 6 Restricted Recitation.

All students prepared speeches for the Boggabri Public Speaking Competition. The children were rewarded for their hard work with Dane Saunders taking Second Place with his impromptu speech.

Cate Arnold & Takira Corcoran receiving a highly commended and a 2nd place for their photographic entries at the Currajubula Small Schools’ Art Show, whilst Dane Saunders took out first place at Quirindi Show for his item Depicting a Sheep and Brodie Saunders 1st place for his batch of six scones.

**The Arts**

Blackville Students participated in a comprehensive Visual Arts program with selected pieces being displayed as entries in the Currajubula Small Schools’ Art Show, Quirindi Show and Blackville Community Art Show.

**Sport**

**Cross Country**

All students trained hard for Cross Country with improvements in times. Alicia McCabe and Takira Corcoran represented Blackville at Zone Cross Country at Willow Tree. The competition was fierce and the girls gave 100% effort.
Athletics

Blackville students participated with great enthusiasm at the Spring Ridge Small Schools’ Athletics Carnival. It was a wonderful day to catch up with friends from other small schools in the area.

Dane Saunders achieved success in discus at the Quirindi Zone Carnival coming first. Dane continued on to represent Quirindi Zone at Regional Athletics.

Academic achievements

NAPLAN

Blackville Public School did not have any students enrolled in year 3 or 5 at the time of NAPLAN in 2013.

Significant programs and initiatives

Ready Set Go Program

The Ready Set Go Program is a year-long transition program. The transition class is an important beginning to school for our local Preschool children. Parents and teachers become acquainted and liaise together discussing children and their needs. The children become familiar with the school grounds, buildings, rules and routines. The children develop classroom skills and organisational practises that will enable them to commence formal learning quickly next year.

In 2013 there were 3 students involved in the Ready Set Go Program.

Active After–School Communities

Ongoing funding through the Australian Sports Commission allows our students to participate in a range of fitness and sporting activities after school hours. The aim of this program is to engage children in sport and other structured physical activities and through a positive and fun experience help to
develop a love of sport. In 2013 all students benefited from fun, active after school tuition in gymnastics, athletics, golf, circus skills and hockey.

Premier’s Spelling Bee

During 2013 the Premier’s Spelling Bee continued to be a major program in our school. This is a fun and educational way for our students to engage with spelling.

Our school hosted the Fourth Annual Small School’s Spelling Bee involving over 60 students from seven small schools, along with staff and parents.

Premier’s Sporting Challenge

During 2013, the Premier’s Sporting Challenge continued to be an important part of our PE/Sport Education. The aim is to engage students in sport and physical activity, encouraging them to lead healthy, active lifestyles. Children completed a number of challenges designed to keep them more active, more of the time.

Aboriginal education

Aboriginal Education is embedded in school life and educates all students about Aboriginal history and culture. Our school community acknowledges the local custodians of the land and pays respect to elders past and present.

In HSIE we largely focused on the Aboriginal people of Australia. Students thoroughly enjoyed being immersed in our Aboriginal culture and heritage. Local Aboriginal artist, Anthony Conlon, spent two days with the students making traditional jewelry, didgeridoos, boomerangs and learning the intricate form of ‘dot painting’ and planning and completing a mural with the children. As he worked he spoke of dreamtime stories and the like. This experience was invaluable and it was delightful to watch the children as Anthony captivated their minds and gave them a rare insight into Aboriginal culture.

We continued with our absorption into Aboriginal culture with an excursion to the Burning Mt Nature Reserve where the
children were lucky to have an Aboriginal Elder as their guide for the day.

Baradine/Pilliga National Forest excursion was our final excursion for 2013. The children thoroughly enjoyed the guided tours of the Sandstone Caves and the Sculptures in the Scrub. Again the children were spoilt with their park ranger, an elder from Baradine.

**Multicultural education**

The Blackville Public School community acknowledges Australia as a multicultural nation. We incorporate the multicultural perspectives through the mandatory cultural units taught in HSIE and through multicultural texts used during literacy and the many information texts in the Library and ICT.

As our school and community is not culturally diverse, we believe it is crucial to maintain a focus on multicultural education across the curriculum, providing learning programs which develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes required in a culturally diverse society.

**Transitional Equity Funding**

**County Areas Program**

The support of the NSW Country Areas Program enables staff and students at Blackville Public School to break down the barriers of geographic isolation and maximize learning opportunities through the integration of the latest technologies into the classroom. Country Area Program funds also enable staff and students to travel to workshops and camps where they can develop knowledge and build social networks.

National partnerships and significant Commonwealth initiatives (participating schools only)

Blackville Public School has not been included in any National Partnership Program.

**School planning and evaluation 2012—2014**

**School evaluation processes**

NSW public schools conduct evaluations to support the effective implementation of the school plan. In 2013 we evaluated the
effectiveness of the Health and PE programs in the school.

School planning 2012—2014: progress in 2013

School Priority 1
An increased percentage of students at proficiency level in literacy.

Outcomes from 2012–2014
All students achieving national and regional benchmarks in Literacy.

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2013:

- Implementing Individual Learning Plans and monitoring students’ progress.
- Teacher programs reflect a variety of strategies addressing the Quality Teaching Framework.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014

- Continuing to use technology to engage students whilst increasing their skills.
- TPL to focus on the implementation of the National Curriculum for Literacy.
- Teacher programming and assessment to reflect the Literacy Continuum K–6.

School Priority 2
An increased percentage of students at proficiency level in numeracy.

Outcomes from 2012–2014
All students achieving national and regional benchmarks in Numeracy.

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2013:

- Implementing Individual Learning Plans and monitoring students’ progress.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:

- Students and staff use Mathletics & Ipad Apps to enhance the teaching and learning of mathematics.
- Introducing ‘Newman’s Error Analysis’ and ‘Quicksmart’ drills to assist with comprehension and automaticity.
- Teacher programming and assessment to reflect the Numeracy Continuum K – 6.

School Priority 3
Increased use of current technologies by students and staff.

Outcomes from 2012–2014
Students to display confidence and competence in the use of technology.

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2013:

- Involvement in a range of video conferences including Writers Online Series.
- Professional Development at Itech

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:

- Incorporating Ipads in daily classroom lessons.
- Create a multi-modal classroom.
- Purchase of new and reliable laptops for each child to use at school.

School Priority 4
Compensation for geographic isolation by exposing students to a wide range of experiences.

Outcomes from 2012-2014
All students will have opportunities to perform confidently in a range of contexts outside the classroom.
Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2013:

- Excursion to Canberra.
- Participation in Active After Schools, Swim School, Public Speaking.
- Utilizing every possible opportunity to expand learning beyond the classroom.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:

- Attending other schools for travelling shows, academic events, sporting events and other special events.
- Whole school excursion to Sydney.
- Sporting, academic and creative programs to be accessed and presented at Blackville Public School whenever possible.

Professional learning

All staff members are continually learning through ongoing professional development. All staff attended the ITEC conference to extend training in Technology and Live Life Well @ School was attended also to delve more deeply into living a healthy life and how this impacts a child’s ability to focus in the classroom.

Parent/caregiver, student, and teacher satisfaction

In 2013, the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school.

Given our unique situation we have continuing communication with parents and students at Blackville.

Program evaluations

It is requirement for all NSW Public Schools to conduct at least two annual evaluations. In 2013 we had many families pass through our school and all took part in informal evaluations of our educational, curriculum and management practices. The results were that all families were happy with the quality education and care given to their children at Blackville Public School.

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.

Shelley Clews, Acting Principal.
Rebecca MacKenzie, Relieving School Admin Manager.

School contact information

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Fax: 02 67 474 100
Email: Blackville-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Web: www.blackville-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
School Code: 1252

Parents can find more information about Annual School Reports, how to interpret information in the report and have the opportunity to provide feedback about the report at: