

New Farm State School (0943)

Queensland State School Reporting

2012 School Annual Report



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Principal's foreword

Introduction

Welcome to the New Farm State School Annual Report, 2012. This document communicates the progress and success achieved during the 2012 school year and demonstrates the commitment by our school community to ensure that we continue to provide an education which meets the needs of our students and prepares them well for the future.

This report outlines the accomplishments we have made in key areas such as curriculum, facilities, staffing and resources during the past year. It highlights the achievements and advancements throughout the school year through the efforts of dedicated staff, students, parents, volunteers and members of the public who make up our school community.

We have engaged the students in a variety of teaching and learning experiences as well as continued our positive, supportive school environment. Together this provides a dynamic school where learning is visible and recognised as world class.

Our goal every year is to work together to raise the benchmark in academic performance and also develop the social, emotional, creative and physical skills of our students, preparing them for a future role as active citizens.

The Australian curriculum and state initiatives around improved student results through support for, and improvements in teaching, remain as a backdrop to this report.

Parents are critical in assisting us to provide an optimal school environment and we see them as integral in this process. Our parent community works tirelessly to support the school in its endeavours through decision making and fundraising and this is evident in the outstanding additional support and resources we acquire.

School progress towards its goals in 2012

2012 was a very productive year. It was rewarding to see our students achieve in academic, sporting, cultural, creative and language pursuits and to have our parent community demonstrate a very high level of commitment and satisfaction.

Key goals in 2012 in response to school and systemic data included:

- Creating a safe and supportive environment where students are valued, and diversity and difference is celebrated
- Implementing the Australian Curriculum – English, Maths, Science, History
- Improving Writing across year levels
- Increasing the number of Yr 3,5,7 students achieving the upper two bands in NAPLAN (aiming for the top

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band)

- Extending the focus on differentiation of curriculum and enrichment programs
- Increasing access to and participation in technologies across the school
- Maintaining high levels of communication and community involvement

We are pleased to report progress in all target areas. We established a model for the teaching of writing and provided professional development and resources for staff to improve achievement in this area. A comprehensive internal monitoring plan focused teachers on what and how to teach and when to assess and monitor. All teachers have successfully implemented English, Mathematics and Science in the Australian Curriculum. We extended our student enrichment program and formalised our identification and programming for such students.

Overall, the 2012 results show New Farm State School continues to improve in NAPLAN with our strongest results in Year 3, which parallels the state results. In consideration of the overall result and with the comparison with class data, we will develop further support and extension programs for both individual and targeted groups within year levels. Parents of students in Years 3, 5 and 7 will receive individual NAPLAN results this week. If you have any questions regarding the results please make an appointment to meet with your classroom teacher.

Despite a reasonably small cohort we have 100% above the national minimum standard in 7 of 15 test areas, and all but one of the remaining areas are above 90%. Highlights of the results include:

- Years 3 and 5 are above the national mean in reading, spelling, grammar and punctuation;
- Year 3 students achieved above the national mean in numeracy;
- The Year 7 cohort made good improvements, increasing their national minimum standard and upper two band achievements since Year 5;
- Year 3 achieved above the national average in the percentage of students in the upper two bands in areas of reading and grammar and punctuation;
- Year 5 achieved above the national average in the percentage of students in the upper two bands in areas of reading, grammar and punctuation, and spelling;
- Year 7 students achieved at the national average in the percentage of students in the upper bands in all areas tested.

Future outlook

- Implement the Australian Curriculum
- Implement whole school pedagogical practices
- Using data to inform teaching practice
- Develop instructional leadership with a focus on workforce performance
- Develop productive partnerships with students, staff, parents, and the community
- Core Priority – Writing and Reading
- Plan to transition Year 7 to high school

Our school at a glance

School Profile

Coeducational or single sex: Coeducational

Year levels offered in 2012: Prep - Year 7

Total student enrolments for this school:

	Total	Girls	Boys	Enrolment Continuity (Feb – Nov)
2010	288	137	151	83%
2011	329	174	155	92%
2012	355	182	173	90%

Student counts are based on the Census (August) enrolment collection.

Characteristics of the student body:

Students attending New Farm State School live within a diverse and complex community. Approximately 20% of the local community speak a language other than English at home and are supported by the English as a Second Language (ESL) program. The predominant second languages are Chinese, Indian and French. Cultural sensitivity, tolerance and the celebration of diversity are features of our school.

Average Class sizes

Phase	Average Class Size		
	2010	2011	2012
Prep – Year 3	23	23	25
Year 4 – Year 10	25	24	22
Year 11 – Year 12	N/A	N/A	N/A

School Disciplinary Absences

Disciplinary Absences	Count of Incidents		
	2010	2011	2012
Short Suspensions - 1 to 5 days	0	0	0
Long Suspensions - 6 to 20 days	0	1	0
Exclusions	0	0	0
Cancellations of Enrolment	0	0	0

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum programs include:

- consolidating an emphasis on literacy by engaging students in targeted programs (reading, comprehension, writing, spelling and grammar) including developing student reflection and teacher facilitated feedback
- engaging students in maths pedagogy that consolidate mathematical concepts, develop problem solving skills and enhance students' self confidence in working mathematically including using school/home Mathematics program
- ongoing intervention and enrichment programs to cater for strengths and interests of all students through allocation of ongoing specialist teachers (including the introduction of the Early years Science and Writing Groups), additional teacher time, teacher aides, volunteers (Ready Reader) and cluster school programs (GEM programs, High Achievers, Young Scholars, STEM, Writers Festival)
- face to face reporting to parents with students sharing evidence of their work and standards achieved (3 way conversations)
- maintain New Farm State School as an environmentally sustainable school with opportunities to use biodiversity, water, waste reduction and energy efficient practices .

Extra curricula activities

New Farm School is very proud to offer a broad range of extra curricula activities to students across academic, leadership, cultural, creative and sporting domains.

- Artist in residence program – students are coached/mentored by an expert artist to explore creativity within this discipline
- School Leadership. All Year 7 students become school leaders. They form leadership groups that are mentored by teachers and embark on a number of tasks including peer mentoring younger students, helping the teachers with classroom projects, organising sporting, cultural and creative events, fund raising for school as well as local groups and nationwide charities. The Year 7 student leadership sustain our positive school culture through their responsible actions. They also led weekly assemblies
- Buddy program between Prep and Year 6 students
- Instrumental Music Program (woodwind, brass and percussion) from Year 5. Participants form a school band that plays at Assembly and special events, including an end of year musical afternoon. A parent based support group was established to enhance the program and generate funds for new resources
- Choirs for all students from Year 2 to Year 7 (Junior, Middle and Senior)
- Mandarin is taught as a language from Year 4 and students participate in various Chinese events throughout the year including the official opening ceremony for Buddha's Birthday
- Camps and excursions to enhance units of work and build interpersonal skills. The Year 5 and Year 6 students participate in camps at environmental outdoor centres while the Year 7s visit Canberra. Younger children make day trips to a variety of locations
- Active Community Education Program offering a range of activities for students, parents and community members
- Adopt a Cop program with involvement in events, class programs and individual mentoring
- School sport, interschool sport, gala days and a variety of sports through our Active Afterschool Get Active Program which offers programs on 2 afternoons each term.

How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning

At New Farm State School, we believe that the use of ICTs is essential to engage our students in learning and to prepare our students for the challenges of the future.

Our teachers have embraced every opportunity to improve their own skills in digital teaching and learning with many teachers undergoing professional learning to gain their Digital Pedagogy Certificate and/or License. This has assisted teachers to embed digital learning into classroom learning and embrace the use of interactive whiteboards in classrooms. In 2012 teachers also focussed heavily on implementing the Australian National Curriculum through the use of digital learning tools offered within EQ's Curriculum to Classroom (C2C) resource.

Daily in our classrooms many of our students are engaging with using interactive whiteboards, using web based programs such as 'Mathletics' and online Learning Place resources. Students also learn about the ethical, legal and safety issues involved with the use of information technologies. 2012 highlights include:

- P&C support in funding 28 new laptops and trolley for upper primary classes, upgrade of server, mathletics subscription for all students, interactive whiteboards for all classrooms.
- Training for use of interactive whiteboards in all primary classrooms
- Professional development in the use of software available

Social climate

New Farm State School has educated the children of New Farm, Teneriffe and Newstead since 1901. Our school reflects our local community – it is diverse, creative and interested in a world of ideas.

Through our philosophy, leadership and sustainability programs we strive to help students learn to contribute positively to their world. Our students and families come from all places and all backgrounds. We have traditionally welcomed and celebrated the diversity that makes up our school. We emphasise the arts in the curriculum and in students' lives through our music, art and creative writing programs. Our school has strong community connections.

Parents are actively involved in the classrooms, in extra-curricular activities and through the Parents and Citizens Association and other groups. We reach out to include the broader community by sharing our facilities and resources. We see our school as an active community hub for activities and ideas for the area in which we live.

All our students from the local community walk, ride bikes or scooters or come by car to school. The community of New Farm and surrounding area is growing; our school population is the largest it has been since the early 1910s, and is still growing.

Throughout the school there is an increase of international students from across the world. Families are predominately professionals working in construction, energy or service business. 30 % of students have an ESL background and are supported to master their use and application of English.

In addition to cultural diversity, the New Farm/Teneriffe community also reflects a diverse social mix. The area provides emergency housing, shelters and hostels for individuals and families, as well as a range of other low-cost accommodation alternatives through to very elaborate dwellings. Some 74% of New Farm/Teneriffe dwellings are flats or units, with around 42% of students within the school living in this type of residence.

Students and their families are the focus of the school and it is important that relationships are developed and maintained. Relationship education is supported through many grassroots initiatives in our school on a daily basis from weekly certificates of achievements presented at assemblies to connections with families and community agencies.

Teachers regularly discuss characteristics for responsible behaviours that include honesty, making the right choices, responsibility, cooperation, empathy, optimism, respect, caring, inclusiveness and courage. Explicit lessons are taught about bullying, discrimination and racism. The restorative practices approach to student discipline aids in creating a culture of respect for all.

Teaching and learning programs are developed to be culturally inclusive and respecting diversity and provide opportunities for students to learn about other cultures including their language and traditions. Parents and community members are invited to participate in school activities that embrace cultural diversity.

Our Bullying –No Way strategy is articulated in our Anti-Bullying Policy. Students are explicitly taught antibullying strategies at the start of each year and as needs arise throughout the year. The school introduced a whole school social skills program in 2012 with antibullying lessons as an integral part of the program. The school also provided parents and staff with information sessions on the 'Fun Friends' and 'Friends for Life' Pathways Program. The school plans to train staff as facilitators of the program in 2013. Incidences of bullying are taken seriously and referred to the Principal for investigation. Referrals to our Guidance Officer and Student Support Team may be instigated, as well as friendship contracts, behaviour logs and social skills sessions as appropriate. Incidents are recorded in the One School database.

Our school at a glance

After eight years of schooling at New Farm our students would ideally be able to think, create, communicate, investigate, participate, and reflect. They would be positive; have a realistic level of self-esteem; be able to solve problems; make informed decisions; be responsible and accountable for their actions and they would be able to cooperate with, tolerate and appreciate others.

Parent, student and staff satisfaction with the school

New Farm is a school with strong traditions. Our school motto, "Ours the Future" underpins what we stand for in our daily interactions, what we do and how we present ourselves in the school community. Our school motto is presented to the school community on our school assemblies and official occasions.

School Opinion Survey data consistently reports high levels of satisfaction for students and parents. Satisfaction levels of New Farm students were identified as being above the State means in the majority of performance areas.

New Farm parents were very satisfied with student discipline and behaviour. Both of these areas were marked as being above the state mean in the School Opinion Survey. Parents agree strongly that their child is getting a good education at New Farm. It was pleasing to see parent satisfaction in areas of satisfaction with the school and the approachability of staff all continued to improve from 2011. Additionally, despite increased workload with the introduction of the Australian Curriculum, the staff morale had shown significant increases since 2011.

Our school at a glance

Performance measure (Nationally agreed items shown*)	
Percentage of parents/caregivers who agree that:	2012 [#]
their child is getting a good education at school	96.2%
this is a good school	100.0%
their child likes being at this school*	100.0%
their child feels safe at this school*	100.0%
their child's learning needs are being met at this school*	96.2%
their child is making good progress at this school*	96.2%
teachers at this school expect their child to do his or her best*	100.0%
teachers at this school provide their child with useful feedback about his or her school work*	96.0%
teachers at this school motivate their child to learn*	100.0%
teachers at this school treat students fairly*	100.0%
they can talk to their child's teachers about their concerns*	100.0%
this school works with them to support their child's learning*	95.7%
this school takes parents' opinions seriously*	96.0%
student behaviour is well managed at this school*	100.0%
this school looks for ways to improve*	100.0%
this school is well maintained*	100.0%

Performance measure (Nationally agreed items shown*)	
Percentage of students who agree that:	2012 [#]
they are getting a good education at school	100.0%
they like being at their school*	89.8%
they feel safe at their school*	90.0%
their teachers motivate them to learn*	98.0%
their teachers expect them to do their best*	100.0%
their teachers provide them with useful feedback about their school work*	100.0%
teachers treat students fairly at their school*	92.0%
they can talk to their teachers about their concerns*	90.0%
their school takes students' opinions seriously*	92.0%

Our school at a glance

student behaviour is well managed at their school*	84.3%
their school looks for ways to improve*	98.0%
their school is well maintained*	91.8%
their school gives them opportunities to do interesting things*	90.2%

Performance measure (Nationally agreed items shown*)

Percentage of school staff who agree:	2012 [#]
that they have good access to quality professional development	85.7%
with the individual staff morale items	94.0%

* Nationally agreed student and parent/caregiver items were incorporated in the School Opinion Survey in 2012.

[#] Percentage of respondents who Somewhat Agree, Agree or Strongly Agree with the statement. Due to changes to the School Opinion Surveys in 2012, comparisons with results for previous years are not recommended.

DW = Data withheld to ensure confidentiality.

Involving parents in their child's education

As always, we relied heavily on our committed families and P & C and were delighted to have so many familiar and new parents getting actively involved in the school. Thanks to all those families who helped, even in a small way, during the year. Highlights for 2012:

- Involvement in Reading support including classroom helpers and the Ready Reader Program
- Fundraising for our library, garden, playscape and Masterplan projects (with the undercroft project being approved through EQ)
- Gained approval for the 2013 year Active After School Get Active program
- Parental involvement in special events such as sports days, carnivals, leadership ceremonies, the end of year disco and the annual Yr 7 teacher student Graduation dinner
- Support for the choir and instrumental band performances and end of year performance events
- Continued support for services such as the student tuckshop, uniform shop, banking and garden group involvement
- Continued expansion of the already very active Community Education Program (CEP)
- Each class has a parent representative who actively maintains communication among families for school and social activities.

New Farm is a school with strong traditions. Our school motto, "Ours the Future" underpins what we stand for in our daily interactions, what we do and how we present ourselves in the school community. Our school motto is presented to the school community on our school assemblies and official occasions.

School Opinion Survey data consistently reports high levels of satisfaction for students and parents. Satisfaction levels of New Farm students were identified as being above the State means in the majority of performance areas. This included:

- Students are happy to go to this school
- Parents feel this is a good school
- Parent and student satisfaction with behaviour of students at this school
- Students are treated fairly at this school
- Teachers provide students with useful feedback about their school work
- School staff have good access to quality professional development

Reducing the school's environmental footprint

Data is sourced from school's annual utilities returns.

While preparing students for their futures, we are taking steps to ensure that the future is greener for generations to come. Unfortunately our electricity usage has almost doubled and steps have been enacted to reduce this usage with student input. Renewable energy initiatives e.g solar cells on Block A roof enable us to create cleaner sources of power for our use. Efforts to build renewable energy systems create valuable opportunities for students to learn science and math lessons through real life experiences.

Our sustainable environments program continues to thrive with generous family support. The Little Farm and student recycling teams work to recycle classroom and lunch waste and create organic gardens. The intent of these initiatives is to have students learn about waste reduction and diversion in the school setting and bring the information home for families to live it every day. Our onsite water tanks continue to be used effectively.

	Environmental footprint indicators	
	Electricity kWh	Water kL
2009-2010	63,360	2,376
2010-2011	131,872	2,301
2011-2012	80,368	2,752

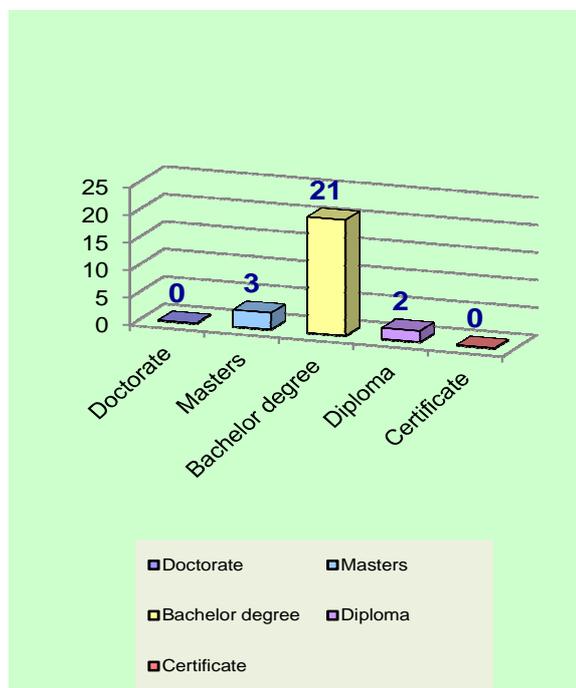
Our staff profile

Staff composition, including Indigenous staff

2012 Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-teaching Staff	Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	26	15	<5
Full-time equivalents	20.2	8.9	<5

Qualifications of all teachers

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	3
Bachelor degree	21
Diploma	2
Certificate	0



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2012 were \$10 878.00

Professional Development (PD) focussed on priorities as outlined in the School Plan. Staff Development days were held at the beginning of Term 1 and then as cluster development days including 3 twilight sessions and a full day Cluster Conference in Term 3. Teacher PD sessions were held each week after school on Mondays and at other times where negotiated and determined by need.

The annual PD program included training in: student protection, first aid including CPR, asthma and anaphylaxis, First Steps in Maths (number), Reading, Data analysis, writing moderation, differentiation, use of C2C, Interactive Whiteboard use, the Australian Curriculum, Gifted Education, Behaviour Management and student well-being, and Workplace Health and Safety.

The proportion of the teaching staff involved in professional development activities during 2012 was 100%. All staff were also involved in developing their own performance plans in 2012.

Our staff profile

Average staff attendance	2010	2011	2012
Staff attendance for permanent and temporary staff and school leaders.	96.8%	97.1%	96.6%

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the previous school year, 83.1% of staff was retained by the school for the entire 2012 school year.

School income broken down by funding source

School income broken down by funding source is available via the My School website at <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>.

To access our income details, click on the *My School* link above. You will then be taken to the *My School* website with the following 'Find a school' text box.

Find a school

Search by school name

Search by suburb, town or postcode

Sector Government
 Non-government

Where it says 'Search by school name', type in the name of the school you wish to view, and select <GO>. Read and follow the instructions on the next screen; you will be asked to accept the **Terms of Use** and Privacy Policy before being given access to the school's My School entry web page.

School financial information is available by selecting 'School finances' in the menu box in the top left corner of the school's entry web page. If you are unable to access the internet, please contact the school for a paper copy of income by funding source.

Key student outcomes

Student attendance	2010	2011	2012
The overall attendance rate for the students at this school (shown as a percentage).	94%	94%	95%
The overall attendance rate in 2012 for all Queensland state Primary schools was 93%.			

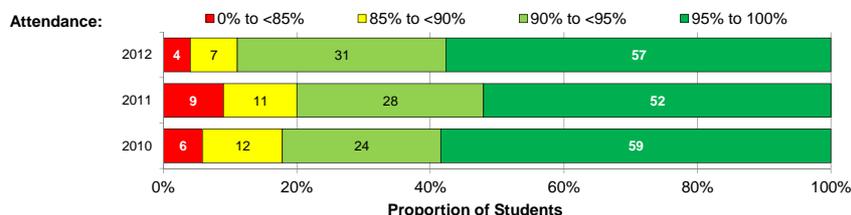
Student attendance rate for each year level (shown as a percentage)

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12
2010	94%	95%	95%	94%	94%	97%	95%					
2011	92%	93%	93%	94%	96%	93%	95%					
2012	94%	95%	94%	96%	96%	95%	96%					

DW = Data withheld to ensure confidentiality.

Student Attendance Distribution

The proportions of students by attendance range.



Description of how non-attendance is managed by the school

Non-attendance is managed in state schools in line with the DET policies, SMS-PR-029: Managing Student Absences and SMS-PR-036: Roll Marking in State Schools, which outline processes for managing and recording student attendance and absenteeism.

New Farm State School has a significant focus on attendance through a whole school approach within our 'Closing The Gap' strategy. Our procedures include:

Teachers mark the class roll 2 times each day

Late students must report to the office and late slips are given and recorded by the teachers

Class Yellow Roll Slips are sent to the office at 9:30am to report any unexplained absences and these are entered into a school daily monitoring sheet.

Office staff cross reference any late students from office records and any parent contacts (via email or phone calls) and then contact all absent students' parents / carers where absence is unexplained

Students with attendance averaging less than 80% in the previous term are monitored closely and contact is made with parents or carers to develop a support plan for improving attendance.

The Deputy Principal and Principal work with parents to support and improve attendance daily

Records of absences and outcomes of phone contacts are sighted by the Principal daily

Performance of our students

At specific periods throughout the year eg term 1 and 3, a whole school focus on class attendance is undertaken to raise awareness about the importance of 'everyday attendance'. Class improvements or outstanding attendance is celebrated and recognized on assembly.

Attendance messages are sent home in the newsletter and the class term newsletters.

Parents complete an Application for Exemption from Compulsory Schooling if planning holidays and overseas trips or intend to be absent for any extended period.

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results – our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are available via the My School website at <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>.

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Achievement – Closing the Gap

Yr 3 Reading results indicate an improvement in achievement in the upper two bands.

Yr 3 Writing results indicated an overall improvement in writing across bands. There was a significant decrease in the number of students in the lower two bands and improvement in both middle and upper bands.

Yr 3 Numeracy results showed a slight improvement from 2011, with a decrease in the amount of students in the

Performance of our students

lower bands and slight improvements in middle bands, as well as a similar outcome for upper two bands.

We have a low number of Indigenous students at New Farm State School. However, our focus on attendance and literacy and numeracy continues to be a strong focus for all students, Indigenous and Non-Indigenous. Indigenous student NAPLAN results and school assessments are used to identify students who require specific intervention and enrichment support. Our whole school focus on excellent attendance is applied to both Indigenous and Non-Indigenous students. Monitoring is daily and early contact and partnerships with parents and carers a key strategy.