Aldgate
Annual Report
2014
1. CONTEXT

School Name: Aldgate Primary School  
School Number: 0210  
Principal: Kevin Kennedy  
Partnership: Mt Lofty  
Governance Council Chairperson: Jeremy Goldwyn

Aldgate Primary School is a growing Reception to Year 7 School of 256 students situated on spacious grounds in the picturesque Adelaide Hills. The school shares a strong partnership with its community and the site accommodates Aldgate Kindergarten and the Aldgate Primary School Out of School Hours and Vacation Care program to provide a range of Education and Child Care services for the Aldgate community. Parents are involved in all aspects of Aldgate Primary School and support the need for their children to have a strong learning foundation. The school’s philosophy is underpinned by a commitment to “Learning Together for a Sustainable Future” and all students take part in environmental and sustainable learning activities. Outstanding teaching and learning is evident in all curriculum areas at Aldgate PS with a focus on Reception to Year 7 Maths, English and Science. All Aldgate Primary School teachers have high expectations of students and challenge them to be successful, enquiring learners while acknowledging individual differences and learning needs.

2. REPORT FROM GOVERNING COUNCIL

Having celebrated the school’s centenary last year, we can now look back on 2014 specifically.

Last year was a one of slightly less turbulence than previously, with possibly the last burst of growth before our pupil numbers begin to stabilise just short of 300. This will simplify many elements of future planning, enabling longer term programmes and team teaching to play an increasing role, as evidenced more recently in the middle primary unit. Whilst we continue to welcome new families throughout the school, we expect that most of the future growth will emerge from the single year intake at the bottom end of the school, especially now that most of our other classes are pretty full.

Our teaching staff numbers are the highest they’ve ever been, and although the system means that there will inevitably be some tweaking each year, we work hard to keep such changes to a minimum and handle them in such a way that the children are as minimally affected as possible.

In 2014 we had some disruption to our senior management as Linda Cottle was appointed as acting Deputy but as it turned out she only served in the role for less than half the year. A short term replacement was appointed for the second half of the year. We now have a new Deputy Principal in Robyn Neal, who joined us this January from Reynella East for the next 5 years.

Now, our leadership team can truly concentrate on leading and focusing the school towards its 21st century learning aims.

Last year also saw the end of the Mount Lofty Area OSHC, which we had run for almost all of its existence, to the mutual benefit of many. We now have our own Aldgate PS OSHC, which together with vacation care can cater for our local community, without the distractions, risks and complications of running a service at three other sites. Unfortunately, the unwinding of MLA OSHC continues to cause work for many, as the GC’s of the other schools consider our handling of the process inequitable. It has been our view throughout, and that of the legal advice provided, that this is not the case, but we still find ourselves drawn into continued distracting “discussions” over its handling.
In recent years, a major challenge has been handling the growth whilst seeking to retain the community feel and environmental focus of the school, all of which has long made Aldgate Primary such a special place for learning. I hope our popularity with the many new families confirms that we are still managing to maintain the right balance.

We have much to be proud of in our school ethos and atmosphere plus our academic and other achievements.

Our many volunteer helpers are truly valued and appreciated. They play such a crucial role. Each year we say goodbye to a few, some of which have helped the school for a decade or more. As a shining example, last year we bade farewell to the Thomas family who have put three children through Aldgate. Fiona helped lead our parent network for many years. We thank you and hope there are new Fiona’s out there amongst our growing community to help the school in future. And I’m sure Susie Lamb and Ronda Wauchope the other drivers of the Parent Network hope so too.

Learning remains the key focus for all of us involved with the school and your Governing Council sees its key role as supporting Kevin and his staff in all ways pertaining to the curriculum and school life.

Talking of Mr. Kennedy, we were delighted to secure his services as our Principal on a permanent basis, effective beginning of term 4. This ensures the very continuity of leadership we have been promising, something we have considered important throughout our period of rapid growth and just as essential now as we enter a period of extended stabilisation.

I would like to take this opportunity to; thank all of those involved in ensuring the school operates as happily and successfully as it does, including all the staff and volunteers, our Governing Council and the Parent Network.

Welcome all the many new families to our school community.

Invite all of you to participate in school activities to the maximum – be it helping with reading/activities, sharing special skills or knowledge with the children, utilising the recycling operations as well as participating on the Parent Network, Governing Council or the many working bees throughout the year. Sadly, new legal procedures make volunteering a little more complex and more expensive but we must strive to maintain the overwhelming community support our children receive.

3. 2014 HIGHLIGHTS

Centenary
2015 was a significant year for Aldgate Primary School as it celebrated its 100th birthday. This community event was shared with the Village Well-Aldgate Church of Christ which is now on the original school site. Celebrations featured a weekend of events where old scholars toured both sites and strolled down memory lane. Memorabilia for sale included mugs, glasses and shirts. The Aldgate Primary School Governing Council gifted all students with the Centenary shirt featuring a logo designed by former Student Arisha Silverlake. A photo of which is proudly displayed in the schools front office.
We were very fortunate to have the support of local historian, Jan Polkinghorne in creating a digital history DVD of Aldgate Primary. Jan, along with Fiona Crackett and the Governing Council of Aldgate Primary worked hard on ensuring the year was a successful one and worthy of a Centenary.

**Parent Network**
A wide range of Aldgate parents were involved in Parent Network during 2014. This group of willing helpers organised the BBQ lunch for Sports Day, arranged parent morning teas, provided special lunch and recess events for students and catered for Food and Carols Night.

A group of parents associated with Parent Network has also been involved in organising parent working bees throughout 2014. These events have led to massive benefits to the school grounds while also showcasing the tremendous community spirit we have at Aldgate PS.

Thank you to all parents involved in this committee and to the many families who have offered their time and effort to support the Parent Network events.

**4. SITE IMPROVEMENT PLANNING AND TARGETS**

In 2010 Aldgate Primary School implemented a three year Site Learning Plan. This was reviewed at the end of 2012 and it was clear that this plan had been effective in improving the learning and well-being outcomes of students at Aldgate.

Due to the success of the plan a decision was made to continue this plan into 2013 and 2014.

Aldgate teachers continued to use a team approach (Professional Learning Teams) to identify professional development, to address school, region, state and national priorities. The teams also strategically planned, assessed and moderated according to trends identified in the schools data collection.

2014 NAPLAN results generally provided support for the success of Aldgate Primary School’s 2014 Annual improvement Plan and the collegial approach to improved teaching and learning.

However, it is worth noting the Year 7 results were mixed and after closer examination it was hard to define a trend or pattern compared to previous year’s results. This was due to many of the year 7’s were relatively new enrolments at the school and sat the year 5 NAPLAN tests at other schools.

Staff also revisited the Maths and English Agreements created in 2013. A number of adjustments were made to the agreements. Targets were updated in line with state and national expectations which will lead to the improvement cycle at Aldgate continuing and will form the foundation of the new Site Improvement Plan starting in 2015.

Key strategic directions were:
- Teaching for Effective Learning
- Excellence in Learner Achievement
- Streamlined Learner Intervention

These will continue to be implemented in line with collection and analysis of relevant learner data to ensure best possible learning plans are implemented for all students.

Significant professional development to support the Annual Improvement Plan included: Dylan Wiliam, Embedding Formative Assessment. Sheena Cameron, Reading Comprehension. SPELD, Teaching Students with Dyslexia.

Aldgate PS budget was designed to support the professional development of all staff throughout 2014 and a total of $15,289.38 invested in the development of our staff to ensure all Aldgate PS children
were exposed to the best possible learning opportunities. This budget was drawn from Australian Curriculum Strategy $10,456 and from Aldgate primary School budget $4,838.88

4.1 Junior Primary and Early Years Scheme Funding

Junior Primary and Early Years Scheme Funding ($14,000) contributed to extra SSO support to classes from reception to year 2. The extra SSO time was used to support at “risk students” in programs planned and directed by the classroom teacher. A portion of the funding was used to reduce class sizes in the junior primary.

4.2 Better Schools Funding

Better School Funding ($6874.00) was utilized in 2014 by employing a specialist literacy teacher. Data analysis identified a number of “at risk students” who didn’t qualify for DECD support that required intervention. Many of these students displayed dyslexic traits.

5. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Student Achievement

Aldgate Primary School Community has high expectations of student learning and this is reflected in a strong academic program with a focus on continual improvement in teaching and learning across the school.

In 2014 this was reflected by students again achieving good results in the 2014 Running Records Assessment for year ones and twos and the NAPLAN tests involving year three, five and seven students.

It should also be acknowledged that students with special learning needs are a very important part of our school community and programs are designed and continually reviewed to support their needs and maximise learning outcomes. These programs are implemented by caring and skilful staff and in 2014 the school invested in further professional development for teachers and SSOs who work with children with special needs while investment was also made in important learning tools such as online learning programs and associated ICT hardware to support these programs.

Aldgate PS continued to use the Quicksmart Maths program in 2014. This program supports the development of maths skills in students who have been identified, through Australian Council of Education Research (ACER) Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT Maths), as requiring assistance in this learning area.

Ten students from years 5, 6 and 7 participated in a thirty week program of three thirty minute Quicksmart sessions per week and all students made significant progress in their knowledge of basic number facts, number recall and number processes.

End of year analysis of progress made by children involved in Quicksmart Maths identified that Aldgate students had made noticeable improvements in Maths and we look forward to seeing this continue into their mainstream Maths classes in 2015.

The Premiers Reading Challenge was highly successful with 251 students successfully completing their Premier's Reading Challenge. This is our best ever result in 8 years of the Challenge. This is an indication to the dedication of your teachers and you all on your love of reading.
Student Leadership

Student leadership and decision making in the Student Representative Council (SRC) was ably led by the year seven SRC Executive. The SRC Executive was appointed following a stringent application process which resulted in seven year seven students being appointed to roles such as Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Junior Primary Liaison.

SRC Executive worked with the elected SRC members and this group of students had a significantly positive impact on the day to day tone and organisation of the school.

The Aldgate SRC displayed excellent organisation, management and marketing skills which resulted in them raising money to support the school’s World Vision Sponsor Child and to donate to Childhood Cancer Research through a range of student organised events.

Congratulations to the 29 students who were part of SRC throughout 2014. Your efforts set a positive example for all students and ensured that the role of SRC will continue to be held in high esteem at our school.

Choir and Music

Linda Cottle facilitated the school choir throughout 2014. The highlight of this program occurred when 19 year five, six and seven students were selected to perform at the Festival Theatre as part of the Primary Schools’ Festival of Music.

Students at Aldgate were also able to access music tuition in guitar, drums and piano during school time in 2014.

The Music Is Fun performance, organised by Leanne Costello, was again a highlight for many Aldgate students.

Sport

Aldgate students were involved in many sporting activities including SAPSASA carnivals for a number of sports. The District Cross Country and Athletics carnivals were well attended and as with every year were very well supported by parents.

In 2014 Aldgate entered teams in four SAPSASA state wide knockout competitions. Students represented the school in volleyball, netball, soccer, and cricket.

Aldgate students continued to participate in the “Spike Zone” primary school volleyball competition on Friday nights at Heathfield HS and many thanks must go to Mr Huff for organising and coaching teams in the summer and winter competitions.

Aldgate students were also involved in a range of school based sports programs including Footsteps Dance, Tri Skills Gymnastics, AUSKICK and Rec Footy.

The Aldgate Primary School Sports Day was held in term 3. As it was the schools Centenary year all the students were provided with a free Centenary Polo on the day.

This success of this event was due to the organisation and planning of Mr Huff, the cooperation of all staff during the lead up to this event and the enthusiasm of all students who participated on the day.

Students and staff really enjoyed having a tremendous amount of support from parents and grandparents on sports day and also appreciated the BBQ lunch provided by Parent Network.
NAPLAN

Aldgate students in years three, five and seven exceeded the South Australian Mean Score in 13 of the 15 NAPLAN testing areas. Despite being one point lower this year than in 2013 it is still another very good result.

Comparisons made against the National Averages in NAPLAN were excellent in years three and five but the year seven results were disappointing compared to previous years. Data from this testing will continue to be analysed to ensure teaching programs continue to improve during 2015.

A highlight of 2014 NAPLAN Data Analysis was an improvement in the percentage of students achieving the DECD Standard of Student Achievement (SEA) in Numeracy and Reading. This is the score compared to National Minimum benchmarks.

NAPLAN Literacy - Reading - DECD SEA

Number of non-exempt students and number demonstrating expected achievement, (DECD SEA) this is the score compared to National Minimum benchmarks.

NAPLAN Proficiency Bands - Literacy - Reading

Aldgate Primary School.
NAPLAN Numeracy - DECD SEA
Number of non-exempt students and number demonstrating expected achievement, (DECD SEA) this is the score compared to National Minimum benchmarks.

NAPLAN Proficiency Bands - Numeracy
Aldgate Primary School

Running Records Data 2011-2014 DECD SEA
6. STUDENT DATA

At Aldgate Primary School we believe that we cannot teach any child effectively unless we know what they know and what they do not know.

Due to this learning data is collected on all students from year one to year seven and School Entry Assessment Data is used to inform teachers about the learning needs of reception students.

Collection of data allows teachers to use Assessment for Learning Principles to plan for the next stage of each student’s learning leading to students’ specific needs being catered for.

This system also helps to identify those students who need to be referred to local service providers such as speech pathologists, educational psychologists and disability coordinators for further assessment and advice on how to best support the children with their learning.
The continued use of learning data in 2014 strengthened the structure and evidence of decision making in regards to student learning needs and intervention strategies. It also led to teachers increasing the data base of learning evidence for every student which enabled them to analyse the performance of individual students and student cohorts throughout the school. This process allows teachers to assess for learning before making informed choices about the next phase in class and individual learning programs.

In 2014 the data collection process at Aldgate Primary was streamlined with the amount of tests being used reduced and the administration of some of the test going online. The purpose of this was to make the data more accessible and its use more strategic.

Data collection at Aldgate PS includes Student Entry Assessment, Australian Council of Education Research Progressive Achievement Tests, Running Records, Phonological Awareness and NAPLAN testing.

This process ensures that our school can map the progress of individual students, particular student cohorts and the whole school which leads to all teachers being aware of learning trends across the school to promote informed decisions being made about teaching and learning programs for students and teachers.

This data also influences budgeting processes to ensure resources are allocated to the continuous professional development of staff, in areas of need, as identified by school data analysis.

### 6.1 Attendance

Student attendance in 2014 was an average of 93.6%. This was 0.6% above of our school target of 93%. Attendance was quite consistent across the year with term one showing the highest rate at 93.9% and term three the lowest at 90.4%.

We will continue to aim to improve the level of attendance at our school in 2015 and onwards to 95% in 2016.
### Table 9: Attendance by Year Level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance by Year Level</th>
<th>% Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reception</td>
<td>93.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>92.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>93.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>94.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>92.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>95.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>92.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total All Year Levels</td>
<td>93.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total ACARA 1 TO 10</td>
<td>93.8</td>
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</table>

### 6.2 Destination

#### Table 10: Intended Destination

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leave Reason</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interstate/Overseas</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seeking Employment</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tertiary/TAFE/Training</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer to Non-Govt Schl</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer to SA Govt Schl</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>
7. CLIENT OPINION

**Student Opinion**

- Teachers at this school expect my child to do his or her best.
- Teachers at this school provide my child with useful feedback.
- Teachers at this school treat students fairly.
- This school is well maintained.
- My child feels safe at this school.
- I can talk to my child’s teachers about my concerns.
- Student behaviour is well managed at this school.
- My child likes being at this school.
- This school looks for ways to improve.
- This school takes parents’ opinions seriously.
- Teachers at this school motivate my child to learn.
- My child is making good progress at this school.
- My child’s learning needs are being met at this school.
- This school works with me to support my child’s learning.

**Parent Opinion**

- Teachers at this school expect my child to do his or her best.
- Teachers at this school provide my child with useful feedback.
- Teachers at this school treat students fairly.
- This school is well maintained.
- My child feels safe at this school.
- I can talk to my child’s teachers about my concerns.
- Student behaviour is well managed at this school.
- My child likes being at this school.
- This school looks for ways to improve.
- This school takes parents’ opinions seriously.
- Teachers at this school motivate my child to learn.
- My child is making good progress at this school.
- My child’s learning needs are being met at this school.
- This school works with me to support my child’s learning.
8. ACCOUNTABILITY

8.1 Behaviour Management

Aldgate Primary had no suspension or exclusions in 2014.

8.2 Relevant History Screening (formerly Criminal History Screening)

Aldgate Primary implemented DECD Policy regarding Relevant History Screening in full. Staff, parents, volunteers, tutors, third party providers, Governing Council members and all other relevant persons were directed to obtain a Relevant History Screening. Those who were unable to were not permitted on site until the process had been completed.

Process at Aldgate Primary includes:
- establishing shared-use agreements with community groups.
- maintaining the accuracy of screening information on EDSAS, HRS or site files
- sighting and recording clearance information on EDSAS or HRS system (or maintaining copies of clearances if not connected to these systems).
- Reporting Abuse and Neglect training is being run for all volunteers and Governing Council members.
8.3 HUMAN RESOURCES - Workforce Data

8.3.1 Teacher Qualifications

All teachers at this school are qualified and registered with the SA Teachers Registration Board.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualification Level</th>
<th>Number of Qualifications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor Degrees or Diplomas</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Graduate Qualifications</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note: Staff that have more than 1 qualification will be counted more than once in the above qualification table. Therefore the total number of staff by qualification type may be more than the total number of teaching staff.

8.3.2 Workforce Composition including Indigenous staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workforce Composition</th>
<th>Teaching Staff</th>
<th>Non-Teaching Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Indigenous</td>
<td>Non Indigenous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time Equivalents</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>14.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>15</td>
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9. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Income by Funding Source

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Grants: State</td>
<td>$2,072,409.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Grants: Commonwealth</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Parent Contributions</td>
<td>$143,387.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Other</td>
<td>$216,818.04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>