Timing of the Report

The purpose of the Annual Report is to reflect on the past year and to determine future directions. Originally it was presented at the Governing Council AGM, however, we felt the Annual Report needed to be part of the school magazine, so that it could be accessed by more people.

Citizen of the Year

Congratulations to Anne Martin who was justifiably named the Mypolonga ‘Citizen of the Year.’ Anne’s community work, and passion for teaching, have been recognized by her community. Congratulations to Michaela Zadow who was named ‘Young Citizen of the Year.

Times Tables

It is an expectation that all students (except NEP’s) will know all of their tables by the end of Year 5. Congratulations to the 83% of Year 5 students who have met this learning goal.

Innovation

In 2011 Mypolonga Primary School was recognized by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) as an ‘Innovative Learning Environment’, one of 7 in South Australia.

We also were state winners of the South Australian Public Teaching Awards in the category of ‘Innovative Engagement with Business and the Community,’ which brought with it a prize of $20,000.
Parent Opinion Survey Analysis

Parent opinion was overwhelmingly positive with comments such as:

- ‘My child is offered many different learning opportunities and is encouraged to step outside her comfort zone.’

- “The communication at the school is excellent. I have always been informed of any problems or learning requirement of my children. The school publishes a comprehensive newsletter every fortnight which includes everything I need to know as a parent.

The following comment has caused reflection:

‘Moving into the future suggest expansion of / more reliance on electronic communication forms eg SMS text and email, use of school’s internet site as opposed to paper brought home by children.’

We will use funds from our Public Teaching Award, to update and maintain our website next year; making it more functional; for example parents will be able to access all excursion notes and other communication from the website. However due to equity issues (some people do not have computers) and very poor mobile service at the school, some of these issues cannot currently be addressed.

Student Opinion Surveys were conducted using the Teaching for Effective Learning (TfEL) Engagement Tool. The statement ‘I have clear goals and standards to aim for’ is an area for reflection.

In 2012 we will be moving from an outcomes based curriculum (SACSA – outcomes achieved every 2 years) to a standards based curriculum (Australian Curriculum). The achievement standards at each year level are clearly defined.

Positive feedback included:

- We do practical hands – on things to help us learn.

- We demonstrate our learning to a variety of people and receive constructive feedback.
NAPLaN Results

NAPLaN Analysis

In 2011 we engaged in professional development, based around the work of Dr. Douglas Reeves. He cites a focus on non-fiction writing as the way to improve achievement in all learning areas.

As we have very small cohorts of children, one child can have a significant impact on results in both a positive and negative way. As NAPLaN is in its 4th year, we are able to now see the progress of the same cohort of children as they move through the school.

Some considerations:

- In the past 4 years no child has made low progress in numeracy from Years 5 – 7 (we are certain the Shop has had an impact on this)
- As students move through the school their achievement improves: eg. the same cohort of students who were below national average in Year 5 in spelling and numeracy, were above national average by Year 7
- There has been some contention about writing results. Writing is more subjective than other test areas and we have found the marking inconsistent. Stephen Graham (a literacy consultant) agrees with us and is following this up for us.

Our website: www.mypolongps.sa.edu.au

Staff Qualifications:

- Bachelor of Education - 2
- Graduate Diploma of Teaching - 1
- Bachelor of Early Childhood - 2
- Diploma of Teaching - 2
Channel 7 News Item

The Rural City of Murray Bridge employed a public relations firm to get the story of our School Shop into the media. They were successful and for a full day we had a news team at school documenting the Shop.

Our story was aired nationally and was seen by many people as evidenced by the phone calls and messages we have received from all around Australia.

Imagine Mypolonga 2020 is another initiative of the Rural City to get feedback from the community as to how we envision Mypolonga in the future. Meetings are held in the upper primary classroom and are attended by a wide cross section of people.

Attendance and Lateness

Good attendance is closely linked to student achievement. We refer families with poor attendance to the Regional Attendance Coordinator.

Attendance is as follows:

- Reception: 93.6%
- Year 1: 94.5%
- Year 2: 96.3%
- Year 3: 91.3%
- Year 4: 92.7%
- Year 5: 92.8%
- Year 6: 93.7%
- Year 7: 92.1%

Lateness continues to be an issue and we are working with families to overcome this.

Governing Council Report

The major decisions and achievements of the Governing Council in 2011 were:

- The decision to move from 4 classes to 5
- The extension of the oval after obtaining a lease from the Rural City of Murray Bridge for land at the bottom of the current oval.
- The continuation of Chinese as Mypolonga’s second language
- Lobbying for, and installation of an emu crossing at the school gates.
- Ratification of Bullying and Volunteer policies.
- Preparation and endorsement of school budget.
- Organisation and implementation of a successful working bee.
- Endorsement of new school logo.
- Fundraising ($7 000) from Community and Service Committee, which supports ICT in the school

I would like to congratulate and thank all committees and the Governing Council for their hard work and commitment to our school and encourage everyone to contribute to decisions made at Mypo.