School Overview

Our goals are to improve student achievement in the all key learning areas, to promote and maintain a positive, caring, and safe environment that encourages self-esteem, a mutual respect for others and engenders active community participation; and to improve student transition and learning opportunities from home/ kindergarten to primary school and from primary to secondary school. We have set ourselves the following targets to be achieved in the term of our strategic plan:-

- 100% of students in Year 2 will maintain or exceed levels in Literacy achieved in 2007.
- At least 85% of students will achieve at or above their expected levels in reading and writing.
- AIM- school means in number & mathematics will exceed like school and state benchmarks.
- Improved student engagement in other curriculum areas over the term of the Charter.
- To reduce the number and frequency of playground accidents.
- Days absent to be no greater than the state mean at each year level by 2009
- Parent opinion to be above the state benchmark.
- The proportion of parents reporting satisfaction with the kindergarten to school transition and orientation program to be 95% or above by 2009.

In 2007 we set out to:-

i. Enhance teaching and learning across the curriculum by developing school-wide principles of learning and teaching which included:-
   - conducting POLT component mapping and develop school action plan.
   - developing unit plans consistent with POLT and Effective Teaching and Learning methodologies.
   - auditing current units against VELS; retaining what is valuable and removing what is not.
   - increasing the emphasis placed upon writing across the school.
   - all children at or above year 3 to have efficient keyboarding skills.

ii. Develop a culture of student involvement and participation in decision making through programs such as:-
   - ‘You Can Do It’ and Healthy Relationships to be a focus at all year levels.
   - Implement the ‘Go For Your Life’ Program.
   - A whole school approach to social skills using such programs as ‘Friendly Kids Friendly Classrooms’ and the ‘Games Factory’
   - Employing a welfare officer to gain greater insights into student voice and concerns.
   - Student Representative Council (SRC).

iii. Have Year 6 students involved in ‘Buddy programs’, which included:-
   - a buddy system between Year 6 and Prep students.
   - holding an annual Year 6 & Year 9 Buddy Day to establish relationships.
   - participating in a buddy based activity in December.
   - a range of activities in which Year 6 students are exposed to secondary teaching staff and procedures.
Student enrolments –

In 2007, the year commenced with a census enrolment of 127 students. During the year our numbers went to 132 and this is where we finished at the end of term 4 2007. Overall the school gained 15 students during the 2007 enrolment. Our lowest class was the Preps with 14 enrolments. Otherwise, on average, class sizes were below the state benchmark of 22 for p – 2 classes and 26 for 3-6 classes. Our numbers have been on a slight increase for the past 3 years. We expect this to continue in the next two years as well.

Parent Satisfaction –

Parental satisfaction with our school remains high. This reflects the commitment the community has to the school and the partnership that enables the school to participate in many innovative and exciting programs. Close liaison between the class teachers and the parents enables us to ensure that the student progress and achievement remain a high priority. While there has been a slight decrease in parent satisfaction we are confident that the school structures and behavioural management strategies that we have put in place will see the parent satisfaction climb back into the very good range in 2008.
Commonwealth Requirements:

**Teacher Satisfaction**-
The average score for teacher satisfaction (morale) at this school was 63.8, against a state median score of 79.2. The response rate 81.3% was high. In 2008 we will be endeavouring to raise teacher morale above the state average.

**Teacher Absence**-
The average number of days absent per teacher was 2.81 days. These absentees to not take into account long service leave, leave without pay and work cover leave.

**Teacher Retention**-
Of the 10 teaching staff at Mount Beauty Primary School at June 2005 (including those on leave without pay), 8 or 80% were still at the school at June 2007. This figure across Government schools was 86%.

**Teacher participation in professional learning**-
All teaching staff have participated in professional learning throughout the year, such as the Innovations and Excellence programs, the Induction / Mentoring program for Beginning Teachers and in house PD on literacy, numeracy and behavioural management.

**Teacher Qualifications**-
Principal's Report

We commenced the year with 127 students and increased this number to 132 by the end of term 4; 15 more than in 2006.

Achievements which distinguish our school from others include:-
- high achievement rates of students in literacy and numeracy.
- students who consistently perform well in regional/ state/ national sporting events such as skiing, swimming and athletics.
- a highly supportive and hard working community who support the school, its teachers and students in all endeavours.
- a committed team of teachers who provide a caring and outstanding education for their students.
- a commitment from our school community towards a school that supports a sustainable future in activities like Planet Savers, Go for Your Life and rubbish free lunches everyday.

Some of the highlights of 2007 included:-
- The appointment of a new Principal.
- The completion of the Outdoor learning Area.
- New student chairs for the school yard.
- The exterior painting of the Infant wing.
- The establishment of the Imaginative Garden.
- Parent working Bees
- Swimming and athletics carnival with UKV schools making combined teams for the second year running.
- Years 4-6 attended a week long camp at Wilson's Promontory.
- An open evening was held in recognition of Education Week. This was very well attended and children took great pleasure in demonstrating their learning and showing their parents what they did at school.
- We were recipients of 2 grants that helped us put over $10,000 worth of upgrades into the school canteen.
- Parents Club continued to raise funds, culminating in a very successful ski sale in June. Funds were used to support our camps/ excursion program.
- Three staff on contracts were made on-going and 3 new staff were employed on 12 month contracts for 2008.
School Council President's Report

The Mount Beauty Primary School that began the new school year in January 2007 was in many ways different to the School that concluded the year in December 2007.

Firstly, student enrolment's increased by 15 to 132 in total. This has enabled the school to offer no composite classes for 2008. Simply put more enrolments means increased funding from the Education Department. This increase in funding allows School staff more opportunities to provide even better education for our children. In 2007 Mount Beauty Primary School students achieved high levels in literacy and numeracy. Well done to all students and in particular the dedicated staff for all there efforts throughout the year.

Secondly, the appearance of the school has changed a little. The most obvious, being the completion of the outdoor learning area. This is a project that began back in 2006 or even late 2005. It was a long time coming but is a significant addition to the schools infrastructure. Another construction project, which has changed the face of the school is the Imaginative Garden. It didn't have the same budget as the outdoor learning area but I am sure the youngest student's in the school appreciate it just as much. Many other maintenance and improvement projects have been undertaken and I would like to thank all the staff, school councillors and parents that helped out by donating time, money and enthusiasm.

Thirdly, some of the faces that were regularly seen at the school have changed. For the first time in many, many years Phillip and Joan Evans were not seen daily in the classrooms, halls and playground of the school. They did come back to help when needed. Jenny Flower retired at the end of the year after many years of service and we all wish her well. Tony Keeble started as principle at the beginning of term two and has settled into the job nicely. I am very confident that under his leadership the students and staff of Mount Beauty Primary School will flourish and achieve even greater things in 2008.

Iain Moore
School Council President
Mount Beauty Primary School
Student Progress & Achievements

Student Learning

Percentage of students achieving at or above expected standards
- In reading, 71.43% of students in Year 3 were above the expected standards.
- In reading, 62.50% of students in Year 5 were above the expected standards.
- In Mathematics, 78.95% of students in Year 3 were above the expected standards.
- In Mathematics, 50% of students in Year 5 were above the expected standards.

Percentage of students achieving at or above National Benchmarks
According to the AIM results:
- 86% of students in Year 3 were at or above the National Benchmarks in Reading
- 95% of Students in Year 3 were at or above the national Benchmarks in Writing.
- 89% of Students in Year 3 were at or above the national Benchmark in Maths.
- 88% of students in Year 5 were at or above the National Benchmarks in Reading.
- 100% of students in Year 5 were at or above the national Benchmark in Writing and Maths.
In summary we are very pleased with what we were able to achieve in student learning. While the percentage of students not working at the expected VELS levels has decreased from the previous 12 months, our overall National Benchmarks in Reading Writing and Maths remain high to very high. The drop in expected levels is a direct response to the increase of enrolments over the past two years. The data shows that 100% of students who participate in the schools early years program are meeting the expected levels in Reading Writing and Maths. We are currently working on some initiatives to increase the expected levels in students who are new to our school and haven’t been through our early years program.

The correlation between the expected levels and the actual National Benchmarks is very evident in year 5 where 50% of students are working at the expected level for Maths and 62.50% for Writing; however 100% of year 5 students were at or above the National Benchmark in Maths and Writing. This could mean we need to reassess our assessment tools and moderation as the discrepancy seems to suggest we maybe assessing at a too higher level.

National Benchmark data is very sound in Literacy and Maths at all year levels.

The strength of our Early Years Program with low class numbers and intervention programs such as Reading Recovery and Speech Pathology sets in place a springboard for literacy in later years.

Significant new enrolments to our school post-early years has a tendency to impact negatively upon our data. Increasing levels of support is being implemented as part of a program to focus upon specific learning needs of new enrolments.

The National Benchmark data suggests that the lag between Writing and Reading as we progress through the school is becoming less significant. This data, while not measuring the trend across the whole school shows at two year levels Reading and Writing have improved over the previous year’s data.
Student Pathways and Transitions

Our goal was to improve student transition and learning opportunities from home/kindergarten to primary school and from primary to secondary school. Approximately 90% of our Year 6 exiting students went to Mount Beauty Secondary College. Through the Innovations and Excellence initiative a number of transition programs have established a strong bond between the schools, the students and teachers within both schools.

"The Enhanced Transition Program comprises a number of separate activities:-

- Teacher Shadowing - Year 7 staff are encouraged to visit the year 5/6 classrooms early in the year, and then again in term 4.
- Setting up student and teacher resource centres in general secondary classrooms.
- Transition Days - During term 2, year 5 and year 6 students from each of the feeder primary schools mix as they spend a day attending a special program of lessons at the Secondary College.
- Buddy Day 1: In October, each year 6 student was paired with a year 9 student (of similar interests/backgrounds where possible) for a day of outdoor activities at Bogong Outdoor education Centre.
- Buddy Day 2: Year 6/9 buddies meet again for a morning of values/motivation education using "WhyTry?" program, and an afternoon of collaborative scaffolded story-writing and publishing (Word or Publisher) based on experiences of Day 1.
- Orientation Day for year 6 students and their parents in December. (Pre-existing program).
- Students/teachers in years P-10 across the cluster participated in common literacy and numeracy tasks for public display at Literacy and Numeracy week Expo.
- Transition days run in semester one for years 5 and 6.
- The Technology Team met to explore Information and Computer Technology issues. Primary and Secondary teams reviewed courses accordingly. Professional Development for staff was organised in areas of need.
- Kinder to Prep transition ---

Informal and written feedback from parents on the ‘Enhanced Transitions’ Programs has indicated a very high level of satisfaction. Principals feel that teaching staff in this cluster have generally been well informed on government reforms as they have unfolded. This includes early familiarity with VELS terminology, reporting against VELS using progression points, use of the A to E scale, etc.”

(Extract from Annual Report for Innovations & Excellence Upper Kiewa Valley School Cluster)

Kindergarten to School transition programs have been well received by the community. School familiarity visits have become a feature of our bond with the kindergarten. The ‘buddy system’ has been highly praised by parents as an excellent way of easing Prep children into school.
Student Engagement and Wellbeing

Average number of absent days per student –
Our annual implementation plan set out to reduce the average number of absent days per student. Regular articles in the newsletter emphasising the importance of regular attendance and the direct contact with parents who had children with higher absenteeism impacted slightly upon student absence. Average number of absent days per student has slightly fallen from 16.9 in 2005 and 2006 to 16.6 in 2007. In 2007 “It’s not OK to be Away” home notes went home to parents. Accompanying these included an explanation regarding absenteeism. The letter was signed by all the cluster principals. The State average was 13.2 absentees.

Even with the best of intentions, and the fact Mount Beauty is a tourist town where parents who have a local business take their holidays outside of school holidays, our school absenteeism remains very high when matched with the other schools in Victoria. We are in the bottom 20th percentile in the state. For reference an absent day does not include school curriculum development days. Absent days are recorded when the school offers normal curriculum and a student doesn’t attend.

Students' school connectedness –
The Students Attitudes to School Survey was used to gauge the level of student connectedness to school. Students were asked to identify the extent they agreed with each of 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.
Overall the data showed that students had a relatively strong connectedness to school at Mount Beauty. There were aspects of classroom behaviour that were very low in the 2007 survey that were addressed in terms three and four of 2007. Furthermore we have changed our school structure in the year 5 and 6 area to encourage and improve student classroom behaviour. We believe that these changes have certainly worked so far in 2008.
Future Directions

In 2008 year we have set our targets at and above those achieved in 2007 year. The following is a summary of these targets from the 2008 Annual Implementation Plan:-

- At least 85% of all students will achieve at or above their expected levels in reading and writing.
- AIM- school means in number and mathematics will exceed state benchmarks.
- 20% improvement in student engagement in music and performing arts as a result specialist programs.
- 5% reduction in playground accidents from 2007.
- Days absent to be 5% less than 2007.
- The proportion of parents reporting satisfaction with the kindergarten to school transition and orientation program to be 90% or above.
- 95% of Prep Students reading at level 1 with 90 to 99% accuracy.
- 90% of Prep Students reading at level 5 with 90 to 99% accuracy.
- 100% of students in year 3 and 5 to be above the 25th percentile in spelling in the National Assessment Program.
- A 40% improvement in curriculum co-ordination, appraisal and recognition, professional growth and goal congruence in the staff opinion survey.
- A cluster plan developed with Falls Creek PS, Mount Beauty SC, Tawonga PS, BOEC and Dederang PS that looks at the sharing of resources.
- Development of a school Wiki page and overall development of the schools web page.

Ground Improvements

In 2008 we will be improving our resource use. We obtained a community water grant that will allow us to place water saving devices throughout the school including rain water tanks hooked up to the toilets for flushing. Furthermore we will be applying for funding for a 6kilovault solar system for our roof that will not only pay for our power bill, it will place energy back into the grid. We will be remarking the asphalt surface and re-mulching the play areas including new sand in the sand pits. The shelter shed will also have a make over and will be an attractive place for students to relax during breaks. Furthermore we will erect new soccer goals and line mark the soccer fields including marking a softball/t-ball field. We will be looking at a vegetable garden alongside the imaginative garden and developing the dry river bed idea. Other future ideas that will be looked at will include a more attractive and user friendly bus shelter area in the tennis car park area and a new school sign.

Classroom Improvements

In 2008 we will purchase and install interactive whiteboards into every classroom in the school. This tool will enable the staff to delivery curriculum in a digital format and will allow for ICT uses that we are still to learn about. While this is an expensive improvement, it is a great investment into the schools educational delivery for our students. We are also painting the inside of the year 3,4,5,6 and library rooms through a program maintenance schedule. This will greatly improve the visual aspects of our rooms. This effect has a trickle down approach to the students overall perception of school. That is, if it is a nice place to go, students will want to come to school and will want to be engaged in learning.

Cultural Improvements

In 2008 we will be introducing the concept that the school is a National Park. That is the students look after the school grounds like we would look after a National Park.

Provision

There is no doubt that the school community needs to take a serious look at provision. The Region is keen for Cluster groups to become the new voices and to pool resources together. There is a proposed cluster register of human and physical resources that can be shared amongst the schools. This will be completed this year. The schools that we would likely share resources with include Falls Creek PS, Tawonga PS, Mount Beauty SC, Dederang PS and BOEC.
# Financial Performance

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<th>Revenue</th>
<th>2007 Actual</th>
<th>Funds Available</th>
<th>2007 Actual</th>
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<tr>
<td>DE&amp;T Grants</td>
<td>246,766</td>
<td>High Yield Investment Account</td>
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<td>Commonwealth Government Grants</td>
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<td>State Government Grants</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td>Locally Raised Funds</td>
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<td><strong>Total Operating Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>460,208</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total Funds Available</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Financial Commitments</th>
<th>2007 Actual</th>
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<td>Salaries and Allowances</td>
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<td>Accounts Payable Control</td>
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<td>Bank Charges</td>
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<td>Consumables</td>
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<td>Salaries &amp; Allowances</td>
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<td><strong>Total Financial Commitments</strong></td>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<td><strong>Net Operating Surplus/-Deficit</strong></td>
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Net Operating Surplus/-Deficit: **-36,916**

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.
# School Contact Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>PO Box 34, Mount Beauty, 3699, Vic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal:</td>
<td>Tony Keeble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Council President:</td>
<td>Iain Moore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone:</td>
<td>03 57 544 354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Mountbeauty.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au">Mountbeauty.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web site:</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mountbeautyps.vic.edu.au">www.mountbeautyps.vic.edu.au</a></td>
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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 Tony Keeble at 03 57544354.