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Principal's foreword

Introduction

This report contains a brief summary of the achievements of Bunker's Hill State School in 2008. This includes a description of the school and the programs it offers, information on staffing and a summary of the academic performance of the students at the school.

The school had a successful year in 2008, but we know that there is always room for improvement. The school community, including its students, staff, parents and other school supporters, are always working to make the school an even better place.

I hope you find the report informative. If you would like to know more about the school and what it offers its students, please contact the school for further information.

Jim Tiernan

Principal.

Future outlook

In 2009, the school is looking forward to some exciting developments.

The Essential Learnings from the Queensland Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Framework will form the basis for the school's curriculum. These will steer and focus teacher planning and student learning.

Bunker's Hill stands to benefit greatly from the Federal Government's "Building the Education Revolution" program, with a new resource centre, a new large covered area, and an extension to an existing building all planned for completion before the end of the year.

Students' academic performance and enjoyment of school will be targeted in a number of the school's programs, particularly learning support, daily PE and student leadership.

A highlight for the Years 6 and 7 students in 2009 will be the biennial trip to Sydney and Canberra to enhance their civics education. This will be the third "Canberra Camp" conducted by the school, and is a keenly anticipated event.

Our school at a glance

School Profile

Bunker's Hill State School is situated outside Westbrook, approximately 10 km west of Toowoomba.

In 2008, the school had an official enrolment of 155 students from Preparatory Year to Year 7, with students arranged in coeducational, multi-age classes.

Most students travel to the school on state-government funded bus services provided from the Westbrook area and from the Athol district west of the school.

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings:

- A curriculum organised into English, Mathematics and Integrated Studies;
- Specialist lessons in Music, Library Skills, Physical Education and Indonesian;
- Swimming lessons;
- Camps of varying duration for students in Years 1 to 7.

Extra curricula activities:

- Interschool sport. Students compete in school teams in cross country, athletics, swimming, soccer, netball and basketball. In 2008, the school also fielded a rugby league team;
- A school choir which regularly performs and competes in eisteddfods;
- An Instrumental Music Programme which forms part of the wider district programme.

How computers are used to assist learning:

Computers are provided in every classroom, and every classroom has cabled internet access. Students can access:

- Maths and English skill-building software;
- A range of software tools such as word processors and spreadsheets;
- Digital cameras;
- The internet and email. Use is monitored to ensure these are used safely and responsibly.

Social climate

Bunker's Hill is a close-knit community where all staff and students know each other. We strive to build on this positive environment and encourage respectful and open resolution of differences. Our 2008 School Opinion Survey showed satisfaction levels with the School Climate that were at (students) or well above (parents) the State average.

Buddy reading was continued in 2008 to encourage positive relationships between the oldest and youngest members of the school.

The school appoints all Year 7 students as School Leaders. In 2008, School Leaders took on various leadership roles throughout the school, meeting these challenges very successfully.

Involving parents in their child's education.

Parents are kept up-to-date with happenings at the school through the weekly newsletter, which is also posted on our school website. More specific information on individual student progress is provided in written reports in Terms Two and Four, and in formal parent-teacher interviews, held in Terms One and Three. Parents are always welcome at the school, and the teachers and principal are available for interviews or informal discussions at any other time during the school year.

Parents are also invited to be actively involved in their child's education, and Bunker's Hill enjoys the support of many parent volunteers in the classroom. Volunteers assist with reading groups, cooking activities, sport coaching and management, supervision on school camps, and many other activities in a range of curriculum areas.

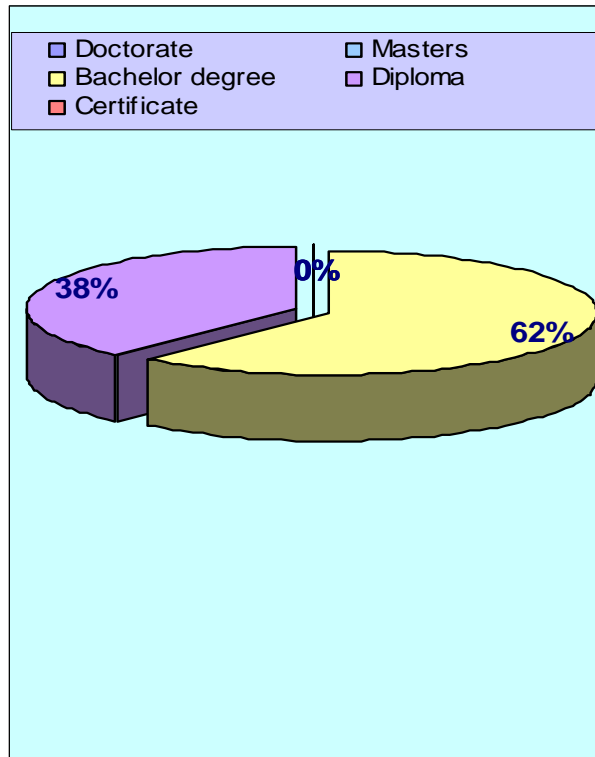
The school's Parents and Citizens Association is also an avenue for parents and the wider community to be involved in the school. The P&C provides a range of services to the school, from the school tuckshop held once a week to the funding of significant projects and extra resources for the school. P&C members have also made significant contributions in the preparation of submissions for grants, which have greatly enhanced the school's facilities.

The school is always responsive to ideas and requests from parents, and tries to meet these where feasible. Parent input has influenced the refinement of school procedures, the construction of facilities and, in some cases, curriculum decisions.

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	8
Diploma	5
Certificate	0



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

- The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was \$8,249.
- The major professional development initiatives are as follows: developing skills in teaching literacy, curriculum planning and assessment, training in the use of departmental initiatives including OneSchool, and updating First Aid qualifications of staff.
- The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2008 was 83 %.

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, 99% 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	411	480	549
	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	91
Writing	Average score for the school	423	467	534
	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	91
Spelling	Average score for the school	415	470	531
	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	91
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school	419	472	543
	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	100
Numeracy	Average score for the school	393	474	576
	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	96	91

Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net

	Percentage of students not requiring additional support
Reading	90%
Writing	95%
Number	90%

Performance of our students

Value added

2008 was the second year in Queensland schools of the Preparatory Year, an optional, full-time precursor to formal schooling. At Bunker's Hill, our Prep numbers grew from 7 in 2007 to 29 in 2008. This is indicative of the growing population in the area the school serves, and also points to Bunker's Hill as a growing school, particularly in the younger grades.

2008 saw the school continue its learning support program with the continued allocation of a part-time teacher to give identified students the extra help they need to succeed at school. In addition to this, the school hired a part-time teacher to work specifically in the area of literacy in the upper school. This program proved to be very successful with the students involved.

On the facilities front, the school completed its building of shade shelters to provide a covered walkway to the newest classroom block, shade beside the school oval, shade over the junior playground, and an expanded eating and outdoor learning area for the junior school.

The school's academic data shows the school average is above the State average in nearly all areas of testing. While this is only one indicator of the school's academic strength, it does provide some evidence of the effectiveness of the school's programs. Writing, grammar and punctuation proved to be weaknesses identified in Year 5, and the school has taken steps to correct this in 2009.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

The School Opinion Survey and Staff Satisfaction Survey give some indicator of parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school. Results from these surveys include:

Percentage of students satisfied that Bunker's Hill is a good school: 80%

Percentage of students satisfied that they are getting a good education at the school: 83%

Percentage of parents satisfied that Bunker's Hill is a good school: 90%

Percentage of parents satisfied their children are getting a good education at the school: 88%

Percentage of staff who are satisfied that Bunker's Hill is a good place to work: 93%

While these results indicate the vast majority of parents, students and staff are satisfied with the school and its programs, there is room for improvement. In 2009, the school staff, students, parents and wider community will continue to work together, upholding the values of community, courage, respect, honesty and learning, and working to ensure the school is a safe, enjoyable place of learning for all.