

## **NEW STUDENT REPORTS**

In 2007 Avoca Beach Primary School will introduce the student reports that include requirements mandated by the Federal Government. These requirements include:

- two written reports each year
- reporting against statewide curriculum standards
- student assessment on a grade rather than stage basis
- the inclusion of academic and non academic learning and
- reporting against a 5 point achievement scale.

The Board of Studies develops statewide curriculum standards (outcomes and indicators) for all government and non-government schools in New South Wales. These determine what students are required to learn. The Board has also developed the A to E descriptions of achievement. These will be used to describe how well a student has achieved in each subject over the past *semester (two terms)*.

The Board of Studies has developed the following descriptions of achievement for use by all NSW schools. **The descriptors (Outstanding Achievement, High Achievement etc) will be used to describe student achievement by teachers at our school.**

### ***A – Outstanding Achievement***

The student has an extensive knowledge and understanding of the content and can readily apply this knowledge. In addition, the student has achieved a very high level of competence in the processes and skills and can apply these skills to new situations.

### ***B – High Achievement***

The student has a thorough knowledge and understanding of the content and a high level of competence in the processes and skills. In addition, the student is able to apply this knowledge and these skills to most situations.

### ***C – Sound Achievement***

The student has a sound knowledge and understanding of the main areas of content and has achieved an adequate level of competence in the processes and skills.

### ***D – Basic Achievement***

The student has a basic knowledge and understanding of the content and has achieved a basic level of competence in the processes and skills

### ***E – Limited Achievement***

The student has the elementary knowledge and understanding in a few areas of the content and has achieved very little competence in some of the processes and skills.

## **How are grades allocated?**

There is no preset number of Outstanding Achievement etc allocated. It is not an old fashion scale where the number of Outstanding Achievement, High Achievement, etc. were determined on the normal curve.

The Outstanding Achievement to Limited Achievement is judged against curriculum standards.

**The curriculum is what they have learned.**

**The Outstanding Achievement to Limited Achievement shows how well they have learned.**

While Outstanding Achievement to Limited Achievement grades are an important indicator of your child's progress they are only part of the picture. Student reports will also include information on your child's level of effort and teacher comments on progress (using syllabi terminology) in each subject. For example, your child may have received a Basic Achievement in a particular subject but the report will also tell you about the effort that he or she has made.

It is important that your child's report is read in conjunction with their *Assessment Folder*. The mix of information will provide an opportunity to acknowledge achievements and help you discuss with your child (and his or her teacher if needed) how further progress can be achieved. If you wish to discuss your child's progress, issues concerned with their behaviour, how they are achieving compared to their peer group etc with your child's teacher, please contact the school to make a time for a special meeting.

### **The most significant changes that you'll notice about the new reports at Avoca Beach Primary School this semester are:**

- The new report at the end of Term 2 (semester 1) replaces the previous form of reporting at this stage of the year which was in the form of student led conferences.
- The student report is very similar in content to the previous end of the year report our school has used and issued in previous years. The main change is the introduction of Outstanding Achievement to Limited Achievement grading. The new Outstanding Achievements to Limited Achievement grades doesn't rank your child in his or her class. Rather the grades indicate whether your child is 'on track', and learning what is expected, doing better than expected or needs more help. For example, a grade of Sound Achievement indicates that your child is making sound progress in relation to what he or she was expected to learn over the last semester – your child is 'on track'. In our 2006 report the word 'Achieved' would equate to Sound Achievement in the new report.
- Effort will be indicated on a 1 to 4 scale with a 4 representing 'excellent' and 1 representing 'unsatisfactory'.
- The information in the report refers to your child's progress and achievement for only the past semester. i.e. January to June. The next written report will be provided in December and will cover the learning of the second half of the year. This means a student can receive a High Achievement for writing in semester 1 report, then a Sound Achievement in the semester 2 report because the assessment scale is being applied to the section of the curriculum that the students have covered during each semester. In number for example, a student may understand subtraction, addition and place value very well and get a High Achievement for number in semester 1, but not understand division and fractions so get a Basic Achievement in number for semester 2.
- Whilst students in Years 3 to 6 will receive an Outstanding Achievement to Limited Achievement grading in all six key learning areas, Years K to 2 will receive an Outstanding Achievement to Limited Achievement grading in Maths and English only.

### **Conclusion**

Teachers at Avoca Beach Primary School endeavour to report student progress accurately. It is important parents read the report with the student assessment folder to gain a more comprehensive view of progress. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's teacher if further details are required.

**Assessment & Reporting Committee  
June 2007**