

**Nathalia Primary School
2060**

Annual Report to the School Community



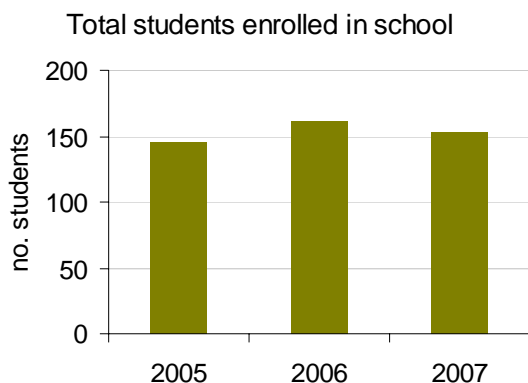
School Overview

Nathalia Primary School is in the country town of Nathalia in the Moira Shire. The majority of students travel to school by bus from the districts of Barmah, Picola, Waaia, Yalca, Kaarimba and Kotupna.

Enrolments fluctuate from year to year in relation to rural industry and cheaper housing availability. There is a fluctuating enrolment but the trend is downward over the next few years. In 2007 students were distributed between seven classrooms structured as one Prep grade, two grade 1/2s, two grade 3/4s, and two grade 5/6s.

In 2007 there were 9 teaching staff.

The School Council members and Parents club are active and supportive groups within the school and are developing the school environment. The school has close links with Nathalia community groups, the kindergarten, secondary college and hospital.



Demographics

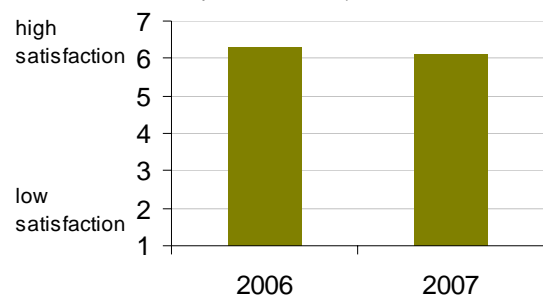
In 2007 there were 154 students. Nathalia student numbers have varied from 175 to 145 over the past 5 years. Fluctuations occur because of the number of students exiting from Grade

6 compared the number of prep enrolments.

Factors such as the drought conditions over the past 10 years, available jobs, houses for young families, residential development, viability of the rural industry and related services over the next decade will reflect in enrolment numbers.

School Council are monitoring this trend and actively promote our school.

Parents' satisfaction with this school
(average score on scale of 1 to 7, where 7 is best possible score)



Parent satisfaction with the school

Parents are randomly selected by the Department of Education in Melbourne to fill in satisfaction surveys each year. These forms are collected and sent to Melbourne for collation and results electronically forwarded to the school. In 2007 we had a 50% return of surveys. As indicated by the graph our parent satisfaction scale is high. Out of a possible 7 our rate of satisfaction is over 6. We have worked hard as a school to support students and parents to achieve the best educational and social outcomes possible.

Teacher Satisfaction

The average score for teacher satisfaction (morale) at Nathalia PS was 75 on a scale from 1 to 100 where 100 is the best possible score.

Teacher Absence

The average number of days absent per teacher was 2.54.

Teacher Retention

Of the 11 teaching staff at Nathalia Primary School at June 2006 (including those on leave without pay), 10 or 91% were still at the school at June 2007. The comparative figure across all Government schools was 87%.

Teacher participation in professional learning

All teaching staff have participated in professional learning throughout the year. This professional learning included:

Broken Creek Cluster Curriculum day with Glen Capelli- Improving Education Experience for Students.

Broken Creek Cluster Moderation in writing and Mathematics VELS

Early years focused teaching in Reading and Writing

Curriculum Day- Interactive Whiteboards @ Science and Technology Centre in Shepparton.

Induction/Mentoring Program for 1 beginning teacher and mentor.

Success for Boys

PoLT- Principles of Learning and Teaching.

AGQTP- Australian Government Quality Teacher program through the Shepparton Network.

Curriculum Day with Wilson McCaskill- Emotional Intelligence!

Regular in school Professional Learning including the introduction to Performance and Development Culture, Intranet, Digilearn, Assessment & Reporting and Literacy.

Teacher Qualifications

All teachers in Victorian Government Schools are registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching. The requirements for registration with the Victorian Institute of teaching can be found at <http://www.vit.vic.edu/content.asp?DocumentID=241>





Principal Report

Nathalia PS had a successful year in 2007. Surveys and reports show that the school is performing very well.

The school provides each child with a safe, caring and secure environment in which to learn. We also use a range of support agencies to assist students with special needs.

Parents were informed of their child's progress at Parent Teacher Interviews in March, and formal reports in June and December.

N P S continued to provide a vital link with the Nathalia community through Meals on Wheels, Barwo Homestead, Nathalia Hospital, and Nathalia and Barmah kindergartens. Exciting events during the year were:

- The Introduction of 3 more interactive whiteboards.
- The whole school excursion to Melbourne Zoo funded through Drought Relief money.
- The School Concert.
- Implementation of new Report Cards.
- Success for Boys Professional Learning.
- Education week celebrations.
- Oral Language program development and implementation.

- Maintaining community links through events like the Father's Day BBQ.
- Literacy and Numeracy week, and the launch of Spread the Word.
- Camps to Echuca, Canberra and Nathalia Recreation Reserve.
- P,1,2 excursion to Shepparton Science and Technology centre.
- Grade 6 day at Driver Education Centre in Shepparton with the Careful Cobbers.
- Junior school council activity days.
- RACV Energy challenge teams.
- New Kitchen provided from the Investing In Our Schools grant.
- Visiting pantomime of "Beauty and the Beast."
- Sporting representation and success in, cross country, tennis and athletics
- Swimming program.
- University of NSW competitions supported by Nathalia Lady Lions
- The continuation of Active After School Communities Program
- School Choir performances at community events.

Our parents club continued to raise funds to support school programs.

Parents play a major role in the school, as parent helpers in classrooms, on excursions and camps, assisting in Parents' Club activities, as School Council members and by supporting the events organised by the school.

I wish to thank the staff and all members of the community who have contributed to the successes of the Nathalia Primary School in 2007.

Brendan Bicknell

School Council President's Report

Nathalia Primary School had a very successful 2007, with wonderful things happening in and around the school.

At the end of term 1 Jane Lloyd, took on a new position at Tatura Primary School, and so in term 2, Peter Farrell was our acting principal, as the school council went through the process of appointing a new principal. At the beginning of term 3 Brendan Bicknell took up the position of principal of Nathalia Primary School.

One of the highlights of the year was a whole school excursion to the Melbourne Zoo, which was made possible with financial assistance of drought funding, and all the staff and many parents who made the day a wonderful success.

Our environment committee continue to work on improving and maintaining our yard, with some great results.

During 2007, we continued our Active after School program, with many children taking the opportunity to try out activities, that they wouldn't have the opportunity to participate in without this program.

Academically our school had excellent literacy benchmarks in the junior sections and working to establish more consistent results in the Middle Years. We have used the investing in schools money that we were successful in applying for, to renovate two storage rooms. One has been transformed into a kitchen / canteen for the use of the parents club and class groups, and the other area has been made into an area for the reading recovery program.

Teams were once again entered in the R.A.C.V. energy break through challenge; these children all enjoyed this experience and were supported by their parents and staff members.

The parents club continues their important work and fund raising, which helps us to fund programs within the school.

The school choir continued under the guidance of Karen King-Jones and performed on several occasions during the year, we also had a very successful school concert which was a very enjoyable night, and was supported by a large number of parents, friends and family,

Of course none of this would be possible without the leadership of Brendan Bicknell, and all the staff, students and parents who work together for a successful 2007, and I'm sure this will continue in 2008.

Robyn Trickey

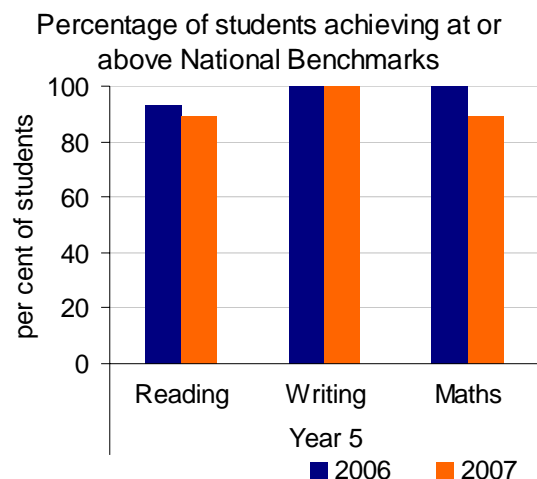
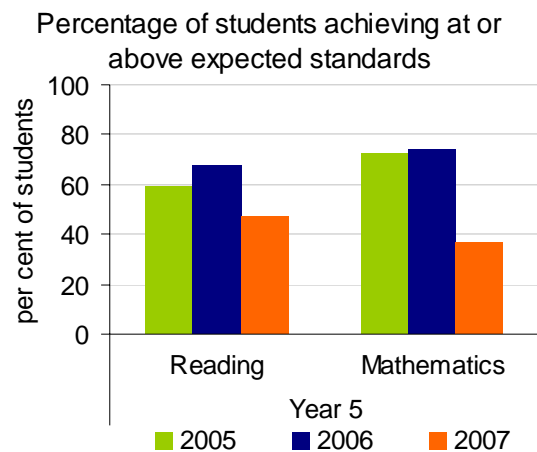
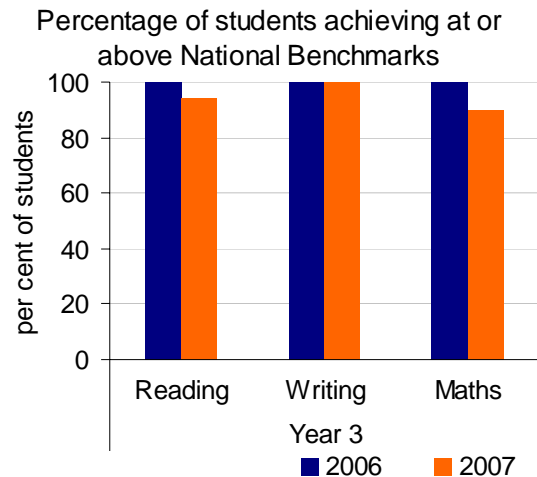
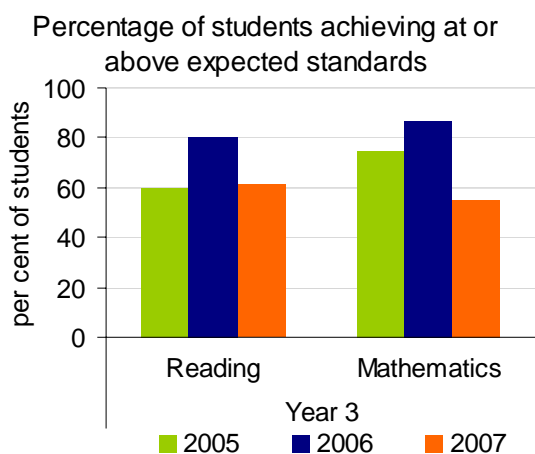


Student Progress & Achievements

Student Learning

The 2007 implementation plan aimed to increase the percentage of students working above the expected level in all areas. Our key improvement strategies were to fully implement VELS and be at or above the state and like schools in reading and writing. The following graphs indicate our performance in these areas:

- The year 3 reading results show around 60% of students reading at the expected standard which is a decrease from 2007.
- There is also a significant decrease from 85% to 58% in Mathematics from 2007. This is an area to be worked on in 2008, providing focussed teaching strategies to all students.
- The Grade 5 reading results have also decreased over the past 12 months.
- There is also a slight decrease in the number of students achieving at or above expected standards in mathematics.
- The charts indicate our students are nearly all achieving at or above The National Benchmark



Student Pathways and Transitions

Nathalia PS has two Transition programs for our student's.

The first is the Prep transition program. This program begins in June with an information morning and luncheon. After enrolment transition involves setting the child up with a buddy at school and five familiarization sessions in November in the classroom.

The Grade 6 transition program involves the Grade 6 students visiting Nathalia Secondary College for Middle Years activities during the year. The schools have common assessment tasks to ensure a smooth transition. A transition passport is filled out by students with self assessed social and academic levels.

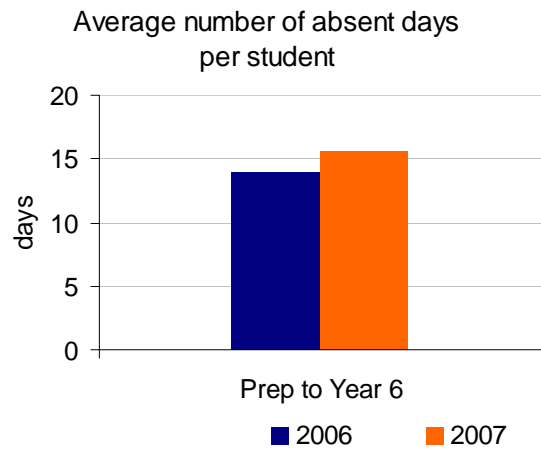
In 2008 the Transition programs for incoming prep children will continue with children coming for five sessions during November.

The transition program for Year 6 students will be continued with students attending the Nathalia Secondary College for regular sessions in Term Four. A maths Activity day in term 2 has been planned after the positive feedback from last year.

Grade 6 will exit the school after a graduation ceremony with the school community.

Staff from the Nathalia and Barmah Kindergartens, Nathalia Primary school and Nathalia Secondary College continue to get together to share professional development when appropriate. This strengthens the link between Government schools in our town.

Student Engagement and Wellbeing

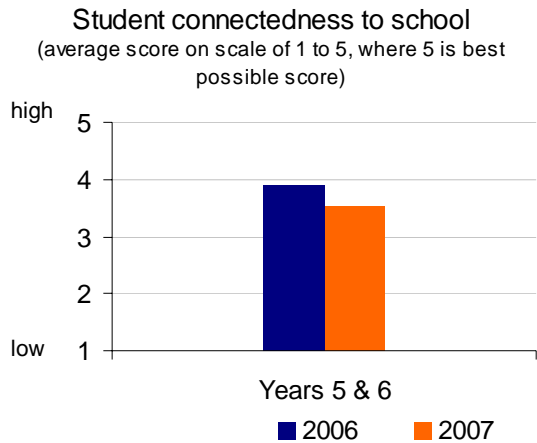


This graph shows the average number of absent days per student from Prep to Grade 6. The number of days averages around 16 days per student. 5 days absence is one educational week, which means on average students are missing over 3 weeks education through absence.

This Absence Data is a concern as there are still children that are away too often. It is important that students attend school each day if they are not sick as they miss important concepts and ideas that are built on at later stages of schooling.

Attending school also develops excellent habits of routine persistence and getting along skills that are so important in working adult life.

Despite our efforts absences per child have increased over the past 12 months and it continues to be a focus of our implementation plan to engage and help students connect with school to reduce absenteeism.



This graph result is compiled from a survey called Student's Attitude to School Survey completed by students in Grades 5&6 during the year.

Year 5 and 6 students were asked to what extent they agreed with each of the five statements (I feel good about being a student at this school, I like school this year, I am happy to be at this school, I feel I belong at this school, I look forward to going to school) on a scale where 1=strongly disagree and 5=strongly agree.

The graph shows that the average score was between 3 and 4. We will have to continue to improve in this area by encouraging students to be more responsible at school, improve communication lines and participative decision making and adherence to the student discipline policy.

Future Directions

In 2008 Nathalia Primary School will be continuing to reflect on previous practice, DEECD directions and student needs to establish clear guidelines for our future.

In an ever changing technological world, it is important to keep up to date. Nathalia Primary School has invested heavily in 6 interactive whiteboards in the last 12 months, keeping the school up to speed with information communications technology. With these fantastic learning tools our students will develop vast computer knowledge and skills to help propel them into the future. In the next 12 months the staff at Nathalia Primary School will be developing their skills in this

area to help deliver quality teaching and learning.

Improvement areas for 2008 are:

- Increase our Literacy and Numeracy levels across the school.
- Within Literacy there will be a concentrated effort on improving spelling levels across the school.
- To continue to foster Professional Learning for all staff.
- To provide challenging teaching and learning activities in every classroom that motivates all students.

The significant activities and events planned for 2008 include:

- Erection of Shelter funded by the parents club at the Robertson St entrance to the school and also erection of a new gate.
- The junior wing and two shelter sheds will be painted.
- Professional Development for all staff in the areas of Emotional Intelligence, Literacy and Numeracy.
- The introduction of two new specialist programs in Physical Education and Information Technology.
- Become Performance and Development Culture Accredited.
- Camps to Ballarat, Currembene and Nathalia Recreation Reserve.
- Continued links with Nathalia Secondary College and the extension of the current grade 6 transition program.
- Introduction of the Emotional Intelligence program "Play is the Way."
- Investing in our Schools grant- new Library Furniture.
- Education Week Activities
- Literacy and Numeracy Activities
- Use of Drought Relief money to again fund a whole school excursion to Melbourne.
- The school Production.
- Continuation of Active After School Communities Program.
- Introduction of an AFL Trainee.

Financial Performance

Nathalia Primary School has completed a very successful year. At the beginning of 2007 our focus was to increase our store of library resources, continue the establishment of an oral language centre and improve classroom technology by the provision of interactive white boards. All of these objectives were realised through the purchase of six interactive whiteboards,

the purchase of library books and library system software and the establishment of an oral language room. Funding for the library resources came from both NPS Community Association fundraising and a Moira Shire grant.

Grants from the Investing In Our Schools program have been used to establish a kitchen for use by both parents and students; increase storage and office space; upgrade the telephone system and replace aging art room furniture.

Nathalia is still struggling financially from the effects of the ongoing drought and to this end the school been mindful when arranging excursions/events and formulating school fee structures. Nathalia Primary School is grateful for the financial support shown to it by service clubs within the area.

The focus for 2008 will be to establish a dedicated technology centre and continue increasing the store of library resources.

Financial Performance for the year ending 31st December, 2007	
Revenue	2007 Actual
DE&T Grants	171,111
Commonwealth Government Grants	69,346
State Government Grants	4,548.00
Other	22,921.00
Locally Raised Funds	61,188.00
Total Operating Revenue	329,115.00
Expenditure	
Salaries and Allowances	62,958.00
Bank Charges	47.00
Consumables	25,363.00
Books and Publications	9,045.00
Communication Costs	4,927.00
Furniture and Equipment	52,371.00
Utilities	11,726.00
Property Services	64,141.00
Travel and Subsistence	0.00
Motor Vehicle Expenses	0.00
Administration	2,196.00
Health and Personal Development	580.00
Professional Development	5,897.00
Trading and Fundraising	18,149.00
Support/Service	17,934.00
Miscellaneous	27,152.00
Total Operating Expenditure	302,513.00
Net Operating Surplus/- Deficit	26,602.00
Capital Expenditure (Cases 21 Finance Only)	25,440.00
Please note that the above amounts do not include any credit revenue or expenditure allocated or spent by the school through its Student Resource Package	

Financial Position as at 31st December, 2007	
Funds Available	2007 Actual
High Yield Investment Account	71,405.03
Official Account	5,804.57
Total Funds Available	77,209.60
Financial Commitments	2007 Actual
Accounts Payable Control	
Camps/Excursions	
Building/Grounds including SMS	7,376.00
Special Programs inc Student Services	
Region /Clusters Funds	
Professional Development	
Other – Asset Purchase	18,000.00
- Leases	14,000.00
- Community Assoc	6,081.60
- FRRR (Library Books)	4,000.00
School Operating Reserve	27,752.00
Total Financial Commitments	77,209.60

School Contact Information

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This report contains summary data extracted from the School Level Report. If you would like to access the School Level Report, please contact Mr Brendan Bicknell.