Hamilton North Public School

Annual School Report

2012
Our school at a glance

Students

164

Staff

Trish Bowen  Principal
Justin Lobsey  Assistant Principal
Kelly Deakin  Assistant Principal
Toni Lyle  Classroom teacher
Lyn Bradley  Classroom teacher
Amy Drew  Classroom teacher
Trudy Ramsay  Classroom teacher
Laurie Macdonnell  Classroom teacher
Fia Lyle(Brock)  Classroom teacher
Rhonda Greig  Librarian
Trudy Robinson  Librarian
Vicki Cake  STLA
Jessica Bell  RFF
Trudy Robinson  RFF
Michelle Curtis  School Admin Manager
Denelle Gardiner  School Admin Officer
Courtney Jones - School Learning Support Officer
Jarrod Ross - School Learning Support Officer
Paul Newell  General Assistant
Annemarie Bailey  School Counsellor

Significant programs and initiatives

New initiatives and ongoing significant programs enhance the quality of our core learning programs and ensure a stimulating and innovative environment for our students.

In 2012, our students had many and varied valuable opportunities to extend and enrich their academic, social and physical development.

Public Speaking

Our Term 2 whole school Public Speaking focus resulted in outstanding regional success. Two representatives from each stage participated in the Zone Finals with two students winning their stage final and two students receiving Highly Commended awards. All students representing the school demonstrated skill, confidence and enthusiasm throughout the competition. Like all other experiences at Hamilton North, Public Speaking is taken seriously and all students participate in many class learning activities to support their presentation of 3 speeches throughout the term.

Support a Mathematician (SAM) Program

This program was developed to help students gain more confidence in numeracy skills. It was developed in partnership with parents and staff. It involved 4 parents 3 mornings a week working with individual students for 10 minutes each session. The program was offered to a different class each term. It was an extremely successful program and will continue.

K-6 Jogging Club

The school Jogging Club is an initiative that goes throughout Term 2 and 3. It is a major focus at the school and continues to build upon student self-image and worth. Values such as responsibility, commitment, determination and effort underpin the program whilst also improving student’s physical and mental health. 154 students participated in this program.

Stage 1 Initiatives

*Gifted and Talented Writing Workshops* – These workshops included small groups of teacher-identified students from Year 2 focusing on developing their talents in using effective writing devices. In Term 2, students developed posters
to showcase an upcoming school event and in Term 3, 8 students worked intensively for 5 sessions to create stories that were entered into the NSW Board of Studies Write On Competition. All students were recognised for their efforts with participation certificates.

**Literacy Enrichment Groups –**

This initiative included students from Year 1 and 2 participating in specific lessons that focused on developing knowledge and strategies in both comprehension and writing. The lessons were designed by Stage 1 staff and utilised the most up-to-date research to ensure quality learning opportunities. Students were also able to work with age peers from other classes, broadening occasions to interact with, and learn from peers.

**C.A.R.E. Day**

CARE Day was designed by Mrs Ramsay and her team of parents and students to promote student understanding of our role in caring for the environment. Throughout the day, students rotated to different workshops including; water testing, NSW Fisheries information, the history of Styx Creek, recycling, cooking using organic produce from our gardens, and bottle top art. Many experts including past and present parents as well as representatives from Newcastle City Council and Dept. Fisheries led workshops throughout the day.

**Hammo Touch Football – Junior and Senior Squads**

Touch football has been used as a tool at our school to produce highly motivated and self-assured students and to alleviate negative and anti-social behaviours. Weekly intense trainings and after school community competitions has helped students develop self-discipline and a deep understanding of team work. In 2012, the level of participation grew with teams comprising U/8 Boys, U/10 Boys and Girls, and U/12 Boys. Teams were coached by staff and students.

**Playground Boat Area**

In Term 3 the generous and kind donation of a boat by one of our amazing parents led to the extension of our sandpit area to include a boat play area. This area proved very popular with students and has allowed many opportunities for imaginative play.

**Student achievement in 2012**

We are very proud of our students and staff for their commitment to high standards of academic success at Hamilton North Public School. Through targeted professional learning, students were taught by highly motivated and talented teachers with a high degree of knowledge and skill. Our achievements are as follows:

**Literacy - NAPLAN**

Our students in Year 5 made above state average growth in reading. The state average growth rate was 77.8 and Hamilton North Public School’s growth was 136.4. We were also above average state growth in spelling and grammar and punctuation.

**Numeracy - NAPLAN**

Numeracy results in the NAPLAN tests indicated the following.
Our students performed at and above state average across all areas of Numeracy. We had no students in the bottom bands and 92% of students in the top 4 bands.

Our growth in Year 5 Numeracy was at state expected levels. There was 60% of students in Year 5 achieving growth rates above 10points.
**Principal’s message**

Hamilton North Public School is a wonderful school full of opportunity for students to learn and grow with confidence and a positive attitude. We are lucky to have a fantastic group of students, a professional, dedicated and caring staff and an amazing and committed school community. All this combined helps our students to be the best that they can be.

2012 has been an extremely rewarding year at Hamilton North Public School. The staff, students and community have worked together in a strong partnership to improve both student performance and well being. We have worked towards building more resilience of our students and unwrapping the cotton wool. An example of this was our new and daring initiative, Scooters in Schools. This new program allowed our students to take risks in a controlled environment whilst enjoying learning new skills.

It has been an honour and a privilege to be the Principal of this beautiful school, Hamilton North Public.

I certify that the information in this report is the result of a rigorous school self-evaluation process and is a balanced and genuine account of the school’s achievements and areas for development.

Trish Bowen

**P & C and/or School Council message**

2012 has proven to be another successful year for our P & C. We were involved in numerous fund raising events, raising monies to benefit the current and future students at Hamilton North Primary School.

The P&C coordinated constant fund raisers such as disco’s, BBQ’s and raffles. At the end of 2012 the P&C were able to allocate approximately $10000 to go toward building’s extra works such as cemented and covered walkways, awnings and guttering. 2012 was a very productive and rewarding year and on behalf of the P & C I would like to thank the School Community of Hamilton North for all their support.

Ben Lewis-  P&C President 2012

**Student representative’s message**

2012 has been a really good year at Hamilton North Public. We have learned a lot in and out of the classroom from our teachers, families and friends.

We are lucky to have such a great school to come to every day where all the teachers care about you and the parents are always helping out. They help in the gardens, in the canteen, in the classrooms, on the P & C and whenever you need them. There are always parents around our school helping everywhere.

We get to do a lot of extra activities at our school. We have lots of clubs, go on great excursions and are given lots of opportunities to participate in heaps of sporting events in and around the school. We even started our own Scooter club, which the teachers ran, called Scooters in Schools”. Hamilton North Public School is the best school in the world and I’m going to really miss it when I go to high school.

Tom Bowen

**School context**

**Student information**

Hamilton North Public School is an amazing school to be educated at. It’s a place where all students continue to learn in and out of the classroom. The students practice the school values code and accept and include one and other. Hamilton North Public is a very special place, where people and education are valued.
Student enrolment profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
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<tr>
<td>K</td>
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<td>94.0</td>
<td>94.4</td>
<td>94.8</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>96.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>92.9</td>
<td>94.6</td>
<td>94.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>91.6</td>
<td>94.1</td>
<td>94.5</td>
<td>93.7</td>
<td>94.1</td>
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</table>

Student attendance profile

Year  | 2008  | 2009  | 2010  | 2011  | 2012  |
------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
K     | 94.3  | 94.0  | 94.4  | 94.8  |      |
1     | 96.5  | 94.0  | 93.8  | 95.7  |      |
2     | 92.7  | 94.8  | 92.5  |      |      |
3     | 92.6  | 94.6  | 93.2  |      |      |
4     | 96.5  | 93.3  | 93.5  |      |      |
5     | 93.8  | 96.5  | 94.0  |      |      |
6     | 92.9  | 94.6  | 94.4  |      |      |
**Total** | **91.6** | **94.1** | **94.5** | **93.7** | **94.1** |

Management of non-attendance

Attendance levels at Hamilton North continue to be pleasing. For those few families that do not adhere to the Department’s attendance policies school procedures are followed. These consist of school/home communication, Departmental support and home school liaison intervention.

Staff information

**Position** | **Number**
--- | ---
Principal | 1
Deputy Principal(s) | -
Assistant Principal(s) | 2
Head Teachers | -
Classroom Teachers | 5
Teacher of Emotional Disabilities | -
Teacher of Mild Intellectual Disabilities | -
Teacher of Reading Recovery | -

Staff establishment

| Support Teacher Learning Assistance | 0.3 |
| Teacher Librarian | 0.2 |
| Teacher of ESL | 0.1 |
| Counsellor | 0.2 |
| School Administrative & Support Staff | 1.6 |
| **Total** | |

Teacher qualifications

All teaching staff meets the professional requirements for teaching in NSW public schools.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>% of staff</th>
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<tr>
<td>Degree or Diploma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
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Financial summary

This summary covers funds for operating costs and does not involve expenditure areas such as permanent salaries, building and major maintenance.

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<td>Canteen</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th><strong>Expenditure</strong></th>
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<td>Teaching &amp; learning</td>
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<td>Key learning areas</td>
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<td>Excursions</td>
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<td>Extracurricular dissections</td>
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<td>Maintenance</td>
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<td>Capital programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total expenditure</td>
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| Balance carried forward | 211030.58 |
A full copy of the school’s 2012 financial statement is tabled at the annual general meetings of the School Council and/or the parent body. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.

**School performance 2012**

We are very proud of our students and staff for their commitment to high standards of academic success at Hamilton North Public School. Through targeted professional learning, students were taught by highly motivated and talented teachers with a high degree of knowledge and skill. Our achievements are as follows:

**Achievements**

**Arts**

**K-6 Gifted and Talented Art Workshops**

In Term 3, Mrs Lyle led a group of 12 students ranging from Kinder through to Year 6 to develop artworks which are now on display in our playground. These amazing creations have led to much positive feedback from people throughout Newcastle who have noticed them while driving past our school. Importantly, they have provided some of our artistic students a chance to enrich their skills and showcase their talent.

**Sport**

Hamilton North Public School had a very successful year in sport in 2012. Teams were entered into state knockouts in Rugby League, and Girls and Boys touch football.

Teams were also entered in the Paul Harragon Cup Competition, Regional Oztag and Touch football Gala days. The Senior Boys Oztag team won their division at the Newcastle Regional Oztag competition and the Senior Boys were highly successful in a non-competitive touch football gala day held at Salamander Bay.

We had teams of students represent at Zone and district level in Swimming, Cross Country, Athletics, Touch Football and Rugby League.

Another initiative throughout the year was the expansion of school teams in the Wallsend Touch Football Competition. We had 7 teams entered in competitions ranging from Under 8’s to under 12’s in both the girls and boys divisions. All teams were coached by teachers and students from the school and many of the teams made the semi-finals.

**Academic**

In the National Assessment Program, the results across the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 literacy and numeracy assessments are reported on a scale from Band 1 to Band 10.

The achievement scale represents increasing levels of skills and understandings demonstrated in these assessments.

- **Yr 3**: from Band 1 (lowest) to Band 6 (highest for Year 3)
- **Yr 5**: from Band 3 (lowest) to Band 8 (highest for Year 5)
Progress in reading

![Average progress in Reading between Year 3 and 5](chart)

The My School website provides detailed information and data for national literacy and numeracy testing (NAPLAN).

Click on the link [http://www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au) and enter the school name in the Find a school and select GO.

Progress in numeracy

![Average progress in Numeracy between Year 3 and 5](chart)

Significant programs and initiatives

At Hamilton North we pride ourselves on ‘going the extra mile’ to achieve our aim of providing targeted, relevant and interesting learning opportunities for our students. Staff, parents, community members and importantly, students contribute to this in the development and implementation of our significant programs and initiatives.

Aboriginal education

In 2012 staff members participated in two professional development sessions targeting the teaching of Aboriginal Education. Teachers were provided with teaching and learning resources developed to instill a greater level of cultural understanding in all students.

We were also very proud to have two of our Aboriginal students recognised at the Callaghan Education Pathways Celebration Ceremony for their outstanding academic achievements.

A staff member became a member of the Callaghan Education Pathways Cultural Day Planning Team to represent Aboriginal students in our area. Meetings were attended to plan cultural learning days for 2013 with representatives from local primary and high schools.

Environmental programs

In 2012 we joined the Newcastle City Council Recycling program as well as additionally recycling other materials such as batteries, mobile phones and plastic bags. Our focus has been on plastic ocean pollution education and we have involved numerous outside agencies to educate and inspire children through participating in a range of activities on our very successful CARE Day in Term 3. Our grow tunnel is efficient with all children being involved in seed sowing through Grandparents’ Day and Kids Teaching Kids Sunflower Day opportunities. The Stage 1 Great Lemonade Stall Challenge was relished by all. Our school bore water was tested and results were good. Vegetable gardens will be irrigated as a result of this in 2013. A trip to Mr Pitkin’s farm demonstrated how people can live sustainably and organically from the land, facilitating student environmental education. Bottle Top Art and a poster competition helped to brighten up our school playground. The collection of milk cartons to grow seedlings has been a great resource and saving. Two storage sheds were erected behind the Grow Tunnel. Selling of Worm Plus has ceased, worm wee production has slowed and beds are used mainly for composting food scraps and providing compost for school gardens. The Market Garden continued to run on a Friday afternoon this year.
Other programs

Debating

Our debating team performed well in the NSW Premier’s Debating Challenge 2012. Weekly practice sessions were led by Miss Drew. The team of 2 Year 6 students and 2 Year 5 students participated in 5 debates and were acknowledged by staff from challenging schools for their fantastic skills. This certainly gives us something to build on for 2013.

Spelling Bee

In 2012 all students K-6 participated in a range of class activities using the words from the Premier’s Spelling Bee Challenge to further develop their spelling skills. Each class hosted a final with successful students going on to participate in stage finals.

Race into Reading Kinder Program

In Term 4, additional reading support for some of our Kindergarten students was undertaken with significant improvement noted for each. These students participated in individualized guided reading activities with Mrs Bowen each morning for 15 minutes with the promise of a running race against her as the reward for achieving our reading benchmark! All of the students loved this additional opportunity to learn and also spend quality time with Mrs Bowen, the Principal.

Math’s Championships

Every year this initiative takes place in Term 1 and allows every student the opportunity to participate in class math’s challenges. This year, all students were able to develop their confidence and ability in the fast recall of math’s facts as they competed with peers at a similar level of skill. At the end of the term, class finals and then stage finals were held to determine each stage champion.

World Maths Day

In Term 1 all students participated in a worldwide math’s competition on the Mathletics website which raised money to provide math’s resources for 3rd world countries. Students competed against students from countries all around the world via online speed tests which complemented our school Math’s Championships. At the end of the term, the top 3 participants from each class were invited to ‘High Tea’ with Mrs Bowen. All students had the opportunity to accrue enough points to receive certificates that were presented at our assemblies.

External Examinations

Participation in these exams was voluntary, demonstrating these students’ commitment and enthusiasm to learning.

International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) –

English – 2 students participated and were awarded 1 High Distinction and 1 Participation Certificates.

Mathematics – 7 students participated and were awarded 2 Credit and 5 Participation Certificates.

Science – 1 student participated and was awarded a Credit Certificate.

Writing – 3 students participated and were awarded 1 Credit and 2 Participation Certificates.

Computer Skills – 5 students participated and were awarded 5 Participation Certificates.

Spelling – 2 students participated and were awarded 2 Participation Certificates.

Australian Mathematics Competition –

13 students participated and were awarded 1 Distinction, 3 Credit and 9 Proficient Certificates.
Progress on 2012 targets

1. Use whole school planning and school based programs to increase levels of Literacy achievement for every student.
2. Use whole school planning processes to evaluate the quality of numeracy teaching to improve numeracy standards.
3. Enhance access to digital education to increase and extend teacher and students connected classroom experiences.

Target 1
To have no student at or below the national minimum standard (NMS) in grammar and punctuation in 2012 NAPLAN.
To have 60% of students at proficiency in spelling in 2012 NAPLAN.
To have 90% of students reach school benchmark reading levels by December 2010.

Our achievements include:
• Year 5 averaged 59 points higher than the state average growth in reading for NAPLAN.
• 91% of Year 3 have achieved the NMS for grammar and punctuation.
• 95% of Year 3 and 83% of Year 5 are at proficiency for spelling.
• The introduction of K-6 reading levels monitoring each term resulted in an increased focus on the consolidation of reading skills benefitting a range of students.
• Targeted professional development in teaching higher-order comprehension strategies supported students in thinking critically about texts.
• The introduction of our Writing Device Program and wall charts has effectively supported student skills and knowledge in persuasive writing.
• A High Distinction was awarded to a student for the ICAS English Test.

Target 2
Less than 10% of students in bottom 3 bands in Mathematics in NAPLAN tests.
60% of students at proficiency in Numeracy.
Less than 10% of students achieving D/E on their report in 2012
Our achievements include:
There were less than 10% of students who achieved a D or E on their report in 2012 end of year report.
Our Year 5 students scored 11.2 points above the state average and 27.5 points above our Hunter central coast group of schools average.

School evaluation

NSW public schools conduct evaluation to support the effective implementation of the school plan. In 2012 our school carried out evaluation of Assessment Procedures.

Background
To continue to improve and enhance learning opportunities for students our school community focused on assessment. The aim was to review, report on and make recommendations about the effectiveness and evaluation processes and their impact on student learning outcomes.

Findings and conclusions
After students, staff and families were surveyed and interviewed the following information was recorded.

Teachers provide a variety of assessment tasks.
Students get feedback on strengths and areas for future development, more in literacy subjects.
Students are given the opportunity to make comparisons between their own work to monitor improvement.
Teachers talk to students and parents about the work produced by the student.
Some parents still find the A-E grading system misleading at times.
Some parents are not fully aware of the variety of assessment tasks undertaken by their child.
Parents found reporting systems informative and inclusive.

Most parents agree that they would be informed by the teacher if their child was not performing at grade level. Teachers kept consistent and accurate assessment records for the students in their class.

**Future directions**
To continue to inform parents and school communities about assessment processes in the school.
Use effective assessment feedback in all Key Learning areas.
Continue to encourage teachers to use assessment to drive their learning programs in the classroom.

**Parent, student, and teacher satisfaction**
In 2012 the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school.
Their responses are presented below.

Students appreciate the environment provided at Hamilton North Public School and are happy with the improvements in their classrooms and in the playground.

They believe they are lucky for all of the extra opportunities they are provided with including, bike riding, jogging Club, environment club, gymnastics, ocean baths and scooter club.

The students like the social playground. They enjoy making friends with students from lots of different classes and enjoy playing with all ages at play time.

Students recognise the care their teachers have for them and are always providing them with opportunities to achieve their best. The students demonstrate a high level of connectedness to their school.

Parents are very appreciative of the school staff and the talents of their students’ teachers. They feel very welcome and included within the school. They appreciate the recognition they receive for the time and effort they put into programs throughout the school.

Students showed an increased level of excitement in a variety of sporting opportunities provided throughout the year. Parents were very appreciative of the time teachers put in to providing opportunities for their children.

All teachers believe the school provides a warm, caring and inclusive environment for the entire school learning community. They believe Professional Development has created an increased strength in teaching capabilities with early identification of student strengths highlighted.

All staff believes that their position at the school is highly respected and regarded throughout the community by students, parents and colleague teachers.

**Professional learning**
The staff has been provided with a wide variety of professional learning opportunities. Aspiring and current literacy and Numeracy leaders continued to be involved in the quality teaching leadership project which gave them opportunities to up skill, increase knowledge and network with teachers and professionals from other educational settings. They then filtered this knowledge and these resources through our own school network.

Professional learning also occurred within a school framework by experienced staff members providing expertise and support in specific fields such as linking the literacy, numeracy continuums to assessment and learning. The professional learning was reflective of our annual school targets.

Environmental studies were another area in which teacher professional learning was dominant. This was reflective in class programs and student learning activities.

**School planning 2012—2014**
The school planning policy provides direction for the preparation and implementation of school plans including the identification of priority areas, intended outcomes and targets that are consistent with the NSW State Plan and the Department’s planning documents.
School priority 1
Outcome for 2012–2014
Use whole school planning and school based programs to increase levels of Literacy achievement for every student.

2013 Targets to achieve this outcome include:
- No student at or below NMS in grammar and punctuation in 2012 NAPLAN
- 60% of students at proficiency in spelling in 2012 NAPLAN
- 90% of students to reach school benchmark reading level by December 2012

Strategies to achieve these targets include:
- Analysis of NAPLAN data to refine goals
- Development of K-6 scope and sequence for: writing for a purpose; grammar and punctuation (DIPL); spelling (DIPL)
- Whole staff TPL in teaching Persuasive Device and Audience
- Printing and laminating of Writing Device Wall Charts
- Review and re-development of K-6 rubrics
- TPL A-E assessment scale for CTJ in writing for a purpose.

School priority 2
Outcome for 2012–2014
Use whole school planning processes to evaluate the quality of numeracy teaching to improve numeracy standards throughout the school.

2013 Targets to achieve this outcome include:
- Less than 10% of students in bottom 3 bands in Mathematics in NAPLAN tests.
- 60% of students at proficiency in Numeracy.
- Less than 10% of students achieving D/E on their report in 2012

Strategies to achieve these targets include:
- Count Me In Too Online leadership learning for school coordinators.
- Staff revision and development in CMIT continuum, metalanguage, terminology.
- Staff training and development; using the early arithmetical strategies, assessing and plotting students, designing effective and engaging lessons/programs based on data.
- Analyse NAPLAN data to create “One of’s” categories and focus areas highlighted and warm up lessons developed using QT elements. Structured using modelled, guided and Independent teaching sessions. Lessons/results discussed weekly at communication meetings.

About this report
In preparing this report, the self-evaluation committee has gathered information from evaluations conducted during the year and analysed other information about the school’s practices and student learning outcomes. The self-evaluation committee and school planning committee have determined targets for the school's future development.

Trish Bowen- Principal
Kelly Deakin- Assistant Principal
Justin Lobsey- Assistant Principal
Fia Lyle- Classroom teacher

School contact information
Hamilton North Public School
Jackson St. Broadmeadow
Ph: 49693695
Fax: 49621190
Email: hamiltonn-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
School Code: 3897

Parents can find out more information about Annual School Reports, how to interpret information in the reports and have the opportunity to provide feedback about these reports at: