



COORARA PRIMARY SCHOOL

2023 Report to School Community
Presented at the AGM on 14 February 2024



Our Vision: Build a community of curious, creative, resilient and open-minded learners

Principal: Stephanie Tulloch
Governing Council Chairperson: Cristie Scarff

Highlights of a Successful Year of Learning

We started the year with 204 students and nine classes. 20 Reception children started their formal schooling at Coorara.

There was a change of classes for a number of teachers as we made a JP team in the Red Unit of Years R-2. We made some changes in our Specialist Subjects as we had a change of teacher as well, and offered children a double science lesson, 2 PE and 2 music lessons each week.

It was a change to be able to have the lead in with all staff on board and to be able to meet face to face. **Soaring to Success** was well supported and made the transition for most students very calm and easy. There was a big focus on 'Codes of Conduct' across all rooms, with set expectations for learning.

Leadership for the Year 6 students started early, with them attending the 'Adelaide Dream and Lead Youth Leadership Conference' at the Hotel Grand Chancellor. All Year 6 students had to create their own resume and apply for a leadership role for the 2023 school year.

'COVID' still hampered things that we wanted to do, but the stressors of it lessened over the year.



Our Community Night, 'School is where the Heart is' was a lovely evening. It was well attended by so many families, with Children's University and Smith Family in attendance. The BBQ and the snow cones were a hit, and parents enjoyed seeing what their child's classroom looked like.



MAGICAL MEMORIES

Reception children invited their families to **Magical Memories**. The two classes created some lovely pieces of art to take home. It was special to see the family interactions on these nights, with parents gaining much enjoyment from the activity.



Bike Ed was a great success with our senior students. It was fabulous to see them going outside of their comfort zone to participate.



Harmony Day

was celebrated in March with a community sausage sizzle and a touch of orange! Children celebrated how all our differences make Australia a great place to live. Classes all got into the spirit of things, with activities occurring in all rooms. Handprints were gathered from all students who were here on the day. The poles in the Kaurua walkway look beautiful.





During 2023 we continued to offer two programs for children aged 0-5 and their parents/carers. Children and parents enjoyed stories, songs and rhyme at Little Bookworms. This program promotes strong connections with young families in our community and the importance of early literacy development.

play create connect playgroup was held weekly in room 5 and was a wonderful asset to our school. We have many families attending and it is a great way to showcase Coorara Primary.

MIX 102.3 came to visit on 24 March. They set up at 5am. It was a very early start and ended with all of the school celebrating the event – what a wonderful community event and it filled the school with so much joy.



Our SRC represented our school at the **ANZAC DAY Youth Vigil** in the South. Together with other young leaders from our community they helped to keep the ANZAC spirit firmly in our consciousness and will help pass on this understanding and respect to future generations.



Book week on Thursday 24 August was a great hit with most of the school dressing up, celebrating the 'Read, Grow, Inspire' theme. I loved how many of the senior students took part and followed the school direction of making it junior appropriate. The hall was filled with the sound of feet walking their parade, making their way up from the Red Unit, past all their family members. Karina did a great job of the prizes, and her magical tree in the library still stands strong.

Walk to school: What a wonderful turn out to 'Walk to School'. We had over 150 children and parents walking with us, with a focus on exercise for health. We arrived at school, with Nat Cook (MP) with us for a sausage sizzle for breakfast.

Coorara Bear Hunt: Each year we invite local Kindergartens to come to Coorara Primary for the Bear Hunt. We had in excess of 80 students this year who came to celebrate our school and the event, and a great day was had by all.

During 2023 students had the opportunity to participate in a number of **sporting experiences** including the Sporting Schools Program, Sports Day, aquatics, swimming and weekly PE lessons with a specialist teacher. A number of students represented the school by participating in **SAPSASA** events such as **District Athletics Day**. Coorara participated in the **Premier's Be Active Challenge**, it was a great to see so many students achieving an award and being physically active. **Sports Day** was early in the year, held on the 31 March. It was trialled in term 1 to separate it from Colour Explosion, and to hope for better weather each year – It is yet to be seen if we continue the trend.



Celebrating NAIDOC Week

NAIDOC week was celebrated with a community event. Students and parents had the opportunity to taste bush tucker foods and connect to land. This year's theme 'For Our Elders' recognises that Country and our cultural heritage are the essence of who we are. NAIDOC week is also a time to think about our future and this starts with educating our next generation of leaders. During NAIDOC week, teachers used the theme of NAIDOC week to grow children's understanding of our history, the culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Colour explosion on 29 September was well represented, and we had some great fundraising for the event. The kids had a great time running the track, and I believe the staff had even more fun. Well, done to Renee Streng and her committee for the success of it.



The **Performing Arts** program continued to grow and be a point of difference for our school in the local community. In 2023 the school performed at Wakakirri. Other Performing Arts opportunities included the string ensemble, Junior Choir, Senior Choir, Rock Band and excursions. Jam Band came and entertained us. Classes participated in two performing arts lessons per week with our specialist teacher. One of our Year 6 students was accepted on music scholarship to Brighton High School.



Wakakirri was celebrated at Norwood Concert Hall on 17 August. We had a great performance, achieving distinction in our chosen act of 'Change'. The children and Nikki Bridgman should have been extremely proud of their efforts. They performed and presented to the best of their ability and did us proud.



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Childrens University Graduation was held on the 7 November, where a number of our students graduated with their diplomas. It is such an exciting program for students, and really gets them to experience what Adelaide has to offer outside of school and home. It was wonderful to celebrate some of the students' learning journeys at the ceremony at Bonython Hall. With the support of their families, they actively participated in a wide range of learning experiences outside of school and visited many learning destinations across the city. Thank you to Anthony Parina and Karina Carlisle for supporting the students' learning journeys.



Twenty-four children participated in '**Coorara Cubs**', our preschool to school orientation program. The program ran for 6 weeks in term 4. (It was a shorter program this year due to the changes with the 2024 midyear intake and trying to accommodate the program). The children experienced many aspects of school life, met staff and met their classmates. All children received a Starting School Showbag.



Whole school Excursion: We attended the Symphony Orchestra on the 20 October. The children all travelled by bus to the event where we heard the book 'Through the Smoke' written by Phil Cummings performed to music by the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. We then travelled to the Botanic Gardens where we spent a few hours eating lunch and visiting different parts of the gardens. The children had a fabulous outing, with many exclaiming that they couldn't believe how tall the buildings were in Adelaide Central, as well as how amazing the Plane trees were at the gardens. What a wonderful outing, all paid for by the school.



Halloween on Tuesday 31 October was organised by the school and Governing Council and the kids danced till their hearts content during the day, coming to school in full fancy dress, and enjoying food and drink. I would love to harness the energy of Jamie Theobald as she danced and sang.



Graduation:



Always a great night – the Year 6 Graduation, held on 14 December. I am always amazed and possibly a little emotional when I see our senior students all dressed up and speaking about their peers. I am quite humbled by their memories of their school life. There was a change this year with a number of awards being given out for our specialist subjects, celebrating our students who gave it their all over their schooling. Brianna Price and Daniel Mills pulled out all the stops to make it a night to remember.





Basketball was a new venture for the school, with Courtney Watt starting a Year 5/6 team that played on Monday nights. They practised during the week, and we watched them go from strength to strength. It is great to be out in the community representing our school.

AUSLAN is our choice of language other than English. It is taught in all classes across the school, with a dedicated time each staff meeting to work with staff on new signs. It was great to see four of the children sign the story during Bear Hunt to all of the Kindy children. They did so well.



School Improvement

Our **Site Improvement Plan** describes a small number of goals and targets for improvement. The Site Improvement Plan outlines the precise actions the school will take to achieve the goals. Community members can view our Site Improvement Plan on the school website.

The Site Improvement Plan is a three-year plan (2022-2024). Over the three years our goals are to:

Increase Student Achievement in Reading R-6

Improve student achievement R-6 in Writing

Increase R-6 student achievement in Maths

Strategies used to Improve Student Achievement in Reading, Writing and Mathematics

- High expectations for all students - we expect at least twelve months growth for twelve months of learning.
- Whole school common approaches to the teaching of Reading (eg Synthetic Phonics, using an OG structure) and Mathematics (three part lesson)
- Teachers are intentional - they know the students; the learning intentions are clear and shared with students.

- Whole school focus on the explicit teaching of reading comprehension strategies eg. questioning, summarising, inference, determining importance and visualising.
- Teachers meet weekly to plan units of learning so there is consistency of practice across classes.
- Teachers use the gradual release of responsibility to explicitly teach the reading comprehension strategies. I do..... We do..... You do.... Teachers use think aloud and anchor charts.
- Tracking and monitoring the progress of all students through common assessments. Teachers and leaders meet once a term to talk about student's achievements and progress. Internal Moderation is implemented each term.
- Reading Intervention Programs.
- Writing being linked explicitly to the literacy program.
- Professional Learning for Staff.

Next Steps in Improving Student Learning at Coorara.....

The school is confident that the teaching and learning strategies and structures are embedded across the school and the student learning will continue to increase. The improving student achievement in Writing has continued to be the 2023 focus with in-depth PD for staff happening through staff meetings and Pupil Free Days. Linking the Literacy block, with uninterrupted time in Lesson 1 will continue the progress of students and teachers alike. The work we have started with the Literacy Guarantee Unit will continue, ensuring we are up to date with the latest in quality researched improvements.

In 2023, Mathematics will continue to focus for the school. We will be working with Maureen Hegarty, mathematics advisor, over the year, refining our work in Maths.

Continuous Improvement in student learning will be achieved by a range of strategies including:

- Professional learning for staff
- Teachers working in professional learning teams to design learning, assess and moderate student learning
- Leaders prioritising time and space for teachers to work and learn together
- Leaders being visible in classrooms, supporting teachers and providing feedback.