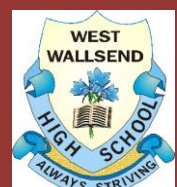




West Wallsend High School
Annual School Report

2011



Our school at a glance

Students

Our school enrolment in 2011 at the end of the year was 593 students, of which 325 were boys and 268 were girls. This figure does not include the 21 students enrolled at the Lake Macquarie Adolescent Support Unit.

Staff

In 2011, our school had a Principal, 1 teaching Deputy Principal, 7 Head Teachers and 34 Classroom Teachers. Additionally, we had a Teacher of Mild Intellectual disabilities, a Teacher-Librarian, an STLA (Support Teacher Learning Assistance) and 2 School Counsellors who shared the role. Lake Macquarie Adolescent Support (LMAS) had a Head Teacher Support and 3 teachers.

Our school administrative and support staff consisted of a School Administrative Manager, school Administrative officers, a General Assistant, a Farm Assistant and School Learning Support Officers.

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

Significant programs and initiatives

West Wallsend High School is great school which aims to maximise learning opportunities and outcomes for all students. Our school affords students many experiences and activities that enrich their education. During 2011 we have implemented or initiated:

- Various programs to improve literacy and numeracy across the school. These included implementation of faculty-based spelling and vocabulary program, resulting in spelling and grammar growth significantly greater than national and state student and state growth averages. Glossary sheets were prepared in all subject areas. Numeracy activities were completed across the curriculum for NAPLAN practice. A Literacy and Numeracy parent meeting was held in Term 1.
- LMG Term 3 School Development Day focus on Accelerated Literacy with staff from partner schools
- STRIVE values implemented across the school
- GATS special interest program involved 25 junior students. A Challenge Day was held for student in Years 6 and 7 with a Science/Mathematics theme.
- Continuation of the ME Project, selection of 25 school-based trainees in Year 9 and 10. Site visits and work experience at Ampcontrol. A number of workshops held at school
- Continuation of University links with 25 teachers attending the University Open Day
- Introduction of the Sugarloaf Cup for all Year 6 students across partner schools
- Job Coach employed at the school. Students participated in Castle Programs, Employment Passport Program and PPOW Program.
- West Wallsend High School joined with six other schools to form Lakeside Transition Group and gained funding to support transition-to-work programs.
- Geography student participated in an ecological sustainability workshop at school
- Outstanding performances by music students over a number of school events. All HSC music students gained Band 5 in HSC.
- P&C joined with Xstrata Coal to purchase heavy duty fans in the Assembly Hall.
- Year 12 students interviewed by team from university to specifically support the students in the first year of university.
- 11 students gained Diamond Premiers Volunteering Awards (in excess of 80 hours volunteering).
- Profile of SRC was raised. Students organised a LMG leadership day.
- Transition class established to support students at risk
- TAFE Landscaping course taught at school with 80% of students gaining employment in landscaping industry
- Remote access to school network from home set up for senior students
- Aboriginal Studies course accessed by senior students using connected classroom
- Homework booklets issued to students in Years 7 and 8

- Athletics program implemented with 5 star awards allocation of points
- Practical mathematics activities developed and implemented with students
- Smartboard Training with regional staff for faculty teams
- Home Economics Faculty completed Action Research project investigating motivation of Year 7 students
- Staff team trained in drug and alcohol education
- Student attendance significantly improved due to mapping and follow up with student attendance data.
- Kate Fleming's HSC artwork selected for Art Express
- Two Band 6 results in Computing Studies faculty – 1 in Information Technology and 1 in Information Processes and Technology

West Wallsend LMG consists of West Wallsend High School and its partner primary schools: West Wallsend Public, Edgeworth Heights Public and Barnsley Public. Together we have worked to implement consistent approaches and a seamless movement from primary to secondary settings and are continuing to investigate ways to work with one another.

Student achievement in 2011

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 7

Students demonstrated growth in all areas. Highlight was writing results, with 94.2 at or above minimum standard.

Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 7

Students demonstrated growth.

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 9

Improvement required, particularly in writing.

Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 9

Improved results, 90.4 student at or above minimum standard.

School Certificate

Computing Skills results were outstanding, above state average.

Higher School Certificate

Outstanding Information Technology, Information Processes and Technology, Music, Visual Arts and Industrial Technology (Timber) results.

Messages

Principal's message

I feel very privileged to be the Principal at West Wallsend High School during 2011. It is an excellent school which is moving in a promising direction.

West Wallsend High School is a wonderful community-focussed school which serves a proud local area and has extremely strong links with the local community and our three partner schools.

Our school shares the core values recognised by the NSWDET and NSW Government as representing the aspirations and beliefs of the Australian community as a whole.

These include: integrity, excellence, respect, responsibility, cooperation, participation, care, fairness and democracy.

West Wallsend has excellent, dedicated, caring teachers and friendly, helpful support staff. Strong working partnerships have been developed between the school staff, the parents and the wider community members.

Our students are encouraged to strive to do their best. This is reflected in our school motto, "Always Striving". We also encourage the students to maximise their learning opportunities by providing opportunities for performing arts, sport and excursions, as well as ensuring that sound developments are achieved in literacy and numeracy. We are strongly committed to providing students with the academic and social skills required to be successful and happy when they leave school and to help them achieve their life goals.

I trust that the community is as proud of its school as I am and that it shares with me the pride that I take in reflecting upon the achievements of our staff, students and community in 2011.

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.

Ann Campbell

Principal

P&C Message

2011 was a most successful year for our P&C. Meetings are informative with information provided about school programs and initiatives.

During the past year, the P&C raised money to provide industrial fans in the Assembly Hall. They were supported by XStrata Coal in their venture.

They continued to select a Year 12 art work for the Art Award which was framed and donated to the school, and awards for our annual presentation celebration.

The P&C ran various fundraising activities including: a Pie Drive, Entertainment Book sales, a jewelry evening and a very successful shopping trip to Sydney.

Also a band of enthusiastic members continue to run the successful uniform shop, which is having a wonderful impact on our school image.

May I conclude by extending an invitation to each and every parent to come along and join the P&C. Membership is open to all and it is one of my aims to make all welcome.

Mrs Jennie Middlemas

Student representatives' message

During 2011 the SRC was involved in a range of school activities. Regular meetings were held and these meetings were formalised during the year.

The school captains, vice captains and prefects were selected, with interested students attending a leadership forum and the group selecting students for the leadership team, who were subsequently interviewed by an interview panel.

The student leaders are part of the SRC and were involved in running the Year 12 formal, The Anzac and Remembrance Day ceremonies, various assemblies. They attended the Education Week Church Service, the West Wallsend High School Business Breakfast and the School Annual Awards Night.

Brittany Wilson, Blade McNaught

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

Enrolments increased in 2011, increasing overall numbers in the school. We continued to offer a broad curriculum catering for students from all ability groups to ensure that they are prepared for life beyond school.

Student Enrolment

Gender	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Male	312	301	311	317	325
Female	276	251	259	264	268

Student attendance profile

Attendance was monitored rigorously during 2011, with students not maintaining acceptable attendance being referred to the Home School Liaison Officer.

	Year	2008	2009	2010	2011
School	7		92.0	91.2	89.4
	8		89.4	88.3	87.4
	9		86.2	85.3	88.1
	10		86.8	84.1	83.8
	11		82.3	84.6	80.1
	12		84.5	86.4	83.8
	Total	88.7	87.0	86.5	85.5
	Region	7		91.5	91.7
8			88.9	89.6	88.8
9			87.8	87.6	87.5
10			87.6	87.2	85.7
11			88.2	87.5	85.5
12			88.4	88.7	87.4
Total		#N/A	88.7	88.7	87.7
State DEC	7		92.3	92.6	92.5
	8		90.0	90.5	90.1
	9		88.8	89.1	88.8
	10		88.7	88.3	87.1
	11		89.4	89.1	87.6
	12		89.4	89.8	89.2
	Total	89.9	89.7	89.9	89.2

Management of non-attendance

The English Head Teacher continued to monitor attendance and worked closely with the Home School Liaison Officer. A number of parent meetings were held to discuss attendance and programs implemented to improve attendance. In 2012 we are working with partner schools to improve attendance across the LMG.

Structure of classes

In the Year 7-10 classes, students undertake the mandatory courses of the curriculum and have choice of elective courses in Year 8, 9 and 10. Year 7 classes are determined by consultation with partner school staff; however, in 2011 we selected a AAA Class using standardised literacy and numeracy tests.

In the senior school, following the NSW Board of Studies requirements, English is the only compulsory subject. Students choose their remaining five subjects – their options determine which subjects are taught.

Retention to Year 12

Retention to Year 12 increased in 2011 with 42.5 students staying on to complete the HSC. To support the transition from school to work we have established a rigorous interview process of the Careers Adviser with students to ensure that they have a career plan and understand what they have to do to achieve their dream. A number of students took up pre-apprenticeships during the year, with many of these students gaining apprenticeships and full-time employment.

Post-school destinations

Year 12 students undertaking vocational or trade training

A large interest was shown by students at the school in vocational or trade training in 2011.

85% of students undertook a VET course at school or a course at TAFE. Results in VET subjects in the HSC were outstanding and work experience reports were favourable in all cases.

Year 12 students attaining HSC or equivalent vocational educational qualification

100% of students who completed Year 12 attained the HSC in 2011.

20% of students have moved to University studies. 33% of students have accepted careers

in trades and trade training. 42% have undertaken full-time and casual employment and at the time of our survey 5% were seeking work.

Staff information

It is a requirement that the reporting of information for all staff must be consistent with privacy and personal information policies. The staff of West Wallsend High School is made up of experienced and enthusiastic teachers. They place high value on their individual professional learning and the outcomes of their students.

Staff establishment

Position	Number
Principal	1
Deputy Principal(s)	1
Head Teachers	7
Classroom Teachers	34
Teacher of Emotional Disabilities	3
Teacher of Mild Intellectual Disabilities	1
Support Teacher Learning Assistance	1
Teacher Librarian	1
Counsellor	1
School Administrative & Support Staff (SASS)	16
Total	66

There is one indigenous school learning support officer at the school.

Staff retention

During the year Mr Mitchell Jones was successful in gaining a position on the Mathematics staff, replacing Mr David Tweed who gained a transfer to Kotara High School.

Ms Michelle Smith, who had been above establishment for many years, gained a permanent position at Newcastle High.

Teacher qualifications

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

Qualifications	% of staff
Degree or Diploma	100
Postgraduate	18

Financial summary

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

Date of financial summary	30/11/2011
Income	\$
Balance brought forward	347,944.83
Global funds	398,696.67
Tied funds	566,115.53
School & community sources	137,671.69
Interest	27,670.48
Trust receipts	43,879.69
Canteen	197,402.11
Total income	<u>1,719,381.00</u>
Expenditure	
Teaching & learning	
Key learning areas	78,213.79
Excursions	44,801.30
Extracurricular dissections	67,162.85
Library	8,762.43
Training & development	1,873.15
Tied funds	457,110.45
Casual relief teachers	124,994.21
Administration & office	93,429.51
School-operated canteen	178,048.51
Utilities	89,078.93
Maintenance	35,596.05
Trust accounts	44,114.49
Capital programs	4,946.47
Total expenditure	<u>1,228,132.14</u>
Balance carried forward	<u><u>491,248.86</u></u>

A large percentage of the balance that is carried forward consists of funds that are tied to particular programs. These funds cannot be spent in other areas of the school.

There is one paid manager of the school canteen with all other assistance being provided by volunteers from the local community. Funds raised by the canteen are used to provide educational resources for the students.

A full copy of the school's 2011 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 2011

During 2011 achievements were made in the areas of literacy and numeracy, welfare, staff development, community and improvements in student learning outcomes.

Achievements

Arts

Visual Arts

During Term 1, Years 10, 11 & 12 Visual Art students attended Newcastle Regional Art Gallery for the annual ArtExpress exhibition. This is a showcase of the best works from the previous year's HSC Visual Art Students in NSW.

Students from Years 9, 10, 11 & 12 visited Lake Macquarie Gallery twice, for a major Street Art exhibition, and the Archibald Portrait's major prize winners exhibition. Anthony Blanch attended a drawing workshop for Year 11 students at Lake Macquarie Gallery.

Year 8 students once again printed the bandannas worn by walkers for the Cancer Sux walk up Mt Sugarloaf, raising money with the SRC for the cancer appeal.

The Digital Photography students in Years 10 & 11 had ongoing displays throughout the year, exploring themes such as 'The Obscure', 'The West Wallsend Landscape' and 'Commercial Photography.'

The Year 11 Digital Photography class attended two great excursions in 2011, to the Annie Liebovitz exhibition at the NSW Art Gallery in Sydney, and to Charlestown Square for some commercial photography.

A spraypainted street mural was created at Holmesville Skate Park by Jaime McGhee-Stokes, Jessica Liverod, Katrina James, and Serenea McLoughlin, in conjunction with Sugar Valley Neighbourhood Centre.

Three Year 10 students - Kiarnie Owen, Emma MacPherson and Aaron O'Brien worked for a term on Thursdays to create a beautiful tiled barbeque countertop, using local flora as the theme.

Two major exhibitions were held during Term 4, displaying the quality work produced by both Year 10 Visual Art and Year 10 Digital Photography students.

Samantha Cole won the P&C HSC Art Prize, with a series of expressive portrait paintings, three of which now hang in Mrs Campbell's office.

Congratulations to Kate Fleming, whose HSC Body of Work was selected for inclusion in ArtExpress. Her work will be exhibited at Newcastle Regional Art Gallery from the 5th of May until the 1st of July 2012.

We head into 2012 mourning the loss of our talented and treasured colleague Michelle Smith, who has relocated to Newcastle High.

Music

In Term 1, senior music students were invited to perform for the Cancer Foundation's 'Bald and Beautiful' day which was held at Wests. Angela Jackson, Kira McCaig, Teagan McCaig, Stephanie Picton, Andrew Sawyer and Joseph Oubridge performed in front of a packed auditorium.

An HSC Music Day was held at Newcastle Conservatorium. Music 1 students from Years 11 and 12 gained valuable information from HSC markers who covered all areas of the course. A resource booklet was also received which assisted with HSC preparation. There were a number of performances on the day which gave

students an insight into the marking criteria and what examiners are looking for.

Fourteen students participated in the Star Struck choir. Students attended lunchtime rehearsals at school to learn the songs and then full-day rehearsals at the Entertainment Centre before the actual show.

Throughout the year elective music students performed at the Mercy Centre and towards the end of the year, the Year 9 music elective class was asked to prepare and present a special Christmas concert. Students worked hard throughout the term and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Joseph Oubridge, Cameron McCann and Teagan McCaig provided musical entertainment at our annual Business Breakfast.

Year 10 students Stacey Saggus, Dylan Reichert, Rylan Dailey and Hayden Nichols performed at a Year 6 information afternoon. The group performed the Queen song, "Somebody to Love" which had been arranged by Rylan for the group.

A Music night was held in Term 3 which gave a number of students the opportunity to perform in front of an audience. The music night is also a valuable opportunity for senior students to gain confidence in performance in readiness for the HSC. Students from Year 7-12 took to the stage and present a variety of numbers.

The Australian composer, Mike McCarthy, came to the school in Term 3 to conduct a composition workshop for senior music students. Mike went through the process of writing a composition with students and gave them inspiration on how to get started. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by students who by the end of the day had completed their own composition.

Kira and Teagan McCaig performed at the annual Sports Award Dinner, including one of their own compositions.

Throughout the year special assemblies and presentation ceremonies provided many opportunities for students to showcase their talents. A big thank you to all students involved.

Drama

Drama continued to be a popular elective. Students participated in StarStruck.

Dance

Dance students performed at personal best assemblies during the year.

Students participated in the audition, rehearsal and performances for StarStruck.

Sport

School sporting carnivals were once again held for swimming, cross country and athletics. At the school swimming carnival at East Maitland Pool in February, Sugarloaf proved to be champions in the pool. Sugarloaf repeated this victory in the cross country carnival at the end of Term 1. The athletics carnival brought more fierce rivalry on the sporting field and, with a great team effort, Seaham were crowned carnival champions. As a result of their two carnival victories in the year, Sugarloaf were crowned House champions for 2011.

One hundred and seventeen students represented West Wallsend High at Westlakes Zone Carnivals conducted throughout the year. We had six students named as Zone Champions in 2011 and six students represent the Region in CHS competitions. Following on from success in the CHS carnivals, Ainslie Kinkade qualified for, and competed in, the Australian swimming titles held early in 2011. Well done, Ainslie!

The sporting experience for the students of our school is nurtured and supported by many dedicated and committed teachers. Much of this occurs as a result of the effort and encouragement of our school's PE staff. Thank you to Mr Graham, Miss McCaffrey, Ms Hulbert, Mr Munro and Mr Watts for their coaching and managerial skills.

The entire staff of West Wallsend High School contributes in one way or another to the success of our students in the sporting arena - coaches of knock-out teams, Gala day coaches (staff and Year 10 students), Gala Day referees and umpires (Year 11 students) and all members of staff who make themselves available to officiate and support students so that they can compete in

school and zone carnivals. A big thank you to everyone involved.

Our students in Year 7 participated in the second annual Westlakes Zone Junior Gala day. It was a day enjoyed by all involved and the Zone looks forward to this continuing in the future.

West Wallsend High competed in twelve State K.O. competitions with mixed success. Our junior boys Bill Turner Cup soccer team were the best performed and took out the team of the year award at the Sports Awards Presentation. This presentation took place in November and recognised the sporting prowess of many of our students.

A highlight of the sport at West Wallsend High School in 2011 was the inaugural Sugarloaf Cup which will become an annual event where Year 6 students from our partner schools compete against each other in a variety of games and physical activities. Edgeworth Heights were narrow winners on the day and were represented at our Sports Awards night by two Year 6 students who received the Sugarloaf Cup and took it back to their school.

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.

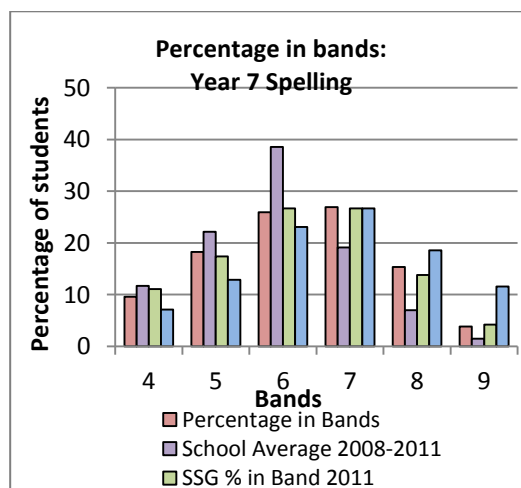
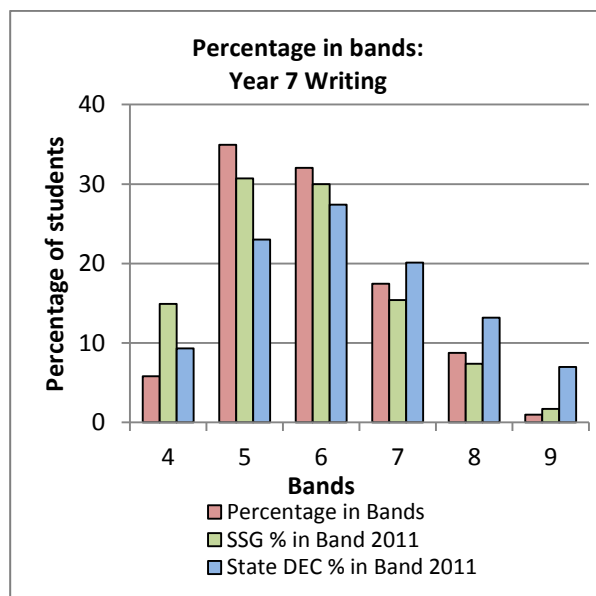
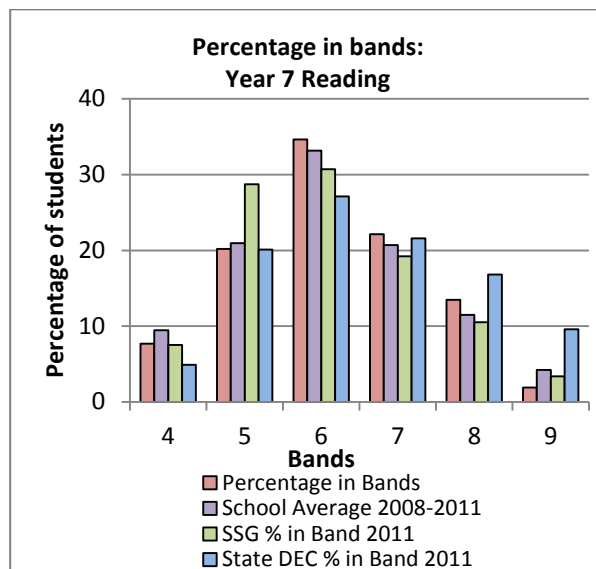
Year 7: from Band 4 (lowest) to Band 9 (highest for Year 7)

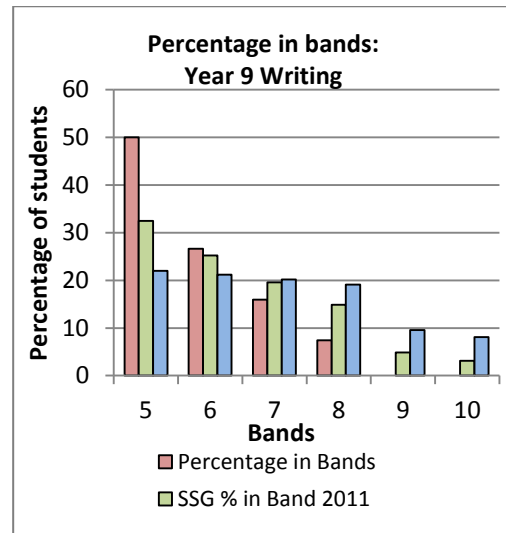
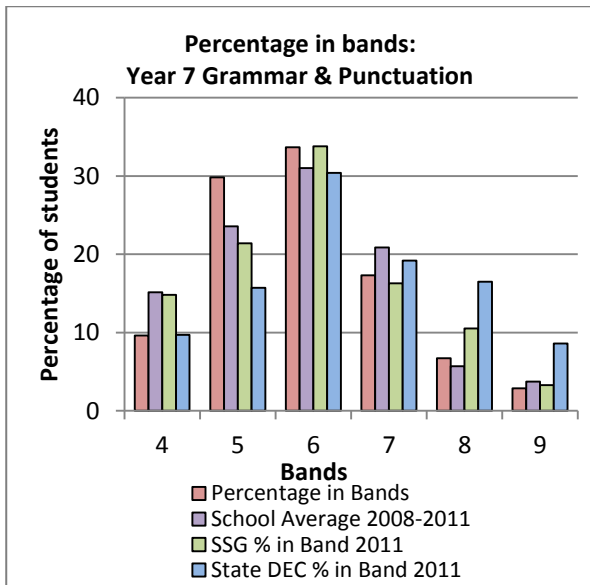
Year 9: from Band 5 (lowest) to Band 10 (highest for Year 9)

and/or

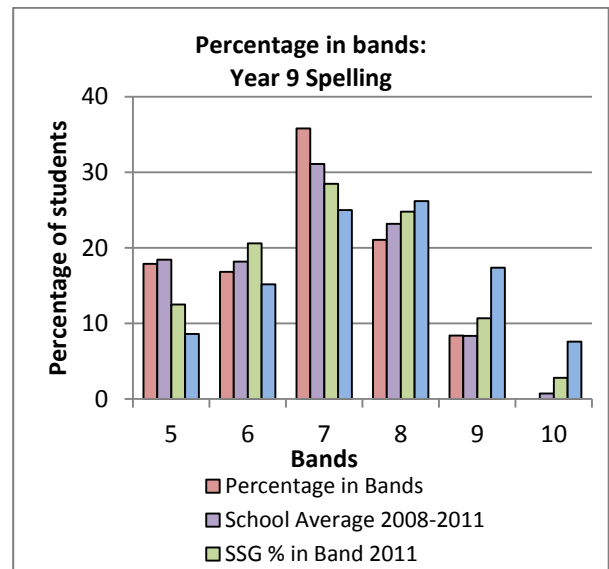
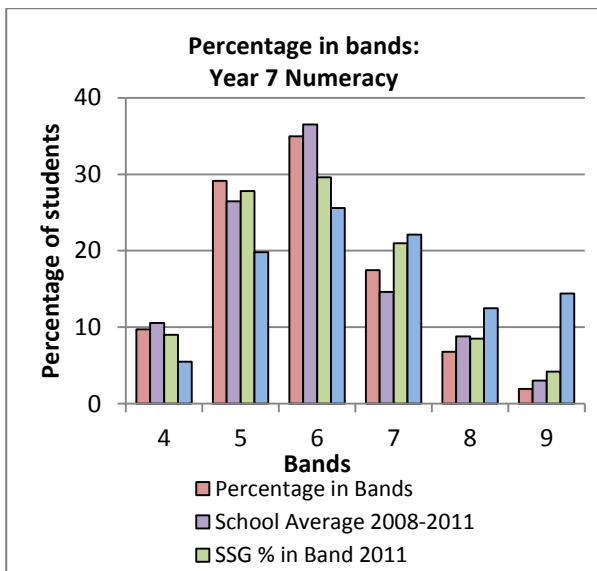
In the School Certificate the performance of students is reported in performance bands ranging from Performance Band 1 (lowest) to Performance Band 6 (highest).

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 7

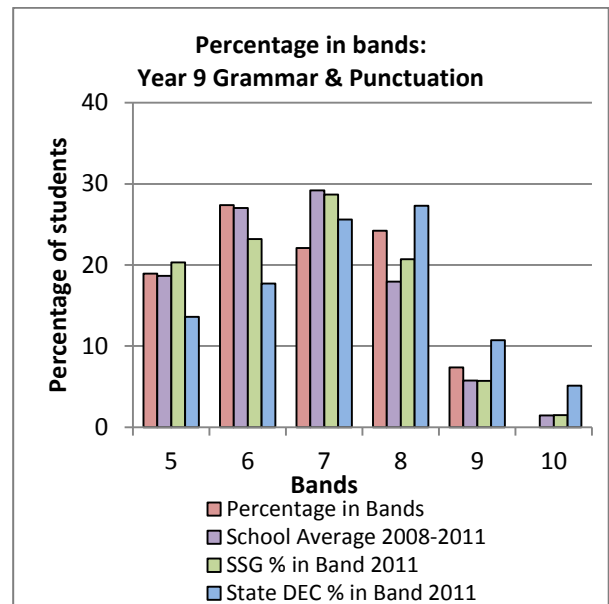
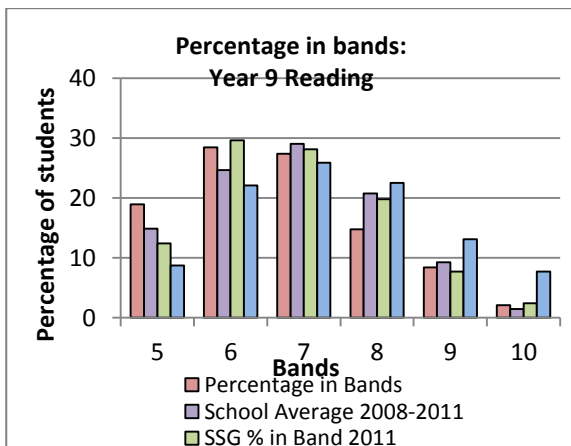




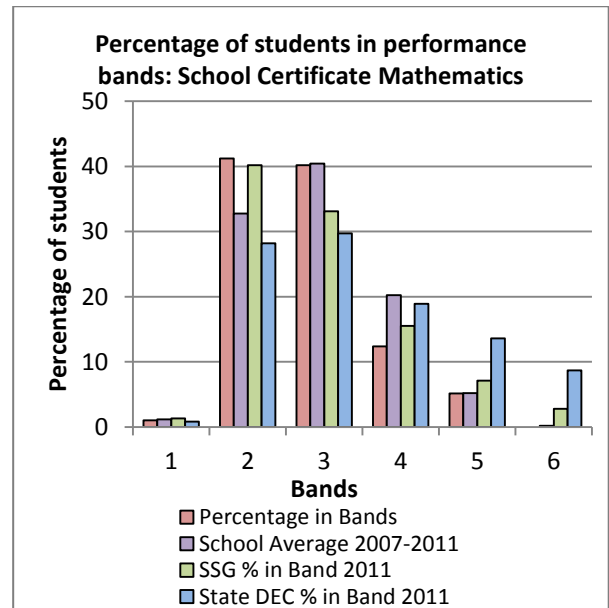
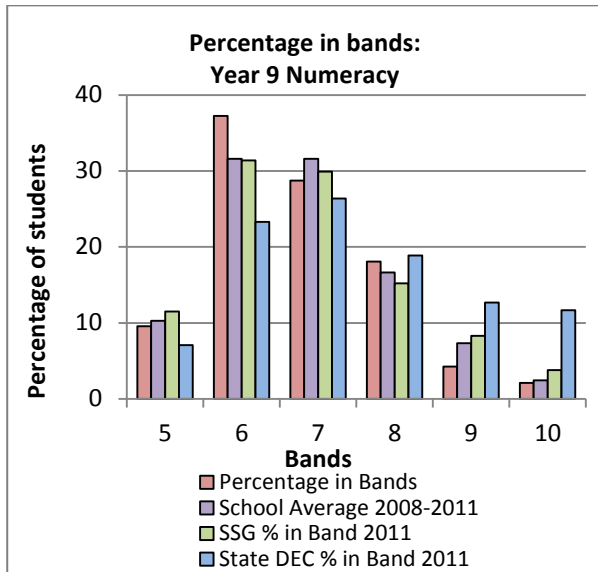
Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 7



Literacy – NAPLAN Year 9



Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 9



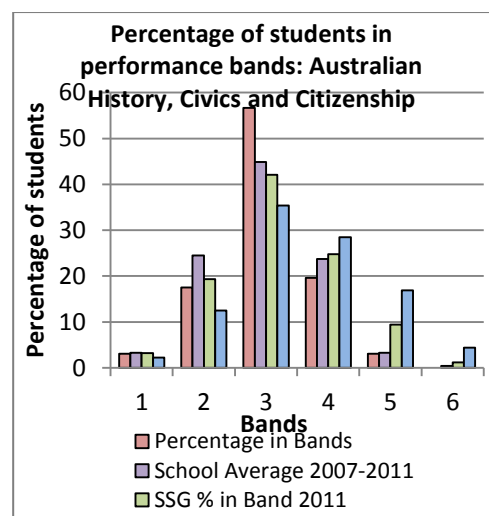
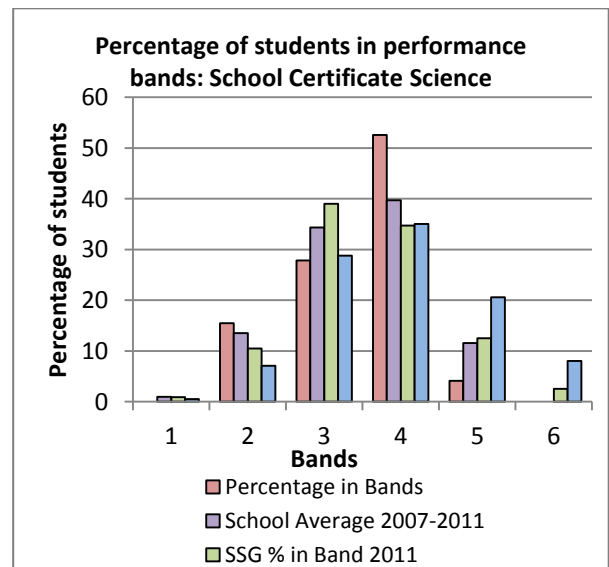
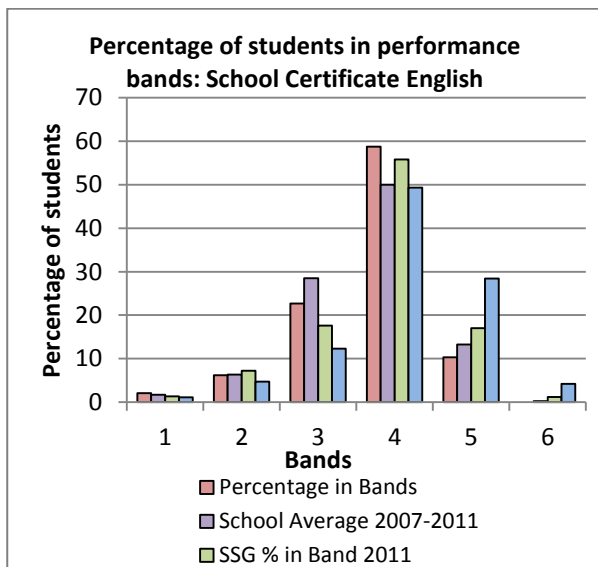
Progress in literacy

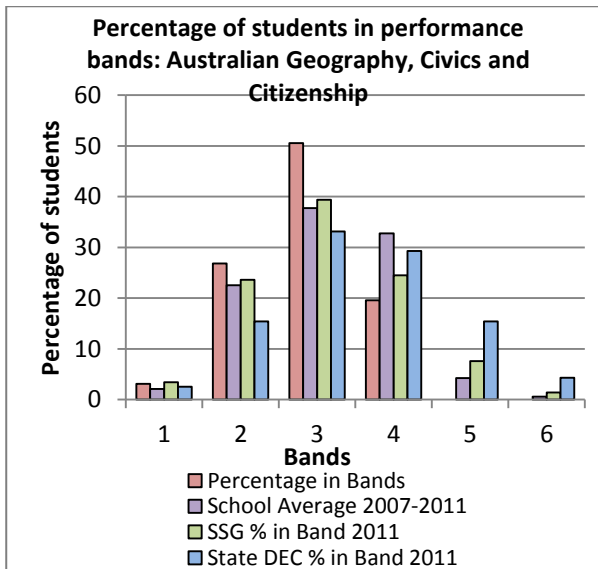
There remains a great deal to do to improve literacy. The vocabulary program developed in 2011 made a significant difference to grammar, punctuation and spelling. This program is being extended in 2012 and a focus on persuasive text writing has been implemented across the school.

Progress in numeracy

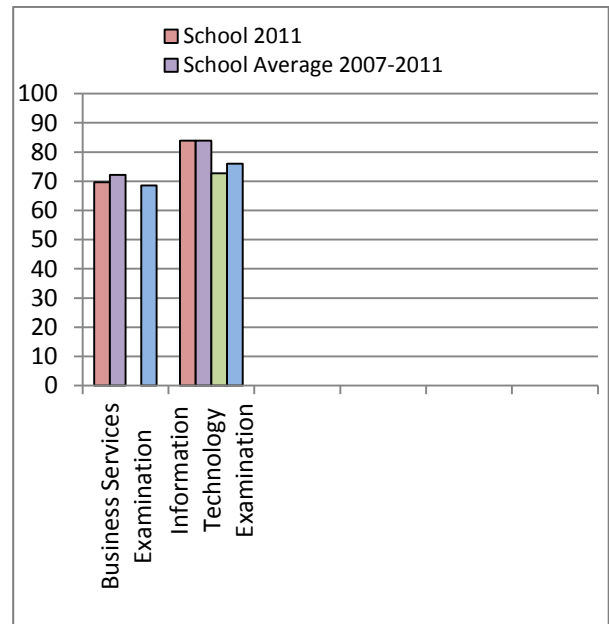
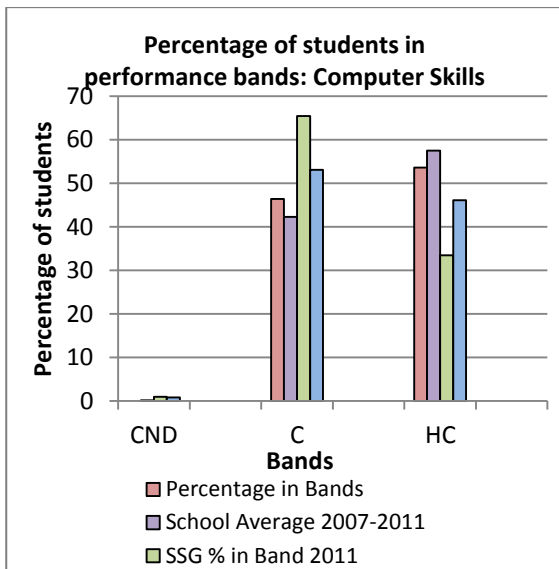
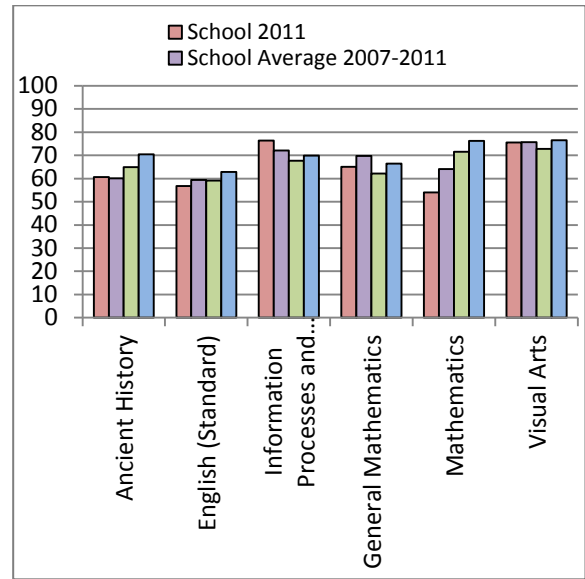
Numeracy is improving with the number of students in the top bands increasing. The implementation of numeracy across the curriculum in 2012 should lead to further growth.

School Certificate

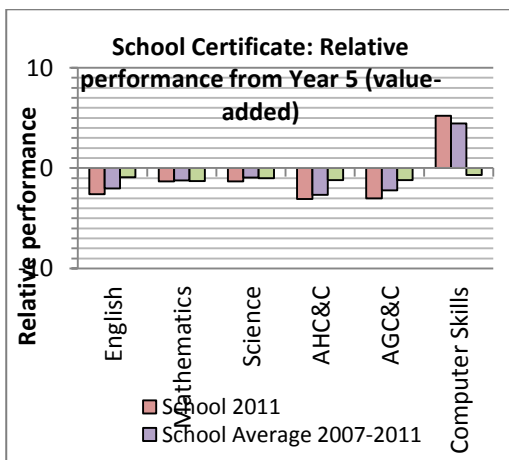




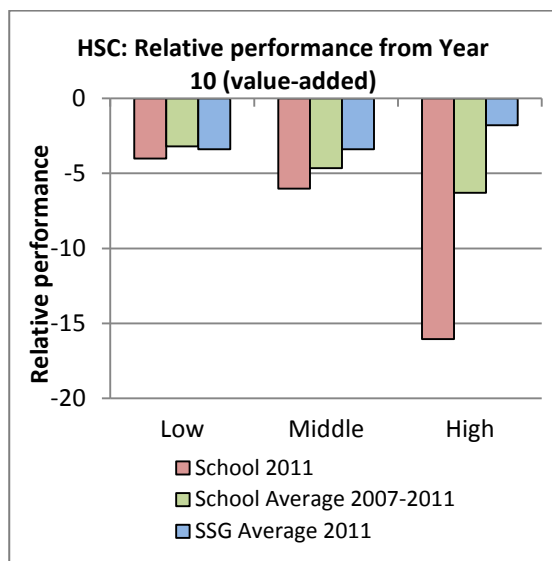
Higher School Certificate



School Certificate relative performance comparison to Year 5 (value-adding)



Higher School Certificate relative performance comparison to School Certificate (value-adding)



Minimum standards

The Commonwealth Government sets minimum standards for reading, writing, grammar and punctuation, spelling and numeracy for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

The performance of the students in our school in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy is compared to these minimum standards. The percentages of our students achieving at or above these standards are reported below.

Percentage of Year 7 students achieving at or above minimum standard (exempt students included)	
Reading	92.3
Writing	94.2
Spelling	90.4
Grammar & Punctuation	90.4
Numeracy	90.3

Percentage of Year 9 students achieving at or above minimum standard (exempt students included)	
Reading	81.1
Writing	50.0
Spelling	82.1
Grammar & Punctuation	81.1
Numeracy	90.4

Significant programs and initiatives

The following new initiatives were introduced in 2011:

- Vocabulary program introduced across the curriculum
- Home Economics Action Research Project to survey motivation of Year 7 students
- Homework books issued to Years 7 and 8
- 25 staff members attended the University Open Day
- “Cancer Sux” Walkathon funds donated to Can-Teen
- Student Volunteering Program extended
- Transition class implemented
- ME Program extended into Year 10 with work experience at Ampcontrol
- Student representative council implemented LMG leadership day
- LMG School Development Day focusing on Accelerated Literacy
- Aboriginal Studies course accessed by senior students using connected classroom
- Establishment of Lakeside Transition Group and successful winning of grant to support transition of students to workplace
- Student attendance program implemented

Aboriginal education

Successful initiatives include:

- Norta Norta tuition program
- Involvement in and taking on leadership roles in NAIDOC Day activities at West Wallsend Public School and Barnsley Public School
- Lyn Brown continued as President on the board of the AECG
- Newcastle Knights Rugby League representatives continued to work with our students
- Celebration of Sorry Day
- Marook Camp at Nelson Bay
- Excursion to Worimi Land Council in order to connect with Aboriginal culture
- Aboriginal dancing at local pre-schools
- Treetops adventure park visit
- Three-on-three basketball competition
- 'Meet the Mob' day at West Wallsend High School
- Personalised learning plans developed for Aboriginal students
- A variety of excursions to develop appreciation of Aboriginal culture

Multicultural education

West Wallsend High School's student enrolment is basically of Caucasian descent, including 54 Aboriginal students and some minority groups. Students and staff embrace cultural differences, treating all students as individuals. The values and attitudes developed by the school reflect respect for individuals and tolerance of other cultures.

Other programs

Respect and responsibility

At West Wallsend High School, students are expected to respect other people, the environment and themselves. The discipline and welfare system is set up to provide students with the strategies to take responsibility for their behaviour. Many programs are implemented

which provide students with these self-management strategies.

Connected Learning

2011 was capped by excellent results in both the Higher School Certificate and School Certificate. In the Higher School Certificate, Information Processes and Technology and Information Technology both gained 'Band 6' results, performed well above state average and showed excellent value-added growth.

The School Certificate Computing Skills results were again above the state average and showed exceptional value-added growth. Our students should be very proud of their achievements.

The continuation of excellent results in the Computing Skills Examination highlight the sound and ever developing skill and knowledge base of our students in the area of technology.

There are now over 400 student laptops in operation at West Wallsend High School. WWHS prides itself on the extensive training program that is undertaken when the Laptops are issued and the ongoing support provided to students.

The centralisation of services to aid staff efficiency continues to be a priority. Electronic systems for student welfare and attendance and inter-staff communication have been refined. These systems will be further refined and expanded to incorporate student reports, teacher mark books and electronic roll marking in 2011.

The technology 'backbone' developed and maintained over recent years is still proving to be robust. In 2011, we experienced zero downtime and zero data loss. All staff and students data is backed up on and off-site every night. Additionally, students have been shown a quick and reliable method of backing up their laptop data to the school servers.

The school has committed to a faculty-based approach to training and development. Funds have been used to provide support and relief for whole faculties to undertake training courses

relevant to their own courses and students. This is proving to be a successful approach to training and development.

Goals for 2012:

- Expansion of the effective use of technology across to school through the roll-out of updated Interactive Data Projector technology, networked teacher resources and the refinement of access to student data,
- Reduce paper use by 30% through the introduction of improved printing software technology, scan to file/email systems and improved work practices,
- Continuation and expansion of faculty-based targeted staff training and development,
- Strengthening of the link between the University of Newcastle and the Computing Studies faculty.

Vocational Education

West Wallsend High School continues to provide a broad and effective provision of vocational learning opportunities for students.

Within the Senior School, students can study a range of school-delivered vocational education (SVET) courses such as Business Services, Retail , Information Technology , Hospitality , Construction and Metals & Engineering.

Additionally students access TAFE-delivered Vocational Education at local Hunter TAFE campuses.

During 2011 a number of successful initiatives have been established:

- A partnership between WWHS and Hunter TAFE has enabled a Horticulture/Landscaping Certificate II to operate at WWHS.
- An introductory course in Bricklaying enabled students to gain understanding of, and basic skills in bricklaying.

- Employment of a Job Coach (Disabilities) to case manage students with a disability.

Partnership programs with outside agencies such as Castle Employment , Jobquest ,Try A Trade , ME Program , EPP and PPOW programs have added value to the vocational learning of students.

Careerlinks has provided work placements for students undertaking SVET courses.

To develop a network of local business links, a Business Breakfast was held.

Underpinning the Vocational Education Learning of students at WWHS is the Career Education program providing students with career information and pathway development through such strategies as work experience, focus days , School to Work program , Strive 10 program, interviews and case management .

Progress on 2011 targets

Target 1

Improve Literacy Standards in Year 9

The Literacy and Numeracy team worked with staff to develop classroom materials which focused on vocabulary development and explicit teaching of technical terms and their meanings.

Our achievements include:

- Average mark for reading, spelling and grammar and punctuation improved. Grammar and punctuation improved by over 10 marks.
- Technical subjects showed improvement in Higher School Certificate
- A SLSO was employed in Term 4, to develop further curriculum materials for implementation in 2012

Target 2

Improved Outcomes for Gifted and Talented Students

Principal met with personnel from high-achieving schools and developed programs for gifted and talented students. Year 12 Visual Arts students visited other schools to discuss strategies to achieve an exemplary body of work. Challenge Day organized for Year 6 and 7 students with special focus on technical areas.

Our achievements include:

- Year 12 Visual Arts student gained selection of body of work into Art Express
- Practical subject results showed significant improvement in the HSC
- Student evaluations for Challenge Day were positive, requesting further problem-solving opportunities

Target 3

Vocational Support for Students at Risk

Transition class operated for selected students during 2011. Students worked with job coach and participated in work experience and volunteering activities. Opportunities for transition to work programs outside the school were investigated.

Our achievements include:

- All students in the transition class participated in work experience and volunteering activities
- All students in the transition class returned to school in 2012 and have taken on a range of programs offered inside and outside the school
- Links developed with Castle Employment, Job Quest, Sugar Valley Neighbourhood Centre, PCYC, Response, TAFE and local businesses
- Work experience evaluations were extremely positive for students involved in the transition program

- Employment Passport Program and PPOW programs implemented with West Wallsend High School students involved

Key evaluations

It is a requirement for all NSW public schools to conduct at least two annual evaluations – one related to educational and management practice and the other related to curriculum. In 2011 our school carried out evaluations of the discipline and welfare system, and student learning across the school

Educational and management practice

Discipline and Welfare Review

Background

The discipline and welfare policy and procedures had been implemented in 2007 and it was decided that a review would be conducted with recommendations forming the basis of improved practices.

Findings and conclusions

- Current welfare tracking system is working well
- Level system works well for majority of students
- Monitoring books, time-out cards and detention system needs clarification and review
- There is a need to spread the load of discipline and welfare follow-up with the formation of a discipline team and a welfare coordinator

Future directions

A discipline team will be formed and will meet weekly to review level placements and to mentor students with the aim of improving behaviour choices. A welfare coordinator will be selected and they will manage welfare programs across the school and support Year Advisers. Staff will support one another with a consistent approach in the classroom with a focus on student learning and achievement.

Curriculum

Learning Survey

Background

Early in 2011 all staff completed a learning survey to develop a plan to improve student learning across the school.

Findings and conclusions

The survey results recognised that staff members are committed to reflect, adapt and learn to improve student learning across the school. Staff members are not afraid to take risks and felt supported to try new approaches.

Staff agreed there is a need to celebrate student successes and improve community communication, with congratulatory letters sent home.

Teachers want to visit other schools and look for different approaches that may work for us and to invite professionals to the school to speak to faculty groups to enhance knowledge.

Staff members believed that accountability structures are important to improve teaching practice and student learning.

Future directions

A range of professional learning opportunities will be sourced for staff, including small teams travelling to Sydney for workshops. Teacher Assessment Reviews will be updated to support professional learning and teaching practice.

Parent, student, and teacher satisfaction

In 2011 the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school.

Their responses are presented below.

- Parents were generally happy with the school and its operations. This was confirmed with the increased number of enrolments during the year.
- Students enjoy the range of programs operating in the school and the breadth of subjects available. They were particularly impressed with the TAFE courses available at school and the ME Program opportunities.

- Staff members want a transparent and consistent discipline policy to operate, and to be supported so that they can effectively teach in all lessons.

Professional learning

The school held five school development days in 2011. The focus areas were:

- Term 1 - Child Protection Policy, Code of Conduct and strategies to improve literacy.
- Term 2 – Thinking Skill Tools, GATS Workshop and Technology Workshops.
- Term 3 – All staff from the LMG met to work on a common approach to teaching literacy (Accelerated Literacy Training).
- Term 4 – Emergency Care Workshop, fire safety training and technology workshops.

Staff participated in a range of professional learning workshops with a focus on programs to assist staff in the teaching of literacy and numeracy and the use of technology in the classroom. Staff attended VET courses, workshops in several Key Learning Areas, mental health and wellbeing conferences, managing challenging behaviour conferences and leadership conferences. Mandatory DET requirements for emergency care, CPR, OHS were also conducted.

Twenty five staff attended the University Teacher's Open Day in June.

50 teachers participated in teacher professional development courses and the average expenditure per teacher was \$600.

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.

School priority 1

Outcome for 2012–2014

Improve student learning outcomes through quality teaching and learning experiences and use of technology.

2012 Targets to achieve this outcome include:

- All classroom practice demonstrates elements of Quality Teaching framework. TARs indicate that Quality Teaching is embedded in all programs and lesson plans.
- All staff engage in at least one professional learning activity to enhance use of technology in the classroom.
- Identify all students who have not demonstrated growth.

Strategies to achieve these targets include:

- Staff to complete individual professional learning plans in line with the school plan.
- Faculties invited to participate in action research projects to investigate and enhance student learning.
- Professional development continuously provided for staff and faculties in a range of ICT areas.
- Students who have not demonstrated growth are identified and an individual education plan prepared and implemented.

School priority 2

Outcome for 2012–2014

Continued growth in literacy and numeracy levels in all students.

2012 Targets to achieve this outcome include:

- Students will achieve an upward trend in NAPLAN and HSC results.

- Value added in NAPLAN and HSC approaches performance in like-school groups.

Strategies to achieve these targets include:

- Staff demonstrate understanding and application of different learning styles applied to the explicit teaching of literacy and numeracy skills.
- Students below national standards identified and supported.
- Students in top bands extended and challenged.
- Immersion in writing across the curriculum with explicit support.

School priority 3

Outcome for 2012–2014

Continue to strengthen a culture of mutual respect between the school and the local community.

2012 Targets to achieve this outcome include:

- Develop Local Management Group executive teams to ensure that initiatives in Teaching and Learning, Welfare, Aboriginal Education, Data Management and Transition are common and are communicated across the primary and secondary schools.
- Extension of work experience opportunities for students with local businesses.
- Increased number of community mentors working in the school.
- Increased communication of school events in the local community.

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.

Ann Campbell - Principal

Robyn Leggatt – Deputy Principal

Jennie Middlemas – P&C President

Stacey Cross – English Teacher

School contact information

West Wallsend High School

2 Appletree Road

West Wallsend, 2286

Ph: 02 49532111

Fax: 02 49531886

Email: Westwalls-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Web:

School Code: 8411

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:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/asr>