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Principal's foreword

Introduction

The intent of this report is to provide parents and the wider school community with information that is common for all State and Non-State Schools throughout Queensland. It provides an overview of the programmes and achievements of Fig Tree Pocket State School during the 2008 school year.

The "Celebrations of the Arts" was our 2008 whole school community event. The main programme school focus was our core business of teaching and learning with rigorous trialling and development of teaching approaches in English, Mathematics and Information Technologies. These projects were supported by extensive staff professional development programmes. Once again, our students gained excellent results in the Year Three, Five and Seven Tests which were analysed to provide clear direction for future planning. This year also saw the continued development of the school Extension Programme and introduction of One School and Smart Moves – Physical Activity in State Schools.

Future outlook

During 2009 our main agenda will continue to focus on the development of Student Literacy and Numeracy skills. We aim to continue improving student and teacher access to computer technologies and the internet as vehicles for learning. The Laptops for Teachers and the One-School Initiatives will play major roles in assisting these agendas. Our ICT/Science Centre will be core to the continued development and implementation of quality programmes for all students and teachers. The ICT/Science Centre will also provide enhancement for our teacher Professional Development Programmes and the school Science and Computer Clubs.

Our school will continue developing and modifying our Extension Learning Programmes with a focus on Mathematics for our talented students. We will explore teaching approaches that differentiate the curriculum to enhance student learning. Through these programmes we aim to improve the percentage of students and parents who are satisfied with the educational opportunities offered at our school. We will also implement a wide range of opportunities for all students in the Sporting, Language and Arts areas that will support and enhance our School Values Programme. The school community will forge ahead with a School Master Plan to establish a planned and focussed blueprint for the development of facilities to minimise our ecological footprint.

Our school at a glance

School Profile

Fig Tree Pocket State School was established in 1871. It is located in Brisbane City in the Western Suburbs of the Brisbane Central and West Education District. School enrolments are governed by a school enrolment management plan with a catchment area that only includes the Fig Tree Pocket suburb. This is a result of further housing development occurring in the local area.

The school is co-educational with children attending from Prep to Year 7. Enrolment numbers tend to increase slightly throughout the year with the majority of students arriving from interstate or overseas. In 2008 primary student numbers reached 402 in sixteen classes.

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings:

In addition to the Eight Key Learning areas of English, Mathematics, Science, Studies of Society and the Environment, The Arts, Languages Other Than English (Japanese), Technology, Health and Physical Education the school also provide the following distinctive curriculum offerings;

- Integrated Curriculum Units across all 8 Key Learning Areas
- Extension Learning Programme
- Learning Connections
- Learning Support Programme
- Swimming (Years 1 to 3)

Extra curricula activities:

- Science Club
- Computer Club
- Chess Club
- Yoga Lessons
- Interschool Sports Programme
- Instrumental Music Programmes including Strings, Woodwind, Brass and Percussion
- Junior and Senior Choirs
- Accessing the Pullenvale Environmental Centre
- Arts Council Performances
- Sporting Clinics/Training Programmes including Tennis, AFL, Soccer, Rugby League, and Athletics.
- Optiminds
- Maths Team Challenge
- ICAS Academic Competitions

Our school at a glance

How computers are used to assist learning:

Computers are used by students and teachers extensively throughout the school. Each classroom has a bank of approximately six computers which are all connected to the internet. Students use computers to research information, present reports and projects, to communicate using email, develop power point presentations, to operate software programmes to support curriculum learnings and for a range of social interactions such as music, short movies and educational games. During 2007 a new ICT Centre was opened. The ICT Centre provides a specialist computer classroom with thirty desktop and laptop computers, projector and electronic whiteboard. The ICT Centre is used extensively by all staff to engage and extend student learning in a stimulating environment. The ICT Centre is also used to run our School Computer Club and facilitates many of the staff professional opportunities.

Social climate

Fig Tree Pocket State School works to promote positive self image and self discipline. The adoption of the Values Project has enabled comprehensive discussion amongst staff and school community members about the way values should determine our behaviour rather than rules to regulate this behaviour.

There are many initiatives in place to support and nurture a positive school climate at school. These include classroom awards and merits, buddy system, newsletter acknowledgements, terrific tickets, peer mediators, as well as a student welfare policy and behaviour management plan.

The successes of these initiatives are clearly supported by the parent and student responses indicated in the state-wide annual school opinion surveys.

Results from the 2008 School Opinion Surveys indicated that Parents' and Students' scores were significantly above State Averages in the area of School Climate. The questions asked in this category suggested satisfaction:

- That the child is happy to go to school.
- About the behaviour of students at this school.
- With student discipline in the school.
- That the child is safe at this school.
- That the child is treated fairly at this school.

Involving parents in their child's education.

Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in many facets of school life. Many parents assist with classroom activities, tuckshop, library support, homework, excursions and sporting teams.

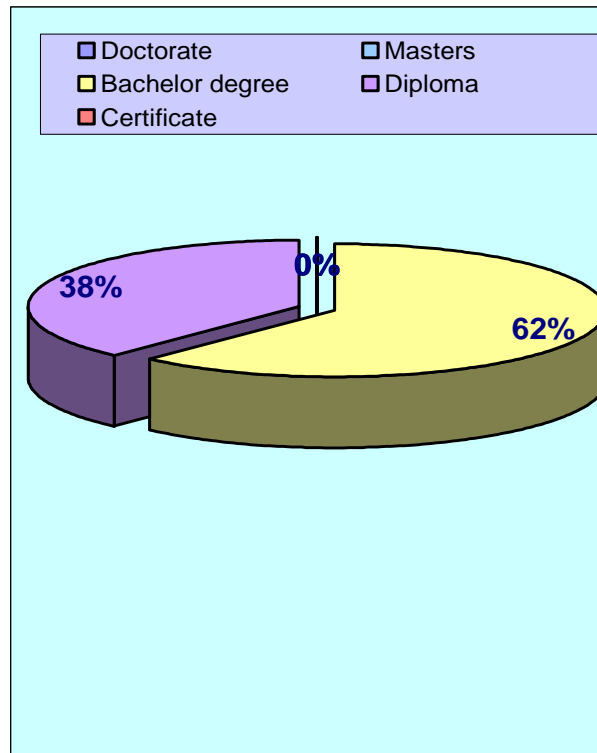
Parents are included in decision making committees at the school. The school community has high expectations of the school and forms a very supportive parent group. The school has a very active and accountable Parents' and Citizens' Association which provide significant funds and actively participate and support projects throughout the school.

Results in the Parent Opinion Surveys indicated that parents' scores in 2008 were significantly above State Averages in the area of School-Community Relationships. All parents surveyed were satisfied that Fig Tree Pocket is a good school and that the school makes them feel welcome.

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	18
Diploma	11
Certificate	0



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

Funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 were \$15751.

The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

- Early Years Curriculum
- Middle Schooling
- English Syllabus In-service
- Mathematics Resource Workshops
- OneSchool Training
- Technology in Education
- Healthy Schools Initiative
- Reporting Process - Moderation
- Unit Planning and Development

The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2008 was 100 %.

Our staff profile

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, 96% of staff was 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 95%.

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	454	524	563
	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	98 %	96 %
Writing	Average score for the school	437	513	575
	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 %	98 %
Spelling	Average score for the school	426	510	549
	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	98 %	98 %
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school	459	514	541
	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	97 %	98 %
Numeracy	Average score for the school	451	491	572
	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 %	98 %

Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net

	Percentage of students not requiring additional support
Reading	81%
Writing	100%
Number	95%

Performance of our students

Value added

Fig Tree Pocket State School students in Years 3, 5 and 7 consistently perform significantly better than State Benchmarks in all areas of Literacy and Numeracy. These areas include: Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation in Literacy and all the Numeracy Area.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

The Parent and Student satisfaction with the school is clearly illustrated in the 2008 School Opinion Survey results. In all of the target areas - Student Outcomes, Curriculum, Pedagogy, Learning Climate, School Climate, School – Community Relations (parents only) and Resources of the School Opinion Survey the parents and students were either satisfied or very satisfied with the school's performance.

Staff satisfaction with the school is also above the State Mean in the overall rating for all questions in the School Opinion Survey. The areas where staff satisfaction was significantly more than State Averages were the Physical Work Environment and Staff Morale.