

mylor primary school annual report 2011

Linking with community

Mylor 120th Birthday Celebrations

The town of Mylor celebrated its 120th Birthday in 2011. To support the celebrations, students recognised the achievements of 6 Mylor locals. Teams of students interviewed our 'Mylor Marvels', and recorded carefully an autobiography of their life.

This information was then presented in a short film presentation, which was shown at the celebration weekend. A life size art piece was created in each of their honors.



top (l to r): Ruby, Jemma and Miranda working on the archaeological dig at the old Boot Makers Cottage in Mylor

Masterclasses

The introduction of student Masterclasses, saw students access a variety of extra curricula learning during 2011. Whether it was learning about rocks and minerals, participating in paddock to plate cooking, sewing a beanie with the Mylor Red Cross, or participating in an archeological dig, students were engaged on many levels.



mylor primary school

Building the confidence to thrive

Strathalbyn Road Mylor SA 5153
www.mylorps.sa.edu.au

Community Service & Personal Time

Community Service and Personal Time saw students take on a greater responsibility for the upkeep and development of our school learning environments.

Students were in control, and worked together as a united group to plan, record and implement a range of 'jobs' to be

completed and the associated 'rewards' that would occur at the completion of this.

It only takes one to look around our beautiful grounds to sense the pride and ownership our students have for their school and its environment.



above: Liam B and his team the cleaning out the old pond, getting it ready for some new fish.

left: The students testing out a new learning area.



above left: Jeanne and her study partner researching their topic on the computer.

above: Cordy, Ebony and Kaitlin making a model.

Discovery & Inquiry

Discovery and Inquiry was developed to value, support and acknowledge the differing passions and interests of our students. Using a rich and deep learning methodology students became better questioners, inquirers of knowledge and life long learners.

In 2011 students experienced both individual and group inquiry processes that gave them opportunity to present new learning and knowledge to a range of audiences.





We are fortunate to have the support of many people who volunteer their time to make valuable contributions to the school.

Governing Council review

To describe the year I like to think of it in terms of a garden, in 2010 the weeding and soil preparation was done. In 2011, the seedlings were planted, nurtured and we saw some fantastic growth.

That growth has been demonstrated by an increase in student numbers, the development of the staff and the continual improvement of the site.

This year we welcomed 18 new students and added 12 families to the school community. This increase is due to the fantastic efforts of the staff, who continue to develop and refine an exciting teaching methodology, that engages and stimulates the students.

We've seen some great improvements in the facilities at the school. The learning areas have been upgraded with new furniture; the yard has had new plantings. The old shed was torn down and replaced it with a lovely tree, AstroTurf and outdoor seating.

The school's playgroup room was also renovated over the last Christmas Holidays, creating a warm and welcoming space for families with pre-school children. It provides a friendly and supportive environment for parents, as well as welcoming the children to the school community.

None of this could happen without the help of the families at the school and the wider Mylor Community. We are fortunate to have the support of many people who volunteer their time to make valuable contributions to the school. Whether it be helping the students with their reading, conducting a masterclass at school, helping with supervision and transportation for excursions or getting involved in the renovations, gardening or working bees at the school, it's greatly appreciated.

The school's major fundraising event, Bonfire Night was again a success, we had excellent support from the MCFC and the school community with part proceeds helping subsidise the whole-school camp at Wellington on the Murray River. And from all reports the kids had a ball.

The school also held an Open Day, for the first time in a long time which helped raise the profile of the school and gave new parents and the general community an opportunity to see our exciting learning environment in action.

So, with the preparation and planting complete, it's with great anticipation that the Governing Council looks toward 2012, as we continue with the support of the teachers, students and parents to grow and reap the rewards of a bountiful harvest.

Darren Miller, Mylor GC Chair 2011



Grouping for purpose

Based on research by Hattie and Robinson, students have been grouped for purpose during Literacy and Numeracy learning. With targeted teaching, focused on key ideas and concepts, students are experiencing quality learning experiences on a daily basis.

right: Liam R & Adam busy with their literacy.



left: Ruby, Aeddan and Mychael conduct a quiz competition.

below: Liam B channelling his inner monkey on camp.



Kids Teaching Kids

Mylor is unique. It is a place, where it doesn't matter how old you are, or what experiences you may bring. Everyone is valued.

To demonstrate this in practice, you only need to look at the opportunities Mylor students have to teach and learn from each other, and the value that staff put on this.

Our book week learning activities led by groups of students were again another example of success, as with our various learning expos and student run activities.



above: (l to r) Savanna, Jack P, James and making their mobiles for book week.



Extra-Curricula Activities

Throughout 2011, the whole school community has celebrated our school and the opportunities we provide to students. Whether it be the introduction of a 'homework' club to support busy parents, active after school sports opportunities or our whole school camp, students at Mylor are not left wanting.



above: Shane & Byron test out the rock wall.

right: (l to r) Ricky, James, Shane, Braydon, Will, Liam R, Emma and Kaitlin engaging in a camp activity.



2011 Site Improvement Plan Review

Raising Achievement

Throughout 2011, the staff team challenged themselves to help all students reach their full potential. This included looking at the structure of our school day, and the opportunities we gave students to be active participants in their learning.

By challenging some of the assumptions we had developed as educators, and using data as our evidence for change, we introduced a number of new learning ideas. Further changes will occur in 2012 to reflect our learning.

Using Information Communication Technologies (ICT) to strengthen teaching and learning

Given the range of learners within our groups, technology continued to play an important role in ensuring that individual students needs were being met.

Using 'moodle' as a driver, students were given opportunities to have work set at their own level.

The video work for the Mylor 120th Birthday highlighted a need to purchase some additional IT equipment for further uses in 2012.



above: Kaitlin and Cordy utilising the laptop as part of their learning.



above: Mychael, Aeddán and Jack P help unpack the new furniture

Learner Engagement & Wellbeing

2011 data indicates a change in student perceptions regarding the school, its programs, and opportunities for students. Students report feeling that they have a greater say in their education as well as the establishment of new programs.

The student run chook program is testament to this.

Students also had significant input into the upgrade of our learning environments, from the purchase of furniture, to the management of the budget.

As a result, we have seen greater ownership and pride of both the equipment and environment.

Mylor Primary School Site Validation

In 2011, Mylor participated in a self-review validation. The process involved making a presentation to a review panel that provided evidence of work towards the schools improvement goals and identified future directions.

The panel discussed the content of the presentation and provided feedback including commendations and recommendations for future action.

Outlined below is some of the feedback received.

Commendations

- The physical environment looks and feels inviting
- Substantial evidence of improvement in a short time frame resulting in the team approach to whole school improvement

- Development of a professional learning community with a neighboring site
- Student recognition, participation and voice
- Evidence of Assessment for Learning for staff and students

Recommendations

- That the school continue to explore ways to ensure rigorous learning in Discovery/Inquiry and links connection to the Australian Curriculum
- That the school investigate ways to strengthen student voice in the school newspaper to explicitly address the advantages of a small school.

Note: A copy of the full report is available on request.

2011 School Data Analysis

Teacher Qualifications

All staff value the notion of Professional Development, and are continuously looking at ways to learn more, and challenge their existing practice. This approach ensures all students at Mylor are receiving the highest possible quality education.

All staff have the required teaching qualifications as per the South Australian teachers registration board.

Qualification Level	No. of Qualifications
Graduate Degrees or Diplomas	7
Post Graduate Qualifications	0

Workforce Composition

During 2011, the staff consisted of the Principal, two classroom teachers, a language teacher, two administration staff and our playgroup coordinator.

The school also employed a regular Arts specialist teacher to work with all students.

Workforce	Teaching Staff	Non-Teaching Staff
Full-Time Equivalents	2.9	0.71
Persons	4	1



above: Jack M and Henry discuss life at school, for the feedback survey.

Student Achievement

As in 2010, the school participated in two major 'data weeks' where collection of student achievement in spelling, reading comprehension, vocabulary, maths, bullying and harassment, and student wellbeing was undertaken.

Results of these tests informed decisions around grouping students for a particular purpose. It also gave teachers details around individual achievement and gaps to inform teaching practice.

Data was presented on our data wall and reflected upon regularly to ensure that all students were being considered in every decision.

Student Attendance

Analysis of the student attendance data for 2011, has shown a decrease in percentage at some year levels.

As a result of the patterns emerging, the school designed a structured monitoring system that saw all late and absent students required to provide reasons for their absences.

Late passes were then issued by the front office SSO to students, who gave these to their learning area teacher on arrival.



left: Collation of data gathered in spreadsheet form and (above) displayed on the data wall.



2011 Opinion Surveys

Every year, parents, staff and students are asked to provide feedback on four areas of the school program. These areas consist of, Quality of teaching and learning, Support of learning, Relationships and Communication and Leadership and decision making.

Parents

8 Families participated in the annual opinion survey for 2011. Whilst this number is in comparison with the 2010 response, it is hoped that more take up the opportunity in 2012.

Strengths - 100% agree with the following statements

- Teachers at this school really want to help my child learn
- The school has an excellent learning environment
- My child is happy at this school this year
- Teacher let me know how well my child is doing

Areas for further consideration

- The school seeks parent's opinions about educational programs
- Students have enough materials and resources for their learning

Students

15 Students were chosen at random to complete the 2011 opinion survey.

Strengths - 100% agree with the following statements

- Teachers clearly explain what students are learning
- Students at this school are encouraged to achieve to the best of their ability
- I use a variety of interesting learning materials
- I feel safe at this school

Areas for further consideration

- The library / resource centre has lots of resources
- There is lots to do at school during recess and lunch time

Staff

Due to the small number of staff completing the survey, analysis cannot be reported without identifying individual responses.



above: Marie Reeves working with her son Shane in Homework Club.

2011 Income by Funding Source

Grants: State	\$ 456,904.01
Grants: Commonwealth	\$ 166,621.60
Parent Contributions	\$ 17,239.44
Other	\$ 28,582.05



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