


Hamilton State School

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Principal's foreword

Introduction

In 2008 we achieved our goals of resourcing the library, literacy and numeracy programs to a very high standard. Thanks to the support of the P&C and community all classrooms have State of the Art interactive whiteboards.

Parents were involved in information sharing on teaching/learning strategies.

Community partnerships were forged to widen curriculum opportunities e. g.

- Year 4-7 students participation in a Japanese dancing display at our Cultural Celebration (LOTE)
- Prep – 3's involvement in Under 8's week educational activates with Hendra and Pinkenba Schools (The Arts& Technology)
- Older students' involvement in Aviation High Flight Program (Science).

Future outlook

Our school, being located close to the city, is popular with newly arrived residents. While parents temporarily rent, affordable housing is found in outlying suburbs, not generally in the suburb of Hamilton. This means that there is higher than State average mobility in the student population.

Priorities, therefore, always focus on individual students and their learning needs. This may include providing for the gifted students or assisting learning English as another language. Our priorities for the future include:

- Resourcing the Information and Communication Technologies to support the Essential Learnings.
- Engaging parents in information sharing on teaching/learning strategies in literacy, numeracy and other key learning areas
- Building community partnerships to enhance physical activity, cultural understandings, wide curriculum opportunities and healthy living.

Our school at a glance

School Profile

Hamilton State School is a small, co-educational school catering for students from Prep to Year 7. It is located in a quiet, tree-lined, suburban street in Hamilton, six kilometres from Brisbane's CBD. It is in the Greater Brisbane Education Region and is supported by Brisbane North District Office of the Department of Education and the Arts, Queensland.

Total student enrolments in 2007 were 50 students.

The school was established in 1907 and is set in spacious (0.809h) grounds with large Moreton Bay figs and other old trees. The four-roomed heritage listed building has wide front verandahs. The Early Years Building is a low- set building with a native rainforest garden on one side. Parents and students have planted native shrubs and developed this rainforest/pond area to attract native fauna. There are three playgym areas at the back of the school, a multi-purpose court used for tennis, basketball, netball and games skill practice. The library is well resourced and includes a bank of computers for easy access. We travelled to Kedron State School for swimming in Terms 1 and 4.

In 2008 there were three classes

- Prep – Year 1
- Years 2-3 and
- Years 4- 7
- Our school has a very rich multicultural mix of students, which reflects our current society. We often have over eight different ethnic groups represented at our school at any one time. This assists in the active awareness and appreciation of other cultures and social organisations. There is a positive response by parents in participating in cultural activities, which supports the involvement of racial harmony and mutual respect.

Our school at a glance

Curriculum offerings

Our curriculum program emphasises quality student outcomes and lifelong learning (our motto is **Learning for Life**) and is based on eight Key Learning Areas

English	Technology
Maths	Health and Physical Education
The Arts	Language Other Than English (Japanese)
Study of Society and the Environment	Science

Hamilton State School is well serviced by visiting specialist teachers in music, physical education, library learning support and LOTE (Japanese).

Extra curricula activities in 2008 included:

- Choir, recorder band, Tennis coaching, gardening, Raw Art, CSIRO workshops, Year 3-7 camp, City District Tag League, Small Schools Athletics Day on Aviation High oval, Rewards Days and Cross Country competitions.
- Through our Small Schools networking, students are given early opportunities in
 - athletics coaching,
 - sustainability projects,
 - creative writing, art and drama workshopping (through the Nudgee Beach Literacy Extension Program)

How computers are used to assist learning

The school has eighteen networked computers with internet access (security filtered) available for student use in classrooms and within a computer lab in the library. Three state-of-the-art interactive whiteboards are in use in very classroom. Learning activities are structured and sequenced to integrate information technology with curriculum tasks, but there is also ample opportunity for individuals and groups to experiment and access programs of their choice. Increasingly, the use of computers enables diverse learning experiences by catering for multiple intelligences and varied learning styles.

Social climate

Our aim is to provide a supportive school environment where all members feel safe, are valued and have the opportunity to learn in a positive, socially just environment. In the 2008 student satisfaction survey

Our school has a positive family atmosphere. This is partly due to the size of the school, but also to programs and parental support. Our buddy program continued to be successful in 2008 (students from the upper school work side by side with P-2 students for a session each week).

Whole school activities provide ideal opportunities for all age groups to interact and support each other. Fruit Bat in the mornings (staff and students meet informally before school to eat fruit before each day begins), Arts council performances, Choir Performance at the racecourse Road festival, Discos, our annual Pet Show, Interhouse sporting events, such as swimming and athletics carnivals, are all excellent times to develop positive social climate.

Our school at a glance

In 2008 our Chaplaincy program began. This was in conjunction with Northgate and Hendra state schools. We have a mentor model in place. Our chaplain visited twice a week and quickly became a support person who acted as a coach in providing mentoring to students. She liaised with teachers, other staff and parents to best support our children. We introduced the **Virtues** program and this was incorporated into our whole school approach. Our chaplain implements initiatives that improve the well being, participation and achievement of our students. Parents and staff are supportive of this program and assisted with the organisation of a chaplaincy fundraising event at the end of 2008.

In our student satisfaction survey of 2008, 90% of students in year 4-7 were satisfied that their teacher helped them do their best. This result was above the State and like schools mean. In our parent satisfaction survey, 100% of parents were satisfied that their child was treated fairly at this school and that the school makes them feel welcome!

Involving parents in their child's education.

There is a strong support in our community for Hamilton State School. There is a small, but hardworking and dedicated Parents and Citizens' Association. Parent Information sessions are held at the beginning of each year. Parents meet with their child's teacher formally twice per year for reporting purposes, however parents are encouraged to attend regularly to view students' work. At the end of a unit of work parents are invited for presentations. In 2008 the Prep -2 class invited parents and the other students to their multicultural morning where dancing, craft, costumes, plays, games, art and great food were featured.

One of our teachers conducted a numeracy strategies workshop for parents. Hands-on activities and innovative ways of assisting with learning were presented.

In 2008, Year 4-7 students invited parents and staff to their private art collection which was held one evening. Drinks and nibbles were served as the parents showed their appreciation of each student's work. Prior to the evening the students had visited the Gallery of Modern Art to view Picasso's collection and had then proceeded in describing and collecting their art influences.

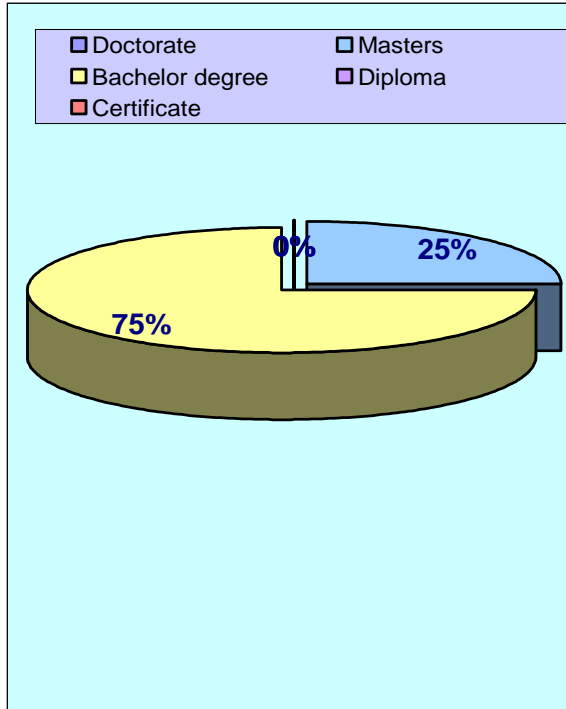
Parents in 2008 were involved in:

- fundraising to secure the purchase of interactive whiteboards to every classroom (Trivia Night etc)
- Under 8's week activities
- Assisting with supervision on camps, Choice afternoons, Rewards Days and excursions

A school newsletter is published each Thursday. Students are encouraged to write reports to include their perspective on learning at school.

Qualifications of all teachers.

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



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

- The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 were \$3334.
- The major professional development initiatives are as follows:
- Literacy Training for all teachers in Prep to Year 3 was provided by Education Queensland.
- Prep module professional development was undertaken by one of our part time permanent teachers.
- All teaching staff received training in Information and Communication technology connected to Laptops for Teachers, Smart Classrooms and Interactive Whiteboard technology.
- All staff completed First Aid Certificate updated training.
- The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2008 was 86 %.

Average staff attendance

- For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 96% in 2008.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

- From the end of the 2007 school year, 73 % of staff were retained by the school for the entire 2008 school year.

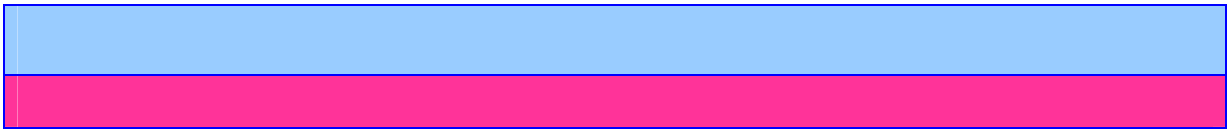
Student attendance

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2008 was 98%.

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	414	422	509
	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	100%	71%
Writing	Average score for the school	433	408	539
	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	100%	57%
Spelling	Average score for the school	380	431	489
	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	100%	71%
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school	420	428	491
	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	100%	71%
Numeracy	Average score for the school	410	446	476
	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	100 %	100%



Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net	
	Percentage of students not requiring additional support
Reading	67%
Writing	67%
Number	78%

Value added
<p>Our school has continued with the process of conducting Focussed Individual Tracking Meetings. These are held to review, plan and program for each student in a professional and timely manner. Standardised tests, teacher evaluation and parent observations are utilised to understand each student's needs and progress. Specialist teachers, our guidance officer, classroom teachers and the principal consider all aspects of curriculum offerings and how this best relates to each child's progress both academically and socially.</p> <p>In 2008 the introduction of the whole school Virtues program added a wonderful dimension to our school.</p> <p>Due to the size and promotion of a positive family atmosphere in our small school there are many opportunities available to all students in our school</p> <p>e.g. to study, appreciate and encourage biodiversity in an urban environment is a special feature of our school</p> <p>to be involved in sporting teams (either as a very keen competitor or as one who enjoys the social aspect of teams and outings)</p> <p>to contribute in a positive way to decision making through the Student Council</p> <p>to appreciate indigenous and other cultures (our Cultural Celebration day in November was a very successful school event.</p>

- Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Our **parent satisfaction** results in 2008 were **above** the state and like schools mean with responses to the following questions:

- How satisfied are you that your child works well at this school?
- How satisfied are you that the school is developing your child's literacy skills?
- How satisfied are you about the usefulness of what your child is learning at school?
- How satisfied are you with the quality of teaching your child receives?
- How satisfied are you that the school keeps you well informed on how your child is progressing?
- How satisfied are you that the school provides good learning opportunities for your child?
- How satisfied are you that your child's is treated fairly at this school?

- How satisfied are you that the school makes you feel welcome?
- How satisfied are you that the school communicates well with you?
- How satisfied are you with the school grounds?
- How satisfied are you with the opportunity your child has to use internet based resources for learning at school?

Our **student** satisfaction survey results in 2008 were **above** the state and like schools mean with responses to the following questions:

- How satisfied are you with the activities you do in your classroom?
- How satisfied are you with the variety of school activities you do?
- How satisfied are you that your teacher helps you to do your best?
- How satisfied are you about the behaviour of students at this school?
- How satisfied are you that you are safe at this school?
- How satisfied are you that this is a good school?
- How satisfied are you that your teacher organises your daily physical activity?

Our teacher satisfaction survey results were **above** the state mean with responses to the following statements:

I am satisfied with the facilities in this school.

I feel this school is a safe place to work.

The staff in this school are enthusiastic about their work.

There is a good team spirit among staff of this school

I am treated with respect at this school

Staff and students respect each other in this school.