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Principal's foreword

Introduction

Burnett Heads State school celebrated its 130th year in 2008 with a historic fete which traced the school's growth and development over those years.

In 2008 the main curriculum focus was on developing student literacy and numeracy. Programs such as the Rotary Readers complemented teaching to enhance student progress. Interactive whiteboards were installed also to allow for more active student learning in these areas. Curriculum documents were reviewed and a process of updating commenced.

The first full intake of Preparatory year students was successful, with our youngest students settling in well and learning within the play based early childhood curriculum. Successful buddying with older students makes the inclusion of such young students a school wide event.

Social and Emotional Learning was introduced throughout the school to work in tandem with the School Positive Behaviour Program to enhance the learning/working environment in the school.

The P&C worked very effectively through a variety of activities to support school initiatives. The P&C contribution to the school is highly valued.

Future outlook

Focus for the future:

School wide focus on development of Curriculum Plan which aligns Essential Learnings with Queensland Curriculum Assessment and Reporting (QCAR) framework.

Intense Literacy professional development for years P to 3, Science Connections and First Steps Maths.

Continue school wide Social Emotional Learning implementation, alongside School Behaviour Policy and Gold Club , Smart Choices and Active school to ensure a healthy, positive student body.

Our school at a glance

School Profile

Total student enrolments for this school: 175

Year levels offered: Preparatory year to year 7

Coeducational or single sex: Coeducational

Curriculum offerings

- Our distinctive curriculum offerings :
 - Environmental education – studying the foreshore and local environment as part of the Reef Guardian schools. Burnett Heads was awarded the 2008 Action and Adventure Award from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Authority for class work focused on the foreshore.
 - Early Childhood - much emphasis is placed on maximising children's development through Tap into Speech, Support a Talker and Motor Perception programs. When Prep students are ready to read, they have the opportunity of reading with a Rotary Reader.
 - Special Needs. An active special needs committee (Advisory teacher, Special needs Teacher, Guidance Officer, Principal and Classroom teacher) ensures children's learning needs are met in an appropriate and timely manner.
 - LOTE students study German under the stewardship of a highly qualified and widely recognised teacher. Year 5's do cultural studies, while 6&7 study KLA German
 - Middle Schooling: Year 7 students participate in an ongoing transition program with Kepnock State High School. Kepnock Science teachers visit to work with our students as part of the Middle Schooling program.
 - Burnett Heads is a Social and Emotional Learning school which teaches habits of a healthy mind as part of the curriculum (You Can Do It Program)
 - Year 6&7 provided with Human relationship Education in year 6&7.
 - Life Education Van attends each year.
 - Westpac Maths Competition for selected students.
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- Extra curricula activities
 - Instrumental Music Program – year 5,6,7.
 - Arts Council performances each term.
 - Choir
 - Active after School Sports Program
 - Inter School Sports Program

- Burnett Heads State School Council of Students.
- Greenies Environmental Club
- Robotech group
- Premier's Reading Challenge
- Year 7 camp
- Leadership programs for years 6&7
- Theatre Restaurant
- Surf Safety program annually
- Fire safety for early years given annually.

How computers are used to assist learning:

Electronic Whiteboards were installed in all classrooms during 2008 to facilitate interactive learning. Teachers are engaged in acquiring their Pedagogical license to enable highly effective use. Classes have accessed virtual classrooms as part of the curriculum. Students across the school from Prep to Year 7 have daily access to computers in their classrooms and are timetabled in the electronic learning environment to enhance their learning outcomes. Emailing and Internet use for research purposes are a high priority learning outcome for the students.

Students are becoming advanced users of all the Microsoft software packages and are actively encouraged to continue and enhance their learning in these areas.

Social climate

Burnett Heads State School has a stable and dedicated teacher and auxiliary staff who are committed to providing a quality education for our students. The school focuses on the education of the whole child through active anti bullying programs and positive social and emotional learning strategies. The size of the school means that all students are known to, and know, all staff members. We endeavour to set high standards for behaviour and encourage a positive school climate which cares for all members of the school community through a number of school programs. The school also has the service of two chaplains who are present in the school for five days per fortnight and are available to students, staff and community for consultation.

The school has strong connections with the wider community through the Rotary Reader program, Mon Repos turtle rookery "Dim the Lights" campaign, Safety House and the annual participation in ANZAC day ceremonies and the Bundaberg Show. The school contributes each month to the local newspaper, the "Most Wanted".

Negotiations are underway to provide a Before and After school care program in 2009.

Involving parents in their child's education.

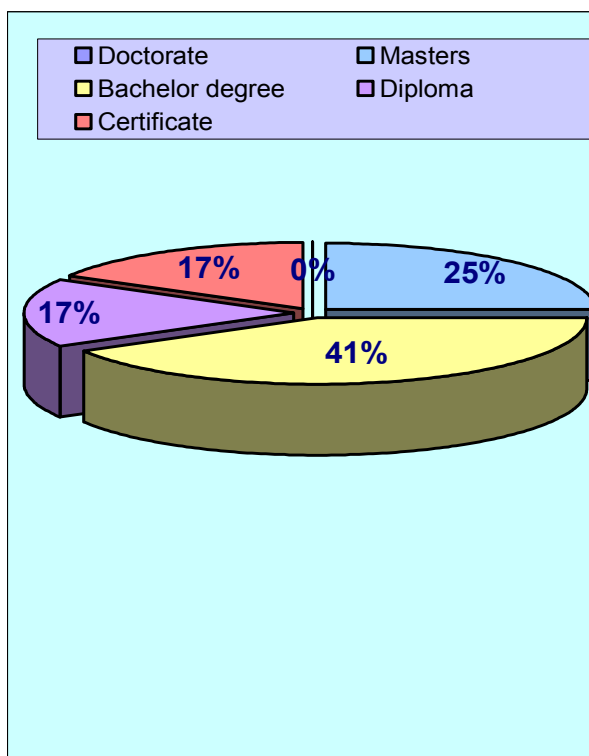
Parents and family members are actively encouraged to participate in all aspects of school life. In early years, parents assist with homework readers and participate in group learning activities. Involvement at this level is very important since the visible positive involvement of parents in the early years has been shown to benefit student learning outcomes. Parents are encouraged to accompany classes on out of school activities such as the rock pool data collections, silver rewards day and interschool sport's days. Parents also play a vital role in the Theatre Restaurant which is a major learning event for year 7, while providing a source of fundraising for the year 7 end of year camp.

On occasions during the school year, information sessions are held and open classroom days inform parents as to work being undertaken in classrooms. Burnett Heads is fortunate to have a small but very productive P&C, which is appreciative of new parents and gives many opportunities for involvement in school life. Parents who have particular skills are always welcome to share them with the school community.

Our staff profile

Qualifications of all teachers

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	3
Bachelor degree	5
Diploma	2
Certificate	2



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

- The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was \$7 043
- The major professional development initiatives are as follows
- Training of Preparatory year teachers and teacher aides, Literacy training for P to 3 teacher and teacher aides, First Steps in Maths, Connections Science, Social and Emotional learning, IT, Fit and Healthy schools.
- The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2008 was
- 100 %.

Average staff attendance

- For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was approx 95% in 2008.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

- From the end of the 2007 school year, 93 % 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 approx 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, 7 and 9.

Domain	Measures	Yr 3	Yr 5	Yr 7
Reading	Average score for the school	376	467	536
	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 95%	88%	90.9%
Writing	Average score for the school	381	442	520
	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 95%	84 %	90.9%
Spelling	Average score for the school	379	441	499
	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 95%	72%	90.9%
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school	360	473	507
	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 95 %	84%	77.3%
Numeracy	Average score for the school	356	458	527
	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%	100%	85.7%

Performance of our students

Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net	Percentage of students not requiring additional support
Reading	66.7%
Writing	85.7%
Number	81%

Value added

Burnett Heads State school works to maximize learning outcomes for all students. Learning Needs differentiate from student to student, and as a school team we work to identify particular student needs, and act upon those which need specific differential programs. The concentrated use of Rotary Readers throughout the school, to complement the delivery of Support a Talker, Support a Reader and Support a Number programs, assists in bring age appropriate performance to students. Within classrooms and through targetted groups, student abilities are extended.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

In 2008, student satisfaction with school curriculum, climate and access to ICT learning were very positive and above state averages in most measured areas. The student satisfaction with teacher interest in learning, and the access to ICTs in learning were notable high. the one "that this is a good school" Overall, 82.6% of students were satisfied while 6.5% were neutral. Parent satisfaction was 79% "that this is a good school" with 11% neutral. Staff satisfaction was above state average in all measured areas reflecting a strong team ethos among staff.