DANA STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL
Annual Report to the School Community 2009

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

It is with pleasure that I present the 2009 Annual Report to the School Community. The 2009 Report is in a different format this year with DEECD collating all information and presenting information for communities in the one format for consistency between all schools in the state. The 2009 Report provides a concise record of the school’s achievements in student learning, student engagement and wellbeing, student pathways and transitions, and the financial performance of the school. The data is used to identify areas that we excel in and to celebrate successes and achievements. The data is also used to identify areas that we can strive to improve in. It is very pleasing to note that generally our data is higher than similar schools to ours and in many instances at or above state levels.

Dana Street Primary School offers a comprehensive, sequential program with an emphasis on excellence in literacy, numeracy and student well-being with a focus on the individual child. We believe that education is a process of growth underpinned by school community values which are reflected in all that we do.

I would like to thank all of our staff, parents, grandparents and friends, and especially our students, for the considerable contribution that you have all made to ensure that our school is a dynamic learning environment with a strong sense of community that supports all students to reach their full potential.

Lyn Chamberlain

SCHOOL GOALS 2009-2011

Our vision for Dana Street Primary School is to be a community that promotes life long learning, the pursuit of excellence, and an eagerness to participate and contribute within a global community. We strive to provide a welcoming, stimulating, caring and supportive learning environment for our students, teachers, parents and broader community. The core purpose of the school is to provide a comprehensive education for all students through effective communication, strong teamwork and the application of a range of teaching strategies, within a climate of fun and enjoyment, that enables students to reach their academic, social, emotional and physical potential.

The school’s Strategic Plan for 2009-2011 focuses on the following areas for continuous improvement:

- Continued focus on teaching and learning with an emphasis on Literacy (Writing), Numeracy and the integration of eLearning to enhance student learning and engagement.
- Continued focus on student well-being.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2009

- Continuous improvement in student learning in literacy and numeracy as reflected in our excellent results
- Community involvement in special events and day to day activities at the school including: Fete, Fun Run, Science Night, Soiree, Art Show, Open Mornings, Transition activities, Classroom Helpers, etc. etc.
- Improvements to the buildings and grounds with allocation of $2 million for a new multipurpose room and 2 teaching and learning spaces plus landscaping. $500,000 allocated for refurbishment of the office / administration areas as well as new Infant teaching and learning spaces. $125,000 for refurbishment work to existing heritage listed buildings.
- Continuous improvements to the schools eLearning programs with the successful implementation of the Year 5 to 6 Netbook computer program.

Respect Care Responsibility Inclusion Tolerance Understanding Excellence
The central goal of the Alannah and Madeline Foundation’s Better Buddies Program is to create friendly and caring school communities by building strong relationships between students in their first year of school and their last year of school.

The Mates Program includes students from years 1 to 5 in multi-age groups.

At Dana Street Primary School we place significant emphasis on the personal development of our students. It is our aim to enhance the emotional, physical and social health of all students. To this end we have developed a school-based personal development program which provides students with opportunities to learn to be resilient, optimistic and to deal with the challenges of life in a positive way.

The introduction of the Netbook Trial with the 2009 Grade 5 students was certainly an opportunity to take advantage of e-learning in daily classroom activities especially with a class Smart Board (IWB) available in the classroom too. The students were provided with learning experiences that utilised ICT, on-line resources and allowed for creative displays of finished work. It has enhanced the students e-learning skills and also given teachers new ways of engaging students in learning tasks. It also created an important link between home and school, and made the students responsible for a valuable piece of learning equipment.

The Prep Transition Program is designed to involve all members of the current staff, students and community, making the school environment welcoming to all our new families. It included a comprehensive brochure that was delivered to all childcare centres and kindergartens around Ballarat. The brochure endeavoured to give interested parents the chance to learn about our school’s high standard of values and to select which transition activities they wanted to attend with their child. These activities ranged from Kinder Gym, to information sessions, buddy sessions and in class activities. The transition program turned out to be a success with our enrolments for 2010 rising by 50%. Day one of prep gave students the opportunity to walk into a familiar setting, where they already had a good relationship with their big Grade 6 buddy and teacher.

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Life Education Van visit

Family Breakfast at School followed by Jump Rope for Heart activities and fundraising

‘Jorja’ the school dog

Personal Development Program (PDP)

Better Buddies / Mates Programs
EXTRA CURRICULA ACTIVITIES:

- Extension programs: piano, guitar, drums, speech & drama, dance
- Health and Physical Education Programs
- Personal Development Programs
- After School Sports Teams: soccer, netball, football, swimming, cricket, etc.
- Visual and Performing Arts Programs
- Indonesian and Multicultural Studies
- Student Leadership Opportunities and Programs
- Excursion and Incursions
- Year 6 Health and Human Relations Program
- Camps for Years 3/4 and 5/6
- ESL (English as a Second Language) Support Programs

SRC—fundraising BBQ and casual dress day to raise money for the sponsorship of World Vision Child ‘Omar’ who lives in Kenya.

Visual Arts Program & Art Show
An art show was held to display and celebrate the children’s wonderful work and Jillian and Kellie had done a fantastic job once again creatively displaying the works in the gym. The show opening was for parents only and the fete also attracted a number of visitors.

Performing Arts Programs
Students have the opportunity to demonstrate their performing arts skills in a variety of ways. The Dana Street School Concert and our Soiree each year is always well represented and supported by the school community. The Soiree is held in fourth term, where all the students across the school are invited to perform in the specialist areas, which includes drums, jazz, guitar, piano and keyboard. Biannually, the school holds a very successful whole school concert at the Performing Arts Centre in Ballarat, whereby the grades perform magnificently to create a wonderful family evening. Children also have the opportunity and are encouraged to perform each Friday at our weekly assemblies.
Each Wednesday a number of parents attended the community computer classes. The parents learnt how to use Microsoft Word, Publisher, Excel and Powerpoint, along with downloading photos and setting up email accounts. It was wonderful to see their confidence grow when using the computer programs and also the discussions about how this program helped them with their everyday lives and their children’s learning.

Some of the achievements of 2009 are clear to see as you walk in the front door of the school. After endless meetings with politicians, Department of Education officials, numerous architects, project managers and building site managers we now have the most amazing office and staff area. We also have an outstanding multipurpose building, filled with high-tech gizmos our children will be able to use in their everyday education. Our new prep/1/2 are has now been started and a glance through the window will allow you to see how fast this project is coming along. This dedicated area will give our children a great educational experience.

Next on our plans is a revamp of the existing gymnasium. 150 years of use and Ballarat’s weather extremes have not been kind to it. The portables will be moved from the oval and we will have the oval back ready for cricket and summer activities.

School Council President’s Report

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At Dana Street Primary School, we are in the privileged position of having the most amazing and dedicated teaching staff looking after the every need of children. An office staff that we would be lost without and that are ready to answer the smallest or largest question we might have. A Principal and Vice Principal that are always fighting to achieve opportunities for our school community. All of these miraculous educators are extremely approachable. I would highly recommend getting involved in whatever capacity your time will allow.

Dale Darby

School Contact Details:  Principal:  Lyn Chamberlain  
Address:  Dana Street, Ballarat 3350  
Phone:  03 53 32 1301  
Website:  http://www.danaps.vic.edu.au