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Principal's foreword

Introduction

Welcome to the 2007 School Annual Report for St Helens State School.

This report contains a broad range of information on the operations of the school through out the 2007 school year, focussing on: Student Achievement, School community relations, significant events/ achievements through out the year and some of the goals that the school looks forward to achieving in 2008.

Future outlook

St Helens State School will undertake a Triennial School Review in 2008. This review will be a collaborative process that will involve all members of the school community. We look forward to both the outcomes of this review and the process involved.

In 2008 the school will be driven towards improving results in literacy (particularly spelling) as well as being better resourced for an expanding student population and teaching staff so that we are able to provide quality experiences for all of our students.

Our school at a glance

School Profile

St Helens State School is a band 6 school that commenced operations in 1882. The school is located in the Wide Bay South District, on the northern outskirts of Maryborough. The 2007 enrolment census records our student population at 172. These numbers have since grown to approximately 200. St Helens State School has classes from prep to year 7.

The staff at St Helens believe in providing a safe and exciting learning environment that allows each student the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

- Instrumental music program (Strings). 2007 was the first year that St Helens State School had our own Strings Orchestra.
- The vast majority of classes at St Helens are multi age
- In 2007 the school was involved in the Reef Guardian Program and each class participated in an environmental unit of work.

Extra curricula activities

- Participation in the Active After School Program
- Student Council
- Peer Mediator Program
- Participation in Maryborough Technology Challenge
- Interschool Sport

How computers are used to assist learning

St Helens State School has worked hard to ensure that technology is easily accessible by both teachers and students to ensure rich learning experiences. We are in the fortunate position of having established a computer lab that houses 17 networked computers. Each classroom also has several computers, all with internet access.

Teachers incorporate the use of ICTs in their unit plans.

The school has been recently MOED and all teaching staff have been provided with a laptop as part of the laptop for teachers program.

The school is using the One School system for student reports in Semester 1 of 2008 and will be exploring this system further in Semester 2 of 2008 to help streamline school operations.

Social climate

At St Helens State School we pride ourselves on the climate within the school that we are able to create and maintain.

The results of the 2007 School Opinion Survey indicated that St Helens SS was **Significantly above** both state mean and like school mean in **all** aspects of school climate responses (taken from both parent and students survey responses).

A school Chaplain attends the school one day a week (sourced from Aldridge SHS). The Chaplain works with

Our school at a glance

teachers and students and undertakes special lunch time programs for all students as well as specific programs for our upper primary students designed to prepare them for high school.

At St Helens SS we actively encourage our older students to take on a leadership role within the school through Student Council and as peer mediators.

Involving parents in their child's education.

Many of our parents volunteer within the school to assist classroom teachers on a regular basis.

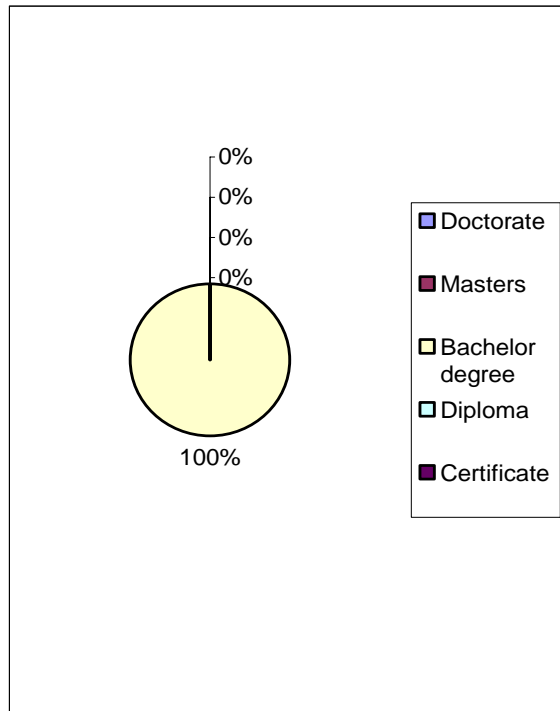
Supporter Talker training has been provided for parent volunteers and these parents work with a variety of students identified with speech language needs.

The P&C play a critical role within the school and run a weekly tuckshop service for the students and staff. The P&C and school work very closely on joint projects such as concerts, Yr7 graduation, sports days and working bees.

Our staff profile

Qualifications of all teachers

Highest level of attainment	Percentage of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	0
Bachelor degree	100
Diploma	0
Certificate	0



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

- The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2007 was \$2399.88 .
- The major professional development initiatives are as follows :
- Gifted and Talented
- Literacy (Yr1-3 Staff)
- Science
- Technology
- The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2007 was 100 %.

Average staff attendance

- For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 96% in 2007.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

- From the end of the 2006 school year, 68 % of staff were retained by the school for the entire 2007 school

Our staff profile

year.

Performance of our students

Student attendance

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2007 was 95%.

Key outcomes in the early and middle phases of learning

Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net	
	Percentage of students not requiring additional support
Reading	66%
Writing	69%
Number	76%

Our reading, writing and numeracy results for the Queensland Years 3, 5 and 7 Literacy and Numeracy Tests

		Yr 3	Yr 5	Yr 7	
Reading	Average score for the school	503	598	649	
	Average score for Queensland	527	606	672	
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	100 %	69 %	67 %
		2006	87 %	80 %	68 %
Writing	Average score for the school	518	568	668	
	Average score for Queensland	523	600	681	
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	100 %	100 %	100 %
		2006	91 %	96 %	100 %
Numeracy	Average score for the school	506	584	622	
	Average score for Queensland	521	588	648	
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	89 %	76 %	63 %
		2006	86 %	84 %	48 %

Other Key Outcomes

2007 School Annual Report

Performance of our students

Value added

In 2007 St Helens State School celebrated 125 years of education. This was marked with a community celebration that was well attended by former students and staff. This was a terrific opportunity for the school and local community to work together for a common purpose.

Over the past 4 years the student population has increased markedly (76%). This poses a host of challenges to the school community that continue to be met. It has been most pleasing to see that a significant increase in student numbers has had no negative affect on the school climate or school community relationships. These still remain exceptionally high and far exceed state and like school means.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

School opinion survey data from 2007 indicates that parent, student and staff satisfaction at St Helens SS was extremely high.

Parent and student responses to whether they thought St Helens SS was a good school far exceeded both the like school mean and state mean.

Staff survey data covering areas such as relationships, satisfaction with work role, resourcing, morale and operations was almost without exception far higher than state and like school means.