



PIONEER VILLAGE SCHOOL

2023 Annual Report

Annual General Meeting
27th June, 2024



Principal
Mrs Louise Lont

Board Chair
Mrs Sharon Arena

SCHOOL CONTEXT

School Philosophy

Learning

Our priority is to develop a strong foundation in education via the essential skills of reading, writing, mathematics, and a broad range of academic programs and offerings. We believe all students are diverse and exhibit different talents. We provide students with the opportunity to extend themselves and reach their full potential. Academic success is imperative and we create opportunities for our children to experience success by providing a broad curriculum.

Leading

We provide an environment where students develop their self-respect, confidence and a positive attitude towards life. We pride ourselves on providing a quality, value-based education program, and aim to develop resilient children who understand diversity, and can lead in their chosen field with a strong sense of compassion and integrity.

Life

If a love of learning is developed early, a life-long love of learning should follow. Life-long education is essential for ongoing personal growth, creativity, resourcefulness, independent thought, and also in developing an inquiring mind. We provide an environment where learning is stimulating and enjoyable, and an education that aims to develop that life-long love of learning.

Love

Family is vital to the overall success of each child's education, and we gladly welcome parent/caregiver participation in school activities. Our school offers the security of a close working relationship between students, teachers and families. Our students build relationships with all teachers regardless of year level and will always have a connection to their classroom teachers - even once they have moved year levels.

School Motto

The Pioneer Village School motto *Aim for Excellence* recognises the importance of encouraging each student to always strive for their own personal best to reach their full potential.

School Values

Members of our school community are expected to demonstrate and act in line with Pioneer Village School values: Excellence, Integrity, Perseverance, Fairness, and Respect.



ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

Pioneer Village School is an independent, non-denominational, co-educational primary school nestled in a picturesque environment. Pioneer Village School caters for students from 3 year old Kindergarten to Year 6.

Student Cohort

At 2023 August Census, Pioneer Village School had 136 PP to Year 6 students, 28 four-year-old Kindergarten students, and 37 three-year-old Kindergarten students, with relatively equal numbers of boys and girls. This is a total enrolment of 201 students and a funded enrolment of 193 students as three-year-old Kindergarten is a self-funded program. Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander students made up 6% of the funded student population, and 13% of students speaking a language other than English at home.

Staff

The School employed the following staff as at August 2023 Census; 1 Principal, 12 full-time equivalent teaching staff and 14 full-time equivalent non-teaching staff. There were 3 male staff (teaching and non-teaching); and one staff member of Aboriginal descent.

All teaching staff met the requirements for approved teaching in WA schools and were registered teachers in the state of Western Australia. Teachers' qualifications included Master of Education, Honours and Post Graduate Studies, as well as Bachelor Degrees.

Student Attendance

The 2023 average student attendance rate was 89.7% for compulsory schooling years (PP-6). This was a 4.7% drop in attendance from the year prior.

At Pioneer Village School we take unexplained absences very seriously. Early intervention for children at risk of developing irregular patterns of attendance is crucial so that these patterns may be reversed. The School's policies and practices are such that where a child is absent from school;

1. The parent is required to notify the office beforehand to inform the school of the absence.
2. All unexplained absences are recorded and an SMS is sent to families before 9.30am.
3. Families are expected to respond and absences are recorded.
4. In the case of no response, a phone call or email is made to confirm the absence.
5. Should there be no response, a follow-up call may be made to the nominated emergency contact.

In the case of a student's absence dropping below 90% the school will contact and work with the family to increase the student's attendance to above 90%.

To further increase student attendance rates, family holidays during the school term were discouraged. To remove children from school during the school term for holidays, parents and guardians are expected to gain written approval from the principal.

NAPLAN

When considering NAPLAN results it is important to recognise that the NAPLAN assessments are only a snapshot of student achievement.

Teachers consider results and use the data to reflect on student achievement in conjunction with a range of classroom assessments. It gives us a picture of how our students performed on that day compared to students across the nation which is just one piece of the whole learning picture.

In 2023, NAPLAN was moved to Term 1 and the assessment bands system was replaced by proficiency strands. Previously the bands had been a sliding scale applied to all students completing the NAPLAN assessments regardless of year level. The proficiency strands are based on year level outcomes and students' achievement is classed as *exceeding*, *strong*, *developing* or *needs additional support* for their year level.

Our Year 3 cohort achieved close to the national and state averages in all areas. Additionally, this cohort's average score was in the strong proficiency band for all areas. Pleasingly, all of the students who were classed as *needing additional support* have already been identified by the school and are attending learning support programs to support their growth. Additionally, the students who achieved *exceeding* results are in the LEAP program.



Our Year 5 cohort achieved below the national average in all areas. Again, all students who were classed as *needing additional support* were already accessing support programs. When we look at growth, we can see this Year 5 cohort has done exceptionally well. The PVS cohort average progress for our Year 5 cohort is above State and National average in Spelling, Writing and Mathematics. Their growth in Reading and Grammar was similar to National and State but all students accessing support programs have made well above average progress in these areas too. The focus is always on growth, and this cohort has shown exceptional progress from their Year 3 to Year 5 scores.

The impressive growth for our Year 5 students and solid scores for our Year 3 students indicate the benefits our Professional Learning in *Talk for Writing* and *Di Rigg PLD* are having on our students.

Year 3

	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy	Reading	Spelling	Writing
National	409	406	404	404	417
PVS	407	392	399	392	388
State	402	399	395	396	409

Year 5

	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy	Reading	Spelling	Writing
National	496	488	496	490	483
PVS	389	425	379	408	442
State	491	482	487	486	476

ACHIEVEMENT & WELLBEING

Celebrations

Pioneer Village School students and community participated in a wide variety of events that celebrated learning, friendship and family.

Events included, but were not limited to: Outdoor Education Day, Whole School Buddy Days, parent/teacher interviews, World Simultaneous Story Day, assemblies, cross country, Sports Days, Easter Parade, Year 5/6 Camp, Grandparents' Day, Book Week with Book Week associated activities and parade.

The Year 6's also enjoyed their special celebrations which included the Graduation Evening followed by an excursion.

The Arts were celebrated with events and learning such as; the bi-annual whole school concert, a whole school end of year community songs performance, Edu-Dance dance program and concert, classroom visual arts program, One Big Voice participation, choirs, drama lessons and the music program.

Our annual *Edu-Dance* concert was a great success, and enjoyed by all those that were able to attend in person and online via Zoom. As always, our students put on an excellent show and entertained the audience with their fabulous moves. Another highlight on the musical calendar was the participation at Optus Stadium in *One Big Voice*. Our students worked diligently to be stage ready, and the overall performance on the night was quite an incredible experience for both them and their parents who attended.

The whole school bi-annual performance was another major event, and our students did not disappoint. They delivered a well-rehearsed show that was the culmination of lessons delivered by Kerry Jones from Helen O'Grady Drama Academy.

In 2023 the school again aimed to broaden community connections through interschool sporting events. We had Touch Rugby WA and NRL WA come out to train the students in readiness for the interschool Events. The interschool Athletics Carnival, Lightning Carnival, and interschool Cross Country were enjoyed by all in attendance. Our students eagerly anticipated the 2023 events and enjoyed catching up with their new friends.

This year we ran whole school clubs on Friday afternoons. All students from Years 1-6 had an opportunity to be involved in a club. These clubs covered the following three areas; The Arts, Practical Life, Problem Solving and gave students an opportunity to work in multi-age groups and with a variety of teaching staff. This initiative replaced the after-school clubs offered previously.



Pioneer Village School students engaged in a wide variety of incursions and excursions throughout 2023. These activities were carefully selected to support a range of curriculum areas. These included, but were not limited to; Constable Care, Circus Challenge, Super Sonic Science, Book Week presenters, Malaga Animal Rescue, Nidja Noongar Boodja from Armadale History House, Kalyakoorl Noongar Language, Fairy Shop visit, as well as various sporting events and coaching.

Pioneer Village School staff provided a positive environment for learning and focused on sound transitions across the school. An Early Years Parent Session was held to inform parents on what to expect when their child begins their compulsory years. The Early Years' team worked diligently to meet the high standards of operation outlined in the National Quality Framework standards. Meet the Teacher night was held to ensure parents started the year with a clear understanding of classroom expectations and understood the running of their child/children's classrooms.

In 2023, Pioneer Village School again made significant improvements in our Gifted and Talented LEAP Program. We offered accelerated learning options for these students, as well as specialised Gifted and Talented programs for children in Years 2-6. We continued to use the identification and screening process to identify hidden abilities in our students. This was completed to ensure our students are given a fair opportunity to translate their gift into talent. To further upskill staff in the gifted space Kylie Bice from *Growing Up Greatness* joined us again for extensive Professional Development for teaching staff. *Growing Up Greatness* works with schools and teachers to improve practice and provision for students of all abilities, with a focus on those who are gifted, through the provision of professional learning, professional advice and coaching. This includes students who are gifted and talented, and this diverse group has been the focus of the work Kylie completed with staff at Pioneer Village School over the past 2.5 years.



In 2023 Pioneer Village School also continued to make a difference to those students needing substantial support. *Corrective Reading*, the evidence-based intervention reading program, was continued with great success for students underachieving in this area. The evidence-based assessment pack was used effectively to ensure continued correct identification and tracking of students at risk of falling behind in reading.

To further support our students with special needs, classroom teachers wrote Individual Education Plans (IEP), differentiated the curriculum accordingly to cater for need, and met with families at scheduled times throughout the year to update them on their child's progress.

On top of Literacy Intervention Lessons we continued to utilise Dyslexia SPELD Foundation's recommended JEMM and EMM programs to support those needing numeracy support. These small group lessons were attended by those with a formal diagnosis, or those deemed by the classroom teacher to be in need of intervention.

School Leaders were given more responsibility in regards to organising school events, decision making, and running the assemblies. Public speaking opportunities were promoted, and so they were able to build their confidence and skills by presenting to live audiences.

Our school social worker continued to support the social and emotional well-being of our students and their families. She ran a lunchtime student drop-in club and small groups that were responsive to student need and also met with students and/or parents one-on-one.



Areas for Improvement

Student voice, leadership and agency will continue to be a strong focus moving forwards. This includes preparing all of our students for public speaking opportunities. School leaders will be given more responsibility in regards to organising before school fitness, lunch clubs, as well as preparing and running community events and assemblies.

Moving forwards with our Arts Program, we will continue to deliver drama lessons throughout the school year to prepare the students for their bi-annual school play, public speaking, and to build confidence. We will also continue to conduct senior and junior choirs in 2024 with the aim to have our students perform again at *One Big Voice*.

The use of Dyslexia SPELD Foundations recommended JEMM and EMM programs will continue being used in the Years 3-6 classrooms. It is an excellent resource for both those requiring support and those needing extension. We are also considering the use of a mathematics intervention program for students identified as needing further support.



PRODUCTIVITY

Celebrations

Our Little Pioneers ELC (Early Learning Centre) for three and four year olds continued to be a great success with families enrolling consistently throughout the year. This service allows working families to bring their children to school for up to five days a week, 50 weeks a year and collect CCS (Child Care Subsidy). Providing this service has given families flexible options and choices of desired days. With well over 50 years combined experience working with children, our team provides a high level of care and education.

The Little Pioneers' team continued to embed their philosophy within the school as part of the NQS framework and focused on being ready for ECRU's (Education and Care Regulatory Unit) Assessment and Rating visit. We were very pleased with the outcome of the visit as it confirmed the excellent work that our educators are doing to provide for our youngest learners.

Teachers from the Early Years gathered on many occasions to engage in professional discussions based on current research, planning documents, teacher programs day to day activities, and timetabling. These discussions allowed for teachers to contribute their knowledge and practices, in line with current guidelines to ensure the play-based curriculum offered in the Early Years is an accurate reflection of the Early Years' philosophy.



The teaching staff engaged in a wide variety of Professional Development. On top of their own personal professional reading and off-campus choices of Professional Development, they also engaged in Mandatory Reporting, Talk for Writing, Mathematics with Dr Paul Swan, First Aid, Protective Behaviours, and Gifted and Talented online and face-to-face training with Kylie Bice. Another important learning opportunity was provided to staff by Ethan Chadd from Yongar Solutions. Ethan ran Cultural Awareness training with our whole staff and worked closely with the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Committee to workshop our RAP. This included organising Noongar Elders to come and provide feedback on our plans.

The School again worked hard to maintain its school facilities to a very high standard. The works completed included but were not limited to; painting classroom interiors, upgrading the indoor and outdoor spaces, and purchasing new classroom furniture.

The school recognises and thanks the extremely generous parent volunteers who contributed to the P&F (Parent and Friends Committee). Their continued fund-raising diligence benefits the whole school community. Their hard work enables our students to enjoy fun end of term meals, celebrations, and raffles, and enables the teachers to fulfill their annual 'wish list' items. They also provided a Mother's Day and Father's Day BBQ breakfast which was well attended, and they also delivered a fun disco for our students to enjoy.

Sustainability practices to guide Pioneer Village School in the best practice for waste management continued to grow and develop. Educating our students on how to reduce waste, recycle, and live more sustainably continued to be prioritised and a dedicated Friday Club to further develop this understanding was created.

We also received a number of Sporting Schools Grants which enabled us to bring in specialist coaches to teach a variety of sports including gymnastics, soccer, athletics, and touch rugby. We also received a PALS Indigenous Grant. This enabled us to provide the students with a Smoking Ceremony and Noongar Language lessons by Dylan Collard from Kalyakoorl.

The strong relationship with AISWA (Australian Independent Schools Western Australia) continued throughout 2023 and we utilised many of their services. The school staff worked diligently to improve outcomes by revising policies and engaged in future planning meetings. The Board reviewed the current Strategic Plan and Improvement Goals, and continued developing the subsequent plan.



Parent Satisfaction Summary & School Staff Survey

The School Student Survey was undertaken by the Upper Years students, and from the feedback it is evident that the majority of students; know they are expected to try their best, have at least one trusted adult to ask for support if required, and enjoy Friday Clubs and end of term celebrations.

In 2023 the School Board surveyed families face-to-face. The survey is vital to providing feedback on how the school is performing. The information obtained from the survey was used to guide the Board and School Management improvement planning processes and the subsequent Strategic Plan.

Areas for Improvement

We will continue ongoing maintenance of classrooms, grounds, facilities, and play areas. We will also continue to apply for grants to enable us to upgrade facilities, engage various sporting coaches, and further increase the understanding and awareness of our First Nations people, and culture through ongoing activities and incursions. We will also continue to engage experts in their field to continue to guide our RAP (Reconciliation Action Plan) journey.

FINANCE

The Annual 2023 Financial Report provides a statement of the audited financial performance and the financial position of Pioneer Village School for the year ending 31 December 2023, as determined by the School Board and Management Team.

The PVS budget has been well managed to provide for student learning and is prioritised in line with the School's Values.

Financial Performance

In 2023 Pioneer Village School posted an operating surplus of \$11,595 after adding back non-cash expenses including depreciation and provisions.

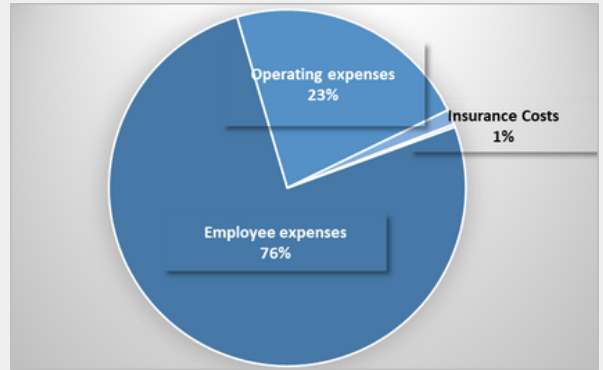
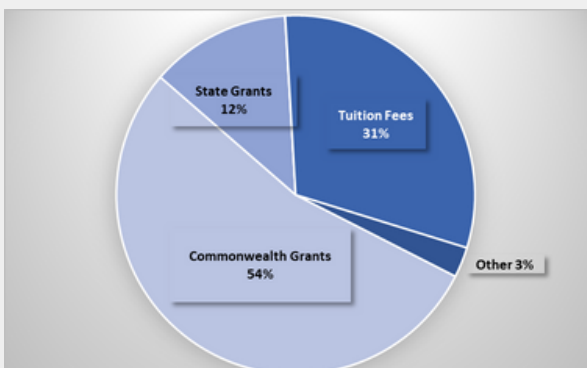
	2023	2022
REVENUE	\$ 3,440,682.00	\$ 2,895,474.00
EXPENSES	\$ 3,548,994.00	\$ 2,640,553.00
OPERATING SURPLUS / DEFICIT	-\$ 108,312.00	\$ 254,921.00
Add back Depreciation / Provisions / Impairment	\$ 119,907.00	\$ 80,431.00
NET SURPLUS / DEFICIT	\$ 11,595.00	\$ 61,305.00

Revenue

Revenue increased by 37% in 2023. This increase was due to an increase in enrolments resulting in increased in tuition fees and grant income.

Sources of Income

The graph below shows the school's 2023 income sources. Please note 'Other Income' is the total of uniform sales, late fees and interest.



Financial Position (Balance Sheet)

A 3% decrease in Net assets of \$3.67M was due to a budgeted increase in capital expenditure in 2023.

	2023	2022
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 4,286,898.00	\$ 4,294,952.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 730,053.00	\$ 619,372.00
NET ASSETS	\$ 3,556,845.00	\$ 3,675,580.00

Capital Expenditure

In 2023 we spent \$102,123 updating the school's assets including, but not limited to; buildings, IT and equipment.

2023 major capital purchases included:

- Upgrading the uniform storage space
- Retractable covers for the sandpits
- Classroom 'O' refurbish
- Completion of the data and technology upgrade project
- Capital expenditure was funded as follows:
 - Capital Levy \$42,000
 - Cash Reserves \$60,000

Cash Balance

The 2023 year ended with a cash balance of \$772K which is a reduction of \$163K (17%) over 2022.

This reduced balance was expected due to the completion of necessary capital works, additional HR and Classroom resources. At the end of 2023, PVS remains in a strong financial position going into 2024.

Audit

Auditors, *Francis A Jones*, were retained to conduct the 2023 audit. We were issued an unqualified audit opinion which means the accounts were prepared in accordance with *Australian Accounting Standards* to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

This means that the accounts reflected a true and fair view of Pioneer Village School's financial position. The financial statements are clean, and can be presumed to be free from material misstatements.

