

**Black Rock Primary School  
3631**

**2008 Annual Report to the  
School Community**



## School Overview

**PURPOSE** - To provide a dynamic learning climate that engages students to achieve their personal best in an atmosphere of mutual respect and cooperation towards society and the environment

**VALUES** - The following values are seen as being central to life at our school and we attempt to apply these in our everyday dealings with each other and in the development of our programs and policies:

- **Respect**

Recognising and accepting the differences in ability, race, religion and beliefs of others

- **Relationships**

Strong relationships between all members of the school community are developed

- **Teamwork**

Learning together to achieve the best possible outcomes for all

- **Learning**

Developing and acquiring knowledge, skills, values and attitudes

- **Innovation**

Transferring of learning into new and creative ideas

- **Environmentalism**

Commitment to sustainable futures

**These values are displayed when:**

- We display our trust and faith in others
- We communicate honestly and with integrity towards each other
- We respect a variety of views
- We value difference throughout our community
- Students, teachers and the community work together with enthusiasm to achieve the best possible outcomes in all endeavours
- We persist and encourage risk-taking as a method of promoting learning
- We work together to find solutions to problems
- We acknowledge and celebrate effort, achievement and improvement in all members of the school community

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

### **Social – community and demographics**

- 6% of families entitled to receive Educational Maintenance Allowance
- 80% of families where one or both parents/guardians are professional or business proprietors
- likely to see an increase in current enrolment of 377
- the school has an extremely professional staff team
- the age/experience profile of the staff has changed over the past few years after an extended period of very little personnel change, enabling employment of a number of graduate class teachers

### **Educational**

- The Victorian Essential Learning Standards with a greater emphasis on ICT
- new assessment and reporting arrangements continued in 2008
- the school gained accreditation in performance and development culture in 2007 and continues to further develop that culture in the school in 2008

### **Technological**

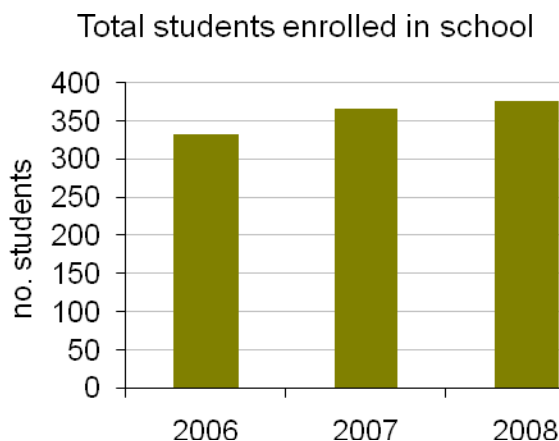
- new classroom technologies are available with local intranet available since 2007
- approximately 95% of students have access to a computer at home
- all staff have laptop computers
- classrooms are equipped with computers at a ratio of 4 per classroom and a lab where each child has access to one computer

### **Environmental – grounds and facilities**

- all rooms are well-equipped and conducive to effective learning
- all spaces are heated and air-conditioned
- areas of concern include the adequacy of resource space and limited storage space
- grounds are well established with attractive gardens
- extensive play spaces for children
- new playground equipment installed in 2008

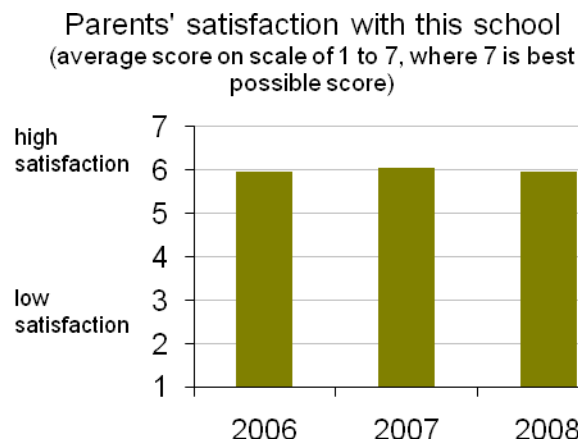
## **Student enrolments**

The school has had a steady growth in enrolments over the last 3 years.



## Parent Satisfaction -

Parent Satisfaction with the school has been consistently high over the past 3 years.



Parent involvement and support continue to be a strength in the school's operations at a variety of levels:

- The role of School Council in the review and development of policy matters and the invaluable and tireless work of the sub-committees :
  - Education
  - Finance
  - Grounds and Buildings
  - Marketing
  - Fundraising
  - Out of School Hours Care
- The prominent role of the Black Rock Parents in the classroom programs and activities and fundraising.
- The extensive support of the school community throughout a range of fundraising activities such as the Concert, the Wine raffle, the Masquerade Ball, Rock-on-the-Green and numerous raffles and sales that were held throughout the year.

## Commonwealth Requirements

- **Teacher Satisfaction** - "The average score for teacher satisfaction (morale) at Black Rock Primary School was 90.7 on a scale from 0 to 100 where 100 is the best possible score. The State average was 80.8
- **Teacher Absence** - The average number of days absent per teacher was 7.65 days.
- **Retention** - Of the 31 teaching service staff at June 2007 (including those on leave without pay), 23 or 74% were still at Black Rock Primary at June 2008. This figure across all Government schools was 84%..
- **Teacher participation in Professional Development** All teaching staff have participated in professional learning throughout the year, such as VELS programs, ICT programs, First Aid, Assessment and Reporting programs (including the DEECD trial project for English in the Early Years) and the Induction / Mentoring for Beginning teachers program.
- **Teacher Qualifications** – All teachers at Black Rock Primary School are registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching having complied with the requirements for registration.

## Principal's Report

### Enrolment and Staffing

Individual Learning Plans are developed for every child at Black Rock Primary School to support our belief that all students have the right to learn at their own rate and at their own level of development.

The Thinking Curriculum is evidenced by programs at all year levels. We provide differentiated curriculum to cover the needs of all students. Parallel Learning is available for students in Years 5 and 6. Our students requiring extension activities have access to the SEAL Program (Selected Entry for Accelerated Learners) and the GAP Program (Gifted Accelerated Program). Students deemed "at risk" are able to access Reading Recovery, Maths Intervention and the Language Support Program.

The confirmed enrolment at the February 2008 census was 377.

The School Global Budget (SRP) allowed for the following staffing arrangements for 2008.

Teaching Staff	Teaching Support Staff
Year Prep x 3	SSO3 x 1 Administration
Year 1 x 3	SSO1 x 1 Administration
Year 2 x 3	SSO1 x 2 x 0.8 Integration
Year 3 x 3	SSO1 x 2 x 0.6 Integration
Year 4 x2	
Year 5 x2	
Year 6 x 2	
PE x 0.6	Contract Cleaner x 1
Music x 0.6	
LOTE x 0.8	
Visual Arts x 0.6	
Reading Recovery x 0.5	
Language Support x 0.4	
Assistant Principal x 1	
Principal x 1	

The school is supported by an ICT Technician, Guidance Officer and Speech Pathologist who service the school on a weekly basis. The school is an active member of the Cerberus Innovation and Excellence Cluster and has committed to developments in this area. We have a Science teacher from Sandringham SC who takes Years 5 and 6 students for "hands on" Science lessons each fortnight as part of this Cluster arrangement.

**Literacy:** The data for Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening from Year Prep to Year 6 is outstanding. The school results are consistently above State and Like School benchmarks. Our NAPLAN results for Years 3 and 5 were as high as they had been for AIM in previous years. 100% of Year 3 and 5 students were above the National Benchmark in Literacy. Staff members work tirelessly to maintain these excellent results.

**Mathematics:** Once again the data for Number and Measurement is well above State and Like School benchmarks from Year Prep to Year 6. The NAPLAN results for Years 3 and 5 were as high as they had been for AIM in previous years. 100% of Year 3 and 5 students were above the National Benchmark for Mathematics. The staff are aware that they need to be ongoing learners themselves to ensure that these standards are maintained. They consistently attend Professional Development to ensure that they are aware of all new initiatives in Teaching and Learning.

The Thinking Curriculum underpins all work in Integrated Curriculum. Students learn to recognise their preferred thinking styles and to work with them. Our Curriculum is skills-based rather than content driven; we equip students with the skills to research and discover.

### **Highlights of 2008**

- The school received a \$500,000 Grant from the Better Schools Today program
- A wide range of exciting excursions and incursions for all year levels.
- Learning Rocks –Little Devils Performance and Workshops
- School FETE
- Coaching and Mentoring
- Education week celebrations.
- Literacy and Numeracy Week celebrations
- Water Safety Program for all students. and workshops
- Inter-school sport, Cross County, Swimming and Athletics for Senior students
- Community Service - Bowls
- Junior School Council
- Black Rockers School Band (Played for Rock on the Green)
- School Choir (Played at various venues)
- Family Life Education Program
- Jump Rope for Heart
- Footy Dress Day and coin line for State School's Relief
- Family Picnic
- Family Campout
- Casual Dress Days for Uluru Orphanage
- Easter Hat Parade
- Easter Raffle
- Re-enactment of Gallipoli Landing for Anzac Day
- Masquerade Ball
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize in Shop for Your School Competition
- Junior school sports days
- Comprehensive Transition Programs for both Year 6 and new Prep students
- Premier's Reading Challenge
- Instrumental Music program
- Purchase of 14 Interactive Whiteboards
- SEAL Program
- Parallel Learning
- Bike Education for Years 4 to 6 students
- Year 6 Bike Hike
- Black Rock Cup
- Footsteps Dance Program
- Coach Approach – both winter and summer sports
- Year 5/6 social
- Rock on the Green
- Year 6 Graduation
- Carols Night

**Facilities:** The school has an enthusiastic parent body who work tirelessly to ensure the buildings and grounds provide a safe environment for the students. Working Bees are held for each year level throughout the year.

**Conclusion:**

As we challenge each of our students to achieve his/her full potential we are supported by devoted staff and parents whose enthusiastic efforts continue to ensure the provision of the best possible outcomes and learning environment for the students at Black Rock Primary School. I am very impressed by the dedication of the school staff as they continue to engage and challenge students, and of the willingness of parents and school community members to support school programs. As Principal I am proud to be part of a school where the students' display of citizenship is reflected in both their positive attitudes and high degree of success within and beyond the school.

**Julie Luiten**

## School Council President's Report

2008 again marked another year of strong growth, achievements and fantastic school community support for our remarkable primary school. Continuing recruitment of new prep children and families has seen our numbers grow significantly. Not only have the numbers grown but our exceptional academic and sporting results and progress has been maintained. Our Primary School continues to rate among the top in the State.

Of course with the growth in student numbers comes extra staffing needs. We have been diligent in seeking the best possible candidates to teach our children and I'm very pleased to report this has been a huge success.

We have also been chosen for a significant upgrade to our school infrastructure with a \$500,000 grant. Work has progressed, initially on major upgrades to the Prep rooms – a fantastic job so far. The new electronic/interactive whiteboards are now operating in half the classes.

All Schools operate on limited funding provided by the State Government and are substantially supplemented by internal fund raising to ensure that our designated teaching programs can be delivered. The sign of a strong school and participative community is the extent to which fundraising bridges those financial gaps. We are indeed fortunate to have such a dedicated group running our fundraising. – the outstanding effort and results from the bi-annual fete ,especially considering the miserable and rare wet day, is a great example.

We are delighted to wish our Grade 6 graduates best wishes and a fond farewell having been well prepared through individual learning plans and parallel education for secondary school.

2008 may have been “annus horibilis ‘ for the financial world but for Black Rock Primary School it was another year of excellence , growth and achievement; one to be very proud of. Definitely an “A+” !

**Roger Paul**



## Student Progress & Achievements

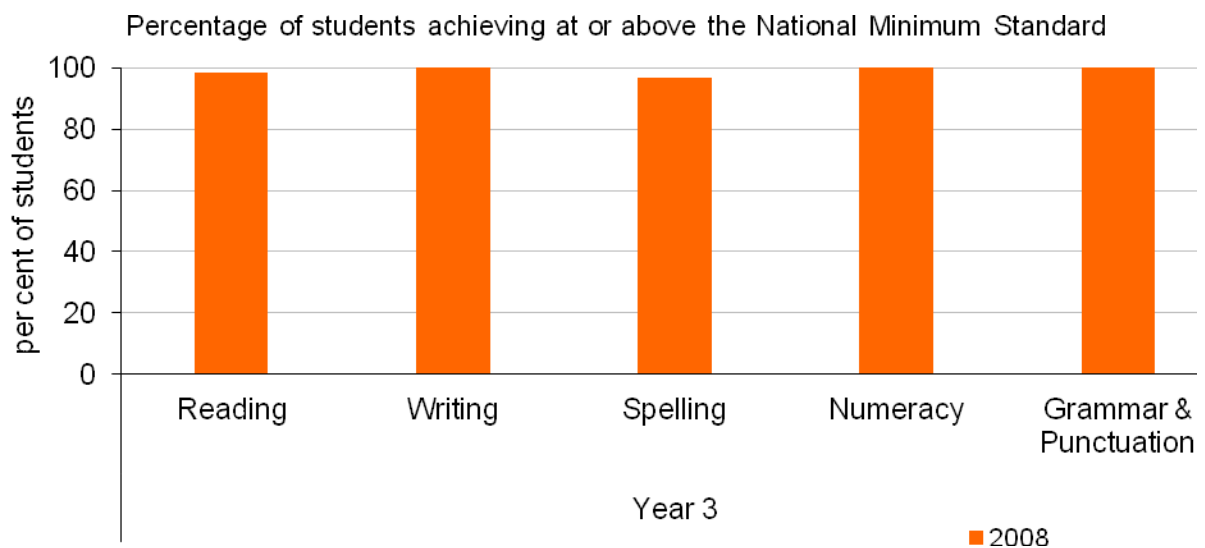
### Student Learning

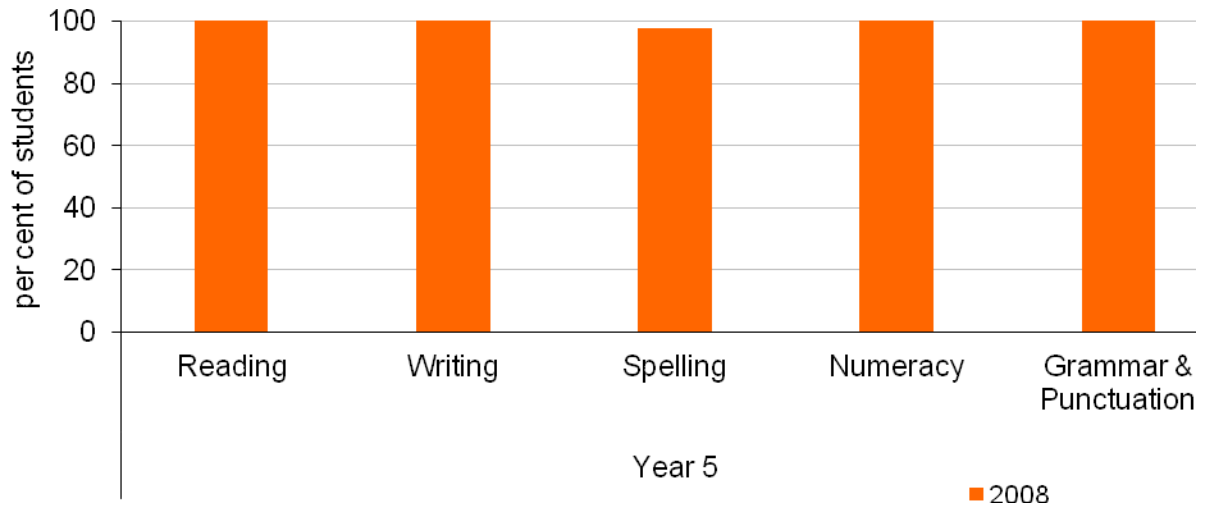
At Black Rock Primary School we ensure that all students are challenged in their learning to achieve at their optimum level supported by a range of teaching and learning strategies and programs. We have therefore developed teaching and learning strategies that cater for the individual learning needs of all students through the provision of a VELS based curriculum that challenges them to achieve at their optimum level.

Every child has his/her own Individual Learning Improvement Plan. Goals are established for every child. The teacher discusses this plan with parents, outlining how the school will help the child to achieve their goals and how the parents can contribute to the achievement of the goals. A vital home/school partnership is established to ensure each child has challenging but achievable tasks, targeted at their individual rate of development.

To extend our students we provide a Differentiated Curriculum, which caters for the individual needs of every child. eg, the Gifted Accelerated Program (GAP), Selected Entry for Accelerated Learning (SEAL) and Parallel Learning. For students at risk we provide Reading Recovery, a Special Needs program and our Maths Intervention Program. To enable these programs to be included in the curriculum, our Student Resource Package (SRP), which is the school budget needed to reflect our planning for teachers to manage these programs. Once the teachers were allocated to the programs our cash component of the school budget had to reflect the need for resources. The Finance Committee ensured that these programs were adequately resourced.

### Percentage of students achieving at or above the National Minimum Standards –





## Student Engagement and Wellbeing

Black Rock Primary School provides a safe, caring and welcoming school environment that encourages personal responsibility and respect for the rights of others, where children feel emotionally, socially and physically secure.

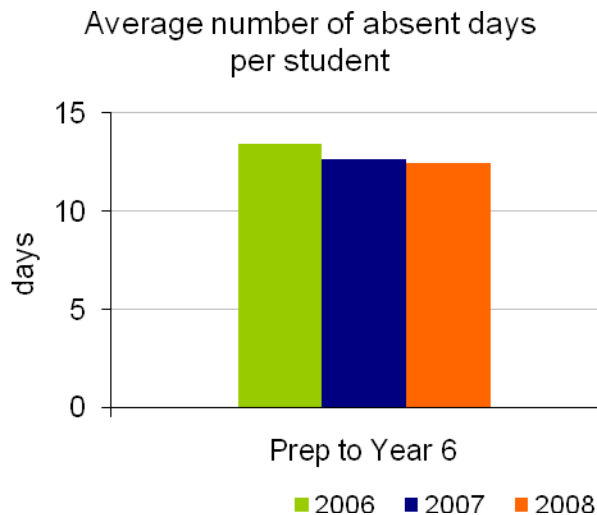
To enable us to achieve this goal we have introduced a number of programs to enhance student engagement and well-being. Program Achieve ("You can Do It" Program) is implemented in all classes (Prep to Year 6) on a weekly basis. Student of the Week awards which reflect the values of the YCDI program are presented at assembly every week so that students realise that both parents and staff value their achievements.

We promote positive behaviour through our YCDI program and through our school newsletter. We publicly celebrate the achievements of staff and students. We appointed a Program Achieve coordinator and a Student Welfare coordinator to ensure that staff received on-going professional development and that the programs were implemented throughout the school.

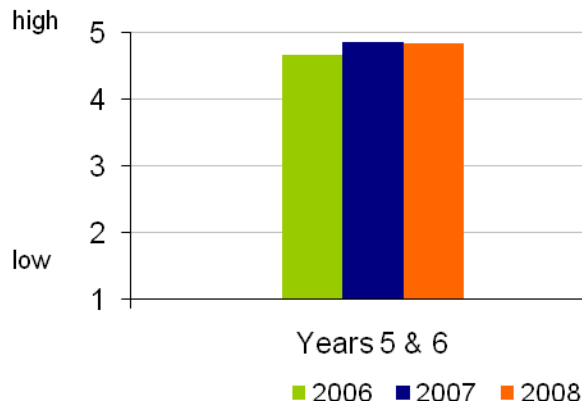
The Junior School Council which provides opportunities for students to elect their representatives for the council gives students the chance to contribute to a wide variety of decision making and it also gives them an avenue to make suggestions for improvements in school routines and resources.

We have a behaviour management program which ensures that all children are treated equally and fairly. All teachers adhere to a staff code of conduct just as all students are expected to adhere to a student code of conduct.

### Average number of absent days per student –



Student connectedness to school  
(average score on scale of 1 to 5, where 5 is best possible score)



These excellent results reflect the success of our Parallel Learning in Years 5 and 6. The students are taught differently as well as separately. Instruction is focussed on the different needs of boys and girls and achieves very high results academically as well as providing students with a strong connectedness to our school.

## Student Pathways and Transitions

At Black Rock Primary School we value the support of our local kindergarten and child - care centres and strive to maintain a sense of co-operation and partnership with them. We provide an opportunity for our Level 1 teachers and Assistant Principal to make regular visits to familiarise the pre-school students with our school community. Our extensive transition program provides sessions for pre-school children and their parents to heighten their awareness and familiarity with the school.

In Term 1 each year we invite parents in the local community to come to the school for an informal meeting with the Leadership team and current Prep teachers and parents. This morning tea is an opportunity for new families to have an informal tour of the school and discuss any questions and concerns.

In Term 2 we have special days such as Circus Day, Maths Day, Fairytale Day for the kindergarten aged children, their parents and our current Preps. We also have literacy Blocks for the Pre - school children and their parents to experience our Literacy program individually. In Term 3 Kindergarten aged children are invited to the school for three "school experiences" The children spend the afternoons in a Prep classroom with our Prep teachers. This is an excellent opportunity for the children to feel part of the "big" school prior to their official attendance.

In Term 4 the children come and spend three mornings with their class teacher and their classmates. The first two days commence at 9:00; the children have a morning session, followed by recess and play lunch. On the third day they meet the Year 5 students who will be their buddies the following year and they all then have a "sausage sizzle" lunch together, before leaving school at approximately 2:15 pm.

Information evenings for parents are held in second and fourth terms. Parents have the opportunity to meet the Leadership Team, all Prep Teachers, the School Council President, and OSHC Coordinator. Parents are given information about the following year and have their questions answered. It is the aim of these sessions to assist families to feel relaxed, confident and prepared for primary school life at Black Rock Primary.

Year 6 to Year 7. We are fortunate to have ongoing support from our local secondary colleges, Sandringham and Mentone Girls. In 2008 Sandringham and Mentone Girls Secondary Colleges and Black Rock Primary School continued to work together in an active partnership throughout the Innovations and Excellence Program.

Throughout the year there is regular interaction with Sandringham Secondary College when a Science teacher holds fortnightly lessons for our Level 4 students.

Towards the end of their final year at Black Rock Primary School, Year 6 students take part in a program to facilitate their transition into secondary education. This involves discussion of possible schools and assistance with choices. Teachers from some of the secondary schools visit us to talk to the children and observe them in their classroom environment.

Arrangements are made for Year 6 students to visit secondary colleges and participate in specially designed programs for a day. Students also have an orientation day early in December at their future school to help them become familiar with the setting and organisation.

## Future Directions

At Black Rock Primary School we are striving to achieve excellence in all areas. With our Building Better Schools funding allowing us to open up classrooms, we are now trying to match our pedagogy with our new flexible learning spaces.

Our classrooms are now becoming 'learning communities.' We are placing emphasis on students becoming engaged in their learning through exploring rich meanings for ideas. We strive to keep our students intellectually engaged and we want our classrooms places where students feel a sense of experiencing a collaborative partnership with their peers and their teachers. We want students taking responsibility for their learning.

Subsequently our Professional Learning Teams will gain much from their modelling and coaching and their professional dialogue. The teams' planning will also be much more effective as they have this opportunity to share best practice.

With each team member being individually accountable, the team collectively takes responsibility for achieving learning gains for all students, regardless of who teaches them.

- Productive teamwork in which teachers gain new knowledge about what they do and how students learn has the power to change the culture of our school and make continuous learning and improvement more manageable.
- Our staff will continually gather information on current practice. (lifelong learning) Teachers have to learn. Professional Learning is the key.
- 'Action Learning' is defined as; 'The learning that occurs among a group of colleagues who develop a united approach to solving a problem.'
- We will foster an environment where teachers feel comfortable and will be prepared to model and demonstrate classroom strategies. Establish a climate of trust.

### KEY IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES.

- A strong PD focus on the Principles of Learning and Teaching specifically as this applies to the teaching of English and Mathematics
- To develop programs and practices that are related more specifically to the teaching and learning needs of boys
- Fully implement VELs
- Developing learning spaces and ICT infrastructure to support the school's vision and goals for learning and teaching. Our new Interactive Whiteboards will be a major focus for learning and teaching strategies.
- Develop leadership across the school
- Embedding the agreed vision and goals within the school community
- Through the development of the school curriculum and teaching and learning practices incorporate the Blueprint strategies.
- To develop a plan towards sustaining a performance and development culture in the school
- Continue to develop a comprehensive transition program for new enrolments to Year Prep, Year 2 to Year 3 students, a 'taster' of Parallel learning at the end of Year 4 and for Year 6 students to secondary schools

## Financial Performance and Position

<b>Financial Performance – Operating Statement Summary for the year ending 31st December, 2008</b>	
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>2008 Actual</b>
DE&T Grants	739,502
Commonwealth Government Grants	19,082
State Government Grants	0
Other	70,638
Locally Raised Funds	379,395
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>1,208,617</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Salaries and Allowances	77,569
Bank Charges	1,871
Consumables	44,038
Books and Publications	11,597
Communication Costs	13,460
Furniture and Equipment	99,968
Utilities	9,400
Property Services	89,287
Travel and Subsistence	
Motor Vehicle Expenses	
Administration	12,799
Health and Personal Development	981
Professional Development	49,936
Trading and Fundraising	65,554
Support/Service	11,190
Miscellaneous	117,130
<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>604,779</b>
<b>Net Operating Surplus/- Deficit</b>	<b>603,838</b>
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>33693</b>
Please note that the above amounts do not include any credit revenue or expenditure allocated or spent by the school through its Student Resource Package	

<b>Financial Position as at 31st December, 2008</b>	
<b>Funds Available</b>	<b>2008 Actual</b>
High Yield Investment Account	633,959.67
Official Account	25,411.59
Other Bank Accounts( listed individually)	
<i>Building</i>	12,850.43
<i>Library</i>	4,599.48
<b>Total Funds Available</b>	<b>676,819</b>
<b>Financial Commitments</b>	<b>2008 Actual</b>
School Operating Reserve	85,180.83
Co-operative Bank Account	
Assets or Equipment Replacement < 12 months	43,769.14
Revenue Received in Advance	
Building/Grounds including SMS < 12 months	533,850
Region /Clusters Funds/School Based Programs < 12 months	
Provision Accounts < 12 months	83.82
Repayable to DEECD	10,000
Other Recurrent Expenditure (Accounts Payable)	3,937.38
Assets or Equipment Replacement > 12 months	
Building/Grounds including SMS > 12 months	
Region /Clusters Funds/School Based Programs > 12 months	
Provision Accounts > 12 months	
Co-operative loan >12 months	
Beneficiary/Memorial Accounts	
<b>Total Financial Commitments</b>	<b>591,640.34</b>



Black Rock Primary School successfully implemented our SRP (Budget) plan to include staffing to cover all of our classroom, specialist and support programs. From the cash component of our budget we created a budget that would allow us to successfully resource all of our programs.

We received a \$500,000 grant from the Better Schools Today building program. This money has been placed in the High Yield account and will be paid in instalments to the builders at the completion of each stage of the building program.

The school implemented very strict guidelines for budget control in 2008 to ensure that the school budget would always be in surplus. Strict and clear internal controls and procedures have been introduced for all purchases and budget guidelines must be adhered to. Congratulations to the Business Manger for establishing outstanding records of procedure.

## School Contact Information

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This report contains summary data extracted from the School Level Report. If you would like to access the School Level Report, please contact Julie Luiten on 9598 2293