

A key to the future

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



WWW.SPEARWOODPS.WA.EDU.AU

PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

It is with great pride that I present the 2020 Annual School Report which highlights the achievements and progress of Spearwood Primary School in the first year of the 2020 - 2022 Business Plan. Whilst across the world 2020 was an unprecedented year with many negative impacts, Spearwood Primary remained a safe and happy place to be for staff, students and our community members. Adversity shows true character and I have seen a supportive, understanding and kind community working with an experienced, hardworking and dedicated staff group for excellent outcomes for Spearwood students.

In 2020 our successes include:

- Spearwood Business Plan 2020 – 2022 completed and published;
- 2019 School Annual Report – not required in 2020 and not achieved by many schools;
- Management of changing situations related to Covid-19 in cleaning and safety;
- Creation of individually differentiated work packages, a concurrent implementation timetable and activity selection matrixes for Kindergarten to Year Six;
- Biannual School Survey; and
- Public School Review.

The Business Plan, Annual Report and Public School Review are all available on the website. This 2020 Annual Report outlines the results of the School Survey. Please read the high level praise of the Public School Review (On the website attachment on the School Board section under Our School). Note also that all the recommendations are supporting our stated goals in our continual improvement agenda.

The 2020 Parents and Citizens (P & C) Committee was once again a fantastic group of parents and community members working hard to provide for the students of Spearwood Primary School. Many of the following highlighted events were paid for or subsidised by the P & C. The Bingo run first by Shelia Lovelands then Wendy Anderson earned money all year and financed various opportunities for students including Mathletics for every child. The whole school thanks those members of the P & C providing services for our students including: Banking, the Canteen and Uniform shop.

The Grounds' Committee and the Cultural Committee had a large impact and big projects again in 2020. We thank the staff and volunteers who worked in and with these committees.

The School Board, most of whom are also the P & C Executive, worked so well leading the school and supporting all that was required in this difficult year. The School Review Team stated, "The School Board and P & C advocate strongly for the school, facilitating community partnerships that provide multiple avenues for parent engagement" and described them as "respected partners who play a strong leading role".

Ms Tracey Irving was Principal on Thursdays and for the last five weeks of Term Four while I was recovering from surgery. Thank you to Tracey for all her contributions as Deputy and Principal including large sections of this Annual Report.

Thank you never seems to feel enough to match the astonishing hard work of: Parents, Community, Staff and Students but here I am again – THANK YOU!

Marta Rotondella
Principal

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

FEBRUARY. Spearwood Primary School once again joined with the Fathering Project – “Dads go back to School” was a great success with Dad’s invited to join in with the afternoon timetable and participate in the learning with their children. The Life Education Van came and parked at school to teach students all about making safe and healthy lifestyle choices. Students engaged in the curriculum based programs to explore a range of health topics including nutrition, resilience, social skills, physical activity and cyber safety.



MARCH. Clean-Up Schools Day – Harold the Giraffe from the Life Education program came back to visit for Clean-up Schools Day. He helped staff and students to clean up the school grounds and identify and sort rubbish. The annual Edu-dance program went ahead as usual but the end of program concert was unfortunately cancelled due to Covid-19 and parents were unable to attend. Students were recorded performing their dances and these were uploaded to a private channel on YouTube for parents to view. Free cooking lessons through the School Breakfast Program was a highlight for students. Food Sensations proved to be just that with sensational recipes and nutritional information. Students were all provided with a healthy meal and a cookbook to take home and share with their families.



Spearwood Primary School was lucky enough to receive three 'Sporting Schools' grants in 2020 – this enabled students to participate in Tennis Clinics, learn all about Jak Attack (lawn bowls) and T-Ball. The funds received also allowed Mrs. Gartner to purchase new equipment for students to use as part of the regular Sports Program.



Our beautiful multicultural school community was once again celebrated on Harmony Day. Students wore orange or clothing from their cultural background.

APRIL. The small cohort of students still attending in April had a fun Easter Egg Hunt and made hats for the hunt and Easter Dress Up and Hat Parade. ANZAC Commemorations looked a little different in 2020 with assemblies being cancelled and visitors not permitted on site. Room 14 students researched the significance of Red Poppies and traditional ANZAC memorials. In STEM they created a template for a pin wheel poppy that involved an exact square and the use of a compass to create the two exact size round centres. They then teamed up with students in Room 16 to create poppies to place around the flagpole and the garden to pay respects to the ANZACs and fallen soldiers in all conflicts around the world.



MAY. National Simultaneous Story time was a hit again this year with 'Whitney and Britney – Chicken Divas' entertaining tens of thousands of school students at Spearwood Primary School and around Australia with their crazy antics. Art Sins (Justin) worked with staff and students to develop ideas for a mural on the west facing wall of Kambarang Block. He incorporated a sporting theme with lots of colour and hidden things to find. It has certainly brightened a very dull spot on our building



JULY. The farmyard came to visit the early childhood centre. Students interacted with the animals and had a lovely time learning all about how to take care of them.

While Australia postponed their NAIDOC Week Celebrations until November, Spearwood went ahead with school NAIDOC week activities in July and again in November. The School Cultural Committee and the P & C prepared a delicious morning tea for all students, with food containing bush tucker ingredients which students had learnt about in class. Students then moved around in their multi-age faction groups to participate in several art activities. In November the Cultural Committee worked with students to create two bright, welcoming pieces of art in the outdoor space of Kambarang and Bunuru Blocks.



AUGUST was a busy month with the annual Book Week extravaganza which included the Book Fair, Book Character Parade and a visit from Aska who is an illustrator.



SEPTEMBER. Dads were invited to have lunch and a play with their children to celebrate Father's Day. The canteen provided some delicious pies and Dads ate and played with their children in the afternoon. Another successful faction Athletics Carnival for Gold! Students enjoyed the weather and participated with good sportsmanship, having fun whilst doing their best for their factions.



Kindy students learnt all about workers in the community and had visits from St John Ambulance, Fire Service, WAPOL and the Ranger to name just a few.

OCTOBER. All students from Pre-Primary to Year 6 attended swimming lessons at Fremantle Leisure Centre. Students were excited to be swimming at the warmer end of the year. It was a busy two weeks and everyone tried their best and were exhausted at the conclusion of lessons. Interschool Athletics was a successful day for our teams and Spearwood students were good sports and they looked great in the sports uniform.



NOVEMBER. The senior class participated in the Remembrance Day March, held by the City of Cockburn and local RSL. Traditionally the students march in the ANZAC Parade but, due to Covid-19 this was rescheduled to coincide with Remembrance Day.





Thanks to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions students had the opportunity to travel to Matilda Bay to take part in the Junior Dolphin Watch excursion. The students conducted a scavenger hunt, tested the pH, temperature and saltiness of tap water and river water and compared the two. Later they labelled a diagram of a river dolphin and tried to identify some of the local dolphins by their dorsal fins.

DECEMBER. As usual, was a time for celebration as we said farewell our Year 6 students with an assembly and Big Day Out excursion funded jointly by the school and the P & C. The Christmas Concert was a festive occasion with the new leadership group announced for 2021 and some very talented performances by all classes and the guitar ensemble.



PROGRESS AGAINST BUSINESS PLAN PRIORITIES

High expectations within a safe learning environment developing healthy and resilient learners.

Attendance.

In 2020 Attendance across the country was negatively impacted because of Covid-19. While we are usually able to compare our high standards with those of other WA Schools this is not possible for this Annual Report. Spearwood had very high attendance figures for all but the two weeks at the end of Term One. That fortnight families showed support by not sending students to school so distance learning could be planned.

Spearwood kept a strong focus on improving the attendance of students at risk and supporting families.

Behaviour and Engagement.

The whole school resilience program, Highway Heroes, is demonstrating a strong and positive impact. 2020 saw a significant increase in positive behaviour across all year levels.

In 2020 there were zero: Suspensions, Intentions to Suspend or Behavioural Withdrawals. There were: 6 Detentions, 3 Loss of Privileges and 8 Students who had Administration Reprimands. Only four students in the school had repeated behavioural incidents requiring administration dealings.

These low numbers demonstrate both a good cohort of students at Spearwood Primary School in 2020 and outstanding behaviour management by staff at Spearwood Primary School. It should be noted that there were no second semester reprimands for the student who had the highest number in semester one (26) as the school worked successfully for positive outcomes for the student.

The School Survey in 2020 had 4.5/5 Rating from parents for the item:
"Student behaviour is well managed at this school."

In 2022, when the next survey is completed, our goal will be to maintain this rating in the high 4's.

Our Chaplain, Coral Atkins, is successfully working with students and families at risk.

Retention.

All Year Six students left Spearwood Primary School to attend Government High Schools (100% = 15/15 students). The majority, 12 students, are enrolled and attending Fremantle College. In 2021, one student each is attending: Applecross Senior High School, Melville Senior High School, and Lakeland Senior High School.

High quality teaching utilising contemporary curriculum and assessment.

Staff continue to attend professional learning and implement best practice pedagogy throughout the whole school including: Explicit Instruction, Connect, Bright Path, and Talk4Writing. The whole school approach facilitates sequential, consistent teaching and learning programs across all phases of learning.

Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) standards are used in observation, planning and reflection. Standards are used for personal reflection and professional feedback from peers and line manager. All teachers engaged in the Performance Management process in 2020 through the development of SMART goals with their line managers. The process was based on their self-reflections and peer feedback using the AITSL standards at 'Proficient' level and above

Teachers use data and additional evidence to explain what they do and the impact it has on student learning in data analysis and performance management processes.

Effective Leadership.

Spearwood Primary School has a professional team of highly skilled staff. They share the responsibility for student learning and success and recognise that the school's vision can only be achieved by working together. Through self-reflection and performance management, they know their strengths and continue to grow their capacity as leaders. Staff are encouraged to take active leadership roles beyond their classrooms and have high aspirations.

The Student Leadership Team were responsible for all formal leadership requirements such as running Assemblies and Ceremonies. The School Captains represented the school at events held by external partners such as City of Cockburn and the local RSL. All positions were gained through merit selection involving speeches to the student body and secret ballot. Students demonstrated high levels of responsibility in all areas.

Strong governance, partnerships and collaboration.

The School Review highlighted the strong leadership in the school. The Governance Group are the School and School Board. Partnerships and Collaboration Group include the P & C. Below are the Public Review team's commendations in this area.

Leadership

Leaders demonstrate a unified purpose in establishing the pre-conditions for school and student success. They have articulated a clear vision for the essential elements for school improvement and priorities.

Commendations

The review team validate the following:

- The leadership team and school Board are united in their purpose. Board members are highly motivated and make a substantial contribution to the development of the business plan.
- The board provides strong governance and oversight of school planning and with guidance from leaders, actively monitors the implementation of the business plan.
- The Cultural Committee, led by the Aboriginal and Islander education officer and manager corporate services, has implemented the Aboriginal Cultural Standards Framework with tangible and permanent school improvements.
- Spearwood Primary School has a highly experienced staff, many of whom are senior teachers. Staff lead learning areas and school programs according to their strengths and interests.



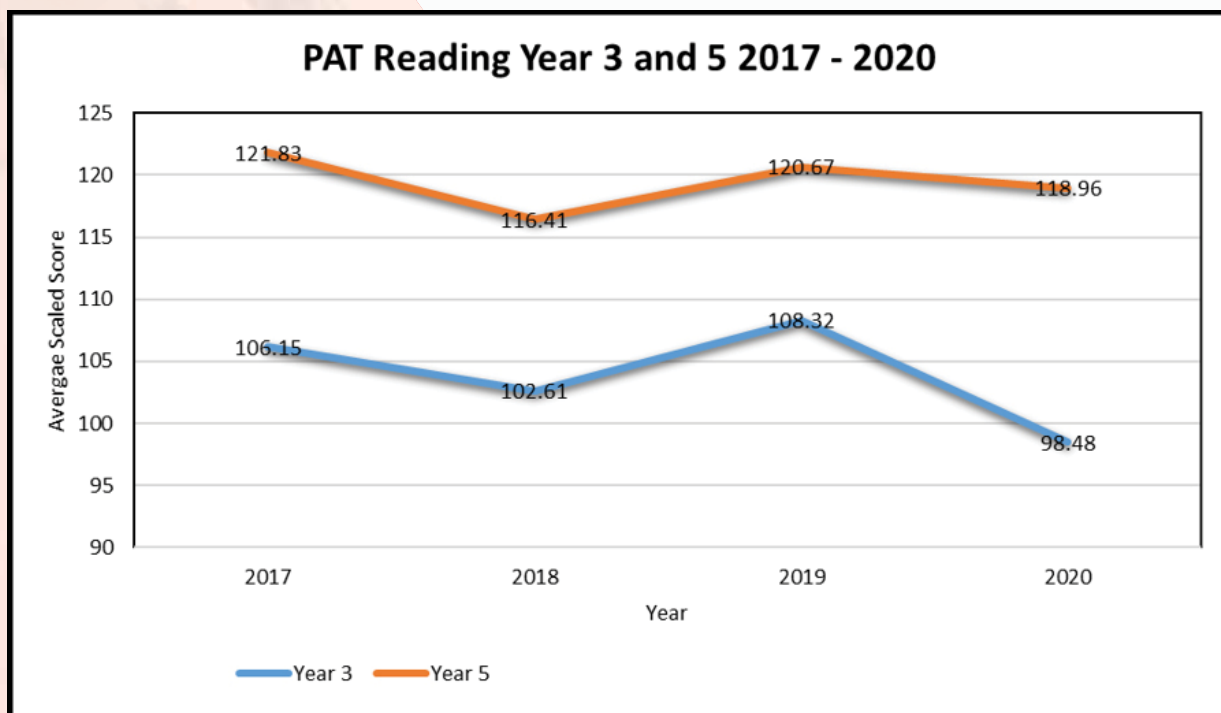
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND PROGRESS

National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) was cancelled in 2020. In the absence of this data we are unable to report directly on the comparative Literacy and Numeracy targets set in our Business Plan.

The staff decided to replace this data collection with an increase in school wide assessment using Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT) which were implemented and used to measure achievement of individual students, progress and school wide progress. Mathematics, Reading and Science tests have been completed for a number of years. Spelling tests and Grammar & Punctuation tests were added in 2020 to have PAT data to compensate for the missing NAPLAN data. It was decided we have excellent information on student writing using the Bright Path assessment and recording tool.

The school has been using PAT testing and data for individual student assessment for a number of years in Mathematics' Literacy.

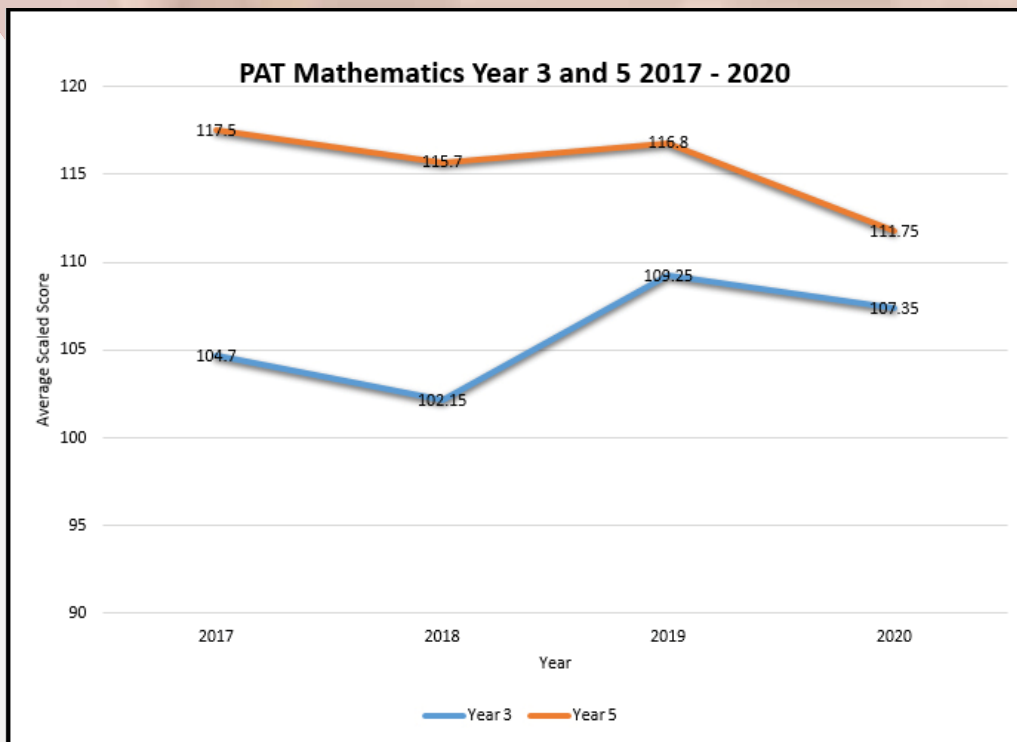
PAT Mathematics longitudinal data represents progress and achievement with disrupted learning in 2020 which may have impacted on expected annual progress, with a slight downward trend in both years three and five.



PAT Mathematics results have remained fairly consistent with a small drop which may be attributed to the smaller cohorts and disrupted learning in 2020.

What is very significant in this data is the increase in scores from Year 3 to Year 5. Students in Mathematics Year 3 in 2018 had an average scaled score of 102.15 this increased to a Mathematics Year 5 2020 scaled score of 111.75.

This result shows again what has been observed in previous years' NAPLAN results, outstanding progress between years three and five at Spearwood Primary School in this case in Mathematics.



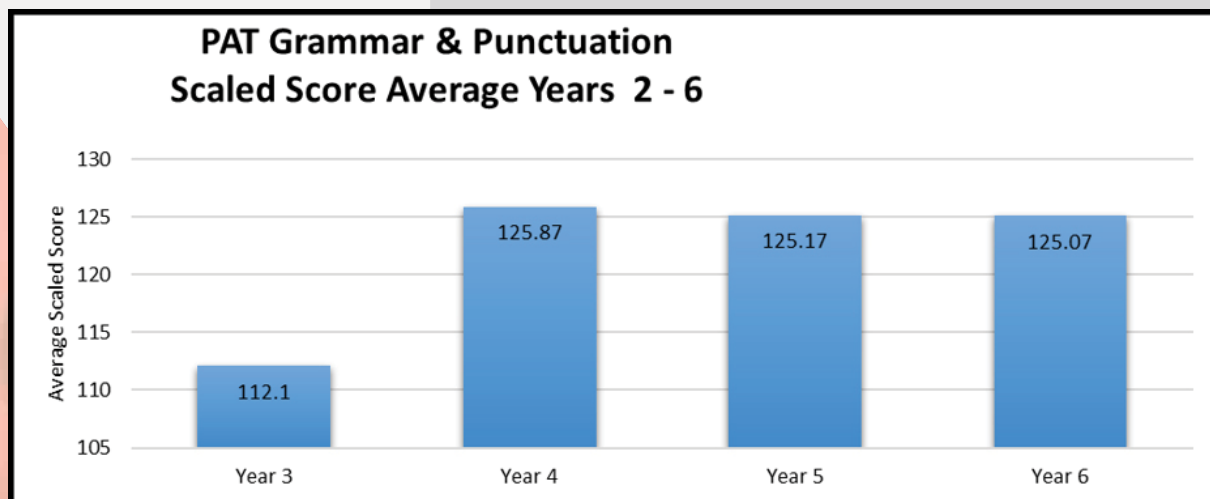
PAT Reading results have also remained fairly consistent with a small drop which may be attributed to the smaller cohorts and disrupted learning in 2020.

Once again what is very significant in this data is the increase in scores from Year 3 to Year 5.

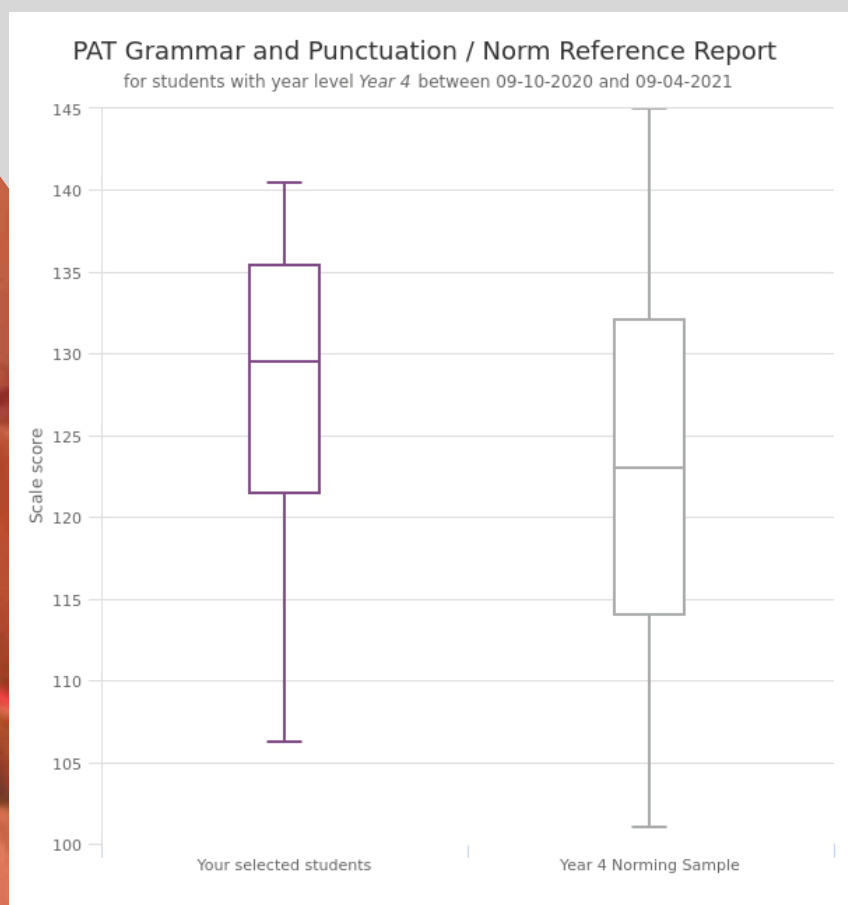
Students in Reading Year 3 in 2018 had an average scaled score of 102.61 this increased to a Reading Year 5 2020 scaled score of 118.96.

This result shows again what has been observed in previous years' NAPLAN results, outstanding progress between years three and five at Spearwood Primary School in this case in Reading.





The information in the graph of averages does show increase from Years 3 to 6. It must be noted that this data is slightly askew. The Year 3 and Year 5 data is from groups that are too small to truly be compared in this way. The Year 4 group is an excellent group when compared with the Australia wide Norm as shown below with a higher average with most students being in above average range for Grammar and Punctuation



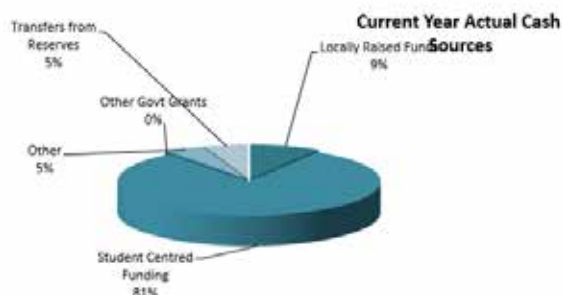
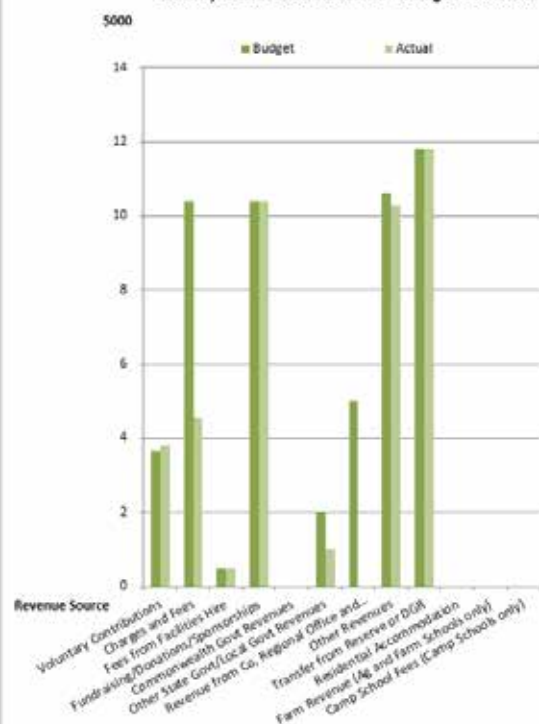
SPEARWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL FUNDING



Spearwood Primary Financial Summary as at 31 December 2020

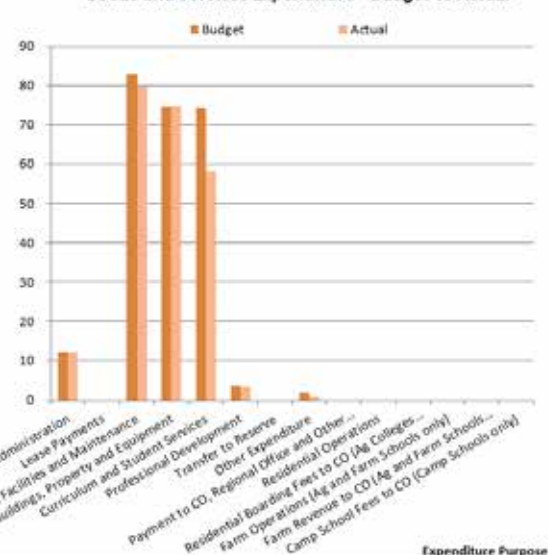
Revenue - Cash & Salary Allocation	Budget	Actual
1 Voluntary Contributions	\$ 3,667.00	\$ 3,787.05
2 Charges and Fees	\$ 10,391.00	\$ 4,547.49
3 Fees from Facilities Hire	\$ 500.00	\$ 492.72
4 Fundraising/Donations/Sponsorships	\$ 10,400.13	\$ 10,400.00
5 Commonwealth Govt Revenues	\$ -	\$ -
6 Other State Govt/Local Govt Revenues	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
7 Revenue from Co, Regional Office and Other Schools	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
8 Other Revenues	\$ 10,629.60	\$ 10,284.84
9 Transfer from Reserve or DGR	\$ 11,820.18	\$ 11,820.18
10 Residential Accommodation	\$ -	\$ -
11 Farm Revenue (Ag and Farm Schools only)	\$ -	\$ -
12 Camp School Fees (Camp Schools only)	\$ -	\$ -
Total Locally Raised Funds	\$ 54,407.91	\$ 42,331.78
Opening Balance	\$ 17,170.87	\$ 17,170.87
Student Centred Funding	\$ 177,490.00	\$ 177,490.00
Total Cash Funds Available	\$ 249,068.78	\$ 236,992.65
Total Salary Allocation	\$ -	\$ -
Total Funds Available	\$ 249,068.78	\$ 236,992.65

Locally Generated Revenue - Budget vs Actual

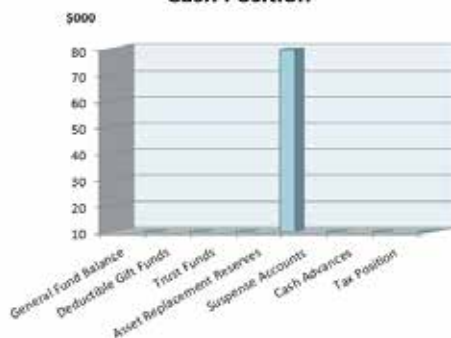


Expenditure - Cash and Salary	Budget	Actual
1 Administration	\$ 12,204.00	\$ 12,294.45
2 Lease Payments	\$ -	\$ -
3 Utilities, Facilities and Maintenance	\$ 82,783.45	\$ 79,677.35
4 Buildings, Property and Equipment	\$ 74,443.38	\$ 74,759.83
5 Curriculum and Student Services	\$ 74,245.95	\$ 58,021.00
6 Professional Development	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,208.61
7 Transfer to Reserve	\$ -	\$ -
8 Other Expenditure	\$ 1,892.00	\$ 774.36
9 Payment to CO, Regional Office and Other Schools	\$ -	\$ -
10 Residential Operations	\$ -	\$ -
11 Residential Boarding Fees to CO (Ag Colleges only)	\$ -	\$ -
12 Farm Operations (Ag and Farm Schools only)	\$ -	\$ -
13 Farm Revenue to CO (Ag and Farm Schools only)	\$ -	\$ -
14 Camp School Fees to CO (Camp Schools only)	\$ -	\$ -
Total Goods and Services Expenditure	\$ 249,068.78	\$ 228,735.60
Total Forecast Salary Expenditure	\$ -	\$ -
Total Expenditure	\$ 249,068.78	\$ 228,735.60
Cash Budget Variance	\$ -	\$ -

Goods and Services Expenditure - Budget vs Actual



Cash Position



Cash Position as at:	
Bank Balance	\$ 87,093.54
Made up of:	
1 General Fund Balance	\$ 8,257.05
2 Deductible Gift Funds	\$ -
3 Trust Funds	\$ -
4 Asset Replacement Reserves	\$ 79,461.18
5 Suspense Accounts	\$ 236.31
6 Cash Advances	\$ -
7 Tax Position	\$ (861.00)
Total Bank Balance	\$ 87,093.54

PARENT, STUDENT AND TEACHER SATISFACTION

The National School Opinion Surveys (NSOS) must be administered every two years. The Survey was last administered in 2018 and was administered in Term Three in 2020.

2018 Areas in Parent Survey for focus to reach a target score of 4 or above in 2020

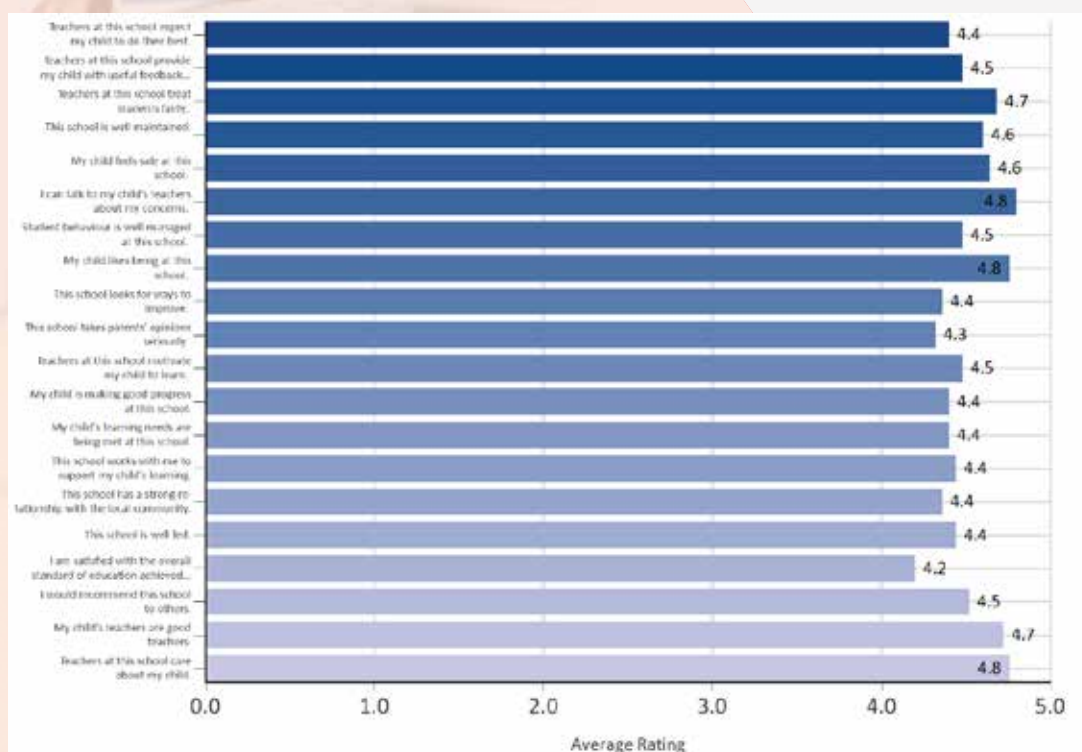
1. The school is well maintained
2. My child feels safe at this school
3. Student behaviour is well managed at this school
4. This school looks for ways to improve

Survey Group	1 Well Maintained 2018 - 2020	2 Feel Safe 2018 - 2020	3 Student Behaviour 2018 - 2020	4 School Improvement 2018 - 2020
Parents	3.3 - 4.6	3.8 - 4.6	3.9 - 4.5	4.8 - 4.8
Staff	3.8 - 4.7	3.8 - 4.4	3.8 - 4.1	3.9 - 4.6
Students	3.7 - 4.2	3.5 - 4.0	2.8 - 3.4 (+0.6)	4.2 - 4.4

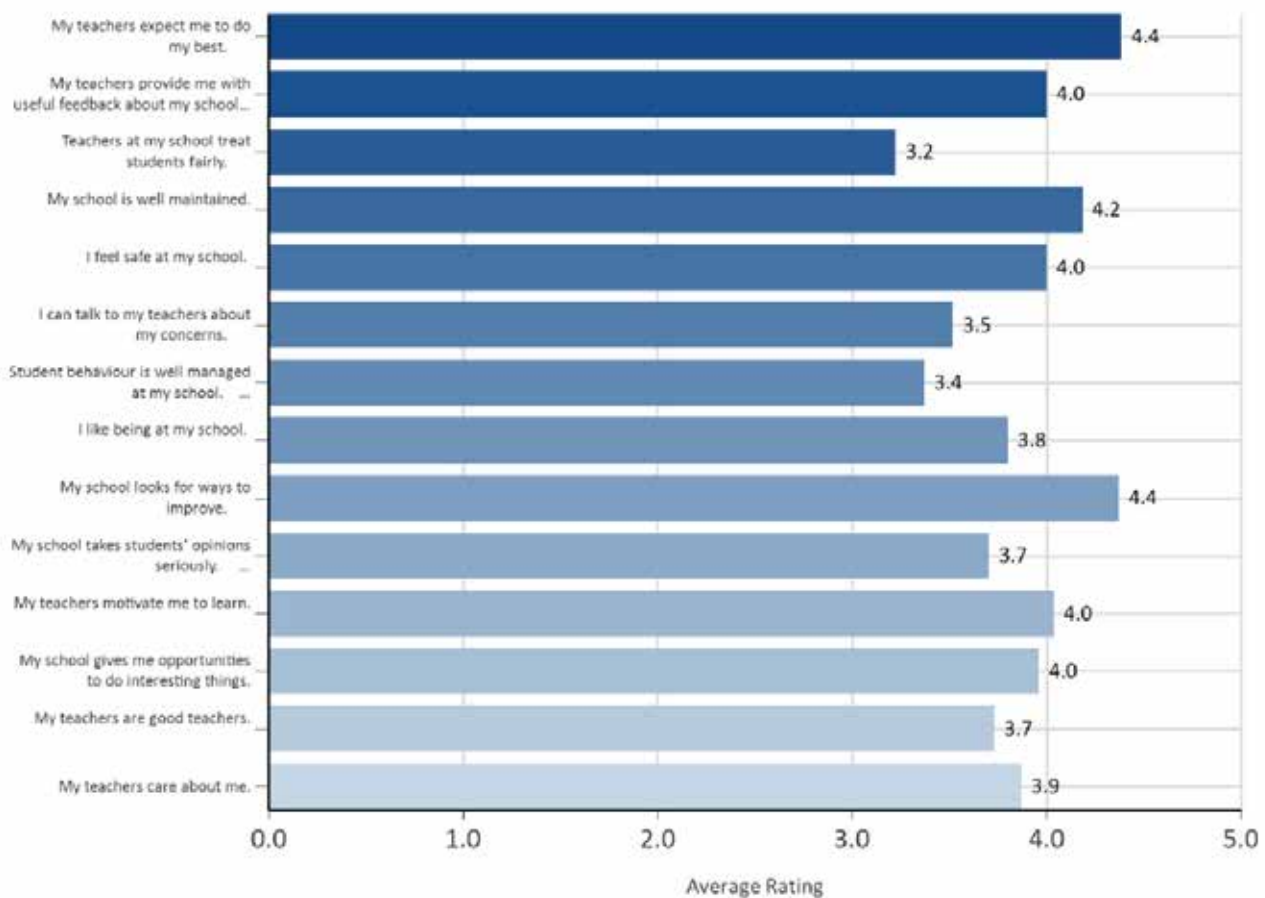
SPEARWOOD PARENT SURVEY

The National School Opinion Survey was distributed by Newsletter link with paper copies on offer. No parent took the paper copy option in 2020. Twenty-five of our 86 families responded in 2020 which represents 29% of our school populations. This represents significantly the highest percentage of engagement since the first survey in 2015. For example, in 2018, 13 families responded and the student population was larger. Staff actively encouraged families to complete a survey more in 2020 than in previous survey years.

The Parent results are overwhelmingly positive. Some of this can attribute to the good will of the community in these difficult times, and that our parents who engage with the newsletters are the positive and proactive parents. The survey closed after three annual highlights: Book Character Parade, School Athletics Carnival and Mrs Miller's Assembly. There were useful suggestions which will be followed up with staff and the School Board



SPEARWOOD STUDENT SURVEY



We surveyed the one Year 5/6 class with 27 responses.

There are some areas which have become highlighted for improvement and we will conduct the student survey again in 2021 to see if this can be achieved.

This survey has increases in 8 items, 1 remained equal, 2 small reductions in 1 item and there are two new items in this year's survey. One item had the biggest reduction (0.4) and the lowest ranking (3.2) and biggest reduction of 0.4. The item is: 'Teachers at my school treat students fairly.'

It has been identified previously with this class that they view the required differentiation for students in curriculum and behavioural plans as other students getting attention that they do not. This is, in their eyes, 'not fair'. In these cases the school and the parents of the individual students would see the same differentiation for 'at risk' students and their improvement and successes as desirable.

We need to assist students in understanding that fair is not equal. A simple explanation is the disabled parking space - Not everyone can park there so it is not equal but it is fair. Students and Parents are usually much more tolerant of differentiation based on physical abilities than on behavioural and mental health on individual basis.

Other areas which we will investigate to find the reasons for lower scores:

- I can talk to my teachers about my concerns.
- Student Behaviour is well managed.
- School takes students' opinions seriously.
- My teachers are good teachers.

Let's celebrate the high expectations, high maintenance and continual school improvement identified by the students.

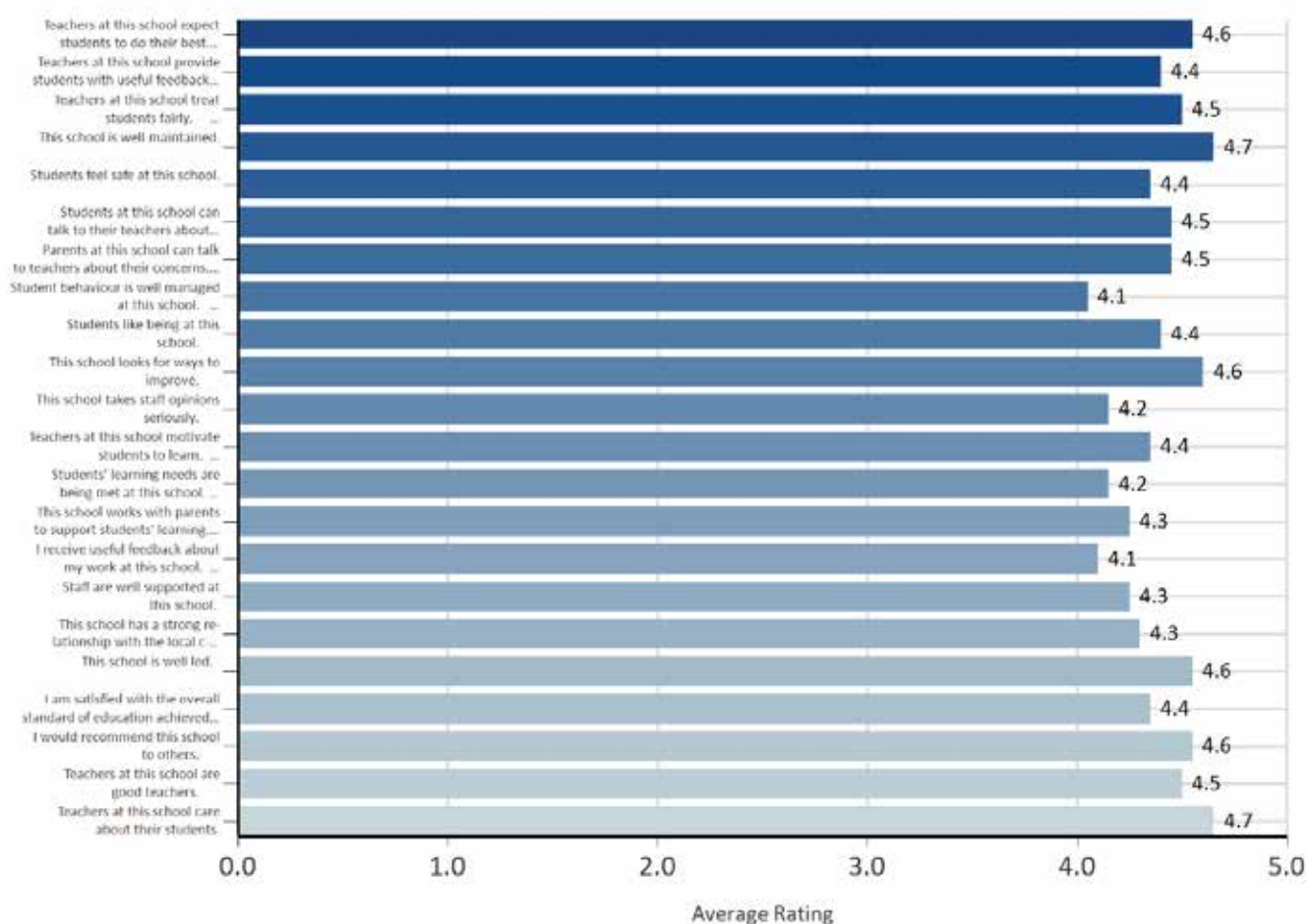
We asked the students about the highlights of attending Spearwood Primary School.

Examples of the most common Highlights:

- 17 comments with ICT including talking about STEM, computers, microbits, with Ms Irving and Ms Dowding.
 - 14 comments included Sports including PE, Carnivals and Sports for Schools.
 - 10 comments on Arts learning area – Guitar Speciality program and Ms Dowding's amazing visual arts program.
 - Italian and Signora Gorman got some great comments.
-
- 'It's good to be at Spearwood Primary School because... it provides a bigger education for younger and older kids we have; Art, Music, ICT, Italian and my favourite LUNCH!!!'
 - "I really enjoy that we have opportunities to participate in ICT, school carnivals, Edu-dance and lots more. Our school also is best to make friends as everyone knows each other seeming we're such a small school and stuff doesn't get crowded."



SPEARWOOD STAFF SURVEY



Staff have acknowledged the hard work of their colleagues and the progress in the school in this survey. Staff provided many suggestions which will be looked at in Term Four 2020 and the beginning of 2021 as part of the continual improvement processes of Spearwood Primary School.





A key to the future



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Spearwood Primary School An Independent Public School



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