



# Kelly's Plains Public School Annual School Report



# 2011

## Our school at a glance

### Students

There were 36 students enrolled at Kelly's Plains Public School in 2011. This year has proven to be another productive year where students have achieved at the highest levels in music, drama, sporting and academic events. The school motto, Sharing, Learning and Caring encompasses the vision of the school. Students, teachers and parents have daily contact to provide clear communication between families to support the learning of our children.

Our students have been supported by a very active P&C who provide financial assistance to purchase resources for classroom use.

Our students are represented by the Student Representative Council (SRC) and once again they have been very active in raising funds for local and national charities. This includes raising money for the TEAR foundation to support children in developing countries.



### Staff

In 2011, students in Lower Division (K-2) were taught by Mrs Lauren Piddington and Mrs Rebecca Smith. Mrs Piddington commenced maternity leave at the end of Term 1. Students in Upper Division (3-6) were taught by Mr Brad Hunt.

Library, the part time component and relief from face to face teaching (RFF) was taught by Mrs Vanessa Harwood.

Mrs Deborah Morley was the School Administration Manager in 2011. Mrs Morley was on leave during Term 3 and for some of Term 4. Mrs Sian Roberts and Ms Natasha Griffiths relieved in this role while Mrs Morley was absent.

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

### Significant programs and initiatives

Every student at Kelly's Plains was involved in a range of extra curricular programs and initiatives throughout the year.

Once again our students presented a most impressive production for the school community called "Hans Christian Andersen".

Year 6 were once again involved in a leadership program to provide them with skills necessary to lead the student body for 2011. This involved their participation and attendance at the Impact Leadership conference in Tamworth. Every student in Year 6 is a school leader. Their organisation of weekly and term assemblies, coordination of the Student Representative Council (SRC) and managing fundraising initiatives enabled our senior students to represent the student body in a productive and supportive manner.

Our participation in the Armidale Community of Schools (ACOS) became more involved during 2011. This year, Madeleine Murtagh and Angus Elliott represented our school in the ACOS choir. The choir performed at the New England Region Awards ceremony and at the Armidale Education Week Awards Ceremony. The choir also travelled around Armidale and performed at various nursing homes for the elderly people in our community.





Our school continued to offer piano and keyboard lessons for students with Helen Murtagh and guitar lessons with Eric Hopf. Nearly half of our students learnt a musical instrument in 2011.

Our school implemented the “You Can Do It!” program for all students K-6. Mrs Vanessa Harwood taught explicit lessons on social skills and dealing with problems.

Our school also hosted the Armidale Area Regional Principals Conference and Mr Brad Hunt coordinated and ran a professional development opportunity for New Scheme Teachers at the school in Term 3.

Once again our school participated in the “Crunch and Sip” program. We encouraged our students to bring a container with fruit and a bottle of water to school. These are consumed during class time.

## Student achievement in 2011

Our school participated in the NSW Premier’s Spelling Bee. Kate Cartwright (Year 3), Liam Law-Smith (Year 4), Angus Smith (Year 5), and Madeleine Murtagh (Year 6) all represented our school proudly.

Kevin Rothchild participated in the North West Music Camp in Term 3 at Lake Keepit. Kevin was able to join with other students from across our region to learn about playing in a band and performing for large audiences.

Angus Smith, Mitchell Cartwright and Kevin Rothschild once again were selected to participate in the EGATs program. The program targets students who present as gifted and/or talented. Angus Smith participated in the Maths component and Mitchell Cartwright and Kevin

Rothschild participated in the Environmental Education component.

Our students also achieved outstanding results in the ICAS assessments. Mitchell Cartwright achieved a High Distinction in the Science competition. This placed him in the top 1% of all entrants. Other excellent results were from Angus Smith, Dimity Evans and Mitchell Cartwright for achieving credits in various other ICAS assessments.



Our students continue to excel in music and their results at the Armidale Eisteddfod this year were testament to their effort and abilities. Angus Smith, Madeleine Murtagh, Angus Elliott, Kevin Rothschild, Brandon Sullivan and Liam Law-Smith all achieved outstanding results. Angus received two first places and Brandon Sullivan achieved three first places in their musical instrument events.

NAPLAN results indicated that our students continue to grow in their learning with every student in Year 5 showing value added from their Year 3 results.

We also continued our annual events such as Education Week, CWA presentations during Literacy and Numeracy Week, Talent Quest, Speeches and our Swimming and Athletics Carnivals.

This year every student in Year 6 held a leaders position. Madeleine Murtagh was elected as our girl school captain, Kevin Rothschild was elected as our boy School Captain, Zoe MacDougall, Angus Elliott, Colin Burgess and Mitchell Cartwright were all elected as Vice Captains.

All students have worked very well to accomplish these tasks with such a focused and sustained effort.

## Messages

### Principal's message

Kelly's Plains Public School has a tradition of excellence in quality teaching and learning. It is a school that provides outstanding welfare programs to support learning opportunities. There is a strong emphasis on positive, open interaction between parents, students and teachers which results in a cooperative, dynamic atmosphere within the school.

The school motto, Sharing, Learning and Caring encompasses the vision of the school.

2011 has once again been a very busy and productive year for all concerned. Commitment and support by students, staff, parents and community members has been outstanding.

In fact, 2011 would be the most successful in my four years at Kelly's Plains. We have fantastic students. They have been focused, involved, good-natured, diligent and happy. It has been a privilege and pleasure to be part of their learning.

The younger students receive great stimulation from the older students and they in turn have the opportunity to reflect on their learning. Leadership for the older students is an aspect that develops naturally in a small school such as ours, the benefits of which our children will take with them through life.

Once again, I would like to thank the school's very talented and committed staff for their efforts during the year. The school is very fortunate to have such a talented group of people leading our students. It is with great pleasure that I commend the professional work of the teaching personnel, Mrs Lauren Piddington, Mrs Rebecca Smith and Mrs Vanessa Harwood, on their efforts in supporting students to gain high academic results across a range of curriculum areas.

I would also like to congratulate Mrs Smith on her permanent appointment to Yetman Public School. Mrs Smith was successful at interview and will commence a full time, permanent position in 2012. Mrs Smith has made a huge contribution to the life and educational opportunities for students at Kelly's Plains, and she will be sadly missed. However, this is a wonderful opportunity for Mrs Smith and her

family and I congratulate and wish her all the very best for the future.

I would also like to thank Mrs Deborah Morley and Ms Natasha Griffiths for their excellent work in our office and administration areas of our school. Mrs Morley and Ms Griffiths have worked very hard in our office to maintain finances and adequate resources for classrooms and the library. Mrs Judy Tombs and Mr Bob Rich work tirelessly to maintain our classrooms and school grounds. Our dedicated P&C committee has supported students through financial donations and resources.

Finally, all students at Kelly's Plains Public School must be congratulated on their effort and achievement. All students have worked well and achieved excellence in both academic and sporting areas. It is an absolute pleasure to be a part of such a supportive and caring community. I look forward to working with you in 2012 and continuing to provide outstanding opportunities for our students.

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.

**Brad Hunt (Principal)**

### P & C message

Taking on the Presidents role of the P&C for 2011 has proven to be a challenging and rewarding one and was something totally foreign to me, making it a steep learning curve, but I have enjoyed the experience.

We have continued to hold our meetings Monday afternoons and numbers overall have been pleasing. I thank all parents who have been able to attend throughout the year.

I would like to make a special thankyou to Annette Edmonds, our treasurer, who has been in this position for 4 years and she does an amazing job. Also thankyou to our secretary, Georgie Scott, and the fundraising team lead by Rachel Law-Smith.

The P&C traditionally concentrates on fundraising and working bees.

Fundraising this year has included 2 Bunnings BBQ's, the Anzac Service morning tea, the winter pie drive, raffles, P&C Friday lunches, catering for Education Department functions hosted at the school and two very successful mango drives organised by one of our new mums, Mrs Jane Weier.

The Friday lunches have proved to be successful which at certain times of the year has enabled us to use produce out of the vegetable garden to encourage healthy choices and eating.

We have had several small working bees in the vegetable garden involving ongoing maintenance, plantings and harvesting. We had a prize winning leek crop and a fantastic potato crop earlier this year.

In Term 4 we had our main working bee which involved constructing a concrete path joining the classrooms to our 'new room'. I would like to make special mention to Ben Edwards who co-ordinated this construction and involved him overseeing the project for over 3 days. Also thank you to Bill Robertson and Mark Elliott for donating their time and expertise plus thank you to all our other wonderful mums and dads who were able to help on the Friday or Saturday morning.

The P&C would also like to thank the staff of Kelly's Plains Public School for their 100% dedication to our wonderful school.

Than you to our Principal Mr Brad Hunt, Mrs Lauren Piddington, Mrs Rebecca Smith (who is sadly leaving us to take up a position at Yetman Public School), Mrs Vanessa Harwood, Mrs Deborah Morley, Ms Natasha Griffiths, Mrs Judy Tombs and Mr Bob Rich.

I would like to thank all the families for their continuing support to the school. We are all so lucky that our children can attend such a wonderful small school.

To those families leaving us this year, we wish you all the very best and I'm sure you will always look back on Kelly's Plains with fond memories.

I'd like to wish everyone a happy Christmas and hope you enjoy your summer break, for what I'm sure will be an action packed 2012.

**Tanya Alcorn (President)**

## **Student representative's message**

Over the years we have experienced many challenging opportunities such as drama, singing, piano, guitar and yearly excursions.

Our school has a great academic and sporting record.

Year 6 run weekly assemblies and the Student Representative Council (SRC). Year 6 also attend leadership conferences in Tamworth. Some of us even participated in the EGATS program this year.

Students at our school participate in PSSA sports such as swimming and field events. Our senior swimming team came 1st at the Zone PPSA.

All of the students in Year 6 will miss our school. We would like to thank the Kelly's Plains School students, staff and community for making our time fun and exciting.



**Year 6 2011: Madeleine Murtagh (Captain), Kevin Rothschild (Captain), Mitchell Cartwright (Vice Captain), Zoe MacDougall (Vice Captain) and Angus Elliott (Vice Captain).**

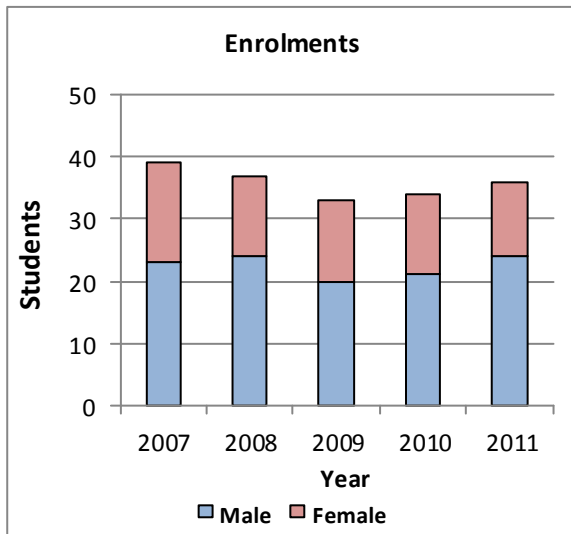
## School context

### 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

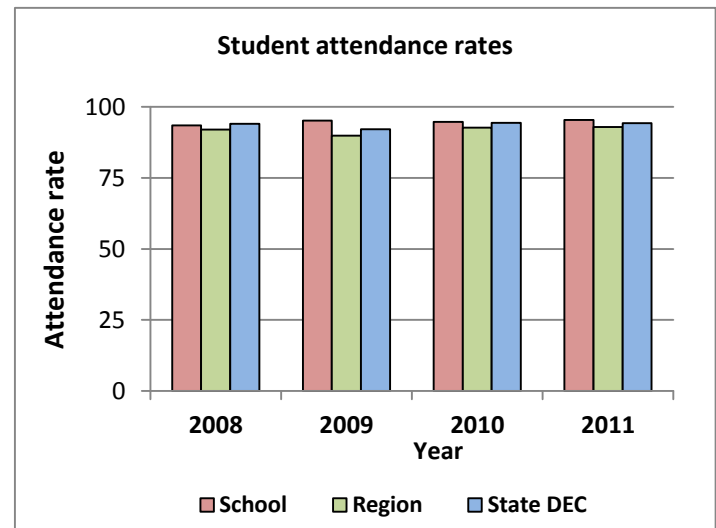
In 2011 there were 36 students enrolled at Kelly's Plains Public School. In Lower Division (K-2) there were 17 students and in Upper Division (3-6) there were 19 students.



IN 2011 there were no students from Non English Speaking Backgrounds and no students who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

### Student attendance profile

Attendance rates at Kelly's Plains Public School continue to be excellent. Illness throughout the winter months affects attendance rates.



### Management of non-attendance

Parents are diligent with regard to school attendance and they are quick to inform the school when students have been absent. This information is in the form of written note, email, SMS or phone call.

### Class sizes

Primary class sizes are included in the annual school report in order to provide parents with as much local information as possible. The following table shows our class sizes as reported at the 2011 Class Size Audit conducted on Monday 21 March 2011.

Roll class	Year	Total per year	Total In class
K-2	K	3	15
K-2	1	6	15
K-2	2	6	15
3-6	3	5	19
3-6	4	5	19
3-6	5	4	19
3-6	6	5	19

### Structure of classes

Classes are divided into two groups – Kindergarten to Year 2 in Lower Division and Years 3 to 6 in Upper Division.



## Staff information

It is a requirement that the reporting of information for all staff must be consistent with privacy and personal information policies.

### Staff establishment

Position	Number
Principal	1
Deputy Principal(s)	
Assistant Principal(s)	
Head Teachers	
Classroom Teachers	1
Teacher of Emotional Disabilities	
Teacher of Mild Intellectual Disabilities	
Teacher of Reading Recovery	
Support Teacher Learning Assistance	0.5
Teacher Librarian	
Teacher of ESL	
Counsellor	
School Administrative & Support Staff	
Total	

The National Education Agreement requires schools to report on Indigenous composition of their workforce.

In 2011 there were no teachers who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander at Kelly's Plains Public School.

### Staff retention

All current teaching staff remained the same as per the previous year.

### Teacher qualifications

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

Qualifications	% of staff
Degree or Diploma	100
Postgraduate	



## 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
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$</b>
Balance brought forward	14083.02
Global funds	48327.12
Tied funds	9623.39
School & community sources	6305.76
Interest	988.19
Trust receipts	1388.20
Canteen	0.00
Total income	80715.68
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Teaching & learning	
Key learning areas	5403.27
Excursions	2639.10
Extracurricular dissections	3871.76
Library	476.01
Training & development	83.33
Tied funds	12761.73
Casual relief teachers	4576.05
Administration & office	17957.78
School-operated canteen	0.00
Utilities	7807.70
Maintenance	6680.97
Trust accounts	1879.80
Capital programs	
Total expenditure	64137.50
Balance carried forward	16578.18

A voluntary contribution of \$35 per child or \$50 per family is paid to the school's P&C annually.

Vegetable gardens were built by members of the P&C. The gardens require regular maintenance by students.

The school once again purchased the online maths program "Mathletics" where all students, K-6 accessed age and grade appropriate tasks to compliment classroom work.

The school continues to purchase and update lap tops to enable all students access to these at any time. Our school received a connected classroom in the Upper Division room. It is anticipated that the video conferencing component will be operational in 2012.

Due to the high cost of bus travel, the school subsidised most excursions paying for bus expenses and entry fees to events.

A full copy of the school's 2011 financial statement is tabled at the P&C Annual General Meeting (AGM). Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.

## School performance 2011

### Achievements



### Arts

- Public performance of "Hans Christian Andersen" for the Uralla Small School Cluster and the Kelly's Plains School Community at Dangarsleigh Hall in Term 2

- Keyboard lessons with Mrs Helen Murtagh on a weekly basis
- Guitar lessons commenced with Mr Eric Hopf on a weekly basis
- Education Week Activities including a trivia quiz and activities day
- Participation at the Armidale Eisteddfod
- Participation in the Armidale Community of Schools' Choir
- Angus Smith and Liam Law-Smith attended the NECOM music workshops
- Drama lessons with Mrs Nolan
- Kevin Rothschild attended the North/West Music Camp in Term 3

### Sport

- Uralla Small Schools' sports days: Cricket, Soccer and Rugby Union
- Uralla Small Schools' Cross Country at Kingstown School
- Kelly's Plains School won the Uralla Small School Cluster Swimming Carnival for 2011
- Uralla Small School Cluster Athletics Carnival held at Rocky River School this Year
- At our Kelly's Plains School Athletics carnival the following students were awarded champions:

Juvenile Boy: Joel Croft

Juvenile Girl: Madeleine Scott

Junior Boy: Ryan Hendrickse

Junior Girl: Jasmin Poulter

Senior Boy: Kevin Rothschild

Senior Girl: Madeleine Murtagh





## Other

- Clean Up Australia Day
- Dymocks Book Buying Day
- Premier's Spelling Bee - Congratulations to Madeleine Murtagh, Angus Smith, Liam Law-Smith and Kate Cartwright for representing our school at this event
- Premier's Reading Challenge
- ANZAC Day service at Dangarsleigh
- Armidale Autumn Festival
- Armidale Sustainable Living Expo (SLEX)
- SMASH program
- Student speeches during Term 4
- Rugby league, cricket and soccer coaching clinics at cluster sports days
- Annual talent quest in Term 3

## 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.

Yr 3: from Band 1 (lowest) to Band 6 (highest for Year 3)

Yr 5: from Band 3 (lowest) to Band 8 (highest for Year 5)

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

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

## Literacy – NAPLAN Year 3

Six Year 3 students sat the NAPLAN in Literacy in 2011. Our results indicate that students are achieving above the region in Grammar and Punctuation. Students worked well in Writing and Spelling however there is a need to include further explicit teaching in these areas.

## Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 3

Six Year 3 students sat the NAPLAN in Mathematics in 2011. Results indicated that our school was above the regional average. Our results indicate that students performed well with Data, Measurement and Geometry. Our results in Number were pleasing however there remains a need to focus on Multiplication.

## Literacy – NAPLAN Year 5

Four Year 5 students sat the NAPLAN in Literacy in 2011. Our results in Reading and Grammar and Punctuation this year were well above state and regional average. Every student also showed growth in their results from year 3 to 5. This growth was above the regional and state average. Our results indicate a need to focus on explicit skills in Writing.

## Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 5

Four Year 5 students sat the NAPLAN in Literacy in 2011. Our results this year were well above regional average. Every student also showed growth from year 3 to 5. This was above the regional and state average. Our results indicate that students are achieving well in Number, Patterns and Algebra but there is a need to focus more on Data, Measurement and Geometry.

## 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 cannot be

published due to a minimum number of students participating.



## Significant programs and initiatives

### Aboriginal education

This year our students studied Aboriginal Perspectives throughout all Key Learning Areas. We began adding “Welcome to Country” recognition to all of our term assemblies and at presentation night.

Students also produced Aboriginal artworks to accompany units of work.

Aboriginal perspectives are embedded throughout our teaching and learning programs. These reflect the understanding and awareness of Aboriginal culture and traditions.

### Multicultural education

Assembly discussions are frequently devoted to such topics as acceptance and tolerance. Students and staff value our inclusive community. Every opportunity is taken to develop the understanding of different cultures, religions and belief systems.

Our annual research of a foreign country in collaboration with the Kelly’s Plains/Dangarsleigh CWA took place in Term 3. This year’s country of study was Iceland.

### Other programs

Respect and Responsibility are the two significant features which drive our school – through our rules, behaviour and strong welfare and discipline policy.

The individual values forums held by students at SRC, and discussions at weekly assemblies allow us to focus on the school’s strengths and

weaknesses. Having students, staff and parents involved ensures full commitment.

## Progress on 2011 targets

### Target 1

***To fully understand the new National Curriculum requirements for the subject areas of English, Maths, History and Science.***

The new National Curriculum (now called the Australian Curriculum) has been delayed and it has not yet been fully released. This has caused delays in its implementation nation-wide.

Our achievements include:

- Reviewing the DRAFT curriculums for English, Maths, History and Science and presenting our ideas to the Australian Curriculum and Reporting Authority (ACARA). Teachers also attended a review and feedback session on the Literacy draft syllabus with the Armidale Community of Schools.



### Target 2

***To raise NAPLAN writing results to equal with state average or beyond.***

Our achievements include:

- Year 3 and 5 NAPLAN showed some improvement. Students are achieving high results in Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling.
- Every student in Year 5 had value added in their results.

## 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 School culture and we evaluated support mechanisms for students in K-2 with Reading.

## **Educational and management practice**

### **Background**

Parents were surveyed about our schools overall culture, communication to parents and their opinions about day to day operational issues at our school.

### **Findings and conclusions**

Results indicate that parents are very happy with the current operation of the school. The overwhelming response was to continue our clear communication with families and maintain the 'family' atmosphere of our school.

### **Future directions**

The school will continue to provide opportunities for parents to speak with staff on a daily basis. The school will continue providing community announcements in the newsletter as part of our commitment to the local area.

## **Curriculum**

### **Background**

Due to the size of our school, we are unable to provide a Reading Recovery program for our students. Reading Recovery is a specialised program designed to support students in the early years in reading. It was decided to access training for our Lower Division teacher to become proficient in implementing parts of the program in their classroom using the Reading Recovery for Small Schools program.

### **Findings and conclusions**

Our teacher was provided with explicit skills to implement into their classroom routines. Students now have skills in reading unfamiliar words and understanding the content of texts.

### **Future directions**

Teachers will now train in L3, a program designed to compliment the Reading Recovery Program for Kindergarten students in 2012

## **Parent, student, and teacher satisfaction**

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

Parents responded with very positive comments about our school. 100% of respondents confirmed that they were proud of our school, new families were made to feel welcome and students are the school's main concern.



## **Professional learning**

Our school continued using the Best Start Program for all students in Kindergarten. Teachers were trained in administering the program and using information to guide teaching and learning programs.

Staff continued to be trained in the use of technology in 2011. The installation of video conferencing facilities required staff to be fully trained in using this new equipment.

Literacy and numeracy professional learning was also accessed, particularly for NAPLAN analysis.

Teaching staff attended reviews and feedback sessions of the new Australian Curriculum in Literacy.

Lower Division teachers were trained in the Reading Recovery for Small Schools program.



## 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 Literacy performance in the school so that student growth is higher than state growth on NAPLAN.**

##### 2012 Targets to achieve this outcome include:

- Reduce the number of students in the minimum bands in NAPLAN in the areas of Reading, Writing and Spelling to 0%

##### Strategies to achieve these targets include:

- Explicit teaching of writing skills in preparation for NAPLAN texts
- Further expand on our school's spelling program
- Lower Division teachers trained in L3 for students in Kindergarten

### School priority 2

#### Outcome for 2012–2014

**Numeracy:** Increase the number of students in the higher bands in NAPLAN in the area of Numeracy. (2011 Year 5 results indicate 50% in band 5).

##### 2012 Targets to achieve this outcome include:

**Increase the number of students in the higher bands in NAPLAN in the area of Numeracy.**

##### Strategies to achieve these targets include:

- Using online programs to support students with learning difficulties and to support students who present as gifted and talented
- Explicit teaching of multiplication facts for students in Years 2 to 6
- Expand on Maths homework. Students will complete work directly associated with classroom work at home to compliment and consolidate their learning



## 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.

Brad Hunt - Principal

Lauren Piddington – Classroom Teacher

Rebecca Smith – Classroom Teacher

Tanya Alcorn – President, Kelly's Plains School P&C

## School contact information

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School Code: 2273

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>