2014: TfEL Pilot

In 2014 we were selected as a Teaching for Effective Learning (TfEL) Pilot School by DECD. The purpose of this project is to challenge our thinking to prepare our learners for the 21st century and share our new knowledge with others.

Culturally Mypo has not only valued student voice for some time, but already has in place many structures and processes for learner involvement in decision making. The Pilot has moved us to a new level, which you will see and appreciate later in this report.

Mikelle Miegel, our TfEL Pilot Leader, worked with SRCs from our cluster friends at Tailem Bend, Jervois and Palmer, at Mypo. The day was inspirational and middle primary students (the feedback ninjas) led a session about how constructive feedback improved learner achievement.

At Mypo we believe that the most significant data set is improvement data; it is very difficult to compare one group of children to another. It is more meaningful to compare the results of the same group of children over time, as this table shows.

Every student made progress in the middle and upper range in reading and numeracy from Years 3 -5 and 5 - 7. Our whole school approach to literacy with a laser-like focus on non fiction writing has seen a cultural shift at the school; where literacy is now valued and celebrated. Numeracy, always Mypolonga’s strength continues to shine with a particular emphasis on problem solving and reasoning.

NAPLaN Progression Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>YEARS</th>
<th>3 - 5</th>
<th>YEARS</th>
<th>5 - 7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Numeracy</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Numeracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>62%</td>
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PLAYGROUP has gone from strength to strength with up to 20 children attending. Well done to Amy and Dee for making this an amazing community resource.

PICASSO COW: How great does it look? Thank you so much Colleen Wachtel. We appreciate so much the help you gave us to produce this magnificent creature.

AMBER NUTT with Education Minister Jennifer Rankine after receiving the Minister of Education Primary Student Award.
At Mypo we try to make learning meaningful and engaging by creating authentic contexts for our students. By using real-life situations students gain a deeper understanding of new concepts. Our community supports us to do this. This year Shaeden made a bird hide with Macca’s support. The materials were funded by the Mypolonga Landcare Group. Programs such as the School Shop and the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program also support this.

We were invited by Financial Literacy Australia to apply for a grant and were awarded $25,000 to develop resources for teachers across Australia.

Our NAPLan results (see below) demonstrate that this approach is successful.

### Year 3

In 2013, Year 2s were split into 2 classes (a 1/2 and a 2/3) due to large numbers. This concerned us so in 2014 we sought to achieve greater consistency in numeracy by placing children in their year levels and funding extra teachers to work with each year level group.

### Year 5

While these results were generally around state average, we believe that this cohort has the capacity to achieve better results. It is important to remember that the current Year 7s who have achieved excellent results were at or below state average in Year 5. All students with learning difficulties are in intervention programs.

### Year 7

Year 7 results were outstanding with 60% of students achieving higher than the Year 9 average in numeracy, grammar and punctuation, writing and reading and 42% of students above the Year 9 average in spelling. Students with learning difficulties are in intervention programs.

One of the great anomalies at Mypo is that we achieve to a stunningly high degree in numeracy, which is generally against state trends. Our research has identified 4 areas why this has occurred and we have used this to improve literacy achievement over the last 5 years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Improvement Plan Priority: Literacy and Numeracy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learners with a growth mindset:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Embrace challenges</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Persist in the face of challenges</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. See effort as the path to mastery</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Learn from obstacles</td>
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| **Learners with a fixed mindset**                     |
| 1. Avoid challenges                                  |
| 2. Give up easily                                    |
| 3. See effort as not being smart                     |
| 4. Ignore useful negative feedback                   |

### Growth and Fixed Mindsets

**Michael Jordan: Growth Mindset**

'’I’ve missed over 9000 shots in my career. I’ve lost almost 300 games. 26 times I’ve been trusted to take the game winning shot…. and missed. I’ve failed over and over again in my life, and that is why I succeed.’’

**John MacEnroe: Fixed Mindset**

High achiever who blames outside forces when he ‘fails’ a task.

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**Year 3**

**Year 5**

**Year 7**
OUR INDUSTRIAL KITCHEN

2014 HIGHLIGHTS

Family Fun Night

Having smaller maths classes

Getting a new bus

Library renovation: thank you Daniel Martin

Necia winning a Regional Public Teaching Award. With her $500 prize she unselfishly bought a camera to make the newsletter even better.

Our Facebook page

TIGER Trekkers

Picasso Cow What a great symbol of our culture. It represents all that we hold dear at Mypo. Thank you beautiful Colleen.

Chief Executive visit who gave us $20 000 for our kitchen

Guy Claxton professional learning with parents and students and TEL Pilot Leader Mikelle Miegel. A summary of Improvement Committee Convenor Yvette Rathjen’s speech in front of 250 people.

NEW KITCHEN AT LAST

Our new kitchen in the old art room looks amazing. We are really looking forward to cooking up a storm. Our opening was exciting with members of Jacz performing. Adrian Hazel made enough sorbet with his Thermomix for everyone to have a taste. A big thank you to RS Nance Builders, Haig and Menzel Plumbing, and Tom Oxborrow Electrician. I would sincerely like to thank Annie for her leadership of the build. When termites were detected, the project took on a totally different direction which Annie coordinated brilliantly. Annie’s knowledge of hospitality has helped our kitchen to exceed all of our expectations.

The Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program which is undertaken by the middle primary class is really starting to develop. Students alternate each week between the garden and the kitchen, utilising the fruit and vegetables to produce tasty food. Our coordinators Annie and Brenton, along with volunteers, Ian Natalie and Yvette ensure that the program is really buzzing.

I want to thank all of the Mypo staff. For years they have willingly shared the staffroom with our students. The new kitchen means that they will now have their planning and learning space back.

FEEDBACK

FROM STUDENTS FROM OTHER SCHOOLS

‘Mypo has courage, intelligence, respect and generosity. I love its freedom and its homey feel. The school has a dignity so strong, like no-one can bring us down. With our strong spirit and wonderful friendships, this school is a second home not just to me, but everyone.’

‘We have a safe environment in which to learn’

‘The attitude is different; there is hardly any bullying and if there is it is dealt with.’

‘I love the School Shop because we do something different each week.’

‘We have freedom - you trust us’

‘Everyone is involved. We get a say in everything.’

‘The community helps us so much’

‘You want us to lead and give us lots of opportunities to do it’

Something powerful I’ll take away is limitless thinking, learning for life; it’s OK to fail and learn from that and there are many ways to be smart.

I’ve discovered how feedback is essential in a constructive manner to produce good results in learning. I appreciate there are many ways of learning. I want my kids to be competent, confident risk takers with the ability to talk openly with others, to think outside of the square and to problem solve.

In my middle basket is changing mindset to learning. A coaching culture focussing on improvement rather than achievement is important. I believe that from talk around our table many of these things are achievable.