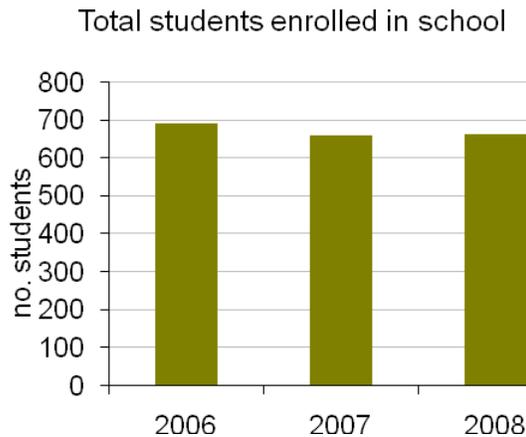


*Warrandyte High School
8437*

*2008 Annual Report to the
School Community*

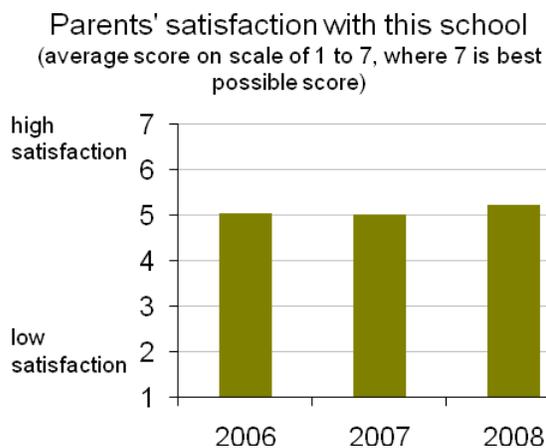


School Overview



Warrandyte High School celebrated its 30th birthday in 2008. Opening in 1978 with 42 students, it now has 660 students enrolled. This has remained relatively stable in the last three years. In 2008, a sustainable transition program was implemented for students from our four main feeder primary schools.

There are many learning opportunities for students at the school. Warrandyte High School aims for all students to do their best, in whatever endeavour they undertake. The school is fortunate to have high quality teachers, who are dedicated and professional. The Student Representative Council works hard to improve the school and is an effective voice for the students. Finally, the School Council works closely with the Leadership team and staff to support programs and facilities which improve the learning outcomes for students.



Each year, parents are selected randomly using a computer program, to comment on various aspects of the school. They are also asked to what extent they agree with the statement 'Overall, I am satisfied with the education my child receives from their school.' The average score for Warrandyte High School is 5.22, on a scale from 1 to 7, where 7 is the best possible score. We are pleased with the improvement in this area and hope to improve on it even further in 2009.

Commonwealth Requirements

- **Teacher Satisfaction** - The average score for teacher satisfaction (morale) at this school was 46.8 on a scale from 0 to 100 where 100 is the best possible score. This remains a key area for improvement.
- **Teacher Absence** - The average number of days absent per teacher was 11.02 days. This data is for 2007 and includes both certified and non certified leave. Data for 2008 will become available later in the year.
- **Teacher Retention** - Of the 52 teaching staff at Warrandyte High School at June 2007 (including those on leave without pay), 45 or 87% 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, such as the Teacher Professional Leave Program and the Induction/Mentoring for Beginning Teachers program.
- **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

Principal's Report

Once again, I am very impressed by the range of learning achievements that Warrandyte High School attains, given that it is a medium sized school. Success can be measured in many ways and our students demonstrated excellence within the school and in external contexts.

Students in Year 12 achieved excellent academic results and the percentage of students gaining their first preference for post schooling pathways was increased in 2009. The percentage of Year 12 students who performed above an ENTER score of 50 increased and there was consolidation of the 'middle bands'. This means that overall student results were higher. The median ENTER score of 30 compares very favorably with neighbouring schools.

For students who are in the post-compulsory phase of their schooling, gaining entry to their chosen course or workplace is of key importance. In 2008, a greater number of our students achieved their first preference.

In 2008, other indicators of success are the achievements of various groups within the school:

- A group anthology of student writing won the *Mavis Thorpe Clarke* award for their entry in the national *Fellowship of Australian Writers* competition for the second year.
- A film created by students came fourth in the national *Eureka Science Talent Search* competition.
- The Symphonic Band won a Silver Shield at the Brisbane Bands' Festival.

Many students participated in cross-level programs such as the musical review, *Highlights*, the music program and camps such as *The Great Victorian Bike Ride* and the tour to Italy. Many parents and students took the time to give very positive feedback about these experiences, which are so important for personal development and the creation of school spirit. The Camps program is a major feature of the school and many students actively benefited from the camps both at year levels and for specialist groups.

In addition, students enthusiastically embraced the Year 9 Urban Adventure program, which was designed by Pamela Pridmore and Kathy Hooke. Many other teachers initiated out of classroom experiences for their students in order to make the learning more active and relevant. In particular, the Humanities Department once again, integrated many excursions into their classroom studies.

Individual students excelled in competitions such as the National Mathematics and Science competitions. Several students successfully applied for substantial scholarships (\$30,000 and \$47,000) to finance their tertiary studies. Local service organizations such as the Rotary Club of Warrandyte and the Lion's Club provided significant support in terms of financial assistance and youth programs.

There were many opportunities for students to showcase their work; whether at the Theatre Studies class' outstanding performance of *The Crucible* or the VCE Art, Design and Multimedia Show. Every Year 11 and 12 student in these classes had at least one piece of work displayed. The quality of the work was mature and sophisticated.

Data from the student survey indicates that our students feel very safe within the school. There are proactive programs such as the Respect program at Year 7, Tolerance program at Year 9 and the Mental Health program at Year 11 as well as a team approach to student wellbeing.

Students also engaged with their local community through music, theatrical performances and the CFA. Many parents and ex-students supported them in their efforts. This was also very evident at the opening of our oval, which was named in honour of Rob Graham.

On a global level, students engaged with students from Africa through the SRC Library Bags program, Japanese students from the sister school in Hazu and students from Japan and Siberia in a collaborative online project called the Global Virtual Classroom program.

In 2008, we were awarded Performance and Development Culture Accreditation. To achieve this we needed to demonstrate that key elements of professional learning existed within the school and that the vast majority of staff believed that this was the case. The basic premise of this accreditation process is that there needs to be a culture of professional learning between teachers within a school if students are going to learn.

This is certainly the case at Warrandyte High School where a group of teachers was able to build on the learning of the Teacher Professional Leave team of 2007. This earlier team investigated how students could improve their research skills. In 2008, the team who were granted study leave, investigated how to make learning about mathematics at Years 7&8 more relevant and engaging.

All staff spent time developing rich, integrated projects for implementation in 2009. Development of these fortnight long projects, which will be held once a term for Years 7&8, was very intensive and staff are to be congratulated for their willingness to go 'outside their comfort zones' and share their professional understandings.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the work of Mary Cannon, who was promoted to the principal's position at Canterbury Girls' Secondary College mid-year. I would also like to thank Claire Bloom, Joe Ferrante and Judy Steel, whose formal leadership positions ended in December 2008. Each of these teachers cares a great deal about the school and they have been very generous with their expertise and enthusiasm.

Thank you to all students, parents and staff, who make coming to work at this school so special.

Glennis Pitches
Principal

School Council President's Report

In 2008, we introduced some new members with fresh ideas to the School Council team, as well as welcoming a new Assistant Principal, Rosina Fotia, into the threshold. In this, our 30th anniversary year, we were able to celebrate some major achievements in the school's maintenance programme.

The oval was completed in June and a dedication ceremony held on 8 December, attended by students, staff, parents, community members and politicians formally acknowledged Rob Graham's contribution to the school community by naming it *The Rob Graham Sporting Field*.

There has been major upgrading of the sewerage treatment plant with new tanks being installed which will allow us to drought proof our oval.

On behalf of the School community, I am taking this opportunity to thank the wonderful efforts of our Parent Association who, with another successful Trivia Night, were able to raise enough money to fund the new cricket pitch which was installed in November.

The Design and Technology were upgraded as we received a \$50,000 grant to improve our technical education facilities. This meant that tools and workbenches were enhanced in this area.

The school also received a substantial grant to replace much of its roof area and Stephen Parkin has worked tirelessly to oversee this process.

During December, the Facilities Committee had its own mini working bee and created a new garden and a beautiful entrance to the General Office area. I would also like to express our sincere thanks to the Warrandyte Community Church and its band of volunteers who had their own working bees and, in particular, their painting of the Year 7 and 8 home room area for 2009.

In addition, the school created a new website. Many thanks to Glennis Pitches and Claire Bloom for their work in this area.

On behalf of the school community, I would like to thank the leadership team and the following people who made valuable contributions to Council and its various sub-committees: Fiona Joy, Paul Brown, Margory Lapworth, Maree Burns, Elizabeth Wainwright, Paul McNamara, Judy Finger, Michelle Hughes, Hugh Vincent, Nick Frowd, Christo Ferguson, Ann Boyce, Peter Taylor, Darryl Bubner, Glennis Pitches, Stephen Parkin, Claire Bloom, Kathy Hooke, Jill Treeby, Alicia Eldridge, Bronwyn Moorhouse, Peter Viney, Bronwyn Ventura, Rosina Fotia, Deborah Bradbury, Beryl Gale, Jo Roberts, Martin Murray, Colleen Dadswell, Stewart Lewis, Susie Baumgartner, Peter Burns, Phil Johnstone, Jo Pertile, Meredith Bubner, Julie Viney, Maria Micheal, and Kathy Wootton.

Two very important members of our team are "retiring" this year and deserve a special mention: Peter Taylor has been a School Councillor in the past and a very committed member of the Finance Committee for nine years; and Marjorie Lapworth is a significant member of our local community and a School Councillor who has fought for the school and State education and provided students with opportunities in which to excel with her Rotary Club connections. Both will be sorely missed!

Warrandyte High School continues to be an enviable environment in which to educate our children.

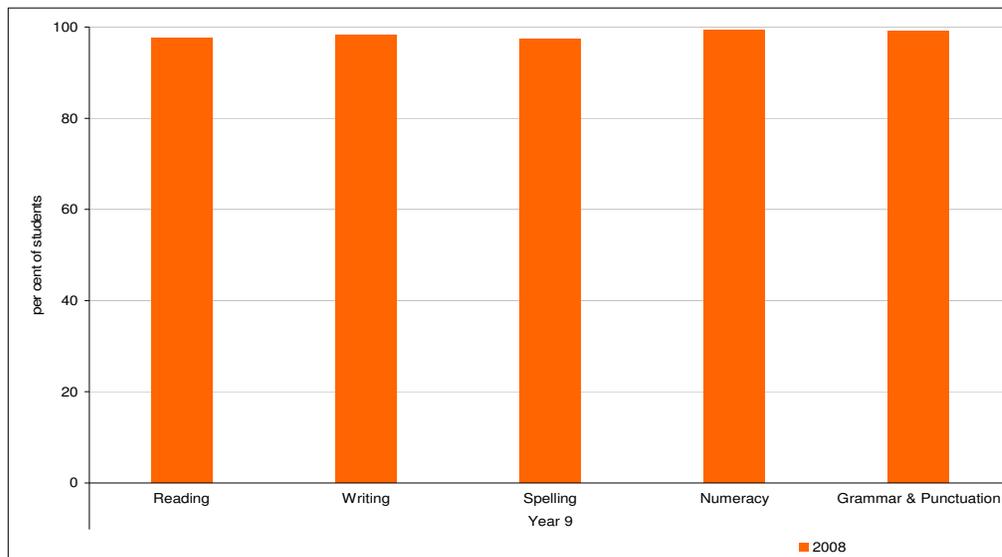
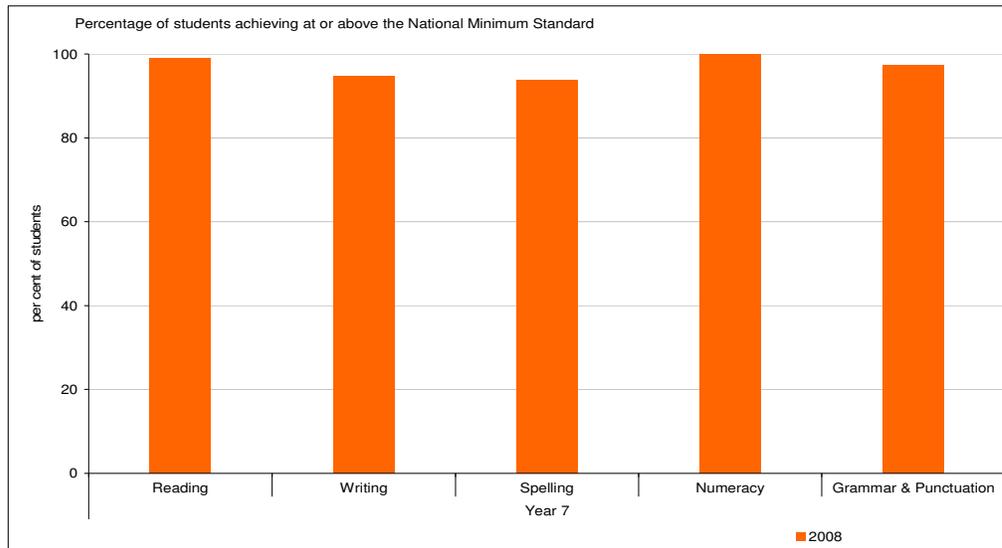
Tracey Hutchins
School Council President

Student Progress & Achievements

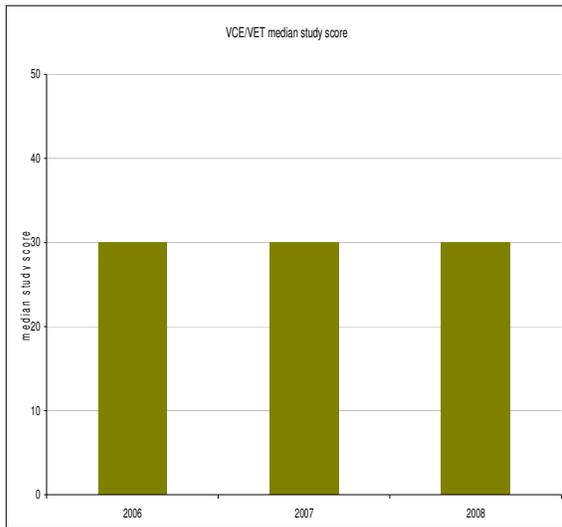
Student Learning

To improve the learning outcomes of all students, in particular, the learning needs of high achieving students in all areas of the curriculum.

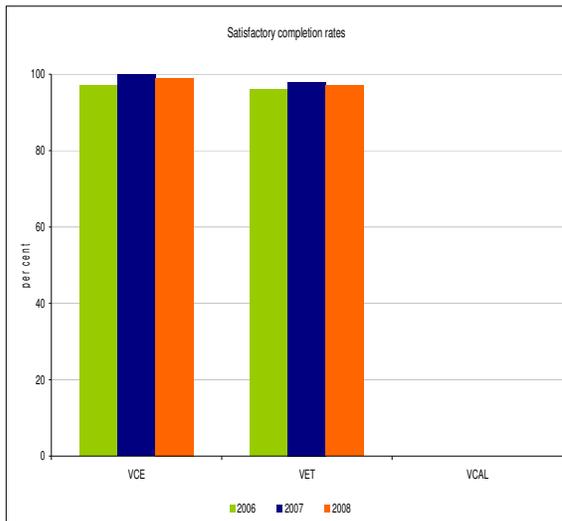
(from the Warrandyte High School Strategic Plan 2007-2010)



This data shows the percentage of Year 7 and Year 9 students who achieved at or above the National Benchmarks according to the NAPLAN testing results. This is the first year that this NAPLAN data is available. The data shows that all students at Year 7 achieved the National Benchmark in Numeracy. The percentage of students who achieved at the National Benchmark in all other areas is above 90 percent. At Year 9 the results show that 90 percent of students are achieving at or above the National Benchmarks in all categories.



VCE results for all studies in 2008 show that the median study score has remained at 30. The middle band of students has continued to improve their results. 75% of students obtained an ENTER score at or above 50.

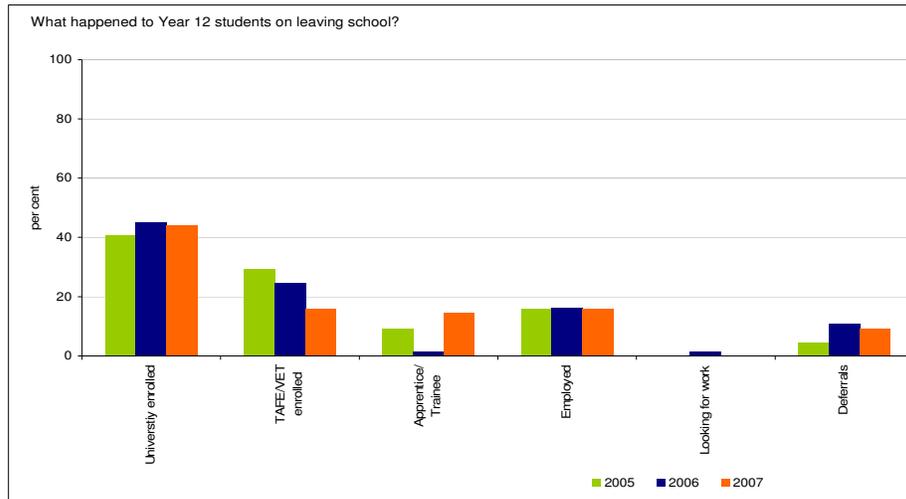


The completion rate of VCE students was very good in 2008. The minor changes from 2007 can be explained in terms of a very small number of students leaving school to go to purposeful pathways; either alternative study or gainful employment. In VET, the high rate of completion has been maintained with minor fluctuations during the year, again explained with a small number of students following alternate pathways. Warrandyte High School does not offer VCAL studies.

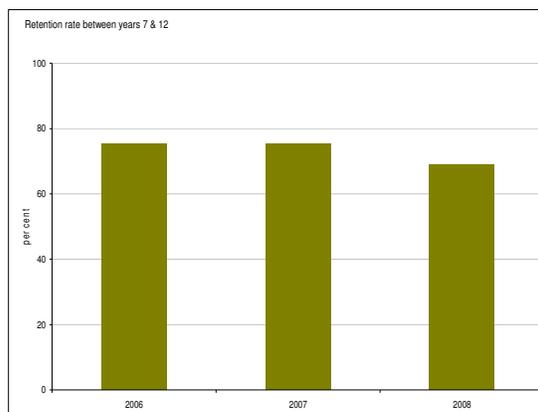
Student Pathways and Transition

To meet the transition needs of students at key points in their schooling and provide appropriate educational pathways that are designed to provide increased opportunities for students.

(from the Warrandyte High School Strategic Plan 2007-2010)



Data for 2008 is not available until August 2009 when the ON Track data which tracks the destinations of the previous Year 12 students is released. In 2007, 70% of students were offered a place at the tertiary level, either at university or TAFE and the number of students who chose to defer dropped from 2006. There has been an increase in the number of students choosing to complete apprenticeships or traineeships. There are no students looking for work.

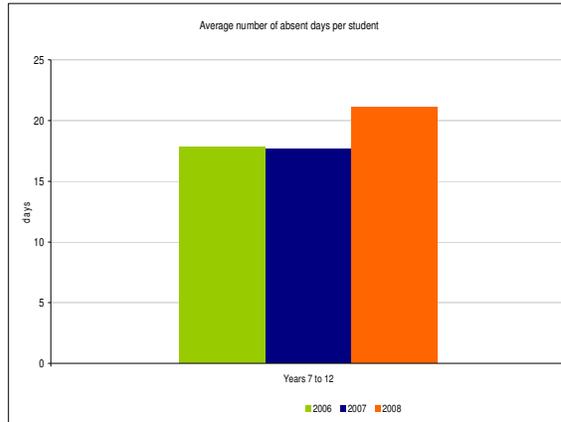


The data shows the number of Year 12 full-time equivalent students enrolled in August as a percentage of Year 7 enrolments in February five years earlier. It is therefore a comparison of numbers only, not of individual students. The 2008 figures show a small decrease in apparent retention rates for the 2003 cohort. This will be investigated in 2009.

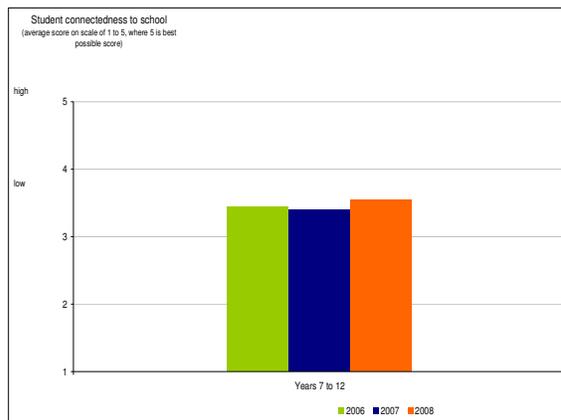
Student Engagement and Wellbeing

To engage all students in their learning and develop in each individual a sense of wellbeing and connectedness to their school and their peers.

(from the Warrandyte High School Strategic Plan 2007-2010)



The student absenteeism data shows that the average number of days absent per students has increased for 2008. The average absenteeism is 21 days. Absences may be skewed due to chronic illness and a small number of school refusers who have come to the school from other schools. Funding for a School Teacher Assistant in 2009 brings additional resources to this area. This will allow the school to identify and support students who are most at risk.



In the Student Attitudes to School Survey, students are asked to what extent they agree with each of five statements (I feel good about being a student at this school, I like school this year, I am happy to be at this school, I feel like I belong at this school, I look forward to going to school) on a scale where 1= strongly disagree and 5= strongly agree. The average score for student connectedness at this school was 3.54. This is an increase from previous years which is a very pleasing result.

Future Directions

At Warrandyte High School, we have every reason to feel optimistic about the education and learning of our students.

Teaching staff have enthusiastically embraced the development of interdisciplinary Active Learning Projects at Years 7&8. They have worked systematically to plan, deliver and evaluate new approaches to learning. These units of work all have as their goal student engagement in purposeful learning. These teams of teachers will be supported in their work by three teachers; Dave Kahukiwa, Tracey Wood and Georgia Pashias, who gained study leave from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) for first semester in 2009.

The school has been extremely successful in obtaining fully funded professional development for 2009. All of the Leading Teachers will participate in a targeted leadership development course. Several aspirant leaders were selected into highly competitive programs and I was selected to be part of a federally funded national program for principals called *Leading Australia's Schools*. These programs build on the Performance and Development Culture Accreditation that the school received in 2008.

Another major area for professional development will be in the area of Information and Communications Technology. This will be particularly important given that the school has been awarded a grant for \$315,000 for 126 new computers and infrastructure. Once rooms have been refurbished and cables installed, there will be an opportunity to develop the school's intranet so that students and parents can access work from offsite.

Also under the Federal government's *Building the Education Revolution* program, there will be additional funds for facilities and the school is currently preparing a submission for the competitive process.

State government funding for the next two years has allowed us to employ a Secondary Teaching Assistant. One of her roles is to act as an attendance officer. A key goal of the Strategic Plan is to increase attendance because there is a direct correlation between attendance and student learning and connectedness to the school.

While Warrandyte High School students achieve excellent academic results, there is always room for improvement. We hope to extend our student achievement programs as well as assist students who struggle academically for a range of reasons.

Given the high quality of our teachers, excellent students and supportive community, we look forward to the year ahead.

Glennis Pitches
Principal

Financial Performance and Position

Financial Performance – Operating Statement Summary for the year ending 31st December, 2008	
Revenue	2008 Actual
DE&T Grants	387,441
Commonwealth Government Grants	49,279
State Government Grants	96,940
Other	152,202
Locally Raised Funds	981,463
Total Operating Revenue	1,667,325
Expenditure	
Salaries and Allowances	107,999
Bank Charges	3,878
Consumables	119,656
Books and Publications	14,729
Communication Costs	28,381
Furniture and Equipment	126,236
Utilities	54,464
Property Services	733,134
Travel and Subsistence	259
Motor Vehicle Expenses	0
Administration	32,910
Health and Personal Development	1,440
Professional Development	27,777
Trading and Fundraising	147,378
Support/Service	79,051
Miscellaneous	446,375
Total Operating Expenditure	1,923,666
Net Operating Surplus/- Deficit	-256,341
Capital Expenditure	44,690
Please note that the above amounts do not include any credit revenue or expenditure allocated or spent by the school through its Student Resource Package	

Financial Position as at 31st December, 2008	
Funds Available	2008 Actual
High Yield Investment Account	479,499.60
Official Account	13,769.38
Building Trust	19,808.58
Library Trust	22,417.76
Cooperative Account	84.24
Term Deposit Bequests	19432.10
Term Deposit Account 6	310,689.04
Total Funds Available	865,700.70
Financial Commitments	2008 Actual
School Operating Reserve	219584.96
Co-operative Bank Account	84.24
Assets or Equipment Replacement < 12 months	70,837.76
Revenue Received in Advance	52,810.00
Building/Grounds including SMS < 12 months	325,612.64
Region /Clusters Funds/School Based Programs < 12 months	0
Provision Accounts < 12 months	3,000.00
Repayable to DEECD	32,385.00
Other Recurrent Expenditure (Accounts Payable)	142,954.00
Assets or Equipment Replacement > 12 months	0
Building/Grounds including SMS > 12 months	0
Region /Clusters Funds/School Based Programs > 12 months	0
Provision Accounts > 12 months	0
Co-operative loan >12 months	0
Beneficiary/Memorial Accounts	18,432.10
Total Financial Commitments	646,115.74

School Contact Information

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