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Principal's foreword

Introduction

It is with great pride that I encourage you to read the following School Annual Report for 2008. At Ferny Grove State School, we warmly welcome new students and their families, inviting them to participate fully in all aspects of our school's educational program. Working together teachers, students and parents strive to achieve the goals for the year ahead, maximising the very best outcomes for all learners.

Our school programs are based on four pillars: Academic, Physical, Social and Cultural – to give all students an opportunity for a rounded education. Our core program is focused on Literacy, Numeracy and Social Skills with expected standards clearly established. Socially, students are encouraged to guide, lead and act responsibly, and to support each other.

I recommend you peruse Ferny Grove State School's 2008 Annual Report and welcome enquiries and visits to our school.

Barry Starkey
Principal.

Future outlook

Exciting future ventures for our school in 2009 and beyond:

- Maximising student achievement in NAPLAN focusing on Literacy and Numeracy.
- Continued implementation of the *Framework for Gifted Education* and classroom thinking skills initiatives.
- Focus on Environmental Sustainability – becoming an Energy Wise School.
- Full implementation of the Queensland Curriculum Assessment and Reporting (QCAR) Framework.
- Continued support of the *Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students* by implementing a social skills and values education program which incorporates the *Rock and Water Program*.
- Implement *2009 – the Year of Creativity* focussing upon creative thinking across all KLAs.
- Further implementation of *Smart Classrooms Strategies* with One School, ICT Professional Development Framework priorities, increased use of data projectors and interactive whiteboards in classrooms and trial of One2One laptop classroom.
- Delivery of professional development underpinned by Professional Standards for Teachers and through professional learning conversations with teachers, including Literacy Training for Yr 4-7 and Specialist teaching staff.
- Maintain and promote the school's *Get Active Program*.
- Covered walkways to Prep Classrooms.
- Facilities provided through Commonwealth Building the Education Revolution program

Our school at a glance

School Profile

Total student enrolments for this school: 814

Year levels offered: Prep - Year 7

Coeducational

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings:

- 8 Key Learning Areas including German LOTE
- Maths Skill Levelling
- Guided Reading
- Early Years Literacy and Numeracy programs
- ICT Program
- Personal Development Program
- Leadership Accreditation

Students are provided with extensive opportunities to participate in extra curricula activities including:

- School camps
- Instrumental music
- Musical performances
- Various excursions
- Interschool sport
- Variety of choirs
- Chess
- Debating

How computers are used to assist learning across all areas of the curriculum including:

- Networked computers in all classrooms with 5 classes using interactive whiteboards.
- 2 Computer labs with full data projection facilities.
- An automated Resource Centre
- Internet access to all classrooms.
- An ICT teacher providing instruction to all classes.

Social climate

Ferry Grove is primarily a residential area. It has a relatively young community, where half of the residents are under thirty years of age and where one third of the population is of school age. The majority of families are Australian born, speak English as a first language and belong to a Christian religion. Most families either own or are in the process of purchasing their own home in one of many newly established residential estates. A significant number of parents are professionals in dual working families employed by the Department of Defence or the Public Service. The community is predominantly middle class with low unemployment.

In the 2008 School Opinion Survey, 98% of students and 81% of parents and caregivers indicated they were satisfied that they or their children were getting a good education at Ferry Grove State School. Furthermore, 92% of parents/caregivers were satisfied that Ferry Grove is a good school.

The school's comprehensive Behaviour Support Program, is complemented by the School Chaplain, Peer Mediator Program, Rock and Water Program and the highly active Student Council.

Involving parents in their child's education.

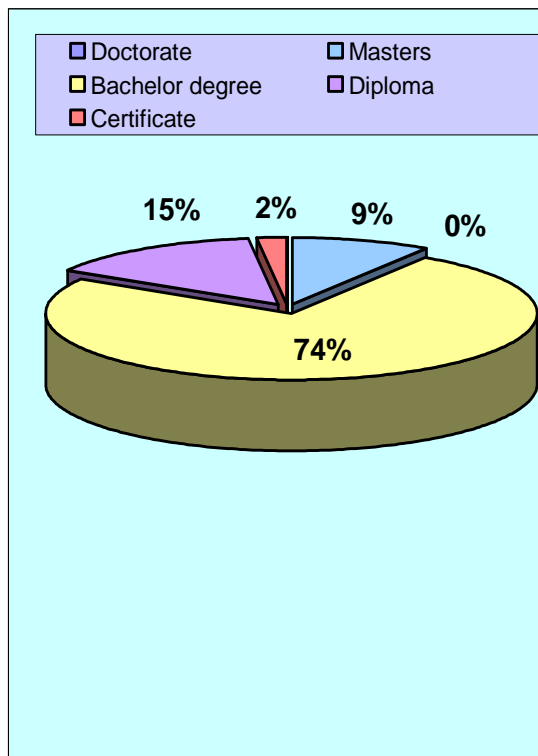
Ferny Grove State School highly values the involvement of parents and caregivers in the education process. This is evidenced by:

- A School Council, consisting of parent and staff representatives, gives advice and guidance to both the Parents and Citizens' Association and the Principal.
- The Parents and Citizens' Association, together with its various sub-committees, meets frequently and works in close liaison with the school's Administration.
- A Parent Activity Group is active within the school, overseeing the operation of the Uniform and Stationery Stores, Tuckshop and conducts various fundraising activities.
- Classroom Parent Representatives meet monthly to discuss and devise way of increasing opportunities for students. The CPRs work closely with classroom teachers to establish strong home/school links.
- An Instrumental and Choral Music Parent Support Group actively supports the music program.
- Parents are invited to assist as volunteers at the school by working in classrooms or as sporting team managers.
- Parents are invited to attend Parent Information Sessions and Parent/Teacher interviews on a number of occasions during the year.
- A parental questionnaire encourages parents to provide information about their child to the class teacher at the beginning of the year.
- Parents are invited to act as managers and coaches of interschool sporting teams.
- Invitations are extended for parents to join celebrations of class achievements at various times during the year.

Our staff profile

Qualifications of all teachers.

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	5
Bachelor degree	41
Diploma	8
Certificate	1



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

- The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was \$23 487 .
- The major professional development initiatives were as follows:
 - Literacy Training Yr 1-3 Teachers
 - QCAR Implementation
 - ICT - Professional Development Framework
 - Rock and Water Training
 - Provision for Gifted and Talented Education
 - ICT - Ancillary Staff Training
- The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2008 was 93%.

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, 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 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	389	478	555
	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	92%	88%	98%
Writing	Average score for the school	392	480	538
	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%	91%	96%
Spelling	Average score for the school	368	470	535
	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	93%	90%	93%
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school	373	496	536
	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	90%	90%	93%
Numeracy	Average score for the school	385	472	549
	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	95%	91%	97%

Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net

	Percentage of students not requiring additional support
Reading	81%
Writing	88%
Number	89%

Value added

Additional to the core curriculum Ferny Grove State School delivers learning opportunities that greatly enrich the lives of students. These include:

- Expressive Arts Week
- Student of the Month awards
- Special Weekly Celebrations- such as Literacy and Numeracy Weeks, Book Week, Science Week, Education Week
- Celebration Days to share classroom learning experiences with parents
- Student Leadership Programs and
- Diverse extra-curricular activities including Sport, Music, Choirs, Debating, etc
- Special ceremonies to acknowledge events such as Harmony Day, Anzac Day, Remembrance Day, NAIDOC.

Performance of our students

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Results from the 2008 School Opinion Survey and the results of systemic assessment programs clearly demonstrate that Ferny Grove State School achieves quality learning outcomes for its students.

Parents, students and teachers have indicated high levels of satisfaction across all facets of the school (academic, physical, social and cultural). We are proud of the fact that Ferny Grove State School is as good as, if not better than any other primary school in the state.

Why not drop in sometime and see for yourself? ... You're more than welcome!