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Principal's foreword

Introduction

Lowood State School /SEP Annual Report for 2008 is presented on behalf of our school community. The report outlines important information about our school, including its achievements, curriculum, organisation, performance and learning outcomes in Literacy and Numeracy at "key junctures".

Future outlook

At Lowood State School / SEP, we believe in a "learning culture" where all are committed to continuous improvement. Hence in 2009, we aim:

- to improve the literacy skills of our students through earlier identification of students with literacy deficiencies and individualised support programs
- to improve the numeracy skills of our students through individualised support programs
- to use the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Project as a major component of our school's curriculum
- to build upon our Gifted Education curriculum offerings
- to base our curriculum upon "the Essential Learnings"
- to enhance ICT integration into all curriculum areas,
- to enhance our commitment as a learning community to the IDEAS process,
- to embed our School Wide Positive Behaviour Program, and
- to encourage all staff to be active learners

Our school at a glance

School Profile

Total student enrolments for this school - 240 [incl. 19 SEP students who are integrated and supported within the mainstream school and 5 ECIP students].

Year levels offered - Prep to Year 7.

Lowood State School / SEP / ECIP is a coeducational school.

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings:

- Multi-age philosophy characterises our school
- Gifted Education curriculum emphasising thinking skills through *"The 6 Hats"*.

Extra curricula activities:

- Instrumental Music - Eisteddfods, Fanfare & Rural Shires
- Choir
- UNSW Competitions
- Interschool Sport (Ipswich District Primary Schools Competition)
- Student Council
- Readers' Cup
- Year 7 Musical & School Concert
- School Camps & Excursions
- U8's Day
- Celebration days - special days/events eg. Queensland Day, Easter Bonnet Parade, etc.

How computers are used to assist learning:

Teachers integrate computer technology into learning programs and assessment tasks.

The school has two computer labs as well as 2 x networked computers and 1 x stand alone computer in each Yrs 4 -7 classroom/ SEU and 1 networked computer and 2 x stand alone computers in P-3 classrooms.

Lowood SS is continuing to enhance its ICT's and staff are working towards their ICT licences.

Our school at a glance

Social climate

Our school's commitment to IDEAS and School Wide Positive Behaviour has proven very beneficial and is a catalyst for the development of a more positive social climate within the school. Our school community is committed to fostering quality relationships between staff, students and parents.

As a result of these initiatives our School Opinion Survey responses are showing an upward trend:

- 70.4% of students are "happy to go to this school"
- 71.2% of parents say "their child is happy to go to this school"
- 67% of students say "that this is a good school"
- 72.2% of parents say "that this is a good school"
- 75% of parents say "that their child is treated fairly"

Involving parents in their child's education

At Lowood State School we believe that learning is a lifelong process in which the whole school community should be an important source of modelling and support to encourage each student to be a secure, self-disciplined individual who is able to participate effectively and confidently in the community.

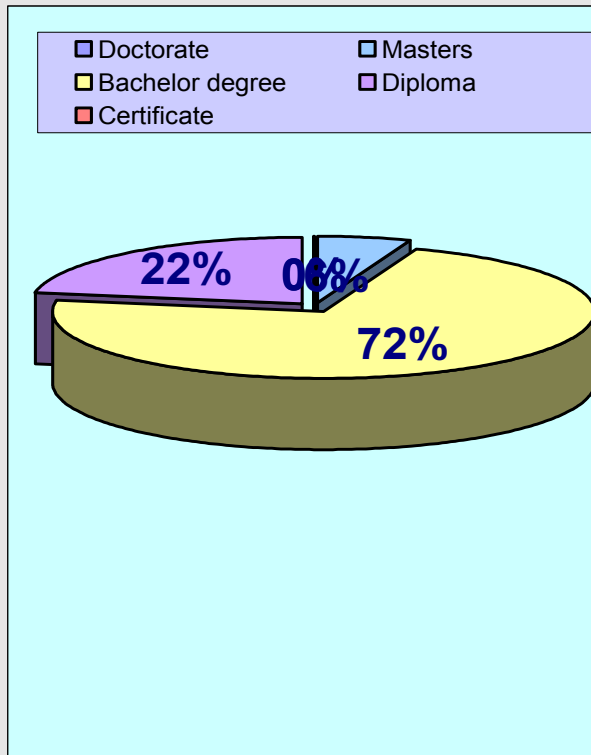
Our community actively participates in the school through:

- attending monthly Parents and Citizens meetings,
- being "parent reps" on our IDEAS and SWPBS Committees
- volunteering support in classroom/co-curricular activities/tuckshop,
- using a 3-way reporting process (teacher/student/parent) to ensure purposeful contact enabling productive home/school partnerships.
- implementing a "welcoming" policy to all parents/carers to encourage open, respectful and honest discussions to ensure concerns and issues are resolved appropriately.

We continually strive to keep our parent community well-informed about all aspects of our school and its educational programs through our weekly Newsletter

Our staff profile

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	1
Bachelor degree	13
Diploma	4
Certificate	0



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was \$18 838.53 .

The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

- Teaching Mathematics – inquiry strategies
- “Art of Facilitation”
- EAP Validation Workshop
- Professional Standards for Teachers
- Peer Coaching → School Learning Community
- Curriculum/Cluster Alignment
- ICT workshops
- School Wide Positive Behaviour Program
- Higher Order Thinking Skills
- Autism Spectrum Disorders

Our staff profile

- Early Years Curriculum
- “Being the Best You Can Be”
- OH&S Recertification
- Using data to inform practice – miscue analysis, Words their Way

The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2008 was 94%.

Average staff attendance

For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 94% in 2008.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the 2007 school year, 98% of staff were retained by the school for the entire 2008 school year.

Performance of our students

Student attendance

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2008 was 93%.

Key outcomes

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results - our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the Years 3, 5 and 7.

Domain	Measures	Yr 3	Yr 5	Yr 7
Reading	Average score for the school	329	418	485
	Average score for Queensland	371.1	466.1	528.1
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	67%	69%
Writing	Average score for the school	309	421	456
	Average score for Queensland	391.8	468.9	522.7
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	67%	64%
Spelling	Average score for the school	310	415	494
	Average score for Queensland	366.7	462.0	528.0
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	73%	74%
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school	318	421	470
	Average score for Queensland	370.4	476.6	518.0
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	77%	74%
Numeracy	Average score for the school	333	413	491
	Average score for Queensland	367.9	458.2	539.0
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	67%	79%

Performance of our students

Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net	
	Percentage of students not requiring additional support
Reading	67%
Writing	79%
Number	86%

Value added	
<p>The Lowood State School community is committed to the School Chaplaincy Program, the IDEAS process and School Wide Positive Behaviour Program as we see beneficial outcomes for our school.</p> <p>The “Buddies” program is very popular with the vast majority of students and staff. Both students and staff are able to engage in a variety of activities and with students from all year levels. This successful program operates on Thursday each fortnight.</p> <p>Our school continues to offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities - “Buddies” program, Readers’ Cup challenge, seasonal sports in the Ipswich District competition, school band, chess, etc which are accessed by many, if not all, students at some point during the school year.</p>	

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school	
<p>Our commitment to the IDEAS process and School Wide Positive Behaviour Support Program has seen our school performance data begin to trend upwards. Our commitment to both programs continues as our levels of satisfaction data is not yet where we would like it to be.</p> <p>See Social Climate for some specific levels of satisfaction data</p>	