

# Banksia Park School R-7

*'LEARNING FOR LIFE – PATHWAYS TO EXCELLENCE'*



Government of South Australia  
Department of Education and Children's Services

**Principal: Ms Jan Carey Phone: 8264 2114**

**Governing Council Chairperson: Lynn Chilman**

## 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2010 Annual Report outlines Banksia Park R-7 School's progress towards achieving the Strategic Priority Areas of the School Site Plan in the areas of:

- Focus on Learning
- Engagement
- Literacy, Numeracy & Science
- Our school, our future

The Governing Council and staff have continued to work collaboratively to ensure that students at Banksia Park R-7 are provided with a learning environment that caters for their learning and wellbeing needs as individuals. We have pleasure in presenting the following report to our community.

Jan Carey  
Principal

Lynn Chilman  
Chairperson

### 2010 Highlights

My first year as Principal at Banksia Park R-7 School has been full of highlights, excitement and incredible learning. We have achieved some significant milestones this year; ones that I'm sure have formed a lasting memory in the minds of students, staff and parents who have participated in the special events and learning throughout the year.

#### *Focus on Comprehension*

One of our major priorities for 2010 was improving literacy and numeracy achievements through a focus on comprehension and ICT. All teachers in our school R-7, were involved in professional learning about comprehension strategies and focussed specifically on improving reading outcomes for our students by incorporating varied comprehension skills and strategies into their practice. We were very fortunate to have Stephen Graham, a well respected literacy expert, attend our school and provide professional learning about the various strategies for teaching inferencing skills in comprehension. This focus on comprehension will continue into our new Site Improvement priorities for 2011-13 where student achievements will be tested and analysed to monitor our progress as a school.

#### *Solar Schools Grant*

Our school was fortunate to win a \$50,000 grant for the Solar School Program. During 2010 we installed energy efficient lighting in classroom areas around the school. We are also installed a 3KW solar panel connected to a real-time website which will allow classes to monitor how much solar energy we are generating through the day. This will be informative for our students to track over the coming years.

#### *Building the Education Revolution*

The construction of the gymnasium and our covered outdoor learning area, has been a significant focus in our school community for 2010, beginning with the demolition of the old activity rooms and canteen, the building of the COLA, landscaping and of course the final completion of our fantastic gymnasium which was officially opened on the 7<sup>th</sup> December. Our new gymnasium will, and has already, made a significant difference to our school, the physical education programs we will be able to offer, and the whole school activities we can participate in together, in comfort. It is an asset that our students, staff and community will enjoy for many, many years.



#### *Premier's Reading award*

This year our school was awarded a District Champion School Cup for our participation in the Premier's Reading Challenge. We were chosen because of a stunning 94% completion rate in the Premier's Reading Challenge which was the best of all schools in the North East.

At the ceremony, Madison Bielby and Jordan Miller, represented our school and were presented with a prize consisting of a commemorative plaque presented by the Premier, a selection of new books for the library presented by the Minister of Education and our Champion School Cup by Federal Minister for Newland, Tom Kenyon.



#### *Community Garden progress*

During 2010 a group of hard working and dedicated parents, students, staff and community members have met regularly to work on the Community Garden. Significant progress has been made this year with the construction of bird and butterfly attracting garden beds, well mulched pathways, an irrigated veggie garden and a dry creek bed being achieved. Thank you to all who helped to make this possible.

## School context

Banksia Park R-7 School is situated in the north-eastern suburbs of Adelaide. The school has a current student population of 200 students. The students and their families are from predominantly English/Australian backgrounds. Approximately 15% of our students are school cardholders.

## R-7 Enrolment and Attendance

Year Level	2008	2009	2010
Reception	29	27	30
Year 1	18	21	25
Year 2	26	22	24
Year 3	25	28	25
Year 4	31	23	28
Year 5	21	32	26
Year 6	28	21	32
Year 7	29	31	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>213</b>

### Student Enrolments 2010

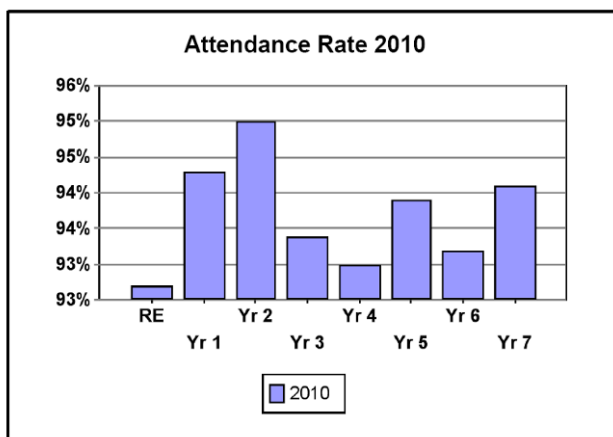
Student enrolments numbers increased slightly this year, with strong enrolments in the Reception intake. During 2010 the school continued to build connections with the Banksia Park Family Kindergarten through a buddy program with our 4/5 class. This has proved to be a positive and successful relationship between the sites and students.

#### Recommendation for 2011:

The school continues to build relationships and working connections with the Banksia Park Family Kindergarten and improve knowledge about school programs and our learning environment with parents.

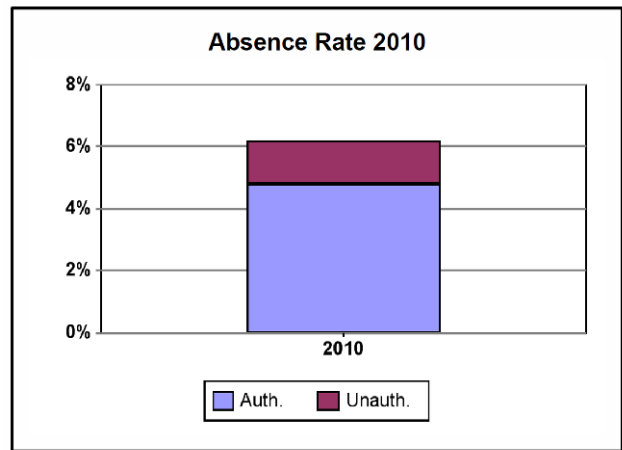
### Student Attendance

#### Attendance - Semester 1



Student attendance has continued to remain strong with most year levels improving their percentage from 2009. The overall school attendance is higher than the district and state averages.

Our absence data this year showed that approx 20% of all student absences were unexplained (unauthorised). This figure needs to be reduced with more specific means of tracking and contacting parents required to follow up on unexplained absences.



#### Recommendation for 2011:

The school has begun discussions and investigations into using electronic means to follow up on student absences through text messages and email requests to parents. This will hopefully improve the percentage of unexplained absences at the school throughout the year.

## Intake & Destination data

Intake data – students who enrolled at Banksia in 2010

Year Level	from a Govt site	Interstate/overseas	from private schools	Total
Receptions	23			23
Years 1-7	15		4	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>42</b>

Destination data – students who left in 2010

Year Level	To Govt schools	Interstate/overseas	To private schools	Total
R-6	3	2	4	9
Year 7	21		2	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>32</b>

Additional information regarding our student population:

Specific Population Enrolment 2010				
	School	Region	DECS	Index
ATSI	1.0%	5.5%	5.1%	1.7%
NESB	10.0%	14.4%	10.5%	9.8%
ESL	1.5%	15.3%	13.6%	10.4%
Disabilities	5.5%	11.8%	9.1%	7.0%
School Card	10.9%	37.1%	28.3%	20.1%

Our Year level progression for 2009 – 2010 indicates a very stable progression of students from year to year for all levels.

#### Apparent Progression Ratios

2009/2010				
	School	Region	DECS	Index
RE to 01	96.3	79.8	79.8	79.6
01 to 02	104.8	100.6	100.9	101.0
02 to 03	109.1	99.1	99.7	101.1
03 to 04	96.4	98.3	99.6	100.8
04 to 05	113.0	98.7	98.7	100.9
05 to 06	100.0	97.1	98.5	98.3
06 to 07	109.5	98.3	98.4	100.7

## 2010 Strategic improvement priorities

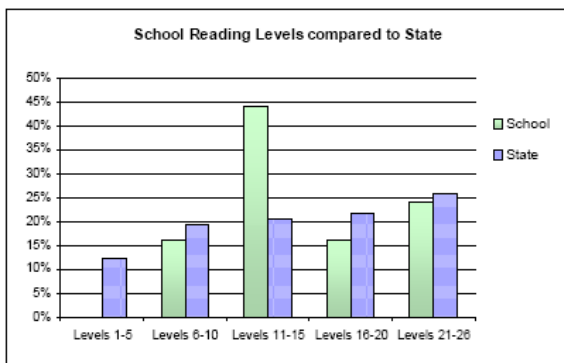
### Priority: Focus on Learning

To improve achievement for learners, challenging targets for improvement and quality teaching practice.

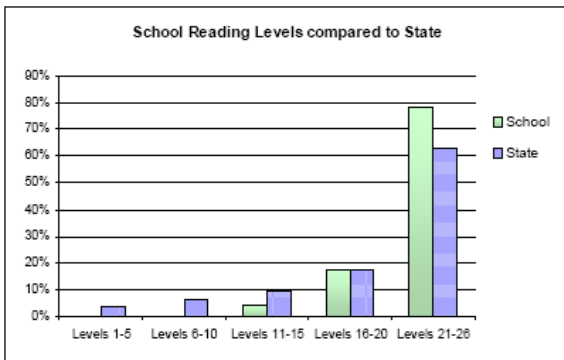
This year the Early Years Literacy Program funding provided opportunities for staff to attend a range of professional learning and fund one to one targeted intervention for Year 1 students. All children in Years 1 and 2 had Running Records collected and centrally recorded during the year as a requirement of DECS twice during 2010.

The school Running Record data provided teachers and parents with ongoing information about their child's reading progress. This data was also used to identify students requiring additional support and specific reading programs throughout the year. The DECS data provided information about our achievement as a school against a State backdrop.

#### Year 1 - 2010



#### Year 2 - 2010



Additional Running Records data indicates strong growth from 2009 to 2010 and shows:

- Banksia Park Year 2 students achieved over the state average in the highest Reading levels 21-26
- less students were recorded in the lower reading levels than the state average
- Girls achieved higher reading levels than boys overall

In 2011 the school, in alignment with the Northern Adelaide Region, has set benchmark targets for student achievement of running records in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

Students with Disabilities were provided with learning plans as part of their Negotiated Education Plan (NEP). Meetings were held with parents and related professionals to monitor outcomes. Individual Learning Plans (ILP) were developed for Aboriginal students, students with learning difficulties and students with challenging behaviours.

Our morning *Leap Ahead Reading Program* for students in R-2 was once again successfully delivered for students needing additional reading practice and development, thanks to SSO support and regular parent volunteers.



#### Recommendations for 2011:

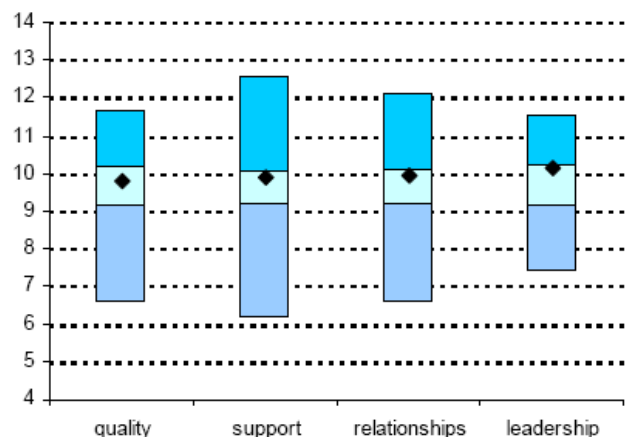
- *Running Record data continue being used in ongoing ways to identify students who require additional reading support.*
- *The Leap Ahead program be continued and extended to support students in Years 3 and 4 who require additional reading support*

### Priority: Engagement

To engage students with learning through the use of ICT

During 2010 Banksia Park R-7 School teachers were involved in professional learning to increase their skills and use of Information Communication Technology (eg using Interactive Smart boards and online resources). We had experts in these fields present workshops for teachers about ways to incorporate the Interactive Whiteboard in the class program. Teachers then worked in learning teams to explore these new skills and share their own learning with other colleagues during the year. *Mathletics* (an online Maths learning program) was implemented again across the school for all classes R-7 with great enthusiasm by students. The whole school outcome has been a much greater incorporation of ICT in learning areas across the school. Teacher confidence and skills have increased over the year with many web-based or online activities being presented in classrooms for the first time.

#### Student Opinion data 2010



The graphs present above, below and average responses in each aspect. The diamond shape indicates where *our* average student opinion data rated against the state averages;

Our 2010 student opinion data (Years 4-7), about the Quality of teaching & learning in our school reflected these results: 75% of these students agree that class activities are interesting and help them learn, 91% of students agreed the school encourages them to have a sense of pride in their achievement, 92% agree the school encourages students to achieve to the best of their ability

**Recommendations for 2011:**

- *Student engagement strategies are continued to be developed through ICT skills, developing higher order thinking strategies and through student centred learning opportunities to engage students more in their learning and opportunities to achieve at school.*

**Priority: Literacy, Numeracy & Science**

To improve student achievement in literacy, numeracy

As previously mentioned in our 2010 Highlights, this year we focussed strongly on the teaching & learning of comprehension skills in our school. All teachers were involved in professional learning and reading about comprehension and utilised a text book ‘Strategies that work; teaching reading comprehension’ to guide our practice and learning. Students across R-7 were explicitly taught various skills of comprehension, particularly the skill of inferencing which was highlighted as a need in our 2009 school data.



The National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) test provides a yearly snapshot of student achievement in various aspects of Literacy & Numeracy in Years 3, 5, & 7. Summaries of data collected from the 2010 NAPLAN results are included in this report.

**2010 Literacy & Numeracy Results**

In 2010, 21 Year 7 students sat the NAPLAN test. Of these students, 95% of our Year 7s achieved the National Minimum Standard in Spelling, 95% in Grammar & Punctuation, 100% in Reading, 95% in Writing and 100% in Numeracy standard.

**Mean Year 7 scores Literacy & Numeracy**

Test aspect	School	Index	National
Grammar	550.2	531.6	535.1
Reading	553.8	545.7	546.0
Spelling	544.5	542.0	544.6
Writing	534.7	539.1	533.4
Numeracy	564.0	539.7	547.7

**Progress of Year 7 students (from Year 5)**

	Lower group	Middle group	Upper Group
NAPLAN standard	25%	50%	25%
Reading	10.5%	36.8%	52.6%
Numeracy	10.5%	42.1%	47.4%

The progress data shows that approximately half of our Year 7 students have progressed in the Upper Group from Year 5 in both reading & numeracy. This is an excellent achievement for growth at our school.

**Mean Year 5 scores Literacy & Numeracy**

Test aspect	School	Index	National
Grammar	484.0	487.4	499.7
Reading	488.6	475.4	487.3
Spelling	497.3	481.2	487.1
Writing	501.2	482.1	485.2
Numeracy	497.7	473.9	488.7

**Progress of Year 5 students (from Year 3 in 2008)**

	Lower group	Middle group	Upper Group
NAPLAN standard	25%	50%	25%
Reading	18.2%	27.3%	54.5%
Numeracy	18.2%	22.7%	59.1%

In 2010, 26 Year 5 students sat the NAPLAN test. Of these students, 92% of our Year 5s achieved the National Minimum Standard in Spelling, 92% in Grammar & Punctuation, 96% in Reading, 100% in Writing and 92% in the Numeracy standard. The progress data shows that over half of our Year 5 students have progressed in the Upper Group from Year 3. A great result of improvement.

**Mean score Year 3 – Literacy & Numeracy**

Test aspect	School	Index	National
Grammar	373.3	396.7	416.9
Reading	391.5	402.5	414.3
Spelling	368.0	390.5	399.2
Writing	394.5	413.4	418.6
Numeracy	344.2	382.1	395.3

In 2010, 23 Year 3 students sat the NAPLAN test. Of these students, 87% of our Year 3s achieved the National Minimum Standard in Spelling, 83% in Grammar & Punctuation, 91% in Reading, 96% in the Writing and 87% in Numeracy.

**Recommendations for 2011:**

- Continue with the whole school R-7 focus on comprehension skills
- Regularly review student data to target specific learning needs
- Allocate additional SSO hours to all identified students who did not meet minimum standards in aspects of literacy & numeracy
- Develop whole school literacy programs to support student learning
- Every child to participate in the Premiers Reading Challenge
- Explicitly teach and familiarise students with the NAPLAN genre in literacy & numeracy
- Investigate and trial an assessment tool to monitor student progress in comprehension (eg TORCH test)
- Explore and implement the new Australian Curriculum in Maths

## Priority: Our school, our future

To raise the profile of Banksia R-7 within the local and broader community

Developing and maintaining strong partnerships with our parents and local community was an important aspect to our school's success in 2010, thanks to the dedication and time from our many parent volunteers.

**Governing Council Committees:** we ran 7 committees of Governing Council including: Fundraising, Marketing, Education, Facilities/ grounds, OSHC, Finance and Dress Code. Please see attached reports from each committee.

**Volunteer training sessions:** This year, 3 volunteer training sessions were conducted for all who were interested in becoming volunteers in the school. We had a total of 45 parents/ grandparents and family members undertake this training. This will continue to be an important process to support our volunteers and build capacity of our school..

**Principal tours:** In 2010, a number of Principal's tours were offered throughout the year. These tours were promoted to local kindergartens, preschools and child care centres. We had good numbers attend and received several additional enrolments to our school. These will continue in 2011.

**Open Day:** In term 3 we held an Open Day with a focus on Comprehension for our school community. Each classroom displayed and modelled a lesson with comprehension as its core learning focus. We had good responses from parents who attended the school at this time.

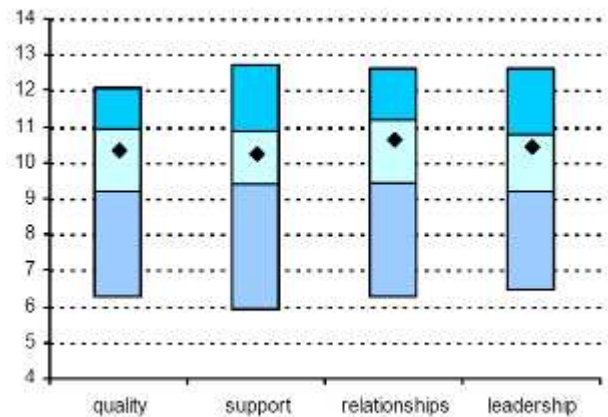
**End of year celebration concert & official opening of the gymnasium:** This was a highlight of the year, with over 300 parents and family members attending this evening. The new gymnasium was officially opened and we held our first celebration event in comfort.



**Choir – Festival of Music:** Our fantastic Year 5-7 choir students performed at the Festival of Music in Sept. What a spectacular show! Congratulations and well done to all our students. Our extended Year 4-7 school choir also performed Christmas songs at various shopping centres during term 4 receiving fantastic reviews from all who listened. Well done!

## Parent Satisfaction

In 2010, DECS conducted and collated responses to parent satisfaction through an online survey process. Forty-two parents participated in the survey. The graphs present above, below and average responses in each aspect. The diamond shape indicates where our average parent opinion data rated against the state averages.



More detailed data responses to the survey questions include: **Quality of teaching & learning** – 86% of the 42 parents agreed that their child receives high quality teaching at the school, 79% agreed the school has high expectations of its students, and 83% agreed that the school has an excellent learning environment.

**Support of Learning** – 84% of parents agreed that their child's teachers provide help and support when it is needed, 78% of parents agreed that this school provides a safe and secure environment, and 97% agreed that students know how they are expected to behave at school.

**Relationships and Communication** –86% of parents agreed that they were given opportunities to have a say in matters about this school, 91% of parents felt well informed about school activities, and 76% agreed that they received helpful information about their child's progress and achievements.

**Leadership and Decision making**– 73% of parents agreed that they were given opportunities to be involved in the development of school plans, 81% agreed that the school was always looking for ways to improve what it does and 76% agreed that the school included parents and community in decision making.

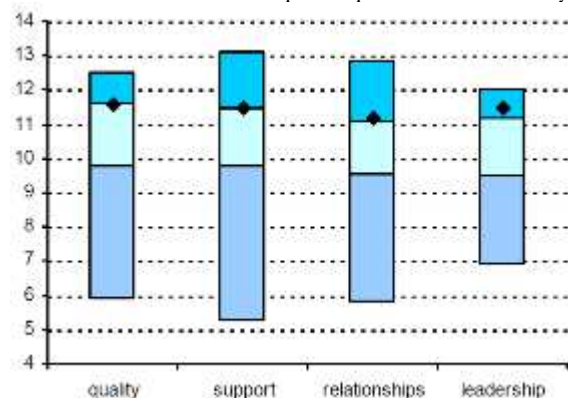
### Recommendations for 2011

The response data indicates a highly positive response by parents in the relationships and support of learning aspects. In 2011 the school will explore ways that parents can become better involved in decision making processes and in communication about the school programs and learning support, particularly through electronic means & our school's website.



## Teacher Satisfaction

In 2010, DECS conducted and collated responses to student satisfaction through an online survey process. Thirteen staff members participated in the survey.



**Quality of teaching & learning** – 100% of staff agreed that learning programs are responsive to student needs, 100% agreed that the school uses assessment processes to provide information on student achievement, 100% agreed that teachers include active participation of students in their lessons.

**Support of Learning** – 100% of staff agreed that the school provides a safe and secure environment, 100% agreed that the school environment is focussed on learning & 84% agreed that the school's programs provide for the needs of every student.

**Relationships and Communication** – 100% of staff agreed that our school involves all staff in developing the school's vision, 82% agreed that there is a broad range of communications that inform parents about the school & 100% agreed that parents input was valued at this school.

**Leadership and Decision making** – 92% of staff agreed they are encouraged to pursue professional development, 100% agreed that they have appropriate opportunities to be involved in decision making and 100% agreed that the school was well organised this year.

### Recommendations for 2011

*Staff will continue to identify, develop and address these areas within professional learning opportunities, staff and team meetings and through performance management processes in 2011.*

## ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

### Teacher attendance

Teaching staff attendance for the year 2010 was 97.4%

### Teacher Retention

Of the total teaching staff of 10, only 1 contract teacher left at the end of 2010 due to the end of their tenure here and was transferred to another position.

### Teacher Qualifications

All teachers hold required teacher registrations in South Australia. The following is a breakdown of the percentage of teacher qualifications held by teachers at the school.

Bachelors Degree 30%, Diplomas 92%, Graduate Certificate 15%. Some teachers have multiple qualifications and certificates.

## Expenditure and teacher participation in Professional Learning

Banksia Park R-7 School staff were involved in the Science/Maths Strategy this year. This strategy was funded by DECS with approx \$16,000 in grant money being accessed by teachers to attend training days and purchase whole school resources. All JP teachers attending professional learning funded through the Early Years Literacy grants. All teachers R-7 participated in comprehension PD facilitated by Stephen Graham at our school.

As required by DECS, all teaching staff completed an additional 37.5 hours of professional learning out of school hours. (Most teachers completing many more hours than this).

### Value added programs

Value added programs are those which are not priorities for development in the Site Learning Plan but provide excellent learning outcomes for students. Some of these programs for 2010 were:

- Clean Up Australia Day
- Whole school Bookweek activities
- Australian Dance lessons
- Swimming lessons R-5 at Elizabeth Aquadome
- Camp for Year 6/7 at Wirraway
- JP 'Bridges' excursion
- Student Leadership opportunities & SRC
- Sports Day & Walkathon
- Aquatics for Year 6 & 7
- School Celebration Night
- Year 7 Graduation
- Whole school 'Pool Day'

## Site Self Review (DIAF)

In 2010 a site self review was conducted with all staff and Governing Council members. The survey results indicated strong positive data in all aspects of the school, particularly Focus on Learning, Set Directions, Target Resources, Make Data Count and Share Leadership. In close analysis of the data, differences between parent and staff perspectives were noted in some areas. Our focus for 2011 is to improve the communication of learning and programs in the school with our parent community and seek feedback on further improvements. This focus has been included in our Site Improvement Plan for 2011-13.

## Financial Data

Financial Reports of the school will be available at the Governing Council AGM or on request from the front office.

*I would like to sincerely thank all staff, parents and members of the Governing Council for their efforts and contributions in 2010.*

*Jan Carey  
Principal*