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Principal's foreword

Introduction

Gowrie State School is situated 15 kilometres northwest of Toowoomba on 7.5 hectares of land, featuring landscaped gardens designed to encourage natural bird and insect life. It is in a semi rural setting and the area is currently being redeveloped into large urban blocks. Our school caters for Prep to Year 7 children in a co-educational setting, most of who live locally. The school is well developed with good playground facilities. The school will enjoy a facelift as a result of the Building Education Revolution to occur in 2009 which will deliver a new library and under covered play area. We are a school where we teach individuals, not classes; we are a school of choice, not convenience. Primary school enrolments in 2008 were around 200 with steady increases expected as new homes are built in estates adjacent to the school. Teaching staff include the equivalent of eight fulltime classroom teachers, and Head of Curriculum. Visiting teachers in Health and Physical Education Classroom Music, facilitate programs on a weekly basis. A Support Teacher Learning Difficulties is based at the school providing a service to students three days a fortnight.

Future outlook

At Gowrie State School, we continue to work towards:

- **Student Attainment and Curriculum:** Improving results in student attainment in the areas of literacy and numeracy;
- Opportunities for students to excel in areas of The Arts, Music and Sport;
- Engagement of all students;
- Increased rigour of our teaching in the areas of Literacy, Numeracy and Science;
- **Staff Development:** Providing all staff with the opportunity to deliver quality curriculum through refining teaching and learning strategies;
- **School Image:** The continued revitalisation of the school's image and profile within our community;
- **Physical Work Environment and School Operations:** The physical presentation of our grounds and gardens including a litter free environment

Our school at a glance

School Profile

Total school enrolments for Gowrie State School peaked at 202. Gowrie State School is a co-educational setting catering for Prep to Year 7. Most classrooms are on ground level and some classes are multi-age grouping. An “Outside School Hours Care” facility runs out of the building that was formally the Principal’s residence.

Curriculum offerings

- As a Partner School in the state wide QCAR (Queensland Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting) project conducted by Education Queensland, a focus on English and Mathematics and Essential Learnings for students are undertaken.
- Additional Literacy Development for students through the use of ARC and CARS & STARS for Struggling Readers;
- Instrumental Band and Instrumental lessons for a range of instruments are available for interested students;
- Environmental Education focus, with “Green and Healthy” initiatives such as reducing water and electricity consumption;
- Strong music program with a heavy focus on singing and a community performing School Choir;
- Strong ties with our feeder high schools and the transition of students from one site to another; and
- Introduction of The Club House for students needing help to negotiate their way in to the playground in socially acceptable ways.

Extra curricula activities:

- Student access to a range of information and communication technologies (ICT’s)
- Sporting representation
- The Arts (Choir, Band and Instrumental Music)
- Outside Hours School Care
- Student Council
- Active representation at Community events
- Outdoor education and camping program
- Quality excursions are linked to curriculum outcomes
- Celebration Days for good behaviour occur once a term: Gold Pass Days
- Arts Council and quality presentations are a regular part of school life.
- Interschool sport is played for Years 5 to 7
- Swimming lessons are a part of HPE in the summer terms

How computers are used to assist learning

- Staff and students have ready access to a wide range of information and communication technology hardware and software including ...
- Email and Internet access
- Project based web research
- Weekly class access to Learning Centre
- 0.2 ICT dedicated teacher to build staff ICT capacity
- Specific information hosted on school’s website
- Online reporting using One School
- Direct curriculum integration of a range of generic software applications scaffolded and sequenced across the school (eg; Microsoft PowerPoint, Excel, Word, Publisher)
- ICTs are an integrated expression tool within all teacher’s curriculum planning

Social climate

- Gowrie State School has long been recognised for its friendly, family atmosphere that provides ...
- Active inclusive practices to support/extends students requiring assistance;
- An open celebration of student, staff and parent achievements;
- Ongoing displays in Administration Foyer and other venues within community;
- Student/Parent access to Guidance Personnel, including Behaviour Guidance Officer;
- Staff access to Employee Adviser and a trained onsite Rehabilitation Officer;
- Maintaining a positive, caring and supportive environment involving all stakeholders;

Our school at a glance

- A strong focus on Virtues Education with new virtues introduced and reinforced on a weekly basis on parade for students;
- Providing ongoing support for local, state, national charities and organisations;
- Smaller school size allows all staff to get to know most students and have a thorough knowledge of their individual/special support needs.

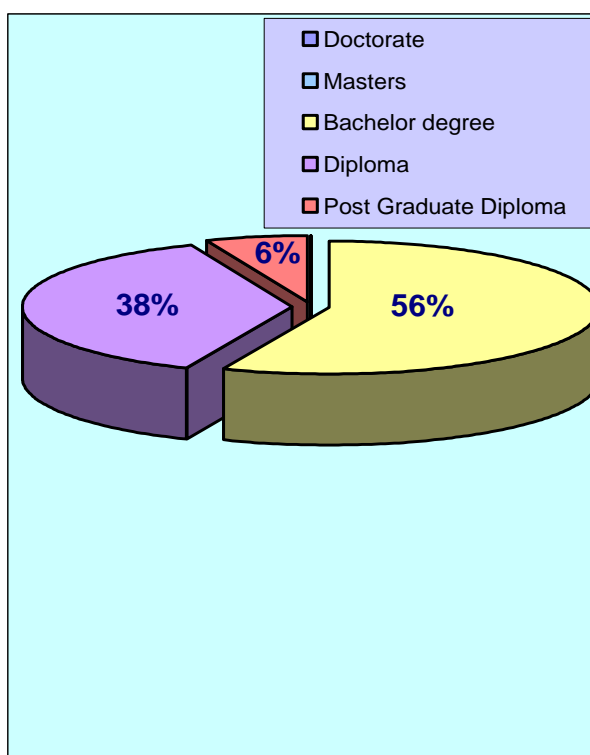
Involving parents in their child's education.

- An active Parent and Citizen Committee;
- An 'open door' policy promotes honest, two way communication and feedback;
- School and Classroom Volunteer programs including Reading/Maths Groups, Art and Craft, Religious Instruction, Sports Coaching, excursion and camp supervision;
- Regular information dispersal via the school Newsletter, Website, parent/carer nights and interviews, school sign, focused parent forums on school and curriculum related topics, and the distribution of special information fliers;
- Input sought into decision making processes, policy feedback;
- 'Open door' policy to discuss concerns;
- Parent/Carer/Teacher Information Sessions twice a year;
- Parent/Carer/Teacher face to face interviews regarding Report Cards twice a year;
- A Variety of Class Expos;
- 'Communication Books' for Parents/Carers/Teachers as vehicle for improved communication between the school and home;
- Parent/Carer skilling sessions to support their children in numeracy and literacy activities;
- Weekly Assembly;
- Annual presentation night;
- P&C Association's Uniform Shop and Tuckshop; and
- Attendance at a range of annual sporting events.

Our staff profile

Qualifications of all teachers.

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	0
Bachelor degree	9
Diploma	6
Post Graduate Diploma	1



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

- The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was \$15356.
- The major professional development initiatives are as follows:
 - Yr P-3 Literacy Training;
 - Kagan Principles;
 - Productive Pedagogies
 - QCAR_Essential Learnings
 - One School Training & ICT Training
 - Early Years Conference
- The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2008 was 88 %.

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, 90% 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 94.7 %.

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	376	501	516
	Average score for Queensland (Do not change)	371.1	466.1	528.1
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 81.2%	94%	84.6%
Writing	Average score for the school	417	490	530
	Average score for Queensland (Do not change)	391.8	468.9	522.7
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 68.7%	88%	88%
Spelling	Average score for the school	383	477	512
	Average score for Queensland (Do not change)	366.7	462.0	528.0
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 81.2%	81%	73.1%
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school	376	501	504
	Average score for Queensland (Do not change)	370.4	476.6	518.0
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 81.2%	94%	73.1%
Numeracy	Average score for the school	361	464	532
	Average score for Queensland (Do not change)	367.9	458.2	539.0
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 81.2%	88%	80.8%

Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net	
	Percentage of students not requiring additional support
Reading	61%
Writing	84%
Number	77%

Value added

Gowrie State School continues to address individual and student achievement and school wide performance by delivering a range of proactive and pre intervention programs designed to improve student literacy and numeracy outcomes. A review of individual student progression and achievement in Year Three, Five and Seven Tests for our most recent school leavers gives a clear indication of the 'value added' aspect of children passing through our school. We are delighted to report that these individual reports show that in virtually all instances, our 2007 Year seven class members developed significantly, against the benchmarks for each of these year levels. The recent development of the school's ICT infrastructure places Gowrie as an emerging leader in the use of information and communication technologies within the curriculum and use of relevant pedagogical practices.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

The annual School Opinion Survey for 2008 produced the following results ...

80% of students satisfied that they are getting a good education from school

82% of parents/carers satisfied that they are getting a good education from school

92% of parents/caregivers satisfied that the school is a good school.

90% of school workforce satisfied with access to learning opportunities that relate to school and systemic initiatives

Performance of our students

90% of staff members satisfied with morale in the school

90% of school workforce satisfied with access to professional development opportunities that relate to school and systemic initiatives.

88% of workforce engaged in professional development opportunities.

10% of general component of school grant expended on professional development for school staff.

