School’s Purpose

To contribute to each student’s physical, emotional and academic development and to assist them to foster positive values as participants in an ever changing society.

Our Motto – “Nature, Culture, Future”
The School Community

Our Ethos

Walpole Primary School is part of and strongly identifies with the local community. The School and the community work as a team to achieve our purpose, facilitating the children’s health and well-being, academic achievement, citizenship and resilience.

The parents and School community are encouraged and welcomed to participate in all areas in the School. The School Council is made up of parents and teachers and has an active role in the School development process, including input into policy development and programs implemented at school. P&C meetings are a forum for discussion about educational issues and resources.

School Council 2011

Glen Burton       Chairperson
Kim Burton       Parent/Staff Member
Deanne Blake       Parent
Karen Pascoe     Parent
Julie Ewing       Parent
Antony Egerton-Warburton     Parent
David Edmonds     Parent
Matthew Wrigley   Parent
Lee Cummuskey     Parent
Caitlin Slatter   Staff Representative
Carolyn Brodie    Staff representative
Richard Walker    Principal

P & C Committee 2011

Fiona Brennan       President
Marie Pickett     Vice President
Kim Burton       Secretary
Kelly Burton     Treasurer
Staffing

Total teaching staff for 2011: 12
Teaching staff retained from 2010: 11
New teaching staff for 2011 1
Staff retention rate from 2009 92%

Staff Attendance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Staff</td>
<td>96.8%</td>
<td>95.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Support Staff</td>
<td>98.1%</td>
<td>96.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All School Staff</td>
<td>97.2%</td>
<td>95.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Teacher Qualifications

All teaching staff meet the Professional requirements to teach in Western Australian Schools and are registered with the Western Australian College of Teaching. Five staff members hold a Senior Teacher Qualification.

Professional Learning

All teaching and support staff have engaged in professional learning in 2011. All staff engaged in a total of 40 days of Professional Development (other than School Development Days and Principal Meetings) paid for by the School – costing in excess of $16,000.00. In addition staff have fully self-funded at least a further 14 days of Professional Learning.

Teaching staff: 12  Support staff: 7

Professional Learning includes:
- School Development Days
- Principal and Curriculum Facilitators meetings
- Classroom Management Skills
- Senior Teacher training
- Independent Public Schools training
- Graduate Teacher Training
- SIS
- Vision Education
- EA Induction Training
- Early Childhood
- Whole School Literacy Planning
- Mathematics
- PL for Registrars
- LOTE
- Information Communication Technology (Whiteboards)

Behaviour Management

In 2011 staff and The School Council reviewed the Behaviour Management Policy, making sure it reflected changes to the Department of Education and Training “Behaviour Management in Schools” and “Preventing and Managing Bullying in Schools” policies. The updated policy will provide a shared understanding to a whole school approach to student behaviour management and emotional health and well being.

Other policies reviewed include Bushfire Emergency, Evacuation and Emergency Plan (amended for construction period), Fruit and Water, Head Lice, Physical Education and Non-Compulsory Attendance.
Students

Enrolments
The School population has been on an upward trend since 2006 when it reached a low of 57 students. Enrolments in December 2011 were as follows:

- Kindergarten: 11
- Pre Primary: 12
- Year 1: 13
- Year 2: 11
- Year 3: 12
- Year 4: 13
- Year 5: 15
- Year 6: 12
- Year 7: 16
- Total: 115

Attendance
The 2011 attendance rate across the whole School decreased slightly compared to that of like schools and was marginally below the state average attendance. There remains particular concerns in the Junior Primary classes where most habits are established and with a few individual upper school students. Although there remains concern with a small number of students our Indigenous student attendance rates are significantly higher than state average and like schools attendance rates.

Attendance improvement targets have been set and strategies identified to support the achievement of the targets. Strategies include attendance and school refusal information in School newsletters, parent education and positive reinforcement for excellent attendance.

WALPOLE PRIMARY SCHOOL Attendance Profile 2011 Semester 1

SOUTHWEST Region Attendance Profile 2011 Semester 1
Learning Area Reports

English
Kindergarten students were screened for oral language development using the Teacher Assessment of Communication instrument. Junior primary staff assessed the Pre-Primary students using the On Entry screening. Results indicated that a significant number of children were vulnerable and would experience some significant learning difficulties. Early childhood staff continue to work with Education Department and other local personnel to design and implement early intervention programmes, to be used as a prototype and shared with schools in the District. The oral language programme focussed on the pre primary, Year 1 and Year 2 classes. Oral language development in early childhood is one of the strongest indicators of literacy success.

Following specific Professional Learning two staff members were selected to take part in an ongoing Lighthouse project under the direction of Statewide Speech and Language Services. Following completion of the training staff will provide language support to our own staff as well as to other schools as requested.

Reading, Writing and Spelling have been focus areas for 2011 and will continue in 2012 with increased emphasis on Writing. Data collected from school reporting on Outcome Levels and NAPLAN results indicates that most Year 5 and 7 students exceeded the expected progress in Literacy. In both Spelling and Reading skills the number of students in the top 20% increased. Whilst Spelling results continue to be lower than other Literacy aspects changes in method of instruction that commenced in 2009 will continue into 2012 whilst other programmes are evaluated as possible replacement learning activities. Individual and Group Education Plans are in place for students at risk of not achieving Literacy learning outcomes. In 2011 we have continued to ensure that all students have the opportunity to improve their levels of achievement – support groups were established for Year 4/5 and Year 6/7 students and the Years 1-2 received intensive Literacy/Numeracy support daily each morning. Walpole students made significantly greater gains in progress from Yr 3 to Yr 5 and from Yr 5 to Yr 7 than National and State average increases.

Ten Yrs 5-7 students also participated in the National UNSW assessments receiving one distinction, six credit and three participation certificates.

Mathematics
NAPLAN results indicate significant improvement across the whole School with 2 and 3 students achieving top 20% status in Year 5 and 7 level respectively. In 2012 we will continue to extend Working Mathematically understandings to assist students to maximise their achievements. The Numeracy program has been enriched by participating in a Numeracy and Literacy Week activity and the Senior Room had a team participating in “The Have-Sum-Fun” on-line extension programme. In 2012 the Year 7’s will be offered a support programme in an endeavour to maximise their performance with the implementation of the National Curriculum and to assist them with their transition to secondary school. Walpole students also made significantly greater gains in progress from Yr 3 to Yr 5 and from Yr 5 to Yr 7 than National and State average increases.

Two Yr 6 and Four Yr 7 students also participated in the National UNSW assessments receiving three credit pass and three participation certificates.

Science
The strong focus on Science through UR Walpole has been reflected in the very good results achieved by our students in the WAMSE Science test. Most students achieved at or above the state mean with two Year 5 and five Yr 7 students being grouped in the top 20% across the state. Other students have also shown good progress through the report summary data. The students have been exposed to hands-on investigating activities that build science skills and knowledge.
The UR Walpole program again provided a platform for many interesting science activities and excursions relating to our theme for 2011 “Forest Time” (incorporating “The International Year of Forests”) which again was about sustainability and the future of the whole environment including the school and the local culture; specifically:

- Investigating local flora and fauna (Years 2-3)
- Extension to the vegetable garden and establishment of an orchard
- A recyclable fruit/vegetable garden, compost bins and the chook pen (Yrs 5 – 7)
- Investigating the uniqueness of Walpole (Year 6)
- Rehabilitation of wetlands adjacent to Rest Point (Yrs 4– 7)
- Pastoral care for the elderly residents of Walpole (Yr 7)
- Fishing for a sustainable future (Yrs 3 – 7)
- Supported by Dr Liz Edmonds studying land mass through the taking of core samples at Crinea Lake (Year 5-7)

This led to the involvement of local organisations, such as WoW Wilderness Ecocruises, The Centre for Sustainable Living, Department of Environment and Conservation, The Department of Fisheries and other resource people.

**Society and Environment**

Data collected in this learning area consisted of reporting on Student Outcome levels and the very good results achieved by our students in the WAMSE Science test. These results show that students have made significant progress in Society and Environment with five Yr 5 and six Yr 7 students achieving top 20% scores.

The UR Walpole programme once again provided opportunities for knowledge and skills to be developed in activities that were embedded in a broader programme including investigating Historical aspects of the Walpole-Nornalup District (Yrs K -7).

Some classes have accessed knowledge in the wider community. Examples include the Kindergarten/Pre-Primary and Years 1-2 classes arranging visits by the Volunteer Fire Brigade, St John's Ambulance and State Emergency Services groups and their visits to various community facilities, including the Police Station and Post Office.

**Technology and Enterprise**

Consistent achievement was gained by most students in this area revealed through the report summary data on Student Outcome levels.

The Enterprise strand again featured strongly in our UR Walpole programme. The projects included making lunches for the School members on Fridays, art works, cards and the making of dioramas. Lunches were prepared using as much produce as possible from the School garden; this approach meets our a ‘seed, grow, harvest, prepare and share (eat)’ philosophy.

In 2011 we acquired five new laptops to add to our resources as part of our replacement of the aging Mac units. These units will continue to support the use of the ‘Mathletics’ programme and enable all students to more readily and consistently access this technology. This replacement programme will continue in 2012. Access to the laptops has enabled the students to have greater access to a computer and participate in activities such as word processing, PowerPoint and internet searches. We also purchased two interactive whiteboards for the senior rooms and acquired a further portable unit through the BER programme that will be used mainly in the Early Childhood area. Each of the four classes now has access to an electronic whiteboard; in 2012 we will seek to provide the Kindergarten with a similar unit.

**LOTE**

Following a parent survey Italian was not continued in 2011, with students receiving a cross cultural education through the Society and the Environment learning area involving Indigenous and various nationality studies, with limited exposure to the various spoken languages. Students were exposed to Indonesian culture through our Music programme and the Angklung Orchestra which presented at several community events.
The Arts
Our highly successful music program has been extended throughout the year culminating with outstanding student performances such as the UR Walpole Celebration, School Assemblies, Albany Eisteddfod and the End of Year Concert. In 2011 the Senior Choral and Angklung Orchestras also presented at The Regional Tidy Towns Awards, The WA Government Schools Music Competition in Perth and at several metropolitan schools where their playing of the angklungs was acknowledged as being a unique part of our children’s education. In 2011 additional angklungs were purchased to support expansion of the orchestra’s repertoire. Students have participated in visual arts activities such as the National Snapshots Photograph project run by the National Museum, including a display at Albany and a group of senior students also undertook a photography programme with Alan Smith (School Photographer).

Health and Physical Education
This year a body awareness programme was introduced by our specialist Physical Education teacher to improve physical skills of the students. Most students have continued to show improvement. This has been demonstrated in the report summary of student outcome levels and our Interschool Athletics results.

Most classes have had morning fitness programmes in place to ensure the DET initiative for every child to have 2 hours of physical activity is attained.

Self-esteem, resilience, bullying and decision making have been the emphasis of the Health programme this year.
National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy – NAPLAN

In 2008 NAPLAN replaced WALNA and WA students were assessed comparatively with all Australian students. In 2011 WA students achieved significantly higher outcomes and performed well compared to other states; strategies put in place by the Department of Education and schools across the state to address previous poor performances contributed to the improved results.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>BAND</th>
<th>READING</th>
<th>WRITING</th>
<th>SPELLING</th>
<th>PUNCTUATION/GRAMMAR</th>
<th>NUMERACY</th>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>3 Above min. standard/ below national mean</td>
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<td>5</td>
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In this table students achieving top 20% scores are also included in the number of students who exceeded the National average. Accordingly data does not always equal the number of students sitting the tests; thirteen Yr 3, sixteen Yr 5 and sixteen Yr 7 students.

Our Year 3 results continue to be of concern. However the separation of Pre-Primary and Kindergarten students, the commencement of the Walpole Early Years Network and improved identification of highly vulnerable children through the Australian Early Development Index supported by specific interventions should see improved results over the coming two years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Area</th>
<th>Year 3 Value Adding</th>
<th>Year 3 School/State/ National Average</th>
<th>Year 5 Average Value Adding</th>
<th>Year 5 School/State/ National Average</th>
<th>Year 7 Average Value Adding</th>
<th>Year 7 School/State/ National Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>N/a</td>
<td>383/401/416</td>
<td>121/82/78</td>
<td>513/479/487</td>
<td>68/59/47</td>
<td>555/542/540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>N/a</td>
<td>379/404/416</td>
<td>126/69/77</td>
<td>477/472/483</td>
<td>59/51/48</td>
<td>546/530/529</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>N/a</td>
<td>374/396/406</td>
<td>161/84/79</td>
<td>507/476/484</td>
<td>69/58/50</td>
<td>530/536/538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</td>
<td>N/a</td>
<td>387/408/422</td>
<td>151/91/79</td>
<td>508/491/500</td>
<td>46/52/36</td>
<td>545/529/533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
<td>N/a</td>
<td>357/387/398</td>
<td>155/98/93</td>
<td>491/479/489</td>
<td>97/70/57</td>
<td>560/545/545</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This table shows the School, State and National average scores in order; the value adding shows the School, State and National average value added scores; ie how much students have improved since testing two years ago. Our students exceeded other results in all areas except for State Yr 7 Grammar and Punctuation improvement.
### Highlights, Achievements and Special Projects

#### UR Walpole Program
The UR Walpole program was again a major part of terms 1 and 2, focussing on the theme “Forest Time” (incorporating International Year of Forests) in Science, Arts and Society and Environment learning areas and culminating in a school and community celebration at the end of second term. This year we included “open classrooms” as an opportunity for students to communicate their learning from the programs.

#### Sports Days
Sports Days are always a highlight. The school faction carnival and the winter sports carnival were fun and this year we excelled at the Inter School Athletics Carnival held in Pemberton being placed Runner-up (handicap) for Athletics; our netballers were also successful at the Winter Carnival; and our swimmers won a small schools’ swimming carnival.

#### Active After School Activities
The Active After School Program had another productive year. Teacher Lou Gardiner supported by Regional Coordinator Tim Widdison made this a valuable experience. Activities offered included Australian Football, Soccer, Little Athletics, Junior Gymnastics, Karate, Dancing, Ripsticks, Lawn Bowls and Basketball. All children will be given weekly opportunities in a range of activities including tennis (preliminary activities held in December 2011) and yachting for the first time in 2012.

#### Senior Camp to Canberra
At the beginning of September thirty five Years 5-7 students accompanied by seventeen parents travelled to Canberra for a camp to explore The National Capital. Activities included visits Parliament House, The National War Memorial, Questacon, The Australian Mint, The Institute of Sport, the National and Dinosaur Museums, rock climbing, ice-skating and a trip to the snowfields. This camp will be part of a triennial camp experience for all students reaching Years 5-7. Funding activities took place over the preceding twelve months and the students received significant sponsorship through the Federal Government’s PACER programme. Planning is already underway for the next camp; August 9-16 incl. 2014.
Year 7 Leadership Camp
The School provided the Year 7’s with an opportunity to attend a Leadership Conference in Bunbury that involved an overnight camp. In 2012 the Year 7 students will attend a similar conference in Albany as part of their leadership learning.

Community Involvement
The Year 7’s also undertook some activities with The Walpole Seniors group. With Gary Muir’s support the Year 6 students participated in WoW Cruises in Term 4 where they researched local conservation issues and presented their findings to the visitors. Much positive comment was received from passengers and from Gary Muir, owner of WoW Wilderness Ecocruises. Students from the Senior rooms also helped to keep Pioneer Park clean and managed some of the townscape floral presentations.

Swimming Lessons
All students participated in one week of double swimming lessons in term 4 at Peaceful Bay. The students swam to their best ability to improve their swimming skills or their water safety knowledge. Most students proceeded to their next level.

Presentation and Year 7 Graduation Night
The presentation night once again showed the students and staff efforts during 2011. The night was well supported by all members of the community and included presentation of a variety of awards to students in order to celebrate their efforts throughout the year. The Year 7 Graduation evening was held at Walpole Country Club with catering by the Year 6 students, supported by a few parents.

Incursions/Excursions
2011 has seen a diverse range of incursions and excursions. The CAP funding is invaluable in assisting with many of the cultural, musical, artistic or sporting events listed below. The list includes:

- Sporting days such as the Winter Carnival and Interschool Athletics at Pemberton District High School plus the school’s own Athletics Carnival. For the first timer for many years the students participated in a swimming carnival, winning the event against Frankland and Kendenup Primary Schools.
- Clean up Australia Day, all the students together with their teachers tidied up an area of the Pioneer Park as the school’s contribution to Clean up Australia. Opportunities such as these to act as part of the community are very welcome and important in developing the students as future active community members.
- Western Power visited to students about power safety and new developments in managing this resource which was another good introduction to sustainability.
- The students were entertained by the McDonald’s Puppet show on the theme of “Tolerance and Bullying”, something that we are dealing with at School almost every day.
- SciTech. The whole School participated in this travelling program, discovering the exciting world of Science. The SciTech programs aim to boost scientific literacy across WA.
- Students received performances from a variety of travelling shows with themes linked to various learning areas.
School Budget

The school had an operating budget of $216,939. Staff salaries are not included in our operating budget as these are paid by the Department of Education.

At the conclusion of the year the School’s finances remained strong with cash on hand of $32,957. During the year the following items were purchased outright:

- 5 new laptop computers
- New angklungs

In replacing these items using cash reserves we will save borrowing expenses and having to budget for lease payments allowing us to contribute these savings to future reserves.
Recommendations for 2012

Commence implementation of The Australian Curriculum with particular focus on Literacy, Numeracy and Science using new and existing K-10 syllabus and support resources as they become available.

Continue to develop a whole school approach to emotional health and wellbeing using the revised Behaviour Management Policy as a guide.

The oral language focus for K-2 to continue under the direction of class teachers with support from families and associated community organisations eg Amity Health (formerly Great Southern GP Network) and The Dept for Health who are supporting our Walpole Early Years Network (WEYN) project.

Continue to involve staff in The Lighthouse language programme to complete their training.

This year we were granted Independent Public School status and training will be undertaken to ensure readiness for 2013.
The following persons endorse the contents of this report as an accurate reflection of activities (academic, physical, financial and human) that have taken place at Walpole Primary School throughout 2011:

.............................................. Glen Burton; Chairperson, Walpole Primary School Council

.............................................. Fiona Brennan; Chairperson, Walpole Primary School P&C

.............................................. Richard Walker; Principal, Walpole Primary School

.............................................. Carolyn Brodie; Staff Representative, Walpole Primary School

.............................................. Neil Milligan; Regional Executive Director, South West Region
Department of Education, Western Australia