



# ESPERANCE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



2015

## ANNUAL REPORT

## SCHOOL OVERVIEW

### GOALS OF ESPERANCE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

The primary goal of the Esperance Christian Primary School is to provide each student with a safe and nurturing God-centered environment in which they can learn and grow. Emphasis is placed on the holistic development of each student and allowing them to progress at a rate that is comfortable, yet challenging for them. The following goals are extensions of the school's mission:

#### SPIRITUAL

- ❖ The school intends to conform to and maintain the Biblical standards of Christianity in behaviour, teachings and lifestyle.
- ❖ The Esperance Seventh-day Adventist Church Minister is engaged in the school's program as the school's chaplain. He is available to all associated with the school, including, students, staff, volunteers and parents
- ❖ Worship, prayer and Bible study periods are held daily in the school.
- ❖ The school strives to be a community built on *acceptance* and *tolerance*, where all are treated with *respect* and *dignity*.
- ❖ The school provides an environment in which the students can come to know *Jesus* and *model* their lives on Him.

#### MENTAL

- ❖ To develop in students a *desire to learn* and achieve standards of excellence in all areas.
- ❖ To develop in students an understanding of the impact a *healthy life* can have on academic, social and spiritual development.
- ❖ To assist students in developing talents and gifts God has given them, in an environment which allows *individual creativity*.

#### PHYSICAL

- ❖ The school endeavours to develop a balanced program where each student receives the benefit of an alert mind and a sound body. Daily exercises and sporting activities, with free and organised play are programmed into the curriculum.
- ❖ The school provides a balanced health program, emphasising the benefits of a healthy body and mind.

#### SOCIAL

- ❖ The school encourages students across all the grades to interact with each other, promoting a culture of caring and nurturing each other. This buddy system fosters leadership, friendship and stability. Students learn to treat each other with respect and to respect God.
- ❖ Students feel comfortable in the classroom and playground environment. This fosters learning and meaningful social interaction.
- ❖ To provide experience that will assist in the choice and development of a *well-balanced* lifestyle.
- ❖ To develop in students appropriate *life skills* that will be of benefit to themselves and the community.

### MISSION STATEMENT

Esperance Christian Primary School exists to provide a caring, nurturing environment where students are educated for a life of service to both God and the community.

ECPS encourages excellence through the balanced development of the mental, physical and social domains of each child. Encompassing this is a focus on the strengthening of Christian character.

### VISION STATEMENT

The vision of the ECPS is to provide a holistic Christian based educational service that is valued by the community.

VALUES STATEMENT

L O V E	EXCELLENCE	...is patient...always perseveres	S E R V I C E
	COMPASSION	...is kind...keeps no record of wrongs...does not envy	
	HUMILITY	...does not boast...is not proud...is not easily angered	
	RESPECT	...is not rude	
	INTEGRITY	...is not self-seeking...rejoices with the truth	
	JUSTICE	...is not self-seeking	
	DISCERNMENT	...rejoices with the truth...does not delight in evil	
	RESPONSIBILITY	...always protects...never fails	
	HOPE	...always hopes...always trusts	

Our Motto





## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

This Annual Report provides a brief overview of some of the key operations of Esperance Christian School during 2015. It doesn't fully reveal the day-to-day 'heart beat' of the school, and how this impacts the social, emotional and spiritual needs of the students and school community.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 our school underwent the Department of Education Services Re-registration process. I am very pleased that our school was highly commended and the Minister for Education granted four years registration. The registration process was a very positive experience, where we were affirmed for the quality of our school program, particularly our Early Childhood program, and were provided with great strategies for our improvement journey.

One of our key foci over the past few years has been to improve our community engagement processes. We have done this by securing the professional services of a company who have provided us with many great strategies, which we have put in place. However, all our best efforts haven't been able to increase our enrolments, so this has been disappointing. We will continue to work with the strategies and try other ways to grow our school.

Regardless of how small our numbers are, our school continues to implement a strong program, focusing on the holistic development of each and every student in our care. We have now fully implemented English, Maths, Science, History and Geography from the WA Curriculum and will continue moving with this over the next year as new learning areas are completed.

We have developed a strong culture of quality improvement, and the school staff members are dedicated to constantly reflecting on their practice, gathering evidence to inform future directions for improvement and keeping records of improvement strategies. We have been working closely with the *Quality Adventist Schools Framework* and the *National Quality Standards*, using them as tools to guide this process.

I am proud of the achievements of our school and the quality of the differentiated curriculum that is implemented by our excellent teaching staff. I am also encouraged by the many expressions of appreciation that come from our parent body as they see their children thrive. I acknowledge the valuable input of parents, carers, service providers, Adventist Christian Schools and the wider Esperance community as we work together in partnership for the benefit of the children in our school.

I thank God for His constant presence, care, guidance and wisdom and give Him glory for all good things.

*A. Tonkin*

Anne Tonkin  
Principal



## REPORT TO PARENTS - SCHOOL PERFORMANCE INFORMATION 2015

In accordance with Federal Government reporting requirements, the following information outlines our school's performance in specified criteria for 2015. The information is to assist parents to understand how our school performed in 2015. This material can be used in conjunction with the *My Schools* Website. Any further questions regarding this material can be directed to the Principal, Mrs Anne Tonkin.

### Contextual Information

Esperance Christian School (ECS) is an Independent, co-educational primary school catering for Pre-Kindergarten to year 7. ECS is part of a worldwide Christian Education system (Adventist Christian Schools). The school was initially established in 1979 as a single teacher school with an enrolment of only 9 students and has slowly grown in numbers and infrastructure since then. In 2015 the school employed 5 full-time teachers and one full-time Education Assistant.

The students from our school are mainly Caucasian, but we have students of other ethnic origins: Aboriginal, Zimbabwean, South African, Mauri and Indian. Most of these have English as their first language.

### School Enrolments

As at the August, 2015 Census, the school had an enrolment of 88 students from Kindergarten to year 7. This was comprised of:

Kindergarten: 5 students  
Pre-Primary: 11 students  
Primary: 58 students



**Special Character:** Esperance Christian School is supported by a strong parent body and School Council, which provide a sense of community and inclusivity. Permeating each teaching and learning activity is a Biblical world-view. This means that ECS is a place where students, teachers and parents work together to develop the positive values based on the Christian faith - values of respect and care for God, others and themselves.

**Our key strengths:** We actively plan and provide educational activities that are designed to provide effective learning and teaching strategies to ensure each child is working at or toward their individual potential intellectually, spiritually, socially and physically. We understand that each child is valuable to a loving and caring God and also to every staff member of the school.

**Pastoral Care:** Esperance Christian School provides a strong pastoral care program for students, staff and family members associated with the school. The school is provided with funds from the National Chaplaincy Program, which allow us to engage the services of a part-time Chaplain, Pr. Brad Thomas. The Chaplain's main role is to develop resiliency in our students and he works with the school staff members and parents to this end. He coordinates a garden program and the *Protective Behaviours* program across the school.

**Curriculum:** The Esperance Christian School plans and implements teaching and learning activities with the aim of meeting the outcomes of the new *WA Curriculum*. The Early Learning Program is aligned with the *Early Years Learning Framework*. The school's 'Whole School Curriculum Plan' was reviewed and continues to be implemented to ensure that a good cross-section of the outcomes are addressed in all learning areas.

- French is offered for the LOTE program.
- Choir and drama play a major role in our music program. In 2015 students once again participated in the Esperance Music Festival schools' choir. At the end of the year a major musical drama was presented to the local community at the Esperance Civic Centre.
- ECS acknowledges the importance of a healthy lifestyle and integrates this concept throughout the learning areas. At least two hours of physical activity per week is included in the school program and personal health education programs are part of the whole school scheme. Funding was received from 'Sporting Schools' to assist us in our Swimming and Tennis programs.

- The *Go Maths* program, an Australian Curriculum aligned resource, is used as the basis for teaching Maths across the school. This program provides huge scope for the teachers to prepare and implement direct instruction and hands-on activities that relate to real-life experiences. Teachers use concrete materials and interactive IT resources to assist in teaching, allowing students to learn through active involvement and substantive communication between the teachers and students.
- The English program uses the *Spelling Conventions* and *Grammar Conventions* programs for the students in years 1-6. Kindergarten to Years 1 students also use the *Jolly Phonics* program and specialised speech techniques developed by the local Speech Therapy and OT Department. The Teachers are committed to teaching all the forms of writing on a daily basis, and allow students time to develop their writing skills across the genres.
- The students have access to iMac computers and interactive white boards, providing them with opportunities to learn and extend their IT knowledge and skills.
- History, Geography, Science and Technology, aligned to the Australian Curriculum, are taught to ensure that all requirements of the Australian Curriculum are met. These subjects areas are programmed within a two year cycle to ensure all subjects and concepts are taught in the double stream-classrooms over two years. The Science program is based on the *Primary Connections* program.

**Social and Emotional Care:** Staff at Esperance Christian School positively value and are very aware of the ongoing need to ensure the healthy social, emotional and mental health of students. The **'Kids Matter'** initiative continues to drive a number of resiliency programs delivered by teachers within the classroom setting. One of these is the **'PATHS'** program which provides students with strategies to cope with their emotional needs.

The **'Protective Behaviours'** program forms the basis of our Child Protection Curriculum and is presented to each year group throughout the year by the Chaplain and the Principal. The Chaplain and the Principal are fully trained in the Protective Behaviours Program.

**Parent Body:** The ECS values the involvement of parents in their children's education. In 2015 parents were welcomed to be involved in many different areas. These included:

- Assisting with reading and other in-class activities on a regular basis
- Assisting with concert production
- Participating in and helping with school excursions
- Assisting with the planning and preparation of sports carnivals
- Participation and involvement in the Home and School Committee
- Volunteering in the school canteen



**Staff roles and qualifications are as follows:**

<b>Staff Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>Qualification</b>	<b>TRB Number</b>
Anne Tonkin	Principal Teacher K-6 (providing DOTT for other teachers)	Full Time	B.Arts Prim Ed; B. Prof Studies	32006240
Anri Bezuidenhout	Teacher Pre-Kindy, Kindy & Pre- Primary	Full Time	B.Ed ECE	33075030
Sonja Sutter	Teacher Years 1-2	Full Time	B.Ed ECE	33072500
Nicholas Saul	Teacher Yrs 3-4	Full Time	B.Ed. Prim	33087632
Jared Watts	Teacher Yrs 5-6	Full Time	B.Ed. Prim	33075514
Pr Brad Thomas	Chaplain	0.6	BA.Theol	
Naomi Thomas	Administrative Assistant	0.6	Cert III Business	
Rhonda Wohling	Administrative Assistant	0.4	Working towards Cert III Teacher Assistant	
Lee-anne Chambers	Teacher Assistant	Full Time	Cert III Teacher Assistant	
Royce Dalton	Cleaner	0.6		
John Phillips	Gardener/Groundsman	0.1 approx		

Two staff members are of South African origin, with English as their second language.  
There are no Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders employed at the school.





### **School Perception Survey:**

In 2015 we chose to, rather than run another School Perception Survey, to continue to work on the analysis of the 2014 Community Audit that had been conducted by *Endeavour Community Relations*. This was a positive audit and we took the time to respond to comments and suggestions from staff, parents, students and the wider community.

### **Samples of written responses in the 2014 Community Health Audit:**

- The student teacher ration means your child will not miss out
- The family environment, the individual care, the Bible based education
- Children learn about life's opportunities
- Awesome environment. Children are nurtured
- Every child is known and valued. Teaching staff are committed and caring
- I feel comfortable at the school
- Excellent community, small school
- Happy with our children's education and overall happiness at the school
- Friendly, nurturing environment. Teachers have resources to help get kids to appropriate levels and care about their students' achievements
- Overall a great school
- Everyone friendly and caring
- Friendly staff and parents
- Warm smiles on arrival
- Can approach any of the teachers anytime as well as the office staff





## KEY STUDENT INFORMATION

### Student Progress and Achievements

Esperance Christian Primary School is a place where students feel safe and valued. They are challenged to achieve to the best of their ability and their learning experiences are designed to meet them at their individual level, yet gently extend them to reach their best potential.

The Special Character of Esperance Christian Primary School is deeply imbedded in every aspect of school life. This Special Character upholds the values of God, and provides opportunities for students, staff and the school community to be involved in worship and praise.

During 2015 our students were involved in supporting different charities as part of the service component of our Special Character. Students are encouraged to express empathy for those who are less fortunate than them and to discover ways they can contribute to the welfare of others. This included fundraising for epilepsy, asthma and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). Students and staff were also involved in 'Operation Christmas Child', which prepares Christmas boxes for children less fortunate than themselves.

Our school places a strong emphasis on the development of students physically. Throughout 2015 students received training for and participated in: athletics, swimming, tennis, netball, volleyball, cricket and soccer. Some of these activities were funded by the *Sporting Schools* program.

The students once again excelled in drama and music performances in 2015. They won first place in their category of the school choir section at the annual Esperance Music Festival. Each student participated in an end of year musical concert, performing before approximately 300 people at the local Civic Centre.

The staff members at Esperance Christian Primary School are proud of the academic and behavioural achievements of the students.

### Student Attendance

In accordance with Government requirements, the school maintains records of student attendance. During 2015 the overall student attendance rate was approximately 95%.

#### Year Level Attendance Data:

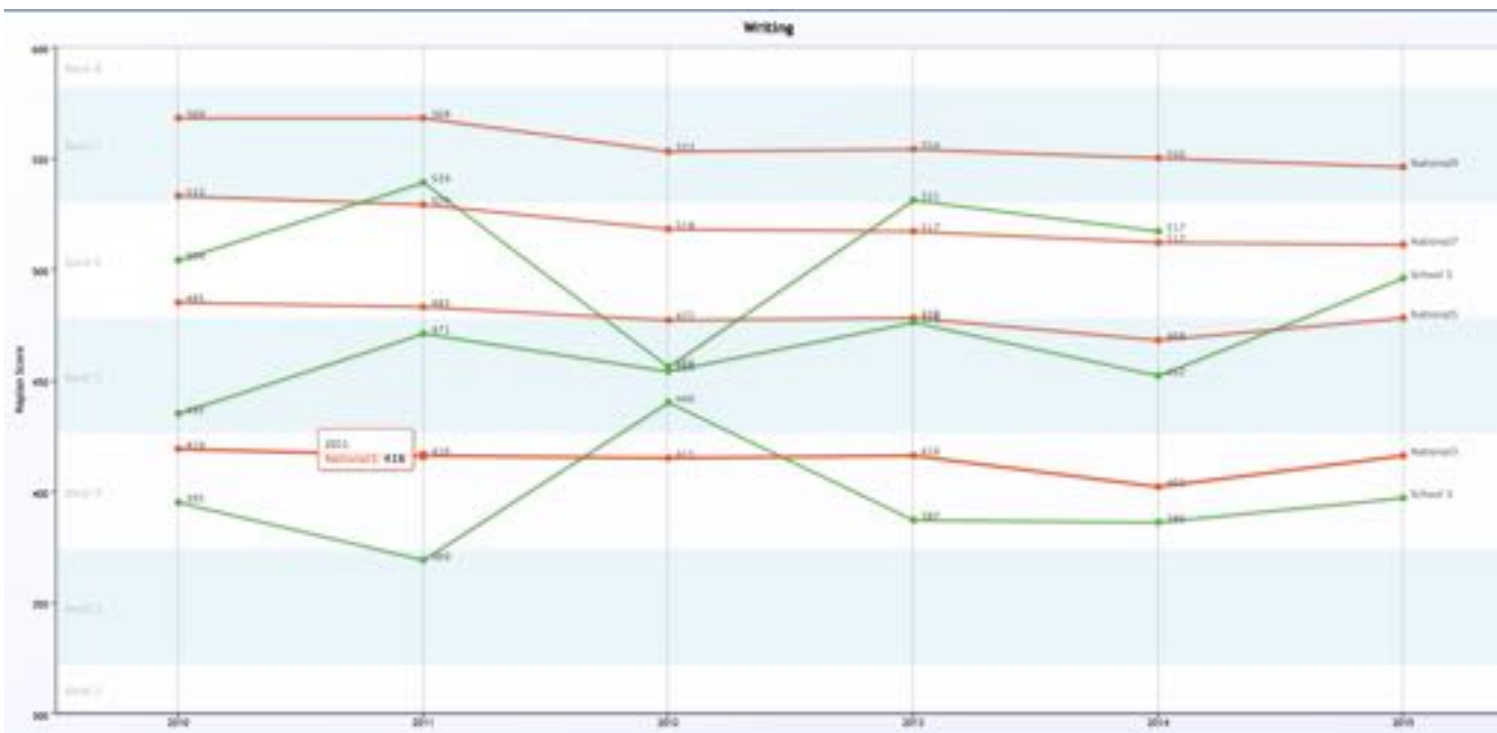
Year	Total %
PP	96.54%
Year 1	91.76%
Year 2	93.12%
Year 3	96.43%
Year 4	95.89%
Year 5	96.52%
Year 6	91.52%

Regular school attendance is actively encouraged by teachers and administration. When a child is absent from school and the school has not been notified, a phone call to the parents/guardians is made. This is to ensure that the student is absent with parent/guardian knowledge. A note or phone call from parents is required, and if this is not received a follow up note or phone call from the school will ensue.



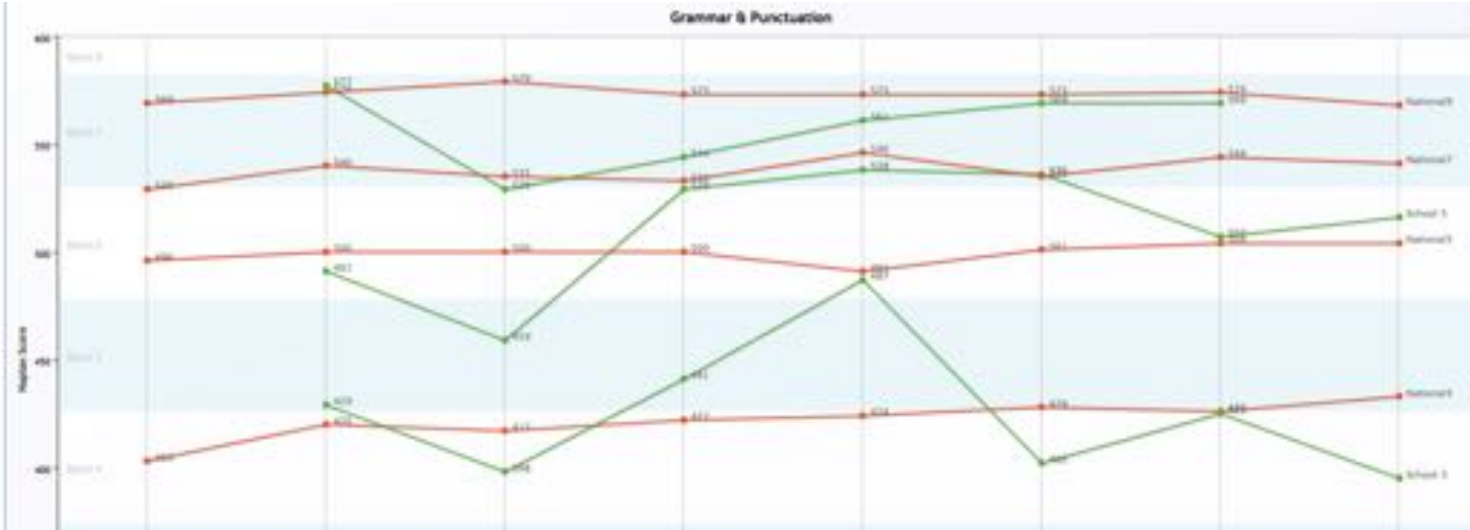
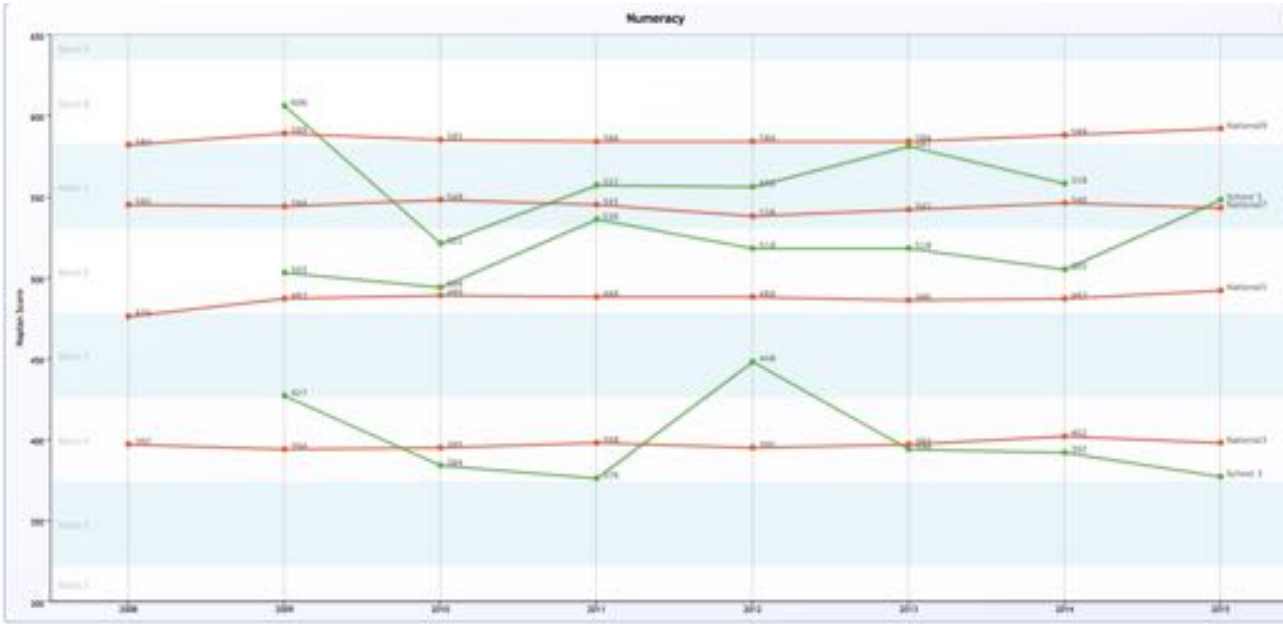
**Reading**

School	Series	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
School A	Diamond	578	580	574	580	575	580	580	580
	Circle	578	580	574	580	575	580	580	580
School B	Diamond	510	510	505	515	505	515	505	515
	Circle	510	510	505	515	505	515	505	515
School C	Diamond	480	485	480	485	485	490	490	490
	Circle	480	485	480	485	485	490	490	490
School D	Diamond	400	405	395	405	405	410	410	415
	Circle	400	405	395	405	405	410	410	415
School E	Diamond	400	405	395	405	405	410	410	415
	Circle	400	405	395	405	405	410	410	415
School F	Diamond	380	385	380	385	385	390	390	395
	Circle	380	385	380	385	385	390	390	395



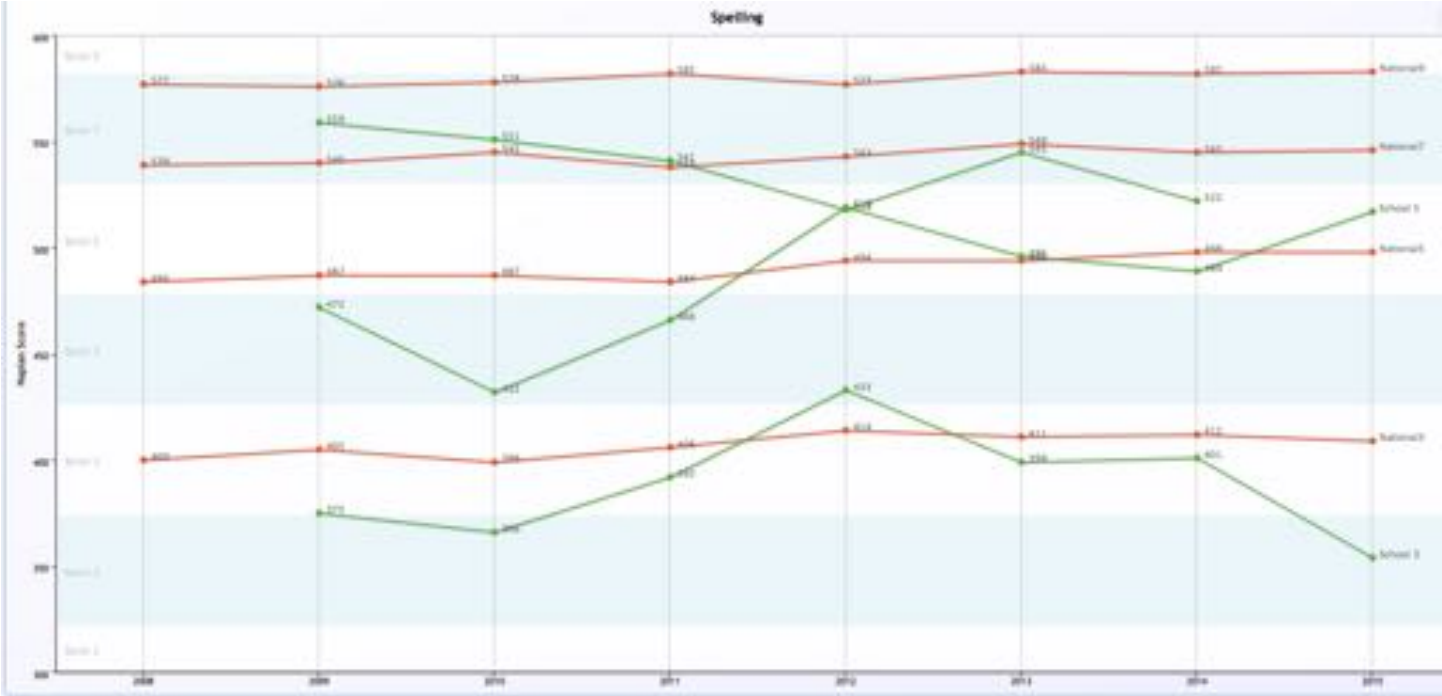


NAPLAN RESULTS 2015





NAPLAN RESULTS 2015

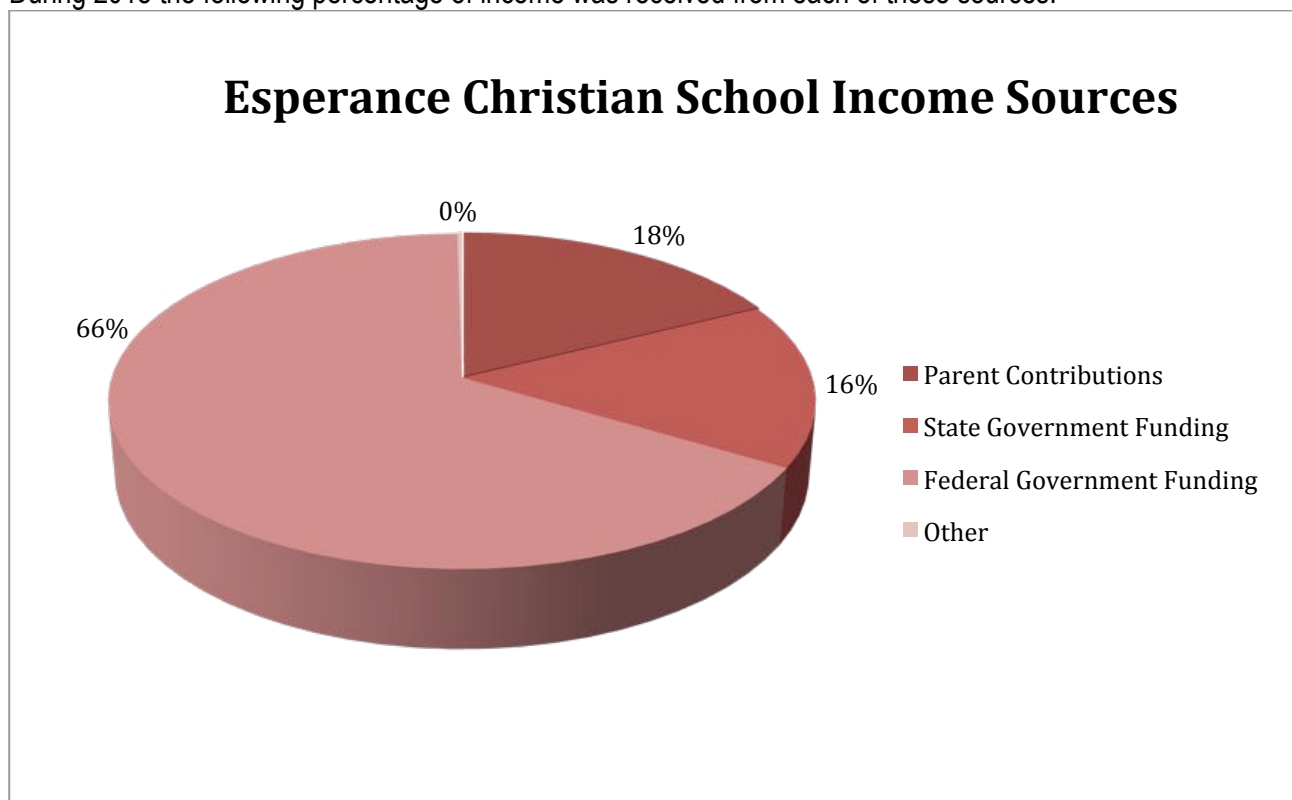


## SCHOOL INCOME 2015

The Esperance Christian School's operating income comes from four main sources:

- Parent Contributions
- State Government Funding
- Federal Government Funding
- Other Income

During 2015 the following percentage of income was received from each of these sources:



## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

A few improvements were made to the school in 2015.

- Extensions were added to an existing playground, allowing more strength-building activities for the students.
- An upgrade on the school's server began, and will be completed in 2016.
- Two classrooms and the reception/foyer and entry passageway were painted.
- 

General maintenance and safety processes were regularly monitored and any maintenance issues were promptly dealt with. Some regular maintenance carried out was:

- Carpets professionally cleaned.
- Pest control carried out.
- Sand-pits cleaned.
- Regular lock-down and evacuation drills were carried out.
- Safety Audits completed.
- Tag and Test completed.









