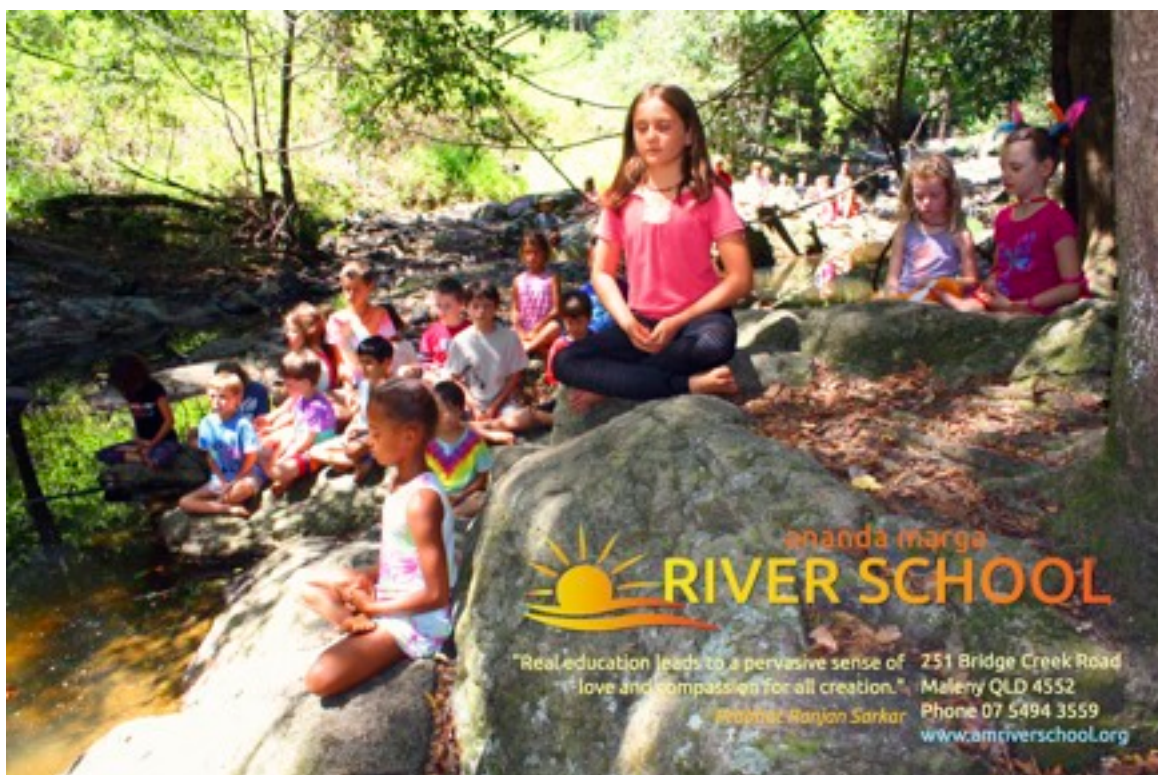




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Annual School Report 2014

(Based on 2014 Data)



The Ananda Marga River School is an independent, co-educational primary school and Early Childhood Centre located in a beautiful rainforest valley in Maleny, Queensland. The school is a service project of Ananda Marga, a global organisation for self-realisation and service to all.

The guiding philosophy of the Ananda Marga River School is Neohumanist Education. Based on Neohumanism, the philosophy of the innate oneness of all things, it seeks to instill in children an innate sense of love and compassion for all beings: people, animals, plants, and even the inanimate matter of the whole universe.

Our school is a loving community for 133 primary students from Prep to Year 7 (66 girls and 67 boys). At the beginning of 2015, our school will become a Prep to Year 6 school. We also operate a Long Day Care Centre for Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten children.

History of the Ananda Marga River School

In 1995 the Ananda Marga River School opened its doors as a one-classroom, one teacher primary school. Children who attended a playgroup on the land before the school opened, came up with the school's name while playing in the beautiful creek that runs through the property.

Ten years previously, in 1984, 52 acres of picturesque rainforest land was purchased by members of Ananda Marga. One year later the the Prout Settlement Co-operative Limited was formed, creating the opportunity for families to build dwellings on the land. The dream of creating a school for the local community came to fruition in 1995. This spirit of service and community continues today with the Prout Community continuing to lease half of its land to the school.

The dedication and passion of the Prout Community, Ananda Marga Education and numerous Dada's and Didi's has shaped the River School to become a leader of Neohumanist educational practices.

Some of the original founders of the school remain on the Prout community and continue to be significant contributors to the school culture and environment. Prabha Demasson, a co-founder and major contributor to the development of the school, served 16 years as Deputy Principal, and 3 years as Principal before leaving in 2013. At this time, Jenny Oakley was appointed as the new Principal to continue the legacy and vision of the school founders.



Social Climate

Based on our Neohumanist philosophy, the school works to foster a sense of family in the school. This family feeling extends beyond the school to all humanity and even beyond to plants and animals. Children develop this understanding both intuitively and rationally. In meditation they are guided to experience their oneness with all things. Rationally they learn to respect and appreciate the diversity and unity of our human family.

Service projects are encouraged in every class, in each phase of learning, so that children can act on their understanding of connectedness and develop confidence and skills to make meaningful changes in the world around them.

The school also runs "Buddy Programs" between younger and older classes, including our Early Childhood Centre. Furthermore, some sporting and service projects involve multi-age groups to build a sense of community in the school.

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings and Extra-Curricular Activities

MORNING CIRCLE

The week begins with an all-school Morning Circle that includes a candle-lighting ceremony, singing, meditation, small performances, our virtues program and general announcements. Parents often attend these uplifting gatherings and are welcome to take part.

MEDITATION AND YOGA

This is our daily Quiet Time. Children benefit from early use of their imagination and intuition in creative visualisation and meditation exercises. Yoga exercises help children stretch and relax, meditation centres them, and discussions at this time focus on our virtues and other introspective topics.

THE ARTS

We have specialist teachers in Art, Music and Arts and Cultural Studies. Students have the opportunity to learn guitar, piano, percussion, and strings and the school offers a variety of choirs and performance groups. All students study marimba throughout their River School years, as well as having the opportunity to learn string instruments such as violin and guitar. Individual private lessons in guitar and keyboard are also available. Media Studies is now being offered to our students through our Arts and Cultural Studies Program, which also includes Indigenous studies.

SPORT

During 2014, the school participated in a number of sporting activities. Our Prep to Year 7 students enjoyed swimming lessons at the Maleny Pool and our Year 7 children learned how to surf. We held an “all school Olympics” in term 3 and in the summer season, students of all ages cooled off in our fresh water creek at the school. Australian Rules Football was offered to the students for the first time in Term 2 of 2014 as an additional extracurricular activity.



EMPOWERMENT CENTRE

Our Empowerment Centre offered one on one and small group learning support in literacy and numeracy to supplement classroom programs. The Empowerment Centre is a place of learning where students at the River School are provided with intensive literacy tuition to ensure they reach their full potential in the classroom. Programs run at the Empowerment Centre are individually tailored to meet the needs of each student and are designed to compliment their learning preferences.

The Empowerment Centre maintains a close relationship with all classroom teachers. This in turn guarantees that learning activities completed at the Centre support the students' classroom learning. At the end of each term a progress report is compiled for each student, drawing upon qualitative and quantitative data collected throughout the term. The

program runs for 10 weeks, after which students are often given a well-deserved break that allows them to consolidate their learning in the classroom setting uninterrupted. If further assistance is required, students then return to the centre refreshed from their break and ready for the next challenge.

SCHOOL CAMPS

The River School loves school camps! In 2014 our Year 1 and 2 students stayed on Bribie island for 2 nights with their parents and teachers.



Our year 3 students did a 2 night camp at Bribie Island while our Year 4's and 5's attended the Tunnel Ridge Ranch in Landsborough. Our Red Cedars (Year 6 and 7) travelled to the Noosa Northshore to participate in personal and team challenges. At the end of 2014 our senior boys and girls participated in our annual rite of passage activities including our 2 day "Warrior Camp" and "Girl EmPowerment" Programs.

HEALTH

Our vegetarian, whole foods tuckshop provided delicious meals for purchase three days a week. Each classroom has a garden area where children have the opportunity to grow food for the tuckshop kitchen.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Children from Year 5 were involved in Kids Teaching Kids week and produced a video on the environmental challenges facing our planet. Across the school, students also participated in Anzac Day celebrations and NAIDOC commemorations.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Our Upper Primary students attended the local Maleny Community Centre Neighbourhood Lunch on a fortnightly basis to assist in serving food to the local community. Our tuckshop also prepared and provided sentient, vegetarian dishes to this worthy cause.

During Term 4, our Year 6 & 7 students worked in groups to nominate a charity or group that they were passionate about. Along with researching their chosen charity, they raised funds to assist their charity.

ELECTIVES

Students from Prep to Year 7 participated in an elective program that allowed them to select areas of interest to explore. These included activities such as origami, golf, cooking, sewing, ICT, ball games, Indian culture, meditation, netball and creek exploring. This elective program was so successful that it has become a standard element of the distinctive River School curriculum.

Parental Involvement

Our school welcomes Parent volunteers and on many school days, there are more parents on site than staff members! Parents engage in many activities at school including tuckshop, gardening, helping in the library, or participating in art projects sharing their expertise with our teachers and students. Parents and families are an integral part of the River School.

In 2014, the school offered a number of avenues for parent involvement.

Energy Levy: Parents are requested to donate two hours a week (20 hours per term) in Energy Levy. They may assist in their child's class, help in tuckshop, assist on school camps, or help in other ways as needed.

Parent Committee: In 2014 there was an active Parents' Committee that organised Cafe Nights and a successful "Spring Festival", that served as a fundraiser, fun-raiser and marketing event. Our Cafe Nights involved dinner at the school with various events such as Open Mic nights, a whole school camp out and many student performances.

Parent, Teacher and Student Satisfaction with the School

In 2014 all the parents and students of the River School were surveyed to gain a deeper understanding of their experiences with the school. The results were extremely positive.

A sample of questions and responses from the parent survey are included below.

PARENT SURVEY

Our anonymous Parent survey was administered to all families at the River School. From our 106 families, we received 32 responses to our survey.

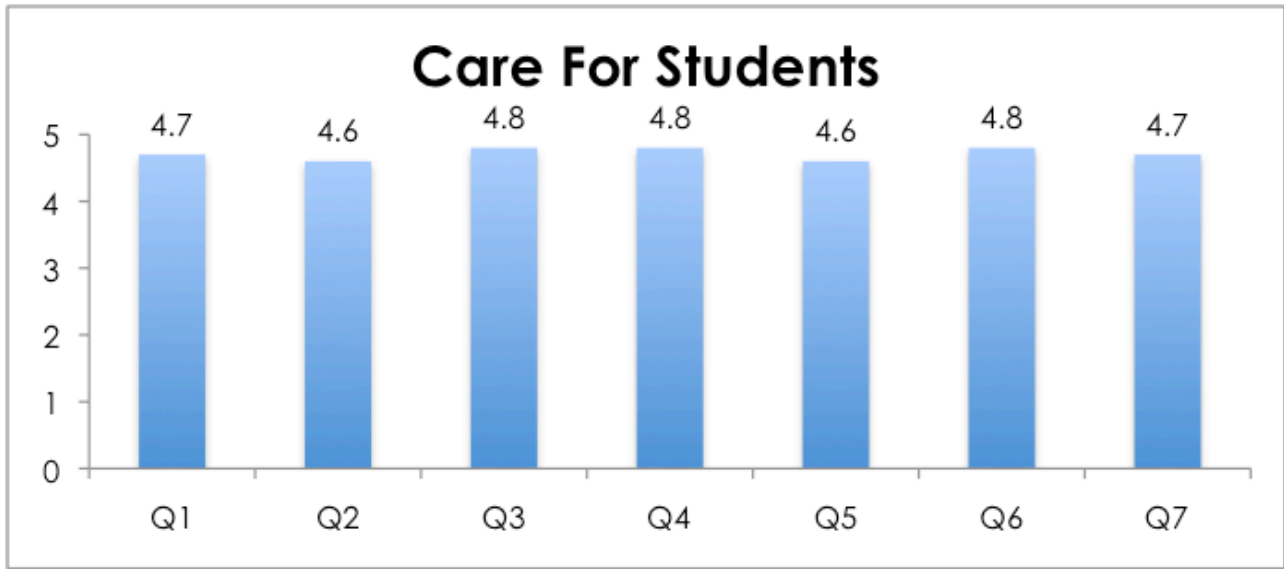
Findings and recommendations from this survey are detailed in this report.

Parents were asked to rate statements on the following scale:

Rating	Score
Strongly Agree	5
Agree	4
Neutral	3
Disagree	2
Strongly Disagree	1

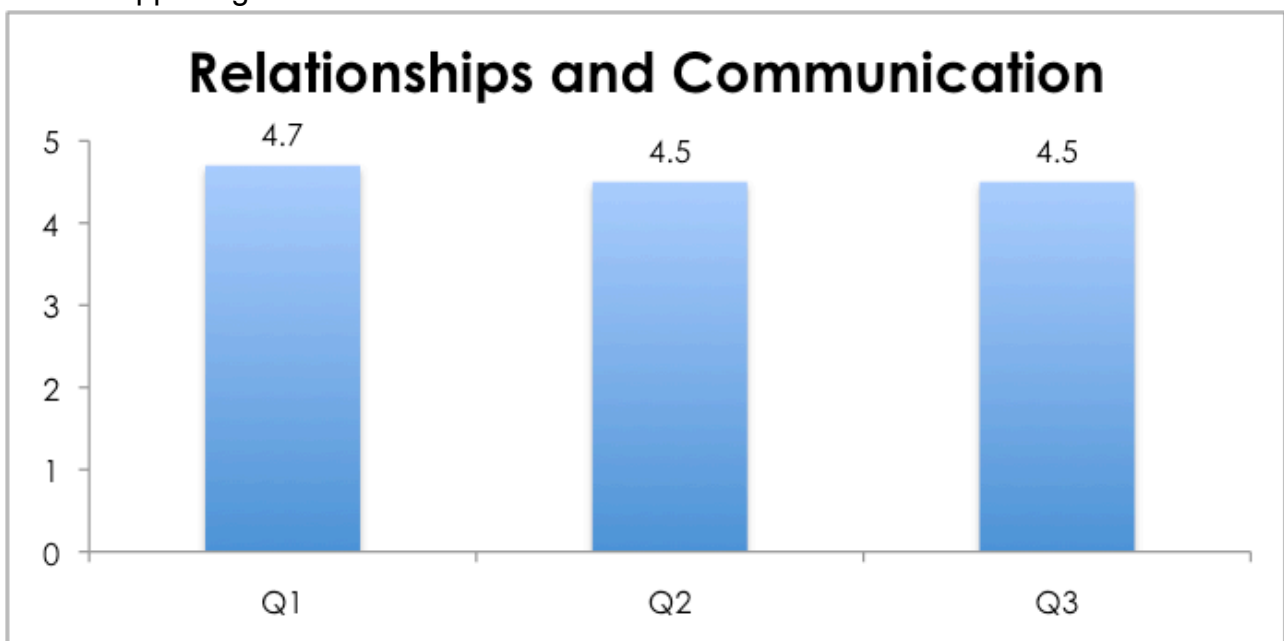
Care for Students

- Q1 My child loves being at the River School
- Q2 My child feels safe at school
- Q3 My child likes his/her teacher
- Q4 My child has a positive relationship with his/her teacher
- Q5 Teachers at the River School treat students fairly
- Q6 Teachers care about their students
- Q7 Students feel loved and cared for at our school



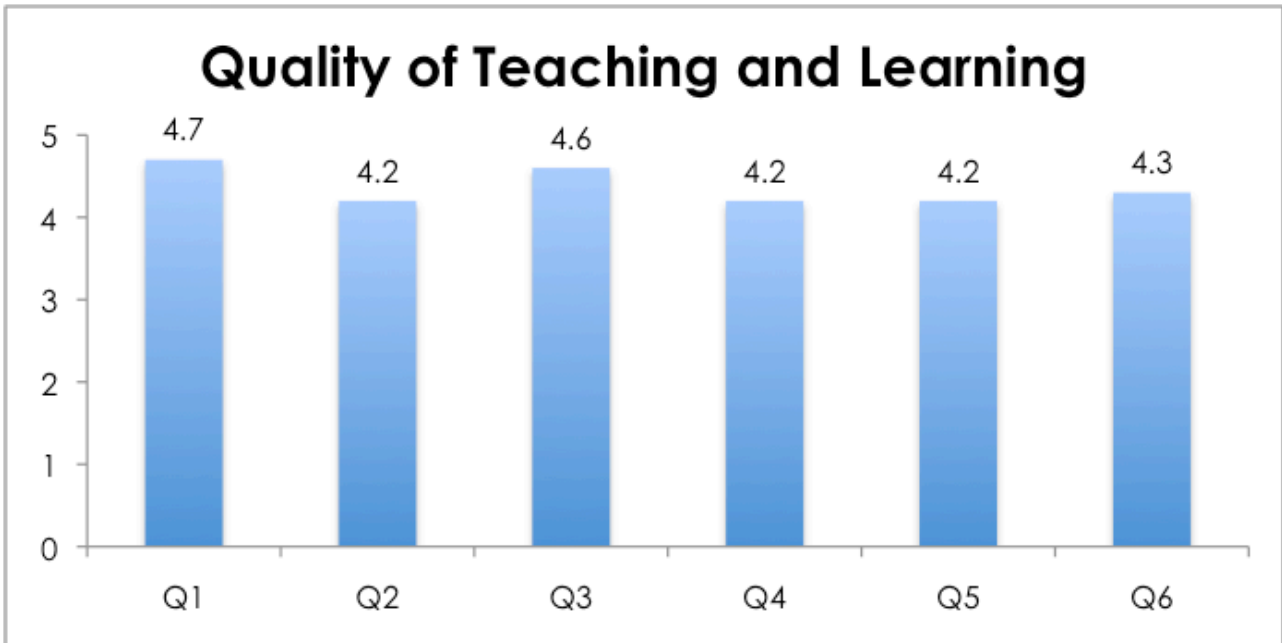
Relationships and Communication

- Q1 I can talk to my child's teacher about my concerns
- Q2 Parent's opinions are respected and taken seriously
- Q3 I feel comfortable to approach administrative staff with concerns about what is happening at school



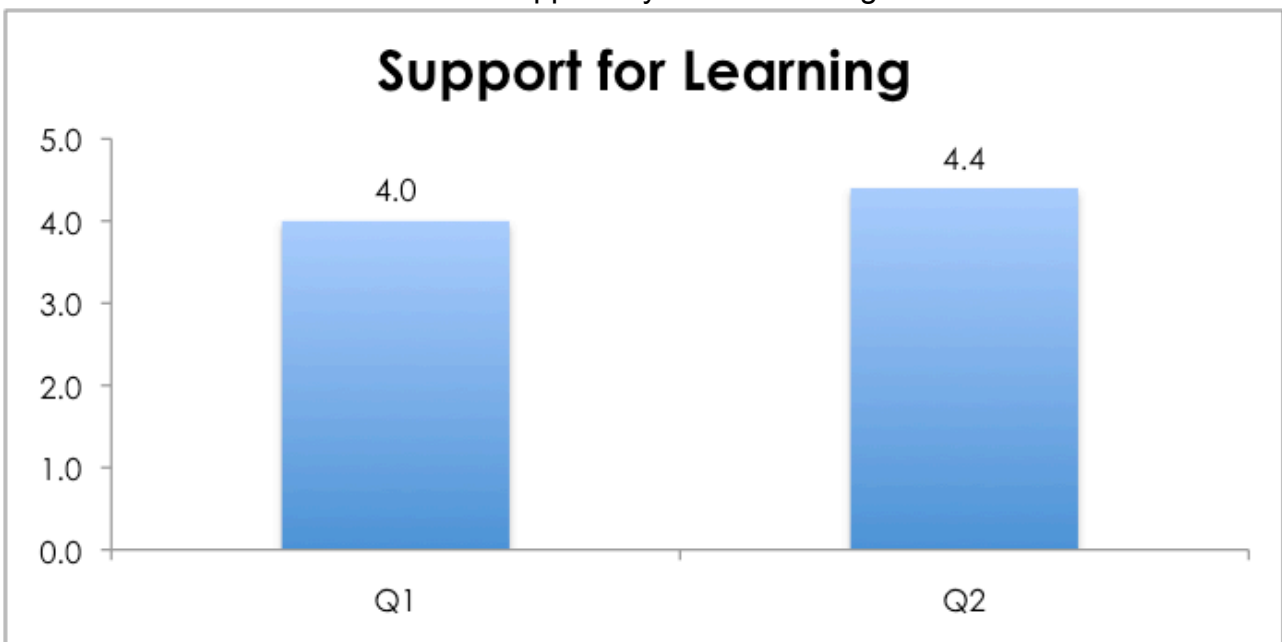
Quality of Teaching and Learning

- Q1 Teachers are enthusiastic
- Q2 Teachers at the River School expect my child to do his/her best
- Q3 Teachers at the River School motivate my child to learn
- Q4 My child is making good progress at the River School
- Q5 My child's learning needs are being met
- Q6 Teachers provide my child with useful feedback about his/her school work



Support for Learning

- Q1 Student behaviour is well-managed and supported at our school
- Q2 The school works with me to support my child's learning



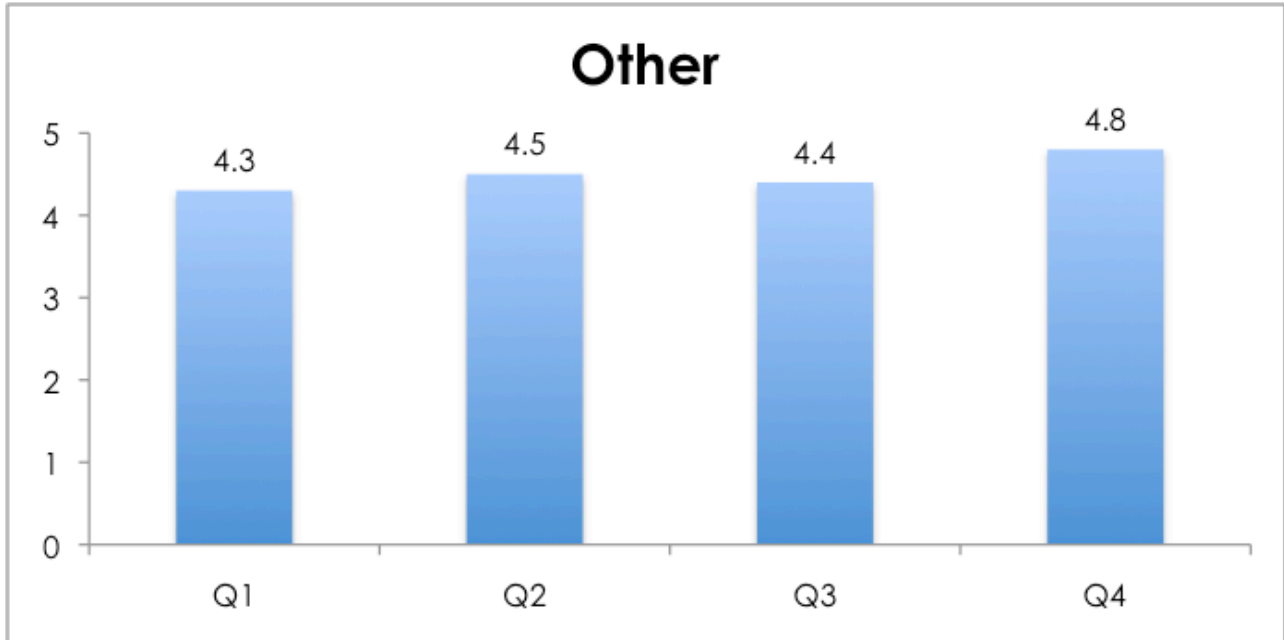
Other

Q1 The River School is well maintained

Q2 I value regular community events at school

Q3 The River School looks for ways to improve

Q4 I value meditation, yoga and the spiritual values of our school



STUDENT SURVEY

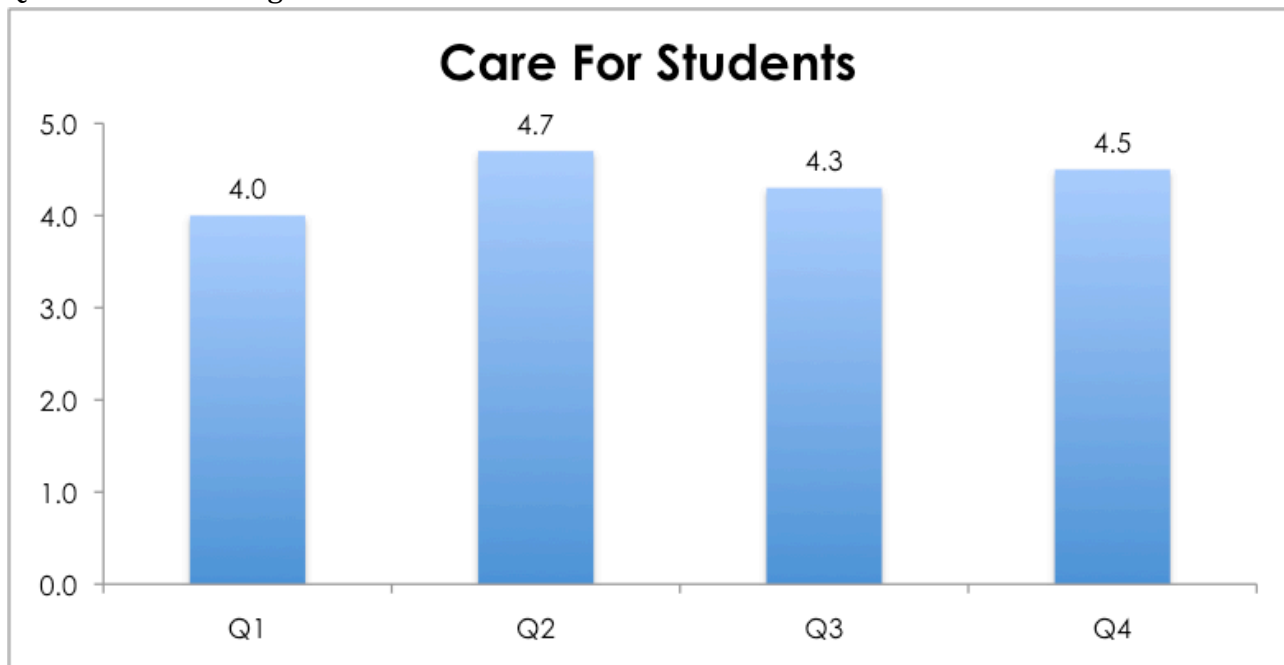
Our Student Survey was administered to students in Years 1-7 in November 2014. Students were asked to rate statements on the following scale:

Rating	Score
Strongly Agree	5
Agree	4
Neutral	3
Disagree	2
Strongly Disagree	1

From the responses received, each statement has been given a numerical score with 5 being the highest and 1 being the lowest.

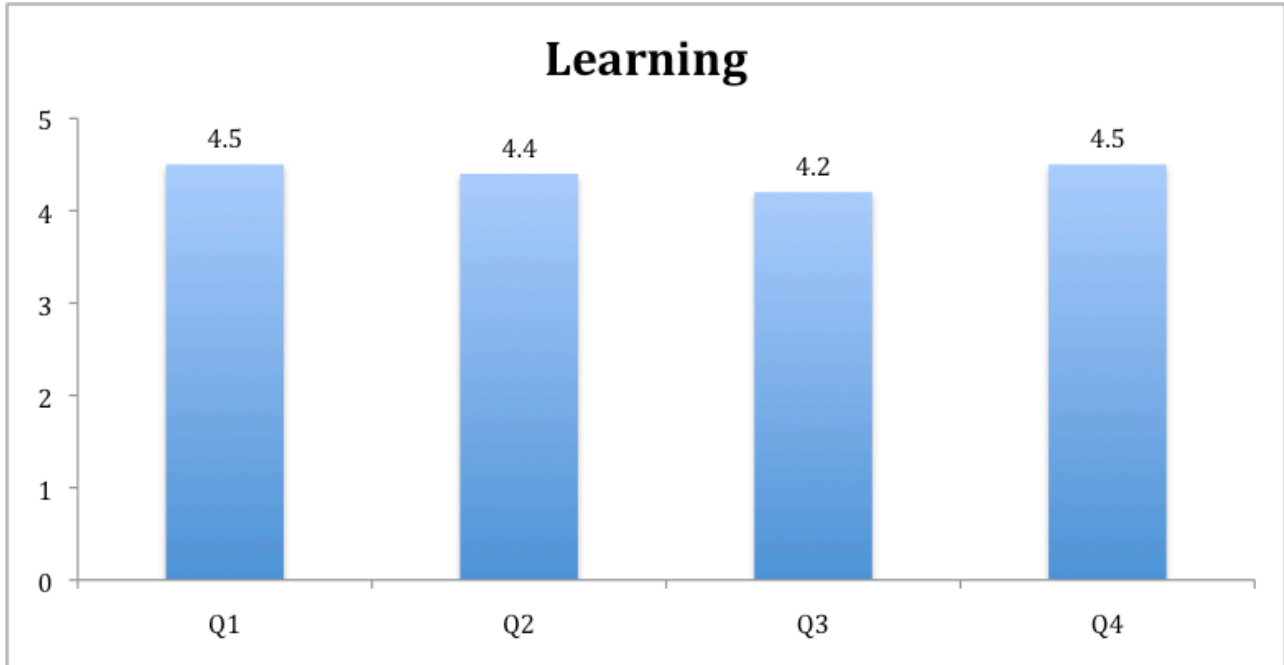
Care for Students

- Q1 My school takes students' opinions seriously
- Q2 I like being at my school
- Q3 I can talk to my teachers about my concerns
- Q4 I love coming to the River School



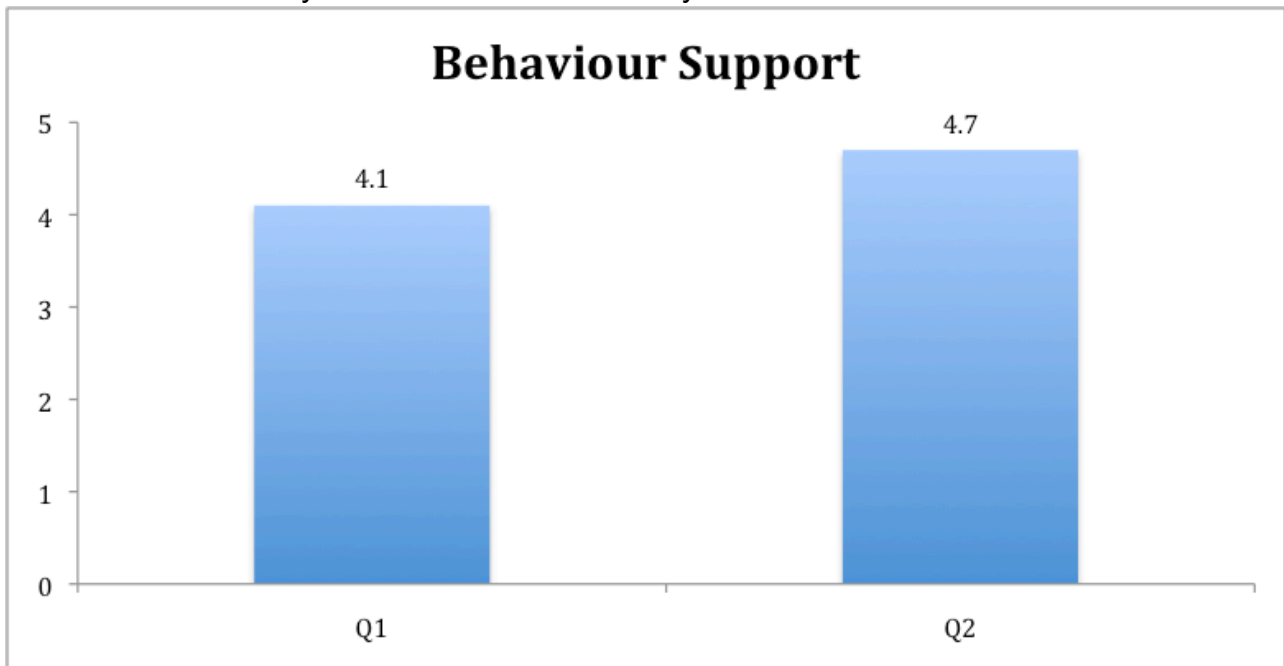
Learning

- Q1 My school gives me opportunities to do interesting things
- Q2 My teachers motivate me to learn
- Q3 My teachers provide me with useful feedback about my school work
- Q4 My teachers expect me to do my best



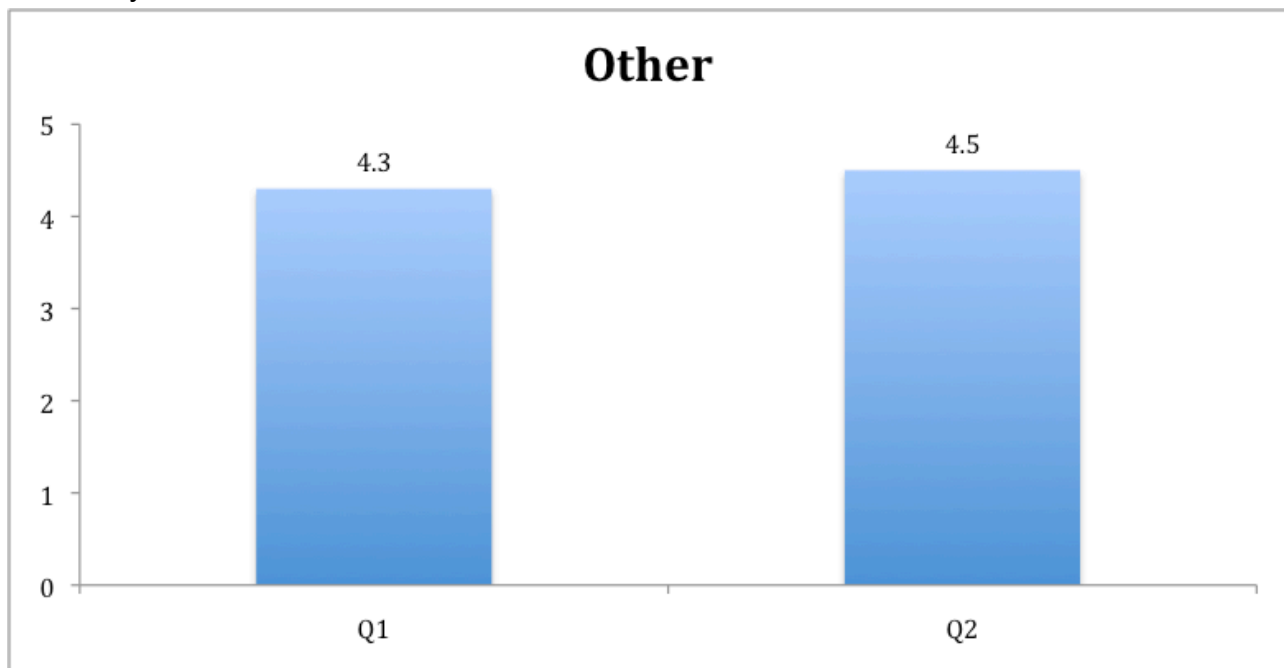
Behaviour Support

- Q1 Student behaviour is well managed at my school
- Q2 Teachers at my school treat students fairly



Other

- Q1 My school looks for ways to improve
Q2 My school is well maintained



School Income - Funding Sources

The Ananda Marga River School receives funding from a variety of sources including Federal and State funding, Grants, school fees and parent contributions. Details of funding sources can be found on the MySchool website.

<http://www.myschool.edu.au/>

Staffing Information

In 2014 our school employed:

- 8.0 Full time equivalent teachers
 - 1.2 FTE Specialist Staff,
 - 4.0 FTE Admin/Clerical Aides and
 - 3.3 FTE Building/Grounds and Bus Drivers.
- The school had one Indigenous Staff member.

All of our classroom teachers hold a Bachelor's Degree. All of our classroom teachers participated in Professional Development opportunities in 2014 which included curriculum development, restorative practice, behaviour support and digital technologies. The school spent \$9,300 on Professional Development during 2014.



Average staff attendance for the school, based on unplanned absences of sick and emergency leave periods of up to 5 days:

<i>Number of Staff</i>	<i>Number of School Days</i>	<i>Total Days Staff Absences</i>	<i>Average Staff Attendance Rate</i>
25	2948	130	96.7%

Proportion of teaching staff retained from the previous year:

<i>Number of permanent teaching staff at end of previous year</i>	<i>Number of these staff retained in the following year (the program year)</i>	<i>% retention rate</i>
11	11	100%

Key Student Outcomes

Student attendance

The Average Student Attendance Rate as a percentage in 2014 was 92.25%.

BENCHMARK DATA FOR 2014

 Indicates scores above the National Average

Reading

Year	Average Score (School)	Average Score (National)
Year 3 (2014)	379	418
Year 5 (2014)	520	501
Year 7 (2014)	590	546

Writing

Year	Average Score (School)	Average Score (National)
Year 3 (2014)	335	402
Year 5 (2014)	469	468
Year 7 (2014)	555	512

Spelling

Year	Average Score (School)	Average Score (National)
Year 3 (2014)	362	412
Year 5 (2014)	506	498
Year 7 (2014)	568	545

Grammar and Punctuation

Year	Average Score (School)	Average Score (National)
Year 3 (2014)	354	426
Year 5 (2014)	517	504
Year 7 (2014)	588	543

Numeracy

Year	Average Score (School)	Average Score (National)
Year 3 (2014)	360	402
Year 5 (2014)	505	488
Year 7 (2014)	572	546

Benchmark date is available in detail at the *My School* website <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>

Further Information

For further information about the Ananda Marga River School, or for a copy of our prospectus or enrollment information, please contact admin@amriverschool.org.

