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Principal's foreword

Introduction

Our School Annual Report is reflective of our work in building a supportive and rigorous learning environment in which collaboration and open communication are fostered. We are a community of learning in which children have multiple opportunities to develop their respective talents.

Emerald State School is characterized by a very supportive and involved parent body who directly assist in student learning and provide valuable resources for our community. This coupled with a dedicated and experienced staff provide for an engaging and relevant educational programs.

We aim to foster the love of learning in our students. Our programs support students to become discerning, life-long learners who have the academic, problem solving and personal skills to effectively work and live in a changing world.

Future outlook

As a result of our Triennial School Review process (held in October 2006), student achievement data, the School Opinion Survey and school community feedback our focus will be:

Refining our curriculum to ensure it reflects Queensland Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Framework requirements and is also relevant and reflective our student and community needs and culture.

Continue to plan and develop our ICT network and the use of ICT in teaching and learning.

Moderation, both across schools and within our staff, to ensure consistency in our assessment and judgement process.

Our school at a glance

School Profile

Total student enrolments for this school: 365

Year levels offered: Prep – Year 7

Coeducational

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

- Swimming program for Years 1-7
- LOTE (Indonesian)
- Year 4-7 Camp program
- Medieval Banquet (Year 7)
- Drumfire Workshops – students worked with professional musicians to learn and perform African Drums for the Emerald Multicultural Festival.
- Smart Moves – physical activity program

Extra curricula activities

- Choir – Junior and Senior
- Instrumental Music – Years 5-7
- Opti-minds Challenge for students in Years 4-7
- Active-After School Sports
- Under 8's Day
- Biennial School Play
- Student Council
- Read With Me Club
- Inter-school sports
- YLead leadership program for Years 6-7
- Gifted and Talented Camp
- University of NSW academic competitions.
- Book Week celebrations
- Day with a Scientist workshops
- Arts Council

How computers are used to assist learning:

Computers are used as part of our regular class learning across curricular areas. Classrooms have computers as well as a computer laboratory and library computer access. Students can also access the computer laboratory as part of their lunch break.

Social climate

Our school provides a supportive and safe environment that fosters student academic, sporting, cultural and personal growth. The parents and school community form an integral part of our philosophy of effective learning. We believe that together we can more effectively support student development and learning.

Our school at a glance

Our students, staff and families are supported through our support services. These include our school Guidance Officer and a School Chaplain.

97% of parents were satisfied to very satisfied that their child was safe at Emerald State School with 100% believing that they are made to feel welcome.

80.7% of the children were satisfied to very satisfied that they were safe at school with 87.9% reflecting that their teacher help them to do their best.

82.9% of staff were satisfied to very satisfied with the staff and community relationships with 100% satisfaction with how well they get on with the students at Emerald State School.

Involving parents in their child's education.

Parents are a key part of our school community and fundamental in their child's education. Classrooms, across the year levels, actively seek parent involvement in their academic programs and in extra-curricula activities. In 2008 we celebrated the 134 volunteers who, through their skills, time and resources supported our school and students.

Programs, such as Support-a-Reader, are offered to our parent and community members as part of building supportive partnerships and a common language between home and school.

Our school has a register of parent and community tutors who support student learning through the coordination of our Learning Support staff.

We have a very strong and active Parents and Citizens Association who play an integral part in our school community and as part of their children's learning. They have two major fundraising events a year: the School Fete and the Christmas Craft Fair. Our P&C run our tuckshop and Uniform Shop. Volunteer parents also coordinate Book Club which gains valuable resources and funds for our P&C and school.

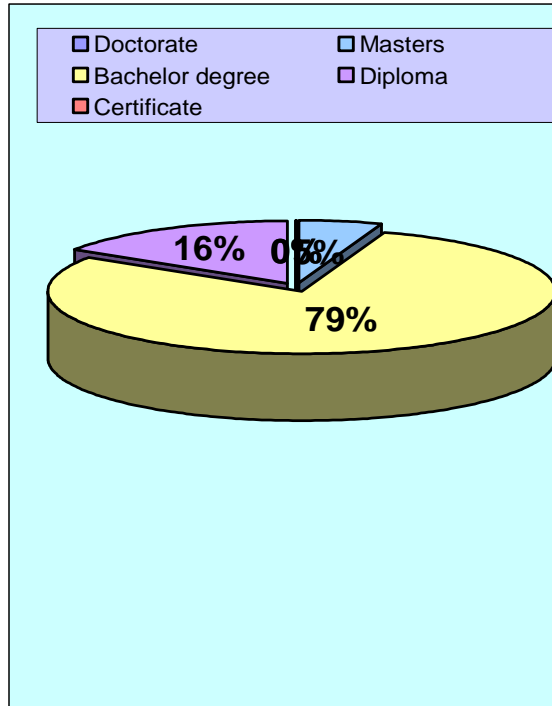
We report student progress three times per year: Term 1 progress report; Semester 1; Semester 2. Parent interviews are available with each reporting period and upon request. We encourage open communication between school and home and believe that by working together we can better support student learning.

Classes from Year 1-7 receive homework. This is an opportunity for children to share their learning with parents and practise new knowledge and skills away from the classroom. Reading is a fundamental element of our homework program as it is in our classrooms. Homework is often modified to reflect student learning needs and can also reflective of parent, specialist teacher and student input

Our staff profile

Qualifications of all teachers.

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	1
Bachelor degree	15
Diploma	3
Certificate	0



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

- The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was \$14437 .

The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

- Literacy training
- First Steps (Mathematics)
- THRASS
- Teaching of reading.
- Professional Standards for Teachers

The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2008 was 71 %.

Average staff attendance

- For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 97% in 2008.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

- From the end of the 2007 school year, 81 % 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 89 %.

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, 7 and 9.

Domain	Measures	Yr 3	Yr 5	Yr 7
Reading	Average score for the school	362	505	535
	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 86 %	95 %	98 %
Writing	Average score for the school	379	484	527
	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 94 %	95 %	96 %
Spelling	Average score for the school	349	474	529
	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 88 %	93 %	94 %
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school	363	501	518
	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 86 %	95 %	89 %
Numeracy	Average score for the school	357	484	533
	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 90 %	95 %	98 %

Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net	
	Percentage of students not requiring additional support
Reading	77 %
Writing	85 %
Number	81 %

Performance of our students

Value added

Promoting healthy lifestyles through our Active-After School Sports and Smart Moves Program.

All students have a supervised and healthy Brain Break.

School based benchmark testing in reading twice yearly and in literacy and numeracy once yearly to assess value-adding of school curriculum.

Review and development of reading and mathematics resources to accommodate a range of learning styles.

Development of learning support resources to assist in student learning.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

93.8% of our parents believe that their child is getting a good education at this school. 97% of parents are satisfied to very satisfied that their child is safe at school and that Emerald State School is a good school.

84.3% of our children believe that they are getting a good education at Emerald State School. 86.7% are satisfied to very satisfied with the interest the teacher takes in their learning, 80.7% believe they are safe at school and 91.6% that this is a good school.

Of our staff 88.9% are satisfied to very satisfied with the respect staff and student have for each other. 91.9% believe that Emerald State School is a good place in which to work.