Ardeer South Primary School
5064

2007 Annual Report to the School Community

Preparing for the Future
Index

School Overview & Report ........................................... Page 3

Summary of Achievements and Progress
  Student Learning ................................................. Page 6
  AIM .................................................................... Page 6
  National Benchmarks ............................................. Page 7

Transitions and Pathways ........................................ Page 8

Engagement and Wellbeing .....................................
  Student Absence ................................................ Page 9
  Student Connectedness to School ......................... Page 10

Future Directions .................................................. Page 11

Financial Performance ......................................... Page 12

School Contact Details ........................................... Page 13
School Report & Overview

The 2007 school year began with an enrolment of 241 students including 36 Prep students. This represented a marginal increase of six students from the previous year.

The majority of students were from non-English speaking backgrounds and 126 students were recipients of the Educational Maintenance Allowance, reflecting the diverse socio-economic make up of the community. The school's share of the EMA was used to fund excursions, the visiting artist program and student supplies.

The school employed 24 staff and they were deployed in the following areas:
- Principal
- Assistant Principal
- Ten classroom teachers
- Specialist teachers: Arts; Library; Reading Recovery / Literacy Support; English as a Second Language; Maths Intervention; Early Years Reading Assistance; Italian; Information Technology
- Business Manager
- Integration School Services Officer
- Vietnamese Multicultural Education Aide

The dedication of staff, both teaching and non-teaching is to be commended. Their commitment to the school and its programs ensures that every child has a genuine chance of being successful.

Teacher Retention
Of the 23 ongoing teaching staff at Ardeer South in 2006 (including those on leave without pay), 21 were still there in 2007. This is a 91% retention rate. The figure across all government schools is 90%.

Teacher Qualifications
All teachers in Victorian government schools are required to be registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching. The requirements for registration can be found at www.vit.vic.edu.au/content.asp?DocumentID=241.

Teacher Absence
Teachers averaged 5.25 days sick leave in 2007. This was below the state median of 5.61 days per teacher.

Teacher Satisfaction
The average score for teacher satisfaction (morale) at this school was 75 on a scale from 0 to 100. This compares with a state primary median of 79.2.
Teacher Participation in Professional Learning
All staff have participated in professional learning throughout the year. The school used its pupil free days in 2007 in the following areas:
- QuickVic Reporting
- Habits of Mind
- Report Writing

The professional learning of staff was a high priority in a number of different forums.
- Year long professional learning for all staff in Habits of Mind
- Level 1 First Aid training
- Teacher collegiate visits about interactive whiteboards and oral language centres
- Staff curriculum meetings on alternate Wednesdays
- Training of a second staff member in Early Years Numeracy
- School Services Officers attended an SSO conference
- Teachers visiting other schools during National Literacy Week
- Guest speakers at Tuesday staff meeting
- Literacy Leadership course attended by Early Years Literacy Coordinator
- All members of the leadership team participated in DEECD leadership courses

Over the last few years, the school has established a culture where staff professional learning is seen as an integral part of how we operate at Ardeer South. This can only assist us in our goal of improving student learning.

A number of special events and information sessions were held throughout the year. These included:

- Prep Information Evening
- Education Week Open Morning
- Parent / Teacher interviews
- Parent Information Sessions on the new school report
- Bookweek
- Premier’s Reading Challenge
- Art Exhibition
- Year 6 Graduation
- Walk to School Day
- International Day

All these events provided an opportunity for the school community to become more involved in the life of the school and generally were well attended.

One of the goals for 2007 was for the school to gain accreditation as a Performance & Development Culture School. This involved meeting set standards in five areas and being externally audited to verify the standards had been set. The leadership team and the staff spent a huge amount of time during the year discussing and reviewing our protocols and processes. In November we successfully gained accreditation. The process that the school went through was extremely thorough and will have a continuing impact on student learning in the years to come.

The school applied for and was successful in gaining funding for $109,000 under the Investing in Our Schools program. This funding allowed the school to provide shade sails over our three adventure playgrounds. The work began in December and was to continue throughout the school vacation in January. Stage 2 will occur in 2008 with an upgrade to the gravel area in the yard.

The school continued to participate in the Fresh Kids Healthy Eating Program. With support from the Western Region Health Centre, all children were provided with free fruit for a total of four weeks during the year. This was a great assistance in encouraging children to eat a healthy diet. The school also continued to participate in the Active After School Communities program twice a week. The children had
experiences in dance, tennis, minor games, soccer and lacrosse. Both these programs are supporting our children to be healthy and active.

In interschool sport, once again all teams represented the school very well, both in terms of sportsmanship and playing to the best of their ability. All staff involved in coaching the teams are to be commended for giving up their lunchtimes to coach the children. Our T Ball and Netball teams were successful in the Sunshine District as well as the Bat Tennis team which was runner up in the Western Region Zone final.

The School Council met on eight occasions during 2007. All seven members of the parent category along with the four members of the DEECD employee category were filled. Mrs Donna Michetti held the position of School Council President. School Council endorsed the 2007 Action Plan (including the Annual Implementation Plan that documented the school’s plan for improvement in all areas.

Improvements to school facilities and resources included:
- Replacing the carpet in the three Prep / 1 classrooms
- Installation of a new networked colour photocopier
- Seating replaced outside Prep / 1 classrooms
- New cupboards installed in the Assistant Principal’s office
- Stoves replaced in the staffroom
- All the school’s assets audited and tagged
- New handyman / gardener employed

School Council endorsed the following events:
- Years 4, 5 & 6 camp to Echuca
- Year 3 sleepover
- Intensive swimming program

Parent Satisfaction

In a survey, parents were asked to what extent they agreed with the statement “Overall, I am satisfied with the education my child receives at their school.”

In 2007, parents at Ardeer South Primary School rated the school at 5.63. This was slightly lower than last year and marginally below the average across the state. However it still indicates a high level of satisfaction with the school.

In closing, we would like to acknowledge the School Council and parents for their support of the school throughout 2007. We would also like to thank the staff for their dedication and commitment to the students in their care.

John Evans, Principal
Donna Michetti, School Council President
Summary of School Progress and Achievements

Student Learning

Early Years Reading Results

Targets / Results
- 70% of Prep students deemed capable reading at 90 – 100% accuracy on unseen text Level 5. Result: 55% at Level 5; 91% at Level 1
- 75% of Year 1 students deemed capable reading at 90 – 100% accuracy on unseen text Level 15. Result: 47% at Level 15; 97% at Level 5
- 85% of Year 2 students deemed capable reading at 90 – 100% accuracy on unseen text Level 20. Result: 84% at Level 20; 93% at Level 15

The 2007 Early Years reading results indicate that the school had partial success in achieving the higher level targets we set and excellent success in meeting the minimum reading requirements for Early Years Literacy. The results are a reflection of the commitment of staff to support students in their early reading development. The school also invests significant resources to support student progress through having small class sizes, literacy and ESL support programs as well as Reading Recovery.

VELS Results

Target
- 60% of students achieving at or above their expected level in English and Mathematics

2007 was the first year that teachers reported against the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS). In 2006, a lot of time was spent with staff reviewing assessment strategies to ensure a consistency in teacher judgement. A summation of teacher judgements on student progress across the school in 2007 was as follows:
Reading – 80% of students achieving at or above their expected level
Writing – 82% of students achieving at or above their expected level
Speaking & Listening – 88% of students achieving at or above their expected level
Number – 87% of students achieving at or above their expected level
Measurement / Chance & Data – 87% of students achieving at or above their expected level

Student Achievement in Reading and Mathematics – Years 3 and 5

![Graph showing percentage of students achieving at or above expected standards in Reading and Mathematics for Years 3 and 5, with data for 2005, 2006, and 2007.]
The above graphs show the results for students who completed the Education Department's AIM (Achievement Improvement Monitor) statewide test. Carried out in full test conditions, the AIM is designed to provide schools and parents with a snapshot of where students are at in comparison to other schools across the state.

In Year 3, 46% of students were achieving at the expected level in Reading while in Maths it was 56%. In Year 5, 44% of students were achieving at the expected level in Reading while in Maths it was 42%. On this data, Year 3 results were comparable with 2006 but down on 2005, while the Year 5 results showed a marginal gain in Reading on 2006 but a significant drop in Mathematics on 2005 and 2006.

Clearly the challenge remains to engage and support students in their learning, particularly in the areas of English & Mathematics as assessed by the AIM. The school will continue to inject significant resources into these two areas, particularly in the junior years. A daily two-hour literacy block and a one-hour numeracy block are in place. The Reading Recovery Program provides individual assistance for at risk students in Year 1 and is achieving the desired result. Our Early Years Literacy & Numeracy Coordinators will continue to support staff in implementing effective programs in their classrooms. The professional learning of staff has, and will remain, a priority. A second Early Years Literacy Coordinator will be trained and a mentor program established last year to refine and improve classroom teaching strategies will continue. The school has established an Oral Language Centre (Sunshine Room) to further develop children's spoken English. The Maths Intervention Program, trialled last year in Years 1 & 2, will continue.

**National Benchmarks**
Student Transitions and Pathways

Ardeer South provides a transition program for students beginning primary school as well as students beginning secondary school. The school draws enrolments from a few local kindergartens; however there are some children who enrol who have not attended any formal pre-school program.

Our Kindergarten to Prep transition program begins in fourth term each year. Parents and their children are invited to school for a morning. Parents attend an information session which covers a broad range of topics while their children have a morning of Prep activities with their new teachers.

After the students have begun Prep in first term, there is a follow up meeting for parents. This meeting focuses on what's required for Preps to be successful in their first year of school and how parents can assist the school in that process. In 2007 this meeting was held in the evening which resulted in increased attendance of parents.

Identification of individual student needs through a comprehensive assessment program in February is completed by class teachers, the school guidance officer and speech therapist so that our knowledge of new students is comprehensive and their learning needs can be catered for.

A buddies program involving our Year 6 & Prep students happens every year to support the transition of our new Preps into school life. The Preps form a relationship with an older student that assists them in the room during the cross-age program as well as in the yard if they encounter a difficulty.

Our Year 6 - 7 transition program involves working closely with the Ardeer Campus of Sunshine Secondary College. Throughout the year activities are held at both the secondary college and our school to give the Year 5 & 6 students a comprehensive knowledge of what is ahead of them in Year 7. Regular communication between Ardeer South and the Secondary College ensures that the program remains vibrant and relevant to the children who are preparing for secondary school.

Children also have the opportunity to listen to talks from other secondary schools when they visit Ardeer South. Brochures and enrolment information from differently secondary schools is made available to
parents of Year 6 students. The principal and the classroom teachers are also available to discuss transition issues with parents.

In the Parent Opinion Survey, parents were positive about the Transition programs affirming that students have been supported in their transitions at school. In particular, students were well prepared for their 2007 school year.

Of the 40 Year 6 students who left Ardeer South at the end of 2007, fifteen students went to Sunshine Secondary College – Ardeer Campus whilst eight students went to state secondary colleges. Seventeen students went to non-government schools.

**Student Engagement and Wellbeing**

**Average number of absent days per student**

The above graph shows that the average number of absences across the school for 2007 increased to 16.1 days per student, an increase of 1.6 days per student from 2006. In the Prep level, student absence increased to an average of 21 days per student, well above the state benchmark.

Whilst the absence data in 2006 recorded a pleasing drop from the previous year, this trend did not continue into 2007. The school will continue to place a major focus on the importance of regular school attendance. Regular newsletter items, presentation of attendance certificates, talking to parents at information evenings and School Council as well as contacting individual parents over prolonged, unexplained absences will be key strategies in our efforts to reduce absence to state benchmarks.

In 2007 the school has collected data on students arriving late to school. There was an average of 29 students late each week throughout the year. Closer analysis of this data revealed that a small cohort of families contributed greatly to these figures. The school will continue to contact families who are regularly late to improve this data.
Student Connectedness to School

Year 5 & 6 students were asked how much they agreed with these 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.

The following graph shows their responses.

The above graph displays a marginal increase on 2006 to 4.43, which is a high score and indicates that students in Year 5 & 6 continue to feel good about school. Once again, the influence and commitment of teachers and support staff in “connecting” with all students is a significant factor in achieving this result. All staff participate in a school program to establish a special relationship with a student outside their classroom so that the student has another supportive adult connecting with them beside their grade teacher.

The school involves the students in a variety of roles (School Captains, House Captains, Junior School Council and our ‘Buddies’ program) that contribute to the improvement in self-esteem and leadership of the students. Merit certificates are utilised to reward students who make significant academic, social or personal achievements. At lunchtime children can access a range of playground activities by using sports equipment, adventure playgrounds, open grass and asphalt areas as well as visiting the library that is open for the first half of three lunchtimes each week.

Areas that will be a focus for improvement in 2008 will be student safety and classroom behaviour as the scores for both these areas on the Student Attitudes to School Survey dropped from the previous year.
School Plans and Future Directions

Ardeer South Primary School is committed to the notion of continuous improvement. At the February School Council meeting the 2008 Action Plan (incorporating the Annual Implementation Plan) was endorsed. This plan outlined the school goals for improvement in curriculum, professional development, buildings, grounds, school / community and administration.

In relation to Student Learning the school will:

- continue with the implementation of VELS and reporting on additional areas;
- establish an oral language centre, the ‘Sunshine Room’
- refine classroom practices in English and Mathematics through ongoing professional learning for staff;
- ensure Early Years Literacy & Numeracy Coordinators are supporting teachers in classrooms to enhance speaking and listening;
- implement a maths intervention program for students in Years 1 & 2;
- train a second staff member in Early Years Literacy training;
- participate in the Australian National School Network Interactive Whiteboard Project;
- continue to incorporate Habits of Mind into our curriculum.

In Student Engagement & Wellbeing the school will

- continue to focus on decreasing student absences, in particular, Prep absences;
- focus on healthier diets eg Free Fruit Friday;
- implement student surveys to provide feedback for teachers;
- improve the student safety measure on the Student Attitudes to School Survey.

In Student Pathways & Transitions the school will:

- Review the Prep orientation program and further develop relations with our local kindergartens.
### Financial Performance

#### Financial Performance for the year ending 31st December, 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>2007 Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DE&amp;T Grants</td>
<td>243,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commonwealth Government Grants</td>
<td>122,887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Government Grants</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>28,344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locally Raised Funds</td>
<td>61,374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Operating Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$456,164</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>2007 Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and Allowances</td>
<td>12,529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Charges</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumables</td>
<td>44,067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books and Publications</td>
<td>9,099</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Costs</td>
<td>5,125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture and Equipment</td>
<td>9,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>12,299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Services</td>
<td>74,623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel and Subsistence</td>
<td>1,045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicle Expenses</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>1,723</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Personal Development</td>
<td>237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Development</td>
<td>8,414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trading and Fundraising</td>
<td>27,593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support/Service</td>
<td>46,310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>31,547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Operating Expenditure</strong></td>
<td><strong>$171,870</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Net Operating Surplus/Deficit**  
$284,294

**Capital Expenditure (Cases 21 Finance Only)**  
$50,744

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.

#### Financial Position as at 31st December, 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funds Available</th>
<th>2007 Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Yield Investment Account</td>
<td>151,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official Account</td>
<td>2,336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Bank Accounts:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prime Investment A/C</td>
<td>79,203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Funds Available</strong></td>
<td><strong>$232,951</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Commitments</th>
<th>2007 Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable Control</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camps/Excursions</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building/Grounds including SMS</td>
<td>111,928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Programs inc Student Services</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region /Clusters Funds</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Development</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assets (including leases)</td>
<td>109,267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Operating Reserve</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Financial Commitments</strong></td>
<td><strong>$221,195</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
School Contact Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Ralph Street, Ardeer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>John Evans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Council President</td>
<td>Donna Michetti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>9363-2768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ardeer.south.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au">ardeer.south.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Website</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ardeersthps.vic.edu.au">http://www.ardeersthps.vic.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This report contains summary data extracted from the School Level Report. If you would like to access the School Level Report, please contact the Principal.

The Annual Report to the School Community for 2007 has been presented to and discussed with, School Council.