Somersby Public School
Annual School Report

2012
Our school at a glance

Students

Our enrolment at the end of 2012 was 80, made up of 42 female students and 38 male students. 5% of our school population was Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

With an enrolment of 80, the classes formed were all composite.

Staff

Somersby Public School has a dedicated and experienced staff which is made up of a teaching Principal, three full-time staff and one part-time Release from Face to Face teacher/librarian. The part-time staff member also conducts the LAST program. We also have a part-time School Counsellor. Our non-teaching staff includes a full-time School Administration Manager, one part-time School Administration Officer, and a part-time School Learning Support Officer, one Cleaner and one part-time General Assistant.

Significant Programs and Initiatives

The school actively pursues the ongoing school improvement process. Significant areas of focus have included solid literacy and numeracy programs, award winning environmental practices, and the development of a positive student welfare policy through the introduction of the Positive Behaviour for Learning Program. The dynamic creative and performing arts program has continued to be a strong focus of the school.

The school ran a number of programs to give students extra educational support and enrichment throughout 2012. These included:

- Support Teacher Learning Assistance (STLA)
- Best Start
- Debating
- Dance
- Environment Group
- Student Leadership
- Transition Programs (Pre-School to Kindergarten and Years 6-7)
- Aboriginal Education

Messages

Principal’s message

The Somersby Public School community is committed to empowering all students to achieve their full potential at a personal, social and academic level. Strong emphasis is placed on student welfare and personal development by fostering positive social interaction and self-discipline within a safe, caring and supportive school environment. Quality teaching and learning in Literacy and Numeracy is our core business and underpins a rich and varied school curriculum that endeavours to meet the needs and aspirations of all students.

Our school enjoys outstanding parental and community support. This partnership between home and school is strongly encouraged in order to promote student progress and development. Our students enjoy a positive learning environment that includes highly trained and committed teachers and support staff, well-resourced, air conditioned classrooms and excellent playground and sporting facilities.

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.

Kirsty Squires

P & C message

2012 was again a very busy year for Somersby School’s P&C. We have had many hurdles and challenges to face but have worked our way through them to come out shining on the other side. Without the efforts of our members we would not have had the successful year that we have had. For that, I would like to thank everyone who contributed in some way this year.

The P&C’s focus this year was to support the school in any positive way that was possible. We have achieved that through fundraising, being on the Principal Selection Panel, PBL Panel, canteen, and uniform. We have had a fantastic year working very closely with all the staff.

Sadly, Mr Baxter passed away earlier this year, however, in the short time he was Principal here, he made a huge impact in a positive way. His efforts and vision for the school were only positive and gave us great foundations to work with. Earlier this term, Kirsty Squires was appointed our Principal, and has...
kept the school moving forward in a manner for which she can only be commended for. Mrs Squires has shown the P&C what the school’s visions are for the future, and we will be certainly supporting her and the staff in all their efforts.

We have had a great year in fundraising. We have raised a gross total of $25,295. A HUGE thank you to everyone who has supported us throughout the year. This would not be possible without you, the parents, families and the community. This amount includes funds raised from the fete, bbq’s, stalls, various raffles, uniform and canteen.

Our purchases this year have also been quite substantial. These include, the upright freezer for canteen - $1459, Year 6 pens, Mr Baxter’s Memorial Garden Seat, the concrete slab for the environment group’s new garden shed, insurance and the subsidisation of the Young Leaders Day.

2013 is also shaping up to be an exciting and interesting year with new reforms to education in English and Maths. This will only improve our literacy and numeracy standards. There will be rollouts in various areas over the next few years which will give the P&C some areas to focus on in getting the learning recourses for our children.

Next year will also see the implementation of Positive Behaviours for Learning Program. You will be given plenty of information about it and how it will work. Wendy Paxton and I were both elected to be a part of this panel and it has been a very interesting and rewarding process to be involved in. Both Mrs Squires and Mrs Cranstone have put a huge amount of effort into this already and we are all looking forward to launching it early next year.

The P&C next year will be looking into projects such as a larger bus shelter and possibly enlarging the COLA area to establish a full size undercover basketball court which can be used for a variety of sports and activities. There are many grants available and also joint funding through the Department that we will be looking into. Certainly exciting times ahead.

I have certainly found it very rewarding this year, not only for myself but to see the kids faces light up when you’re there doing something for them. All the kids will say G’day and thanks, and often that’s the most rewarding thing of all. Without the efforts of parents, we would not be able to provide our children with the quality learning opportunities that we do.

I’d like to finish up by thanking my committee for all the hard work, which is all voluntary, for ensuring that we are able to provide our children with the best start to life here at our wonderful school. At the end of 2012 we farewell two of our long standing committee members, Sharon Peruch and Helen Taylor. Thanks for all the years and all the hours that you have put into the P&C. Your efforts were greatly appreciated.

Nicole Ward
President 2012, Somersby Parents & Citizens

Student representative’s message
2012 has been a great year for all at Somersby Public School. We have learnt new things, developed new friendships and achieved many goals.

All year we and our fellow students have been participating in many different activities including attending school excursions and camps.

In Term 1, we travelled to Gosford Public Pool for our annual school swimming carnival. We also went to Peats Ridge Public School for a special science day which was a lot of fun. The Year 6 students took a long bus ride to Sydney for National Young Leaders’ Day where they learnt about leadership.

In Term 2, our school took part in the cross country which was held at Central Mangrove Public School. As well as that, the Years 5 and 6 went to Palmdale to participate in a special C.A.R.E.S activity where we learnt about bike riding and road safety.

In Term 3, Years 5 and 6 were transported to Kariong Mountains High School for a science enrichment day. Most of 5/6 also went to Canberra for a three day camp where we learnt about the history of Australian democracy. A few people were successful to make it into the annual Premier’s Spelling Bee this year, which was held at Wadalba Community School.

In Term 4, Years 2-6 travelled to Toowoon Bay Beach for a Surfun Day. They also attended the yearly School Swimming Scheme at Gosford Public Pool for the last two weeks of term. On Friday of Week 7 the Year
4/5/6 students participated in a sports day at Central Mangrove Public School.

The Year 6 students held many fundraisers during the year to raise money for our end-of-year present to the school, such as cake stalls, the Year 6 Car Wash, Crazy Hair Day and barbecues held at Woolworths and Officeworks on weekends.

At Somersby Public School we participated in many different environmental activities around our school. We planted saplings around our gardens for National Tree Day as well as going on several excursions. The environmental leaders travelled to Thiess to learn about recycling and also attended a waste excursion. Years 5 and 6 were also part of a water-watch excursion at Mooney Mooney Dam.

Many Somersby Public School students gave up their time to be a part of our school groups or activities, such as the environmental group, the debating team, the school band and the dance group. These groups often travelled to different venues to represent our school in competitions or inter-school activities.

Each fortnight the Year 6 students held an assembly in the school hall. Occasionally we held special assemblies for reasons such as Remembrance Day, Harmony Day, Grandparents Day and ANZAC Day. This has greatly helped the Year 6 students overcome their fear of public speaking.

We’d like to thank each of the staff for their help and support in making this a great year, especially for the Year 6 students since their time at Somersby Public School is coming to an end. We would also like to thank Mr Paul, the conductor of the band, for teaching us about music each week. It’s all thanks to the friendly teachers that the Year 6 students have had such a great year. We will all be sad to leave in 2013.

By Nicole Hadley and Georgie Jeremy
Staff establishment

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deputy Principal(s)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Principal(s)</td>
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<td>Head Teachers</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Teachers</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of Emotional Disabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher of Mild Intellectual</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher of Reading Recovery</td>
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<td>Support Teacher Learning Assistance</td>
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<td>Teacher Librarian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher of ESL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Counsellor</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Administrative &amp; Support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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It is a requirement that the reporting of information for all staff must be consistent with privacy and personal information policies.

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

During 2012 the percentage of Indigenous staff at Somersby Public School was 10%.

Staff retention

Changes in staffing during 2012 included the appointment of a new Principal, the engagement of an SLSO for 4 days per week and two changes in our Teachers Aide.

Teacher qualifications

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>% of staff</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree or Diploma</td>
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<td>Postgraduate</td>
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Financial summary

This summary covers funds for operating costs and does not involve expenditure areas such as permanent salaries, building and major maintenance.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of financial summary</th>
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<tr>
<td>Income</td>
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<td>Balance brought forward</td>
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<td>Global funds</td>
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<td>Tied funds</td>
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<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
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<td>Interest</td>
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<td>Trust receipts</td>
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<td>Canteen</td>
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<td>Total income</td>
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Expenditure

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<th>Teaching &amp; learning</th>
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<tr>
<td>Excursions</td>
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<td>Extracurricular dissections</td>
<td>11016.24</td>
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<td>Library</td>
<td>3156.97</td>
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<td>Training &amp; development</td>
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<td>Tied funds</td>
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<td>Casual relief teachers</td>
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<td>Administration &amp; office</td>
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<td>Utilities</td>
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<td>Maintenance</td>
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<td>Trust accounts</td>
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<td>Capital programs</td>
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<td>Total expenditure</td>
<td>166236.69</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance carried forward</td>
<td>56870.93</td>
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A full copy of the school’s 2012 financial statement is tabled at the annual general meetings of the P&C body. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.

School performance 2012

Achievements

Dance

2012 was a busy year for Somersby’s Dance Group. After three terms of hard work, Somersby’s Senior Dance Group performed for the fourth time at the Central Coast Dance Festival at Laycock Street Theatre. The dance was choreographed collaboratively between Mrs Knight and students; it was a modern dance using Justice Crew’s “Friday to Sunday”. Students thoroughly enjoyed their stage performance and have already started rehearsing for
the 2013 festival. The junior dancers were able to perform a fantastic Christmas dance during our presentation day celebrations.

Debating

This was a fantastic year for Somersby Public School’s first ever debating team, The Somersby Debaters. Term one saw students attend a training day at Kariong Public School, during this day we learnt all about the debating process and what is expected of each role. On our return we registered for the Premier’s Debating Challenge. The Somersby Debaters were very dedicated and spent many lunch times training. We often had friendly debates via connected classroom with students from Central Mangrove Public School and we even had a local actor visit to teach us about voice projection. All of this worked as The Somersby Debaters went on to finish in the final sixteen of the Hunter/Central Coast region; this is the biggest region in NSW with 120 teams entered.

Computers

Each classroom now has numerous computers which allow for daily use for all students. Term two of 2012 saw installation of the new PanaBoard to the 2/3 classroom. Students were very excited to use this very modern piece of technology which has widescreen and multisensory abilities. During 2012 Somersby Public School purchased six iPads. These are installed with numerous high quality Apps which link to many strands in the literacy and numeracy curriculum. Each class has weekly access to the iPads.

Sport

The students of Somersby School have been involved in a range of sporting activities throughout 2013. Our school swimming carnival was held at Gosford Pool and an athletics carnival on the school oval. Both carnivals were well-attended with a high participation rate. Both carnivals were able to be successfully run largely due to the goodwill displayed by the schools’ families, with many of their members acting as officials. The students participated with a spirit of good-natured competition, supporting their respective sporting-house members.

Our school carnivals provided us with the qualifiers for the Small Schools’ Carnivals which followed. When the results of each of the carnivals we’re announced, (swimming, athletics and cross- country running) Somersby was the winning school.

An inter-school visit with Central Mangrove Public School was organised. In preparation for this event, students in 5/6 were provided with training sessions in netball, AFL and OZ-tag. Students from both schools were blended into teams and students rotated through the three activities.

The school was visited by development officers from cricket N.S.W. A number of cricket skills were taught to the junior classes.

Year 6 students participated in a gala day organised by Kariong Mountains High School. It fulfilled a number of objectives including acting as a transition to high school.
Band

Our school concert band has a membership of twenty students, involving instruments such as clarinet, flute, percussion, saxophone and trumpet.

2012 has been quite a successful year with the highlight being the attainment of first place in the Mountain’s Eisteddfod. Rehearsals have run smoothly throughout the year. At rehearsals there is a positive atmosphere thanks to the bandmaster Mr Paul. We thank Mr Paul for his dedication to the band and for the rapport that he has developed with the students.

The band travelled to Ourimbah School for an evening concert. Bands from both schools combined to perform a repertoire of arrangements. The band has performed at a number of school assemblies and at presentation day.

The students who are involved in the band programme are to be commended for their level of commitment.

Environment Group

In 2012, Somersby Public School had a dedicated Environmental Group made up of Year 4 - 6 students. They were responsible for planting, weeding, harvesting and maintaining our school vegetable gardens. They collected food scrap buckets to feed the worms and top up our compost bins. Environment group members also collected water from the down pipes to water the gardens and plants and collected aluminum cans for recycling.

The Environment Group supported and raised awareness for the cash for containers campaign. The campaign supports a 10c refund on containers in NSW. Members of our team wrote letters to the NSW Environment Minister asking her to support the campaign.

We were lucky enough to be involved in the 2012 Learning for Sustainability Video Conference Festival. Our presentation was called We CAN recycle and we connected with Brighton Le Sands Public School. They were very impressed with what we do and they said they were going to look into starting can recycling at their school.

Our whole school enjoys taking part in activities that help the environment as well. We all took part in:

- Clean up Australia Day and National Tree Day.
- installing bird, bat and possum boxes around our school grounds to provide shelter for any local animals that may drop by
- encouraging students and staff to have a waste free lunch and recess each Wednesday
- encouraging our Kinder to Year 3 students to become part of our environmental team by starting a gardening group to prepare them for their roles in the environment group.
- participation by our Year 5 and 6 students on an excursion to local waterways where they searched for water bugs and tested the health of the water.

We enjoyed another successful year and achieved many of our goals. We look forward to a successful 2013.

Library

The Library has seen a very positive year in 2012. It was used as the meeting place for P & C meetings, community events, staff development training days and daily teaching.

As part of Book Week, the library ran the Scholastic Book Fair which was highly supported by children, parents and staff. The school made close to $1500 which allowed the purchase of $400 worth of books and resources for our school.
Due to the support from the school community throughout the year, the library saw close to 2300 new texts. Students showed high interest as new texts were shown before being placed onto the library shelves.

Students in grades 4-6 were given the opportunity to commit themselves to the role of being a library monitor. This has been a positive result for students as they have demonstrated the ability to be responsible and to work with others effectively.

2012 also saw 22 students complete the Premier’s Reading Challenge. This was the third year in which Somersby Public School took on the challenge. Student participation seems to be increasing. This is a fantastic result as the Premier’s Reading Challenge aims to support and develop literacy skills.

**Academic**

In the National Assessment Program, the results across the Years 3, 5, 7 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)

**Reading – NAPLAN Year 3**

![Graph showing percentage in bands for Year 3 Reading](image)

- **Percentage in bands:**
  - Year 3 Reading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bands</th>
<th>Percentage of students</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>35.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Percentage in Bands**
- **School Average 2008-2012**
- **SSG % in Bands 2012**
- **State DEC % in Bands 2012**
Grammar & Punctuation – NAPLAN Year 3

Spelling – NAPLAN Year 5

Writing – NAPLAN Year 5

Notes: The 'Percentage in Bands' column is not shown where overall results are for less than 10 students. State band distributions do not include students who were exempted from the tests.
Writing – NAPLAN Year 3

Percentage in bands: Year 3 Writing

Average progress in Reading

Average progress in Reading between Year 3 and 5

Average progress in Spelling

Average progress in Spelling between Year 3 and 5

Average progress in Grammar & Punctuation

Average progress in Grammar & Punctuation between Year 3 and 5
Average progress in Numeracy

![Average progress in Numeracy between Year 3 and 5](chart.png)

* Average progress data is for matched students from within the school.

**Significant programs and initiatives**

**Aboriginal education**

At Somersby Public School Aboriginal education is embedded in the quality teaching and learning programs across all Key Learning Areas and reflects the diverse needs of our students.

School assemblies include an acknowledgement of our traditional owners and is given by Aboriginal students.

All students participate in a variety of activities during both NAIDOC and Reconciliation weeks.

Aboriginal students were involved in the Walgett Sport and Cultural Exchange and also in the indigenous Students Mural Day run by the Gosford Regional Gallery and Arts Centre.

**Multicultural education**

Somersby Public School has supported Multicultural education through the human Society and its Environment (HSIE) curriculum and various celebrations throughout the year, including Harmony Day.

**Premier’s Spelling Bee**

Two Year 6 students competed at the Regional Final of the Premier’s Spelling Bee, both finishing in the top 10 which was a fantastic achievement.

**Progress on 2012 targets**

The following information relates to the progress that the school has made on the 2012 targets.

**School Priority 1 - Literacy**

**Target 1**

- 80% of students in Kindergarten to achieve Reading Recovery level 6 or above.

Our achievements include:

- 40% of students achieved the target

**Target 2**

- 80% of year 1 students to achieve reading recovery level 16 or above.

Our achievements include:

- 90% achieved the target

**Target 3**

- 80% of year 2 to achieve reading Recovery level 26 or above.

Our achievements include:

- 71% achieved the target

**Target 4**

- Increase the percentage of Year 3 students achieving in the top three bands in NAPLAN testing from 40% to 50%.

Our achievements include:

- 80% of Year 3 students achieved results in the top three bands of NAPLAN.

**Target 5**

- Increase the percentage of Year 5 students achieving in the top four bands in NAPLAN testing from 73% to 85%.

Our achievements include:

- 76% of Year 5 students achieved results in the top four bands.
School Priority 2 - Numeracy

**Target 1**
- Increase the percentage of Year 3 students achieving in the top three bands in NAPLAN testing from 46% to 60%

Our achievements include:
- 70% of students achieved results in the top three bands

**Target 2**
- Increase the percentage of Year 5 students achieving in the top four bands in NAPLAN testing from 90% to 95%

Our achievements include:
- 73% of year 5 students achieved results in the top four bands.

School Priority 3 – Student Welfare

**Target 1**
- The percentage of students being referred to the planning room to decrease by 50%

Our achievements include:
- Reducing Planning Room referrals by 33%

School evaluation

NSW public schools conduct evaluation to support the effective implementation of the school plan. In 2012 our school carried out an evaluation of the school’s Intensive Literacy and Numeracy Program and the Parent Information Survey.

Background

During 2012 Somersby Public School introduced an Intensive Literacy and Numeracy program that aimed to target specific students and improve their skills in these areas. After one semester on the program, student’s parents were surveyed regarding the success of the program.

87% of surveys were returned.

Findings and conclusions

The overwhelming response from the survey was that the program had made significant progress for these students with 100% of respondents stating that the program had been beneficial for their children.

Future directions

The Intensive Literacy and Numeracy program will continue in 2013 to provide opportunities for students to reach their full potential.

Professional learning

Teacher training  
- GATS K/1, Best Start, CPR, Netball, environmental, behaviour management, STLA Conference, Understanding Dyslexia & Significant Reading Difficulties, Interactive Whiteboards training, Mathematics, Debating, Anaphylaxis, Explicit Teaching Comprehension and Writing, Effective Use of Literacy & Numeracy Continuums, Learning & Support Module 1, New Scheme Teacher, Multiplication / Division Strategies for Teachers, Early Arithmetic K-6.

SASS staff were involved in the following professional development: prescribed medications, Oasis library, Child Protection, SASS Conferences in Sydney and Pokolbin, modules for school finance.

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: Literacy

Outcome for 2012–2014

Increased level of student achievement in literacy in line with or better than the state average.

**2013 Targets to achieve this outcome include:**
- Year 3 to maintain trend data above state average in reading
- The average scale score growth for Year 5 will match or exceed that of the state in reading, with more than 50% of students achieving expected growth.
- The average scale score growth for Year 7 will match or exceed that of the state in reading, with more than 50% of students achieving expected growth.
Strategies to achieve these targets include:

- Implement Focus on Reading in Years 3 to 6, with the Super Six Strategies implemented throughout the school
- Continuation of the Intensive Literacy and Numeracy Program
- Analyse NAPLAN data to set teaching programs
- Use the literacy continuums on SENTRAL to assess and track the progress of all students.

School priority 2 - Numeracy

Outcome for 2012–2014

Increased level of student achievement in numeracy in line with or better than state average.

2013 Targets to achieve this outcome include:

- Year 3 to maintain trend data above state average in numeracy
- The average scale score growth for Year 5 will match or exceed that of the state in numeracy, with more than 50% of students achieving expected growth.
- The average scale score growth for Year 7 will match or exceed that of the state in numeracy, with more than 50% of students achieving expected growth.

Strategies to achieve these targets include:

- Use numeracy continuums to assess and track student progress
- Daily, timetabled lessons providing hands on experiences
- Use of technology (computers, interactive whiteboards, iPads) to enhance teaching programs.

School Priority 3 – Student Welfare

Outcome for 2012–2014

Consistent student welfare practices across the school.

2013 Targets to achieve this outcome include:

- 100% of students are able to state the three PBL Core Values for the school
- Through student surveys 95% of students enjoy attending school.

Strategies to achieve these targets include:

- The introduction of a new Student Welfare policy
- Introducing positive Behaviours for learning to the school community.

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.

Mrs Kirsty Squires
Mr Neil Mitchell – teacher
Mrs Jade Cranstone – teacher
Mrs Laura Knight – teacher
Miss Daniela Suazo – teacher/librarian
Mrs Julie Broome – School Administration Manager
Ms Nicole Ward – P&C President

School contact information

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840 Wisemans Ferry Road Somersby.
Ph: 0243 72 1233
Fax: 0243 72 1542
Email: Somersby-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Web: Somersby-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
School Code: 3078

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: