

Our school at a glance

Mount Murchison State School is nestled in the picturesque rolling hills at Mount Murchison in the close proximity of the rural township of Biloela. Enrolments are current in all year levels from Prep through to Year 7 with students coming from a mix of rural and urban home settings.

We are currently reaping the benefits of having a strong and experienced staffing team who work in collaboration to ensure that student learning improvement is the daily dialogue of Mount Murchison State School. With a strong emphasis on explicit instruction of positive learning and social behaviours, students are able to engage in strong learning programs with targeted intervention and support and extension.

In our one-teacher multi aged classroom, we are able to foster leadership opportunities for older students and to provide social support to younger students. We harvest the positive aspects of being a multiaged school to support student learning, social development and, additionally, to foster a feeling of community amongst all of our students.

We strongly encourage parent involvement in all aspects of school life. We are fortunate to benefit from a strong P&C presence who are committed to working with the Principal to ensure the best learning outcomes for all of our students.



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Principal's foreword

Introduction

The School Annual Report provides a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the positives of our unique small school setting. Mount Murchison State School is the quintessential small school providing a individual learning programs and social oportunites for students.

The small school setting requires high levels of operational organisation to ensure positive outcomes for all students. We are fortuante at Mount Murchison State School to have a highly experienced staff to enable the complex demands of the school structure to be executed in a smooth operational manner. The cornerstone to our success is not only the experience but also the high levels of trust and communication from within the staff.

Our students have the desire to learn which is created by the classroom culture which inspires all students to reach their own learning potentials.

Our school at a glance

School progress towards its goals in 2013

The school has been able to meet the strategic goals outlined in the 2013 Annual Implementation Plan.

Future outlook

The 2014 school year is proving to be a dynamic and exciting time for all stakeholders at Mount Murchison State School. Firstly, and foremostly, our unrelentingly focus on improving student learning outcomes has yielded very exciting improvement data for all students at our school.

Our major focus for 2014 is to actively improve writing and reading outcomes for all students. The rollout of the Great Results Guarantee has provided a further focus of these targets on students in the Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 cohorts. To achieve our targets, ongoing Professional Development is focused on Explicit Instruction which has been significantly supported by working with our Pedagogical Coach within our school site. Resourcing has been placed into Learning Support during 2014 to ensure that students are meeting their individual learning improvement targets.

We are currently enjoying a growth in our student numbers and are working as a community to continue to promote the positive image of our school within the community

School Profile

Mount Murchison State School is a coeducation state school which caters for students from Prep through to Year 7.

Total student enrolments for this school:

	Total	Girls	Boys	Enrolment Continuity (Feb – Nov)
2011	9	5	4	89%
2012	15	7	8	69%
2013	16	5	11	93%

Student counts are based on the Census (August) enrolment collection.

Characteristics of the student body:

Mount Murchison State School is located a short 8 km drive from Biloela. Whilst historically we have drawn on families from a wide range of cultures, our current families attending Mount Murchison State School are Australian born and speak English as a first language. Our students are drawn both from the rural and urban sector.

Average Class sizes

Phase	Average Class Size		
	2011	2012	2013
Prep – Year 3	9	13	16
Year 4 – Year 7 Primary			
Year 7 Secondary – Year 10			

Our school at a glance

School Disciplinary Absences

Disciplinary Absences	Count of Incidents		
	2011	2012	2013
Short Suspensions - 1 to 5 days	0	0	1
Long Suspensions - 6 to 20 days	0	0	0
Exclusions	0	0	0
Cancellations of Enrolment	0	0	0

Curriculum offerings

Mount Murchison State School delivers curriculum framed around the following key learning areas:

English Mathematics Science LOTE Technology
Science The Arts Health and Physical Education Geography
History

Curriculum delivery is supported by Specialist Teachers in the key learning areas of LOTE, Music and Health and Physical Education.

The delivery of our Science program is enhanced by the parallel and ongoing program *Science: Making It Fair* which endeavours to support higher levels of student achievement in Science and to provide opportunities to extend our Gifted and Talented students.

At Mount Murchison State School, we strive to provide extra-curricular activities to allow students to participate in extra curricula opportunities with the wider community not merely for the educational benefits but also to provide more opportunities for our students to engage with a larger number of students their own age.

This is being achieved by participating in events such as:

- ☞ Cluster Under 8s Day
- ☞ AFL Clinic
- ☞ Camp
- ☞ Swimming Program
- ☞ Arts Council
- ☞ Eisteddfod
- ☞ Science Specialist Day
- ☞ Biloela Show entries
- ☞ ANZAC Day Ceremony

We are very fortunate at Mount Murchison State School to be heavily resourced with regards to Information and Communication Technologies. We have 5 operational PCs, 4 laptops and 17 iPads which are all used in a wide range of activities to support student learning. With such a high device to student ratio, student access to ICTs is also very high. The use of all of these devices is integrated into the teaching of all key learning areas and students are also skilled to work independently with these devices with activities to support their learning.

Our school at a glance

Social Climate

A positive and cooperative social climate is highly valued at Mount Murchison State School. All students are highly supported to develop positive behaviour patterns by teaching them a wide range of strategies to cope with social situations. Bullying is not tolerated at Mount Murchison State School and considerable time is invested to support children making positive behaviour choices by working with the child, the family, peers and staff.

The Chaplaincy program is a vital element of our school community with one day a week where our Chaplain is onsite working with students, staff and families. This enables support for students and families and provides a key vector to access outside community resources to support our students.

Parent, student and staff satisfaction with the school

The performance data reaffirms the strong commitment that all key stakeholders have in working together to improve learning for students. This data reflects community confidence in all areas of school operations at Mount Murchison State School.

Performance measure (Nationally agreed items shown*)

Percentage of parents/caregivers who agree that:	2012	2013
their child is getting a good education at school (S2016)	100%	100%
this is a good school (S2035)	100%	100%
their child likes being at this school* (S2001)	100%	100%
their child feels safe at this school* (S2002)	100%	100%
their child's learning needs are being met at this school* (S2003)	100%	92%
their child is making good progress at this school* (S2004)	100%	100%
teachers at this school expect their child to do his or her best* (S2005)	100%	100%
teachers at this school provide their child with useful feedback about his or her school work* (S2006)	100%	100%
teachers at this school motivate their child to learn* (S2007)	100%	100%
teachers at this school treat students fairly* (S2008)	100%	92%
they can talk to their child's teachers about their concerns* (S2009)	100%	100%
this school works with them to support their child's learning* (S2010)	100%	100%
this school takes parents' opinions seriously* (S2011)	100%	100%
student behaviour is well managed at this school* (S2012)	100%	100%
this school looks for ways to improve* (S2013)	100%	100%
this school is well maintained* (S2014)	100%	92%

Performance measure (Nationally agreed items shown*)

Our school at a glance

Percentage of students who agree that:	2012	2013
they are getting a good education at school (S2048)	100%	100%
they like being at their school* (S2036)	86%	100%
they feel safe at their school* (S2037)	100%	80%
their teachers motivate them to learn* (S2038)	100%	100%
their teachers expect them to do their best* (S2039)	100%	100%
their teachers provide them with useful feedback about their school work* (S2040)	86%	100%
teachers treat students fairly at their school* (S2041)	100%	100%
they can talk to their teachers about their concerns* (S2042)	86%	80%
their school takes students' opinions seriously* (S2043)	100%	100%
student behaviour is well managed at their school* (S2044)	83%	100%
their school looks for ways to improve* (S2045)	100%	100%
their school is well maintained* (S2046)	83%	100%
their school gives them opportunities to do interesting things* (S2047)	86%	100%

Performance measure

Percentage of school staff who agree that:	2013
they enjoy working at their school (S2069)	100%
they feel that their school is a safe place in which to work (S2070)	100%
they receive useful feedback about their work at their school (S2071)	100%
students are encouraged to do their best at their school (S2072)	100%
students are treated fairly at their school (S2073)	100%
student behaviour is well managed at their school (S2074)	100%
staff are well supported at their school (S2075)	100%
their school takes staff opinions seriously (S2076)	100%
their school is well maintained (S2078)	86%
their school gives them opportunities to do interesting things (S2079)	100%

* Nationally agreed student and parent/caregiver items were incorporated in the School Opinion Survey in 2012.

Percentage of respondents who Somewhat Agree, Agree or Strongly Agree with the statement. Due to a major redevelopment of the surveys (parent/caregiver and student in 2012; staff in 2013), comparisons with results from previous years are not recommended.

DW = Data withheld to ensure confidentiality.

Our school at a glance

Involving parents in their child's education

Parent involvement in all aspects of school life is highly valued at Mount Murchison State School. All families are actively involved with our P&C which is an enormous support to the learning of our students. The Principal maintains regular contact with families through both formal interviews and frequent discussions on the school site. It is a priority for the Principal to make time to work with families on all aspects of school life.

The creation of a school environment where parent involvement is highly valued is possible by the manner in which all members of the school staff work with our parents. We take particular time to ensure that parents know how to support the learning progress of their child by explaining things such as how to practise sight words or how to support the development of reading strategies.

Reducing the school's environmental footprint

The presence of our solar panels greatly reduces our environmental footprint. We also encourage students to ensure that our school environment is kept neat and tidy with responsible disposal of rubbish items.

	Environmental footprint indicators	
	Electricity kWh	Water kL
2010-2011	8,480	383
2011-2012	10,379	491
2012-2013	0	0

The consumption data is sourced from the validated utilities expenditure return which the school submits at the end of each financial year. The data provides an indication of the consumption trend in each of the utility categories which impact on the schools environmental footprint.

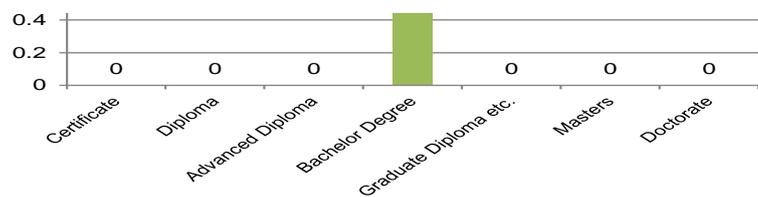
Our staff profile

Staff composition, including Indigenous staff

2013 Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff *	Non-teaching Staff	Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	1	4	0
Full-time equivalents	1	2	0

Qualifications of all teachers

Bachelor Degree	1
Graduate Diploma etc.	0
Masters	0
Doctorate	0
Total	1



* Teaching Staff includes School Leaders

** Graduate Diploma etc. includes Graduate Diploma, Bachelor Honours Degree, and Graduate Certificate

Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2013 were \$ 7 945.

The major professional development initiatives were as follows:

- Principal Professional Development in Business Meetings, Cluster Meetings and State Conference
- Conflict Management
- Preparation for the implementation of Geography Curriculum
- Explicit Instruction

The proportion of the teaching staff involved in professional development activities during 2013 was 100 %.

Average staff attendance	2011	2012	2013
Staff attendance for permanent and temporary staff and school leaders.	99%	100%	100%

Our staff profile

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the previous school year, 3% of staff was retained by the school for the entire 2013 school year.

School income broken down by funding source

School income broken down by funding source is available via the *My School* website at <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>.

To access our income details, click on the *My School* link above. You will then be taken to the *My School* website with the following 'Find a school' text box.

The image shows a search interface titled "Find a school". It contains two main search sections. The first section is "Search by school name", which includes a text input field and a yellow "GO" button. The second section is "Search by suburb, town or postcode", which includes a text input field, a "Sector" dropdown menu with "Government" selected, and a "Non-government" radio button. Below these options is a yellow "SEARCH" button.

Where it says '**Search by school name**', type in the name of the school you wish to view, and select **<GO>**. Read and follow the instructions on the next screen; you will be asked to accept the **Terms of Use** and Privacy Policy before being given access to the school's *My School* entry web page.

School financial information is available by selecting '**School finances**' in the menu box in the top left corner of the school's entry web page. If you are unable to access the internet, please contact the school for a paper copy of income by funding source.

Performance of our students

Key student outcomes

Student attendance	2011	2012	2013
The overall attendance rate for the students at this school (shown as a percentage).	96%	91%	93%
The overall attendance rate in 2013 for all Queensland state Primary schools was 92%.			

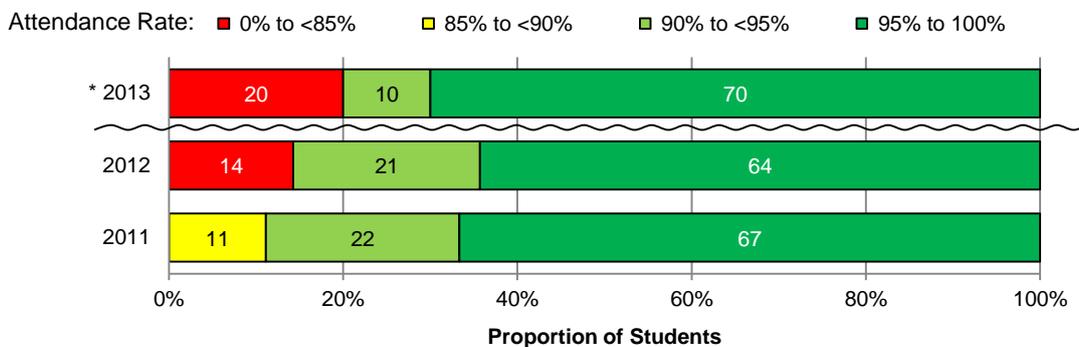
Student attendance rate for each year level (shown as a percentage)

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12
2011	94%		95%	97%								
2012	95%	99%		82%	95%							
2013	87%	100%	98%	98%	83%	96%	DW					

DW = Data withheld to ensure confidentiality.

Student Attendance Distribution

The proportions of students by attendance range.



* The method for calculating attendance changed in 2013 – care should be taken when comparing data from 2013 to that of previous years.

Description of how non-attendance is managed by the school

Non-attendance is managed in state schools in line with the DET policies, SMS-PR-029: Managing Student Absences and SMS-PR-036: Roll Marking in State Schools, which outline processes for managing and recording student attendance and absenteeism.

Attendance is recorded with diligence at Mount Murchison State School. Being a one teacher school, the Principal accepts all responsibility for working with families should issues arise which affect attendance rates of students. Time is also allocated each term to analyse patterns of non-attendance and follow-up action is initiated if deemed necessary.

Performance of our students

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results – our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are available via the My School website at <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>.

To access our NAPLAN results, click on the *My School* link above. You will then be taken to the *My School* website with the following 'Find a school' text box.

The screenshot shows a search interface titled "Find a school". It contains two main search sections. The first section is "Search by school name", which includes a text input field and a circular orange "GO" button. The second section is "Search by suburb, town or postcode", which includes a text input field, a "Sector" dropdown menu with two options: "Government" (selected) and "Non-government", and a rectangular orange "SEARCH" button.

Where it says 'Search by school name', type in the name of the school whose NAPLAN results you wish to view, and select <GO>.

Read and follow the instructions on the next screen; you will be asked to accept the **Terms of Use** and Privacy Policy before being able to access NAPLAN data.

If you are unable to access the internet, please contact the school for a paper copy of our school's NAPLAN results.

Achievement – Closing the Gap

In accordance with EEO privacy provisions, the 'less than 5' rule has been applied in our school as the Indigenous student numbers are less than five. We continue to work proactively with our students and families at Mount Murchison State School as we strive to consistently improve outcomes for students.