

**Robinvale Consolidated School  
6251**

**2008 Annual Report to the  
School Community**



## School Overview

### Vision

At Robinvale Consolidated School we are committed to our students and provide them with a supportive learning environment. Our Vision **TODAY'S CHILDREN, TOMORROW'S ADULTS** guides our curriculum development and implementation. Our aim is to provide a strong foundation for education where students are encouraged to become responsible, independent learners. Considerable emphasis is placed on the acquisition of literacy and numeracy skills and our curriculum is based on "The Victorian Essential Learning Standards". We want our students to reach their potential and for our staff to strive to continue to improve their practice in order to enable our students to thrive and positively contribute in a changing world.

### Values

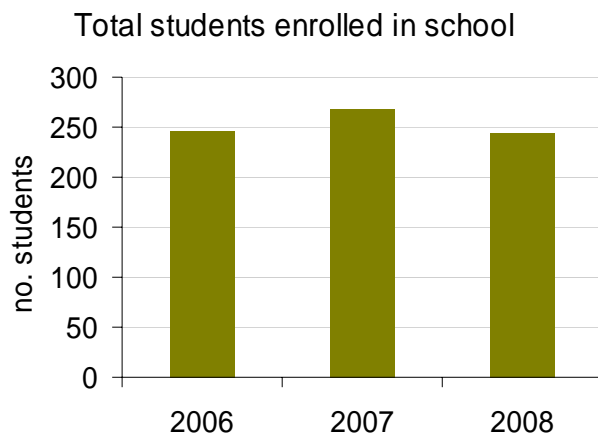
The core values which form the basis of the Robinvale Consolidated School community are: respectful relationships, persistence, responsibility, cooperation. These values are used proactively and reactively as we focus on our priorities – Literacy, Numeracy and ensuring a safe supportive school environment to promote ongoing learning and problem solving.

### Context

As indicated in the RCS Strategic Plan 2007 – 2010,

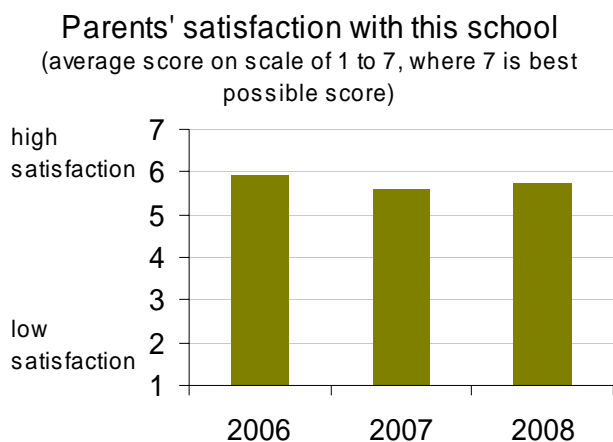
- Robinvale Consolidated School aims to ensure every student is provided with the opportunity to achieve their potential particularly in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy.
- We aim to develop and maintain a safe and secure learning environment which is orderly, welcoming and develops positive relationships across the entire school community.

### Student Enrolments



The enrolment at this school in 2008 decreased as a direct result of the uncertain economic circumstances for the local industries. At the end of 2007, water allocations were under review and some of our families relocated to other areas.

## Parent Satisfaction



Parent satisfaction with the programs and operations of this school is slightly higher than the 2007 result, with an average satisfaction rate of 5.74. All staff recognise the importance of communication with parents and the need to respond to issues in a positive timely manner.

## Teacher Satisfaction

The average score for teacher satisfaction (morale) at this school was 74.1 on a scale from 0 to 100 where 100 is the best possible score. Staff indicated that there is good team spirit at the school, that they go about their work enthusiastically and take pride in Robinvale Consolidated School.

## Teacher Retention

Of the 18 teaching staff at Robinvale Consolidated School at June 2007 (including those on leave without pay), 16 or 89% were still at the school at June 2008. This figure across all Government schools was 88%.

## Teacher participation in Professional Learning

All teaching staff have participated in professional learning throughout the year. All staff have now trained in West Australian First Steps – Reading and Writing. The Regional coaching program has been an important aspect of professional learning and staff have benefited greatly from the expertise of two learning and teaching coaches. Professional Learning workshops were held after school and facilitated by our staff. We are fortunate to have a very experienced staff at our school and we recognise the importance of sharing best practice. This formed the basis for Professional Learning during 2008.

## Teacher Qualifications

All teachers in Victorian Government schools are registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching. The requirements for registration with the Victorian Institute of Teaching can be found at: [http://www.vit.vic.edu.au/content.asp?Document\\_ID=241](http://www.vit.vic.edu.au/content.asp?Document_ID=241).

## Principal's Report

Firstly, I would like to congratulate the staff and students of Robinvale Consolidated School on a fine year's work. I am extremely proud of our school, our students and our staff.

2008 was a year to consolidate teaching practices, draw on the vast pool of internal expertise and utilize this expertise to drive our school improvement agenda.

In 2005, we commenced our journey to transform the learning culture at RCS. At that time, we identified the skills and attributes our students would require in order for them to thrive and survive in the changing 21<sup>st</sup> century. Developing independence and resilience, effective communication and thinking skills were high on the list, as were developing interpersonal skills, being futures focussed and having a passion for lifelong learning. We then set about developing a plan to achieve our goals.

Four years down the track it is pleasing to note some real progress. Our initial focus has been to put a lot of effort into developing a positive school climate. Many visitors to the school have observed and commented on our calm, quiet classrooms and the students' level of engagement.

2008 was an extremely busy year with our students participating in many extracurricular activities in addition to our core work which will always be developing competency in literacy and numeracy skills.

Our students attended camps and excursions to Echuca, Lake Culleraine, and Mildura. They also participated in a varied cultural and performance program.

They had the opportunity to take part in : - the bookfair, the ROAR (mentor program), Wellbeing Day involving all schools in Robinvale, the launch of the Community for Children DVD which focussed on our school, Kids on Bikes, Somers Camp, swimming and athletics carnivals.

Parent involvement at RCS is strengthening and parent attendance at sporting events and parent teacher meetings indicates positive involvement.

A significant achievement in 2008 was attaining *Performance and Development Accreditation*. RCS was recognised as having clear, professional learning goals and expectations for our staff as they pursue professional learning to enhance their practice.

Our buildings and grounds continue to be maintained to a very high standard by Mr and Mrs Nunns. The toilet renovation was completed last year and our students are now enjoying the new facilities.

In November 2008, I had the opportunity to visit some high performing schools in New Zealand on a study tour organized by Regional Office. I observed education in a very different setting – in the CBD of Christchurch. Students learning independently, initiating and implementing their programs with the guidance of Learning Advisors. It was a fantastic opportunity to draw on a school's experiences and reflect on what is appropriate in our own education setting.

In December 2008 we farewelled the academic year in fine style at our presentation evening and Graduation Dinner.

Finally, I would like to thank our volunteers for their support during the year. Education is a partnership and we value your contribution.

I would also like to thank our staff once again for their professionalism and commitment to ensuring our students achieve the very best outcomes. To our students, I congratulate you all on your work ethic and the way in which you have conducted yourselves throughout the year.

Our motto **REACHING CARING STRIVING** continues to guide us in all we do.

Leearne Cullen  
Principal

## School Council President's Report

It is with pleasure that I present the President's report for 2008.

This year we have seen Mrs Heather Holland and Mrs Susan Graham celebrate their 35 years of teaching. I think we would all agree this is an outstanding effort.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our helpers who offer their time throughout the year which enables both students and staff to enjoy the year. These volunteers are parents or grandparents helping in class rooms, our senior students, school sports helpers and parents assisting on school camps, Robinvale District Health Services and School Councillors. Also, I would like to make a special mention that a number of these parents have to take time off work enabling these programs to run and we sincerely appreciate this.

There have been some exciting changes to the school buildings this year. We have finally had our toilet block renovated. The changes have made an amazing improvement. They are now open and bright and are water friendly. Also this year our wonderful mosaic has been completed. This looks absolutely fabulous and is a credit to the students.

Robinvale Consolidated School has been approached by the State Government to consider a P-12 option. This is currently being investigated and will be ongoing in 2009.

Yet again Mick and Linda are doing a marvellous job with our gardens and keeping them established with limited water supply.

Unfortunately in 2009 our enrolments numbers will be slightly down, once again due to the drought and the current economic situation. Hopefully things will begin to pick up.

On behalf of the Robinvale School Council Members for 2008 we wish the Year 6 students the very best as they begin their Secondary Education. Also, we would like to welcome the new primary students and those students who have come to us from other avenues.

Thanks again to Learne, other School Councillors and Staff for supporting me over the past twelve months. This position is very new to me and I have appreciated their patience.

On closing, I would like to wish everyone all the best for the 2009 year.

Michelle Geran,  
School Council President.

## Student Progress & Achievements

### Student Learning

Throughout 2008, all staff worked in teams to support student learning. Teams were responsible for planning, implementing and evaluating curriculum provision. All classroom teachers prepared class profiles to indicate “where students were at”. These profiles clearly demonstrated the diversity in student outcomes within each class and provided an opportunity to develop clear goals and targets for 1. the class and 2. individual students.

It was clear from the previous year’s student assessment results that as a school we needed to investigate ways to further extend higher achieving students while continuing to provide support at individual student’s levels.

#### RCS DATA 2008

##### NAPLAN Test Results

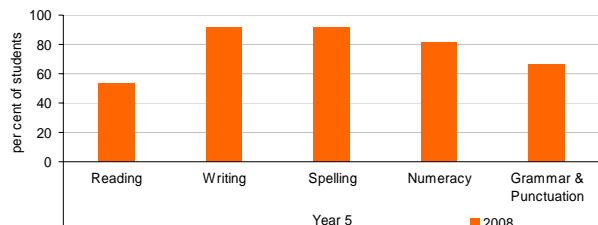
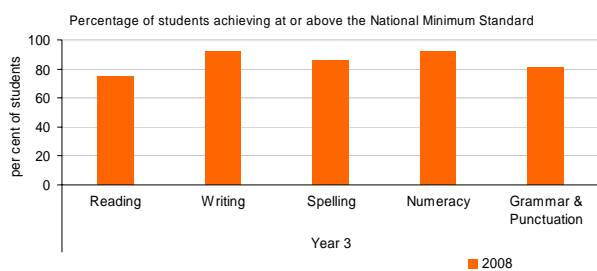
Year 3 Number .7 behind the State Mean  
Year 5 Number .8 behind the State Mean  
Year 3 Reading .9 behind the State Mean  
Year 5 Reading .7 behind the State Mean

##### VELS Results

Year 3 Number behind the State Mean  
Year 5 Number behind the State Mean  
Year 3 Reading behind the State Mean  
Year 5 Reading behind the State Mean

Prep to Year 2 Assessment of Reading Data for 2008 indicates:

25% of Prep students reading Text Level 5 with 90% accuracy (decrease from 2007)  
40% of Year 1 students reading text level 15 with 90% accuracy (same as 2007)  
58% of students in Year 2 reading text level 20 with 90% accuracy ( decrease from 2007)



#### 2008 STRENGTHS

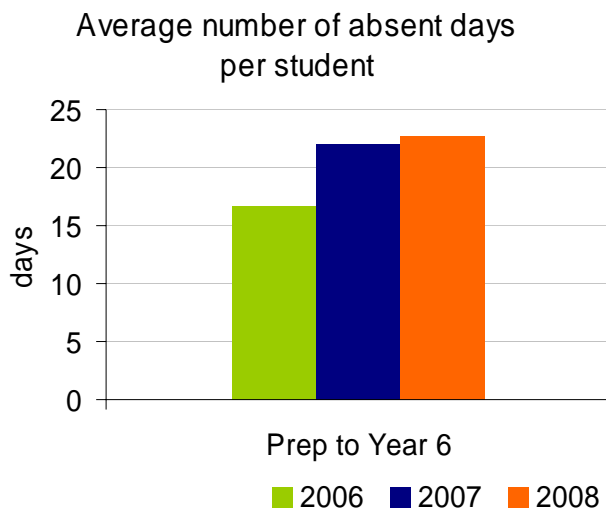
- Student assessment results from the beginning of the year are used as a starting point and subsequent assessment is used to inform teaching.
- Professional Learning for staff – All staff trained and using First Steps Reading and Writing. Coaches supporting classroom teachers (internal and external coaches). Teachers sharing their best practice.
- Chatterbox Program in Preps to support oral language development.

- Development of a Literacy Action Plan and Literacy Resource Package by the VELS English Team
- Development of “Kid Speak” documents Maths and English and aligned to VELS by staff – to be used for student goal setting and student assessment tasks.

**AREAS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT**

- Training and implementation of First Steps Speaking and Listening
- Regional Coaching Program
- Training and implementation of First Steps Numeracy
- Improving student outcomes and data

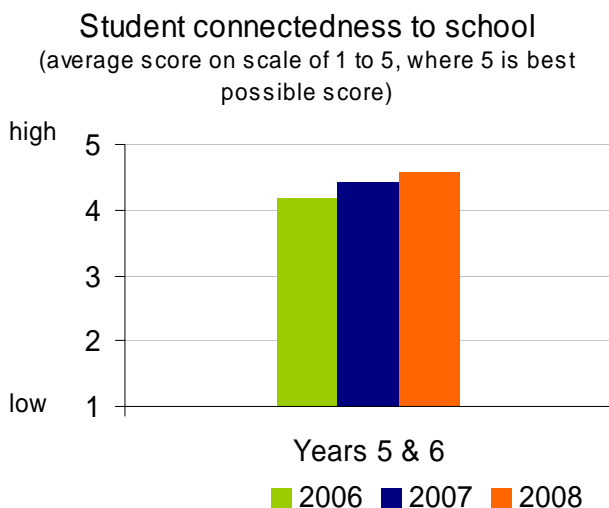
## Student Engagement and Wellbeing



The first graph indicates that we had an average of 23 days of education lost per student for 2008. This was slightly more than the 2007 data. This is a very disturbing trend as it represents over four weeks absence from school. Of course a few students with significant absences negatively affect this figure. Often parents take children on holidays in times other than school holidays or students can have prolonged periods of absence due to illness and sometimes parents allow their children to miss school unnecessarily. All of these actions compromise learning opportunities for students.

In 2006 we implemented some proactive strategies to improve our absence data. In 2009

we will reintroduce programs that we hope will give students and parents the incentive to be at school each day and to be punctual as well.



The second graph indicates student connectedness to school as ascertained from the *Student Attitudes to School Survey*. I am pleased to see we score relatively highly in this variable. We run programs designed to ensure students are provided with a stimulating and satisfying school experience.

During 2008, a major focus of our well being program was the development of strong relationships within our school community. Class meetings, circle time, restorative practices, cooperative learning strategies continue to be implemented.

Community projects like *Kids on Bikes* and the *Community Garden* and our carnivals and performances provide opportunities for the

wider school community to join with us.

Awards were presented at our Friday morning assembly to reinforce the *You Can Do It* principles of – *organization, persistence, getting along, resilience and confidence*.

Our 5 and 6 students took part in the ROAR program and enjoyed visits by role models – in particular the TV personalities and musicians.

## Student Pathways and Transitions

Our aim is to improve student transition and learning opportunities from pre school to school and from Primary to Secondary School. We also aim to improve our internal transition from grade to grade.

The transition program from Pre school to school involved both the MVA Pre school and the Leonora St Pre school. Each pre school group visited the school for 4 formal sessions beginning with two sessions and building up to a full day at school. The children had access to the Library, computer laboratory and classroom programs.

The 2009 Prep Teachers visited the preschools prior to the end of the year to observe prospective students in their pre school environment.

We still have some new preps who have not been to preschool or are in childcare so in some cases pre school information has been difficult to obtain.

Our Year 6 students attended the Robinvale Secondary College on a number of occasions. The number of visits was extended this year to include participation in some elective units. Academic, social and other relevant data was passed on to RSC staff to assist them in profiling students.

## Future Directions

The goals for the school are:

- To improve literacy outcomes for all students, with an emphasis on writing and spelling.
- To improve transition processes and strategies for students in Prep to enhance the readiness of all students for formal learning.
- To improve student engagement particularly with regard to levels of peer relationships, perceptions of safety and levels of self esteem.

An Annual Implementation Plan is in place that sets out the priorities of our school for 2009.

- Continue to develop practices which strengthen teaching and learning across the school
- Continue to develop assessment and reporting strategies in line with VELS
- Continue to develop programs to enhance student well being
- Continue to develop strategies to reduce student absenteeism

Staff will continue to be involved in high quality professional development. The school will take part in the Regional School Development Project.

In 2009 the future of Education Provision in Robinvale will be under review. Stakeholder groups will be asked to comment on the P – 12 school concept. It will be imperative that we get the feedback we need to make an informed decision about schooling in this town for the next 50 years and beyond.

Any way forward will need to meet the diverse needs of our community and support our students to *be the best they can be*.

## Financial Performance and Position

Financial Position as at 31st December, 2008	
<b>Funds Available</b>	<b>2008 Actual</b>
High Yield Investment Account	34,062.08
Official Account	9,607.86
Other Bank Accounts( listed individually)	
VTCU Term Deposit	403,218.63
<b>Total Funds Available</b>	<b>446,888.57</b>
<b>Financial Commitments</b>	<b>2008 Actual</b>
School Operating Reserve	(49,050.36)
Co-operative Bank Account	0
Assets or Equipment Replacement < 12 months	24,838.21
Revenue Received in Advance	10,000.00
Building/Grounds including SMS < 12 months	191,000.00
Region /Clusters Funds/School Based Programs < 12 months	0
Provision Accounts < 12 months	0
Repayable to DEECD	0
Other Recurrent Expenditure (Accounts Payable)	0
Assets or Equipment Replacement > 12 months	0
Building/Grounds including SMS > 12 months	152,000.00
Region /Clusters Funds/School Based Programs > 12 months	0
Provision Accounts > 12 months	20,000.00
Co-operative loan >12 months	0
Beneficiary/Memorial Accounts	0
<b>Total Financial Commitments</b>	<b>397,838.21</b>

## 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 (insert school contact details).

