

Duranbah Public School

A quality education in a caring environment

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Term 1, Week 3

Thursday 11 February

Principal's Report

What a wonderful group of students we have in our school! They are cheerful, eager to learn and kind.

How do you measure a school? Is it by a test that takes place on three days for two classes? In our case these are very small groups and each year there will be variations. It can be argued that results for small groups are statistically invalid. The number for annual report processes was always ten. The "My School" website, the Sydney Morning Herald and the Tweed Daily News have chosen five as the limit. We had excellent results in Year 3, but only four students, so their efforts were not included in our published results.

Our results in Year 5, reflected the school's internal assessment. NAPLAN tests give us excellent information to diagnose areas for student needs in literacy and numeracy and we use that information to improve our teaching for these students.

So am I making excuses? I hope not. I am very proud of the students who took the test in 2009. Provided they tried as hard as they could, I am pleased with them.

I think that primary schooling should be about the "four Rs – Reading, wRiting, aRithmetic and Relationships". We are pretty good at measuring the first three and I think we have some good ways of measuring the fourth – just not ones that fit into neat little boxes that can be ranked from A – E.

I would like to commend Vicki and Di to you as wonderful educators who have the students' best interests at heart and are as committed and dedicated as any teachers I have known.

A healthy Environment



One Extremely Healthy Frog

Please read Darlene Arkinstall's letter (below) to the Tweed Daily News:

"How schools perform complex

PARENTS, teachers and students at Tweed schools have every right to be proud of their schools' academic and other achievements, despite the disappointing interpretation of the My School website information (TDN 29/01).

To judge schools solely by reducing literacy and numeracy results to an A to E national average, scale is misleading.

The My School website certainly does better than this, showing students' results relative to those achieved in schools deemed to be similar in terms of socio-economic and other factors.

This is a useful compilation of students' results in national literacy and numeracy tests in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9, but it is not a measure of schools' performance.

A school's performance involves a great deal more: the improvement it brings in students' academic performance; the opportunities it offers them in subjects and non-academic areas such as sport and the arts; the programs it has to develop students socially and emotionally and the school's success in being part of the community and engaging parents and other community members in students' learning.

So to find out if a school is the right one for their children, parents are strongly encouraged to look at all the sources of information such as the school's annual report, their students' own school reports, and other information that the school gives out.

Most importantly, it is recommended that they speak to the teachers and principals of the schools they are considering.

If they do so, they will gain a proper understanding of the commitment and professionalism that drives public education, no matter how big or how small the school, or where it is. This is the only way to get all the information they need to make decisions about a school.

***Darlene Arkinstall, Far North Coast
Greg Cloak, Southern Cross***

Please feel welcome to come in to the school to see what the school is like for yourself.

Have a good week.

Sandy Ellis – Principal

SCRIPTURE

Scripture classes commenced today and will be held each Thursday. It is non-denominational.

Please let us know **in writing** if your child is not to attend.



Odin & Jed prepare the garden



Our new plants, ready for planting



Coral & Jack planting salad vegies

(Thanks Michelle)

SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

All students are required to have a bag suitable for library books and readers.

These are available from school for \$2.50.

All pencils, books, erasers and rulers are supplied for students in Years K – 2. They may bring their own textas to school.

Students in Years 3 – 6 are asked to bring:

- Homework folder – plastic wallet type colour (with student's name on)
- Pencil case
- Pencils – six HB pencils
- Coloured Pencils – including red
- Pencil sharpener
- Blue biro / pen Red biro / pen or red pencil
- Glue stick
- Scissors
- 30cm ruler
- Good plastic / rubber eraser
- Box of tissues (2 boxes for Kinder)
- - Optional - Highlighters, Textas & USB Flash drive.

