

2021 Annual Report to The School Community



School Name: Lal Lal Primary School (0863)



- All teachers at the school meet the registration requirements of the Victorian Institute of Teaching (www.vit.vic.edu.au).
- The school meets prescribed minimum standards for registration as regulated by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) in accordance with the Education and Training Reform (ETR) Act 2006. This includes schools granted an exemption by the VRQA until 31 December 2021 from the minimum standards for student enrolment numbers and/or curriculum framework for school language program.
- The school is compliant with the Child Safe Standards prescribed in Ministerial Order No. 870 – Child Safe Standards, Managing Risk of Child Abuse in School.

«PrincipalSignDescription»

- This 2021 Annual Report to the School Community has been tabled and endorsed at a meeting of the school council and will be publicly shared with the school community

«PresidentSignDescription»

About Our School

School context

This Annual Report is presented to the students, teachers, families and friends of Lal Lal Primary as well as the wider community. Lal Lal Primary school is a small rural school located just 15 minutes outside of Ballarat. The school is an integral part of the local community. There is only the local mechanic, pub and school in Lal Lal. Buninyong is the closest town just 10 minutes down the road. The original school was established in 1866. The school boasts committed, experienced teachers, friendly hardworking students and a very supportive and active school community.

Resilience, Respect, Effort and Kindness are the core values that are the cornerstones of a strong culture of learning and development. A school Chaplain is appointed to our school; the role is integrated with our Student Engagement Policy.

The school is very fortunate to have excellent facilities. There are dedicated teaching spaces for specialist subjects such as music and art and three other refurbished classrooms for learning with smaller quieter spaces for flexible learning. The two-class portable building was opened up to allow for innovative teaching and learning.

The school had an enrolment of 32 students in 2021. They were supported by 2.67 teaching staff, one teaching principal and 0.4 support staff who worked across administration and student support. The current SFOE was low to medium. There was one student on the Program for Students with Disabilities (PSD), and one Koorie student. The school was grouped into two small multi age classes, with the core areas of Literacy and Numeracy occurring in the morning and then the Specialist areas in the afternoon.

Lal Lal Primary School developed and implemented a Remote Learning Plan. This learning plan outlined the expectations for teachers, students and parents during this period, daily timetable, the stages of implementation and WebEx conferencing. Students and parents were given specifically designed Remote learning bookmarks with strategies to assist parents and students.

2021 was the final year of the Strategic Plan and the school underwent a school review late in term 3. The school continued to focus our work on improving student achievement in Reading and Numeracy. The staff professional learning was focused on effective teaching in these two areas. The school offered a Chinese language program with the assistance of Mount Clear Secondary College and an instrumental music program. The school offers all key learning areas including Performing Arts, Science, Physical Education Personal Learning and boasts a vast range of extra-curricular activities which due to Covid had to be cancelled.

Like all schools, 2021 presented many challenges due to the pandemic. The staff, families and students approached the challenges in a most supportive and positive manner. The community is rightly very proud of the manner in which we met these challenges and stayed connected.

Framework for Improving Student Outcomes (FISO)

In 2021, following on from our 2017 Peer Review, the school continued to focus on the FISO priority area of "Excellence in Teaching and Learning".

The FISO priority aims:

- building teacher's capacity to use achievement data to plan and deliver a differentiated teaching learning program, track student learning growth.
- Implement peer observation, feedback and practise analysis that focuses directly on building teacher capacity.

A number of key improvement strategies were used to enable these initiatives. They included ongoing assessment tests, the implementation by our teachers of the Victorian Curriculum, a focus on writing and reading, and maths by involving "I can statements" for all levels of the F-6 Victorian Curriculum and peer observations.

It was a difficult year for our school to continue to work collaboratively together with our neighbouring schools in the Moorabool Collegiate Group and in the Small Schools Community of Practice focusing on Speaking and Listening. However, we made the most of every opportunity available to enhance teacher's professional knowledge and build shared understanding.

A positive climate for learning was a major factor for us during remote learning. With the strong home - school partnership we were able to successful achieve this, developing a positive climate for learning throughout remote and

flexible learning for students and parents.

Overall, our 2021 NAPLAN results demonstrated growth in student achievement in reading, writing and numeracy over the last two years despite the challenges of remote learning. We have maintained a particularly strong focus on reading by staff undertaking professional learning on phonics and the writer's notebook, leading to common approach across the school and purchasing a range of new decodable books. We will be continuing to work on strengthening reading, writing and numeracy as well as spelling, grammar and punctuation. There is much to celebrate with these results and we extend our congratulations and thanks to all members of our community - teachers, staff as well as parents and carers - who work in partnership to support learning for all students.

Achievement

During Remote Learning all students and families responded well during Remote Learning in 2021. Staff responded quickly to developing an online curriculum and program, predominantly utilising ClassDojo (junior) and Google classroom.

During Remote Learning there were roughly 8 to 10 students out of 30 students onsite learning due to parents being essential workers or students at risk.

The students undertook their normal daily morning routine from 9 – 1pm during remote learning. This was decided upon after some consultation with parents on what would work best for them and the students. Every day the students participated in a live morning meeting check-in with the classroom teacher. The rest of the morning resulted in student conferences, small group work, independent work and work supported by the teacher or parent. The afternoon consisted of a matrix of activities which allowed for student choice and agency and flexibility. Specialist activities i.e. art was delivered live at school and through WebEx if the students choose to join in.

A very small cohort undertook Naplan in 2021.

THE SCIENCE OF READING

In 2021, we decided to begin to explore the Science of reading approach through systematic phonics. This approach to phonics instruction is explicit and systematic, and aims to provide students with the tools to read and write through a multi-sensory experience. Having the correct tools available to problem solve empowers students to become successful readers and writers. In 2021, we began to transfer our home reading books over to decodable books which is an expensive outlay. One teacher undertook a term long Professional Learning on the Science of reading and began to upskill the remaining staff. Teachers have begun to work collaboratively to develop curriculum templates to help us organise, document and map our curriculum, this will be an ongoing process.

Engagement

Lal Lal Primary School continues to have a strong academic focus that aligns with its school vision on student achievement. It has a significant number of positive strategies in place to continually revise and improve our focus on Student Engagement. At Lal Lal Primary School we provide a stimulating learning environment that engages and challenges students in their learning and fosters positive well-being in every individual.

Student voice is a focus of the student leadership positions in the school and gives students an opportunity to have a say and be consulted on teaching, learning and the school environment. Junior School Council regularly fundraises for charities as well as initiates and contributes to the projects around the school i.e. year 6 tops, excursions etc.

Three-way conferences (student led interviews) occur across the year and provide students with the opportunity to take ownership of their learning. Students set and articulated their goals in literacy and numeracy and showcase their achievements through Class Dojo portfolios and Google Classroom. During Remote Learning students were able to participate in virtual school excursions, school discos, family quiz nights and other engaging activities. Once back on-site teachers made up for lost time and provided students with a variety of activities i.e. overnight camp, excursions and other activities to ensure contentedness and engagement. In 2021 the students undertook a very successful 2-night school camp where every student attended. These excursions and activities have continued to have a positive impact on our Student Attitude to School Survey results. The students were extremely grateful to be allowed to participate in these types of activities again.

The absence data is lower than the state for students that had 20 or more absent days in 2021. We have structures in

place to identify, monitor and follow up unexplained absences, and therefore we were able to identify students who were frequently absent and late to school to find ways to support students and families.

Wellbeing

In 2021 and especially during Remote Learning Lal Lal Primary school aims to create an engaging and positive school culture to ensure optimal student learning. We strive to provide quality educational programs within a supportive learning environment that promotes personal excellence and fosters participation and communication. Wellbeing of students, staff and families are an integral part of our school and the curriculum.

The Resilience Project was a key focus in 2021 for the whole school community during Remote Learning. The four key areas of the project are to build resilience, gratitude and empathy and foster positive relationships in school. We are embedding these pillars across all teaching and learning areas and in the extracurricular activities as well. During Remote Learning the students participated in daily GEM (Gratitude, Empathy and Mindfulness) sessions. All lessons were undertaken in real time and all students accessed the digit platforms daily. The students transitioned back to on-site learning well with the assistance of classroom connections activities.

Lal Lal Primary School has a Buddy system that encourages junior and senior students to develop supportive relationships and carries across all Grade levels. Classes meet regularly to foster Resilience, Respect and Kindness (3 of our core values). Our School offers transition sessions for both foundation students and those new to our school. However, in 2021 the preschool students were given very limited opportunities to participate in transition. The school has great links with the local Secondary School which is the main feeder school. School staff work hard to ensure that there are programs in place to provide a smooth transition.

Leadership meet regularly with the Chaplain, Psychologists and Speech Therapists to support the learning needs of all students at the school. Teachers have regular welfare meetings in order to best support all students in their care.

Students take part regularly in a variety of anti-bullying workshops, class work and special days such as Safer Internet Day and the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. The school has completed its e-smart accreditation and student safety is a core part of that program.

Growth mindset continues to be a focus in all classrooms and learning areas. This strategy works well with the Resilience Project.

In 2021, the school employed a Chaplain to assist in supporting the students and their wellbeing.

Finance performance and position

All funds received from the Department, or raised by the school, have been expended, or committed to subsequent years, to support the achievement of educational outcomes and other operational needs of the school, consistent with Department policies, School Council approvals and the intent/purposes for which funding was provided or raised. The annual result was a surplus due to effective staff employment and management of the SRP. Impact of extended lock down on utilities costs, CRT costs, consumables. Some of these budgeted costs were not expended.

The school was successful in receiving a grant from Sporting Schools Program in 2021 for Swimming and Winter sports and gymnastics. The school was also very fortunate to receive a grant from the Lal Lal Windfarm which funded two new split system air conditioners. The school also received capital works funding to resurface the oval and surrounding areas.

The junior school council and the Parents and Friends Association had limited opportunities for fundraising throughout the year due to Covid. The school also received a small amount of Equity Funding, which contributed towards ensuring the best outcomes for all our students.

**For more detailed information regarding our school please visit our website at
lal.lal.ps@education.vic.gov.au**