ANNUAL REPORT 2015
Each year, all Government schools prepare an Annual School Report of the school’s achievements, performance and directions over the year. This document provides part of the School’s formal reporting processes to the school community.

OUR SCHOOL
The School and Its Community
The 2015 school year was a significant year in Wattle Grove Primary School’s history in which the school celebrated its Centenary year. Over the past 100 years, the school has certainly changed, however it has continued to maintain a unique school culture built upon strong family values, high expectations and a real sense of community. A range of celebrations to mark this historical milestone were successfully conducted throughout the year by the school and its community. A visit to the school by Mr Peter Collier, Minister for Education, began the Centenary celebrations which continued throughout the year. Students created their own Centenary Song with singing duo Carter & Carter and conducted their own very successful Centenary Student Fete in Term 3. The Parents and Citizen’s Association demonstrated their Wattle Grove spirit of community and commitment in joining with the school to host a highly successful Community Centenary Fete and Reunion in Term 4. This was undoubtedly the largest event ever conducted at the school. It was attended by the Hon. Colin Barnett, Premier of Western Australia, who formally unveiled the Centenary Plaque to acknowledge the school’s one hundred year history of educating children from 1915-2015. The school community, both past and present, celebrated together with a feast of stalls, rides, games and memorabilia to enjoy. There was something for everyone.

To conclude the school’s centenary year, a further celebration for Wattle Grove Primary School, came with the another success in the WA Education Awards. Year 1 teacher, Mrs Kirsty Campbell was awarded the WA Beginning Teacher of the Year for 2015. This was a significant acknowledgement and well deserved achievement for Mrs Campbell and provided the school with another celebration.

As an Independent Public School, 2015 was also the first year of the development of a new School Business Plan 2015-2017 and Delivery and Performance Agreement (DPA) between the School Board and the Department of Education. The School Board, consisting of Chair and Community Representative - Joelle Greenway, Principal – Julie Roberts, Parent Representatives - Adam Kew, Stephen Sunthang, Suzette Forrest, P&C Representative–Sharline Williams, and Staff Representatives – Paul Sherlock and Kirsty Campbell, were instrumental in the development of the new School Business Plan and continued to set the direction of the school.

The Parents and Citizens Association, once again, supported and funded a range of resources for the school with $21,500 being expended throughout the year for educational equipment, resources and events.

Throughout 2015, further expansion of the surrounding area, saw continued growth in the Wattle Grove community. This growth resulted in welcoming 595 students at the commencement of the year.
School Ethos and Purpose
The school community prides itself on providing a welcoming, safe and supportive learning environment for all students, staff and families, whilst achieving excellence. The school’s learning and teaching culture of ‘Excellence’ and its strong sense of community continued to drive the school’s vision. A culture of high standards has been established over time with a commitment to encouraging personal best and providing quality education for children in a safe and supportive learning environment. The school focus areas in 2015 were the development of Excellence in Learning, Excellence in Teaching and providing a Safe and Supportive Environment. Literacy, Numeracy and Science were the key focus learning areas, however, the school continued to provide a wide range of additional programs for students.

STUDENT LEARNING
Wattle Grove Primary School engages in continuous and rigorous self-review processes with a focus on improving student learning, teaching, leadership, the learning environment and governance. The Business Plan and its associated targets is central to this and is informed by evidence from a range of external sources such as National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN); Student Achievement Information System (SAIS); Pre-primary On-entry Data; school developed standards and school, community and board surveys.

This is done in comparison to like schools and State and National Standards. In 2015, the school’s Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) increased once again to 1065. Changes in this measure create a new group of like schools to which the school’s performance is compared.

The three focus areas of the Wattle Grove Primary School’s Business Plan 2015-2017: Excellence in Learning; Excellence in Teaching; and Safe and Supportive Environment have challenging and aspirational targets underpinned by clear milestones and rigorous, plausible strategies.

EXCELLENCE IN LEARNING

ENGLISH
The English Learning Area is currently measured in four strands – Reading, Spelling, Grammar & Punctuation and Writing.

Individual test scores for 2015 indicated, the school has more Year 3 and Year 5 students performing in the top 20% than like schools in all domains and fewer in the bottom 20% than like schools.

On a comparative performance basis, Year 3 in 2015 was above expectation in all domains— reading, writing, spelling, grammar & punctuation with a sharp trend upwards since 2013. Similarly, Year 5 performance was above expectation in all domains and trending upwards since 2012 except for writing, which was very close to being in this category.

READING
Year 3 and Year 5 reading scores were above like schools in 2015 with a significant improvement in the Year 3 reading scores since 2011.
**WRITING**

Year 3 and Year 5 students performed above like schools in writing in 2015 with a significant upward trend since 2013.

**SPELLING**

In 2015, both Year 3 and Year 5 students performed above like schools in spelling with an upward trend in both year levels since 2011, particularly Year 3.

**GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION**

Grammar and Punctuation results show Year 3 and Year 5 being above like schools since 2011 with a sharp upward trend since 2014.

The alignment between Teacher Judgements and NAPLAN results for Literacy was not consistent in 2015. Grade levels given in Semester 1 did not reflect the NAPLAN results achieved as consistently as would be expected when compared to like schools. This is an area for further focus in 2016.

**Value Adding**

When students make greater progress than might be expected, the difference between the performance and expectation is referred to as ‘value added’ by schools. The value that Wattle Grove Primary School adds in comparison to student performance of ‘like schools’ is higher.

From 2013–2015, Years 3-5 have made higher progress/higher achievement than like schools in all literacy domains.

**PRE-PRIMARY ON ENTRY**

Results from the Pre Primary On Entry Assessment indicated that there is still significant improvement required in Literacy for our young students in Kindergarten and Pre Primary. Children did not achieve above the State mean in speaking and listening with writing also creating an area of concern. However, when assessed, at the conclusion of Pre Primary in 2015 children demonstrated significant improvement.

**COMMITMENT TO IMPROVEMENT**

Whilst the school achieved the majority of its new School Targets for English in 2015, there are still a number of areas that will require continued focus. Explicit literacy instruction in reading, phonics, spelling, grammar/punctuation and writing will continue to be a whole school priority with a continued focus on the value-added progress levels in Years 3-5. Reading development in the early years (K-3) to ensure continuity in reading performance at the Year 3 level will also be a basis for focus in 2016-2017.

The introduction of the Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation (VCOP) Program and the Big Write in 2015 provided an increased focus for writing development across the school as well as other English areas. Close monitoring of student achievement and expected progress using the School English Standards at each year level will continue to be carried out. Integrated Literacy Blocks at all year levels will continue to provide a consistent and cohesive approach to literacy instruction with a focus on 100% of all students understanding new concepts when introduced. Continued close monitoring of Students at Educational Risk will be undertaken to ensure a reduction in the number of students not meeting the expected year level standards. Extension of high performing students will also require further focus to ensure students are challenged according to their ability. With new staff coming into the school each year, further opportunities of in-school and cross-school moderation, using common assessment tasks, will continue to be provided to improve the consistency and alignment of teacher judgements with NAPLAN results.
MATHEMATICS
The Mathematics Learning Area is currently separated into three strands – Number/Algebra, Measurement/Geometry and Statistics/Probability.

Longitudinally, the Year 3 and Year 5 average numeracy score is consistently above like schools. Individual test scores for Mathematics in 2015 indicate the school has more Year 3 and Year 5 students performing in the top 20% and fewer in the bottom 20% than like schools in Mathematics (consistent since 2012).

Value Adding
From 2013–2015, Years 3-5 students have made higher progress/higher achievement than like schools in Mathematics. This is an excellent result that the school is working towards continuing.

COMMITMENT TO IMPROVEMENT
In 2016, the school will continue to focus on student achievement of the School Mathematics Standards which have been aligned to the Western Australian Mathematics Curriculum. The new program, PRIME Mathematics, will continue be implemented in Years 1-5. This program provides explicit and sequential instruction of mathematics with a focus on problem solving. A strong focus on Explicit Instruction and problem solving will continue to feature in the Year 6 classes. Further Year Level Challenges, fortnightly testing, real life mathematical problem solving and external competitions will continue to be implemented across the school in 2016. Greater focus on the concrete stage of conceptual development in the early years will be undertaken. Additionally, it is intended that Numeracy support will be provided to classes by education assistants to assist students with Numeracy learning. Numero mathematical strategies will be implemented to improve mathematical computation and operations. Differentiating the Mathematics Curriculum will continue to be developed by teachers to cater for different ability levels within their class. High achievers will continue to be challenged by taking part in numeracy extension courses and external competitions.

SCIENCE
In 2015, the school target for all students to achieve a ‘C’ grade was not achieved, however, there was a significant reduction in the percentage of students (across all year levels) who were awarded a grade of ‘D’ or below. Similarly, the school target for 20% of each year level to achieve an ‘A’ grade was also not achieved, however there was an increase in the number of students who achieved a ‘B’ grade (from 2014). Further professional learning and assessment moderation in science will need to take place in 2016 to ensure teacher assessment of the inquiry skills was further developed to enable solid judgements to be made.

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
Wattle Grove provides an environment which supports and provides staff with a comprehensive range of opportunities to further develop professional knowledge and teaching excellence. In 2015, four teachers attended the Explicit Instruction Seminar in Melbourne, providing the school with further understanding and knowledge in effective teaching practices. Additionally, all teachers transitioned to using the Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment (WACA) Outline and Syllabus to plan, assess and report in English and Mathematics. Kindy and Pre-primary teachers also reviewed and refined the School Standards in English and Mathematics.

Literacy and Numeracy Blocks continued to be implemented in all classrooms with a new focus on the implementation of a Writing Block. The Vocabulary Connectives Openers Punctuation (VCOP) program was chosen to address the need for writing improvement. All teachers from Years 1-6 planned for and implemented a 60-90 minute writing block on a weekly basis. Results in writing indicated a significant improvement in 2015.

Explicit teaching and cooperative learning strategies were once again highly effective across the school. A focus on the “Recite, Recall, Apply” within literacy and numeracy warm ups proved to be highly successful in improving student learning.

To ensure the continued sequential development of phonemic awareness and phonics across the school, a review of content, strategies and understandings was undertaken. Additionally, reading fluency, vocabulary and comprehension received a more concentrated focus to ensure the ongoing progress and improvement in these areas.

Continued use of classroom observations as a tool for teachers to coach, mentor and collaborate in implementing whole school literacy and numeracy strategies were conducted. Both peers and line managers provided feedback to ensure explicit teaching and cooperative learning strategies were highly effective across the school.
Community.

A number of students received awards and cooperation within their family, school and wider citizenship through Leadership, Participation and Citizenship Portfolios as evidence of their active will be conducted in 2016.

Risks and strategies to be used. Further focus in this area In 2015, to increase the awareness of the safe use of with the Principal.

Student Representatives. The Student Council continued the Student Council Meetings, which were led by Year 6 having the opportunity to be Student Representatives in 2015. Each class had two class councillors who attended the Student Council Meetings, which were led by Year 6 Student Representatives. The Student Council continued to be proactive in 2015 and met at least twice each term within their class/teaching practice in accordance with the whole school Scope and Sequence.

All teachers collaboratively analysed and reviewed English and Mathematics year level data and NAPLAN data throughout the year to develop strategies for improvement and to inform their planning. Common assessment tasks were conducted across the school with in school moderation across year levels and cross school moderation with Caladenia Primary School. All teachers continued to use the whole school English and Mathematics Standards to monitor student progress and achievement in 2015.

Teachers consistently used Collaborative Learning Teams across the school as a shared student leadership model within their class/teaching practice in accordance with the whole school Scope and Sequence. All teachers and Educational Assistants from K-2 Phase Team participated in regular PD sessions to develop their understanding of the National Quality Standards.

Throughout 2015, a number of teachers from other schools visited Wattle Grove Primary School to observe the school's Explicit Teaching and Cooperative Learning practices. This is further acknowledgement of the exemplary teaching being implemented across the school.

SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

At Wattle Grove Primary School, we pride ourselves on providing a safe and caring learning environment for students and staff, underpinned by a values rich learning culture that supports quality learning and positive behaviours.

The School Values Program, led by the School Chaplain, continued to be promoted within classrooms on a monthly basis. Students were acknowledged for their demonstration of specific Values by receiving a certificate at assemblies. The Value of the month was also highlighted within the school newsletter as a family focus.

In 2015, all Year 5 and 6 students continued to create Citizenship Portfolios as evidence of their active citizenship through Leadership, Participation and Cooperation within their family, school and wider community. A number of students received awards and certificates at the Darling Range Awards Ceremony. Student leadership is an integral part of achieving a safe and supportive environment with all Year 6 students having the opportunity to be Student Representatives in 2015. Each class had two class councillors who attended the Student Council Meetings, which were led by Year 6 Student Representatives. The Student Council continued to be proactive in 2015 and met at least twice each term with the Principal.

In 2015, to increase the awareness of the safe use of social media, students were informed of some of the key risks and strategies to be used. Further focus in this area will be conducted in 2016.

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS

The 2015 school year saw significant successes in academic, sporting and community activities for the students of Wattle Grove Primary School.

Academic

Centenary Student Fete- Students celebrated the school’s Centenary with a special Student Fete which showcased their Enterprise Learning skills. The fete took many months of planning and learning and was run by the students for the students. All students wore clothing from the ‘olden days’ for this event. Each class designed their own stall and products, raising money to purchase classroom resources of their own choice. This project gave students an understanding of the skills required to be enterprising – generating and using creative ideas, using initiative, carrying through agreed responsibilities, budgeting, learning from mistakes, resolving conflict in a constructive and negotiated manner, seeking information and advice, and monitoring and evaluating their own and others’ performance. It provided a real life learning experience for students to utilize their English and Mathematics skills and was a highly successful event.

Multi-Age Academic Class (MAC) - The Multi-age Academic Extension Class established in 2014 continued to provide an opportunity for students with high academic ability within Years 4, 5 and 6 to be extended and challenged by working in the one class on a full time basis. In 2015, the MAC participated in a special project to design a virtual zoo for the year 2115. This was a collaborative project with the MAC at Caladenia Primary School with support from a range of professional organisations including Perth Zoo, Earth Science WA, Sci Tech and UWA. The project was supported by Professor Lyn Beazley and culminated in an outstanding presentation event of all the students’ project designs. The level of knowledge, research, planning, critical and creative thinking that the students demonstrated was exceptional.

Pre Kindy Playgroup - The school expanded its playgroup program in 2015 to cater for increased demand. Based upon the Early Years Framework and designed to increase children’s readiness for school, it assisted parents in supporting their child’s early learning and development. The program catered for almost 50 children.

Principal's Challenges—The Principal’s and Year Level Challenges continued each term across the school in Years 1-6 in 2015. Designed to challenge the students in their recall of operations, spelling and general knowledge, the Principal conducts the Challenge for Year 6 classes whilst class teachers conduct the Year Level Challenges. Considerable improvement was seen once again across the year from individual students and classes.

Scholarships - A number of Year 6 students attained Secondary Scholarships and placements in specialist courses at secondary schools for 2016.
Sport
The school celebrated a number of individual and team sporting achievements throughout 2015.

**Summer Carnival** – The school Softball A & B Teams, Cricket A Team and Volleyball A Team won the Summer Carnival finals with excellent efforts by all students.

**Winter Carnival** – The school Football Team, Soccer B Team and Netball Teams were successful in winning their final demonstrating excellent skills and endeavour in their competitions.

**Interschool Athletics** – All students put a great deal of effort into this event with school achieving a well deserved second place. The students demonstrated not only significant athletic skill, but also considerable sportsmanship. Individual Championship awards were won by: Ruby Henshall, Abby Henshall and Emma Ferguson.

The Arts
To celebrate our students’ achievements in the Arts, a number of special events were conducted throughout the 2015 school year.

**Western Australian Government Schools Music Festival** - The Senior Choir performed at this event held at the Crown Theatre. With an audience of over 2000 people, our Senior Choir led by Mrs Robeson put on a magnificent performance singing ‘Make Your Own Kind of Music’ and ‘Colour My World’. A wonderful celebration of music. The Junior Choir also performed once again at the Donovan Village Retirement Centre.

**Centenary Song** – Singing duo Merelyn and David Carter from Victoria worked with senior students in writing a Centenary Song specifically for our school. The students provided the words which described the school and then Carter and Carter put it all to music to create our very own original Centenary Song "We can Change the World". The Senior Choir also performed the song at the Centenary Fete.

**Royal Show Poultry Art Exhibition** – Two students, Year 4 and Year 6, were successful this year in the Royal Show Art Awards conducted by the Poultry Association. This was a great achievement by our students in Visual Arts.

**Children’s Book Week Art Competition** – Conducted by the Kalamunda Shire, this competition saw three Year 6 students awarded prizes including first prize.

**Therapy Focus Art Award** – The Therapy Focus Art Award saw Year 2 student from Wattle Grove Primary School have her illustration included in the 2015 Help a Child Grow story book *See Me* by Australian writer Tracey Defty-Rashid. This was a wonderful achievement as there were over 4,000 entries from children throughout Western Australia.

Community
Many significant celebrations for the students, staff and families of Wattle Grove occurred once again in 2015 particularly in relation to the School’s Centenary.

**Centenary Fete** - The enormous support and commitment from the school P&C, led by President Adam Kew, must be acknowledged. The planning and coordination of the Centenary Fete by the P&C ensured that this event was memorable for all in attendance and a day in which the whole school community could celebrate the school’s one hundred year milestone.

**School Board Awards** – The School Board once again presented its Awards of Commendation to acknowledge the wonderful achievements and service of individual staff members and volunteer parents and/or community members working within our school. This is a wonderful initiative and recognises people in and around our school who help make Wattle Grove Primary School a wonderful school to be part of.

**Shine Awards** – The Department of Education in conjunction with the Western Australian Newspaper conducted the SHINE Awards in 2015 providing opportunities for parents and children to nominate their favourite teacher. Wattle Grove was one of the schools that stood out, with an impressive 28 staff being named as shining stars by the community.

COMMUNITY SATISFACTION

**Student Survey**
A Student Survey was also conducted in 2015 with all Year 5 & 6 students resulting in overwhelmingly positive responses in which the average response was 92.8% recording an agree or strongly agree rating of the school.

The responses that recorded the highest approval rating were:
- My teachers expect me to do my best.
- My teacher motivates me to learn.
- My teachers provide me with useful feedback about my school work.
- My school is well maintained
- My school looks for ways to improve
- My school takes students’ opinions seriously.

Areas that included the lowest responses were:
- I can talk to my teachers about my concerns.
- Student behaviour is well managed at my school
- My school takes students’ opinions seriously.

STUDENT MANAGEMENT

**Enrolments**
Wattle Grove Primary School experienced steady growth throughout 2015. The building of new homes continues to be monitored with plans in place to accommodate student growth. In 2015, the student population grew from 572 at the end of 2014 to 612 at the end of 2015.
STUDENT MANAGEMENT
Attendance
Attendance rates at Wattle Grove Primary were above the state average in 2014.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level/Year</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>94.4%</td>
<td>92.1%</td>
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Promotion of attendance is a whole school initiative with regular tracking of students at risk, ongoing communication with parents and incentives for regular attendance.

FINANCE

The School Budget is authorised by the Finance Committee and the School Board. Staff Members are responsible for each of the Learning Area Cost Centres.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANNUAL INCOME 2015</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Actual</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary Contributions</td>
<td>$28,608.00</td>
<td>$21,569.85</td>
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<td>Charges and Fees</td>
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<td>$80,627.67</td>
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<td>Fundraising &amp; Donations</td>
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<td>Other Revenue</td>
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<td>Internal Transfers</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL LOCAL INCOME</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$202,405.25</strong></td>
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<td>Opening Balance</td>
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<td>Student Centred Funding</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE 2015</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Actual</th>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
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<td>Utilities, Facilities and Maintenance</td>
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<td>Buildings, Property and Equipment</td>
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<td>Professional Development</td>
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<td>Transfer of Reserves</td>
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<td>Other Expenditure</td>
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<td>Central Office and Other School payments</td>
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<td>Unallocated</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td><strong>$876,947.79</strong></td>
<td><strong>$788,314.96</strong></td>
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CONCLUSION
The 2015 school year was once again a year of wonderful achievements, continued growth and great memories of bygone school days. Continued professional commitment by a dedicated and professional staff, a supportive school community and an actively involved student population enabled our school to achieve many successes. With the continued rapid growth of our school community and student population, the school continues to meet the challenges and provide exciting learning opportunities and improved academic achievement in a safe and supportive school environment.

I believe Amy Fitzgerald, the first teacher of Wattle Grove Primary School, and the school’s founders of 1915 would have been extremely proud of our Centenary Celebrations and the sense of community and successes that Wattle Grove Primary School has achieved throughout its 100 years.

Julie Roberts
Principal
Our School Song

Wattle Grove is our school, we’re like a family,
Where kids from many countries, are happy as can be
We work and play together and help each other too,
We’re glad you could come here today
It’s lovely seeing you.

Love and kindness live here, we try to do our best,
The things that we all try to do,
Are written on our crest.
Giving and receiving and helping every day,
Our creed is what we live by, in thought and work and play.

Wattle Grove is our school, we’re like a family,
Where kids from many countries, are happy as can be
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