


Our school at a glance

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Principal's Foreword

Introduction

Welcome to Freshwater State School! We are very proud of our school.

This report gives a snapshot of some of our achievements during 2008.

Our committed staff and supportive parent group work together to ensure our students have the best possible learning opportunities. Our "Learning Community" values high standards of professionalism, academic achievement, positive behaviour and fresh ideas.

Our Vision is to create "Fresh Ideas, Fresh Minds, Fresh Futures!"

Some highlights of 2008 included:

- Exciting Class Units of work culminating in student performances/displays -Year7(Market Day), Year 6(Dancing Robots), Year 5(Greek Myths-Jute Theatre Performance), Year 4(Garden Projects), Year 3(Around the World), Year 2(Insect Expo), Year1(Magnificent Me), Prep(Mothers' Day Spa)
- Excellent achievement in Year 3, 5, 7 National tests
- Successful Intervention Programs supporting a range of student needs
- Various extension programs- Maths Online Challenges, Chess Club, Robotics Team
- Outstanding Numeracy Project – Early Years
- Positive and productive parent/teacher/student relationships
- Enjoyable "Presentation Evening" celebrating student achievements
- Great Community Fete
- Opening and regular use of "The Canopy"
- Positive and well attended parent workshops in the areas of Support-a-reader, Early Reading(P-3) and Hands-on Maths(P-7)
- Fun Athletics and Swimming Carnivals/Get Active days
- Successful and enthusiastic implementation of "Smart Moves"
- Active Student Council
- Special school visitors – Author- Michael Salmon, Musicians – Sirocco, Living Books – community members
- Sporting and Musical achievements in teams and as individuals
- Great professional development opportunities for staff especially in Literacy/Numeracy/Gifted and Talented

We look forward to another busy year in 2009.

We welcome your comments/questions at any time so please feel free to make contact with us.

Kind regards

Louise Constance

Our school at a glance

Future outlook

Our key focus areas for 2009 are as follows:

LEARNING

Implement a learning framework to prepare students for living in complex, multicultural, networked societies

- Literacy – Teaching of reading (focus on comprehension)
- Numeracy – Using “hands on”/investigative approaches in maths
- Gifted and Talented Programs – Catering effectively for our more gifted and talented students
- Information and Communication Technology – Embedding ICT within class units of work

SCHOOLS

Create learning communities that meet diverse student, parent and community needs

- Behaviour Support – Implementing our “School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support” initiatives

WORKFORCE

Ensure the school workforce has the capability and flexibility to deliver the objectives of QSE – 2010

- Professional Learning Community – Creating a vibrant professional “learning community” with our staff

School Profile

Total student enrolments for this school: 679

Year levels offered: Prep to Year 7

Coeducational

Established in 1896 on what was then the rural outskirts of Cairns, Freshwater State School has maintained a reputation for high quality state education. Our current school site was established in 1923 and now has eager learners from Prep to Year 7.

The school population is relatively stable with the majority of families and staff members continuing their association with our school from year to year.

There has been a steady but perceptible change in the composition of the student population at Freshwater. The transient nature of the general population of Cairns in recent years has seen our population exhibiting a broader range of social attributes e.g. dual income families, single parent families, single residential and multi unit accommodation.

Our school at a glance

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

- Collaboratively planned, integrated units of work across all year levels incorporating the QCAR(Queensland Curriculum Assessment and Reporting) Essentials
- Intellectually challenging units of work enabling students to achieve at their own level
- Comprehensive Learning Support Programs with skilled Learning Support Teachers/Teacher Aides, Class Intervention Programs, Support-a-Reader/Phonological Awareness Programs
- Outstanding Music Program - Prep to Year 7
- Japanese and Cultural Lessons (Language Other Than English – LOTE) – Years 4 to 7
- Environmental/Green and Healthy strand woven throughout the school
- Hands-on Numeracy Project implementation in the Early Years
- Excellent Physical Education program – inter house/inter school swimming, cross-country, athletics carnivals, team sport/gala days, visiting Junior Development Officers, Get Active days

Extra curricula activities

- School Orchestra and Choir perform regularly at school, during Cultural Week and at the Eisteddfod
- Green and Healthy Initiatives
- Instrumental Music Program – Percussion, Strings, Wind and Recorder Group
- Student Council Years 4 – 7/ Leadership Camps
- Chess Clubs/Robotics Club/Drama Club
- Cluster Gala Sports Days
- After school team sports – AFL, soccer, hockey, rugby league
- Regional sports representatives in a wide range of team sports
- Student Council organised Discos
- School Cluster Camps – Writers/Art/Science/Fishing/Music/Leadership/Mathematics/Technology
- Public Speaking opportunities
- Excursions Prep to Year 7
- Camps – Year 5 and Year 7
- Outdoor Education activity – Year 6

How computers are used to assist learning

- All units of work are planned by Year Level teams of teachers and integrate an ICT component
- ICT Support Teacher takes whole classes in Years 1/2/3 and small groups and individuals in Years 4/5/6/7
- Networked computers in every classroom
- 5 interactive white boards in use
- Computer Lab for whole class use
- Mobile laptop lab with school wide wireless network

Our school at a glance

- Computer Bank in Library for class, small group and individual use
- Robotics program involving Lego Technics and Bee Bots
- Individual laptops used by each teacher in the school (planning, recording data, accessing daily notices)
- Prep eLearning Profiles used for Prep portfolios

Social climate

Here at Freshwater State School we believe that in order for students to learn effectively they need to be:

SAFE, RESPONSIBLE & RESPECTFUL

We complement the work done by parents at home by actively teaching these expectations in our classrooms.

Involving parents in their child's education

Our very active Parents and Citizens Association participates both formally and informally in the life of the school.

Parents are also encouraged to be partners in their child's education through class involvement, as voluntary aides, support-a-reader/writer tutors, attending curriculum culmination activities, class excursions, sporting and cultural events. Participation by our parents is valued.

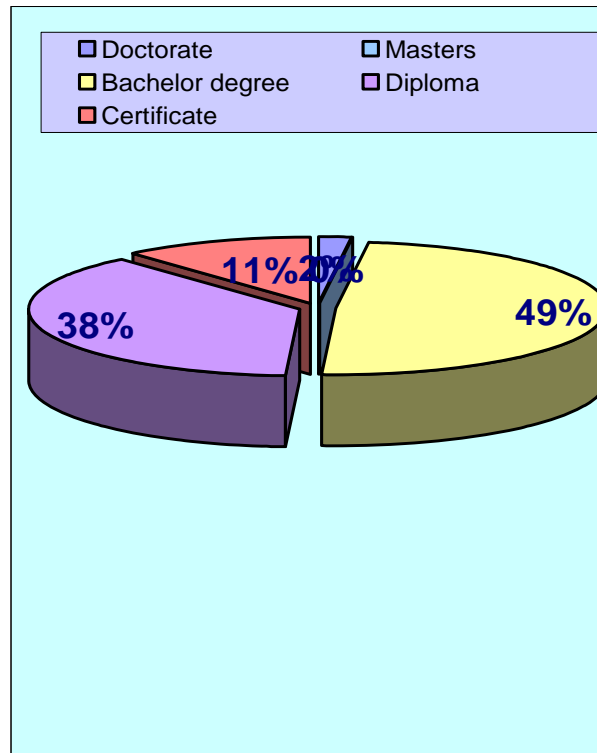
Parents and caregivers anticipate a well disciplined, well organised learning environment, catering for the needs of their children. All members of the school community are provided with opportunities to participate and contribute.

Current information about our school is communicated through the following means: Parents' and Citizens' Association, information sessions, school newsletter, school website, assemblies, class newsletters, open days/evenings, Education Week activities, parent/teacher interviews and parent workshops.

Our staff profile

Qualifications of all teachers

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	1
Masters	0
Bachelor degree	26
Diploma	20
Certificate	6



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development

- The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was \$40330.00 .
- The major professional development initiatives are as follows:
- Year Level Team Planning sessions with teachers and our Head of Curriculum/Teacher Librarian
 - School Wide Positive Behaviour support strategies
 - Literacy training sessions (workshops, demonstration lessons, sharing sessions)
 - Information Communication and Technology sessions
 - Gifted and Talented Workshops
 - Numeracy strategies (sharing, make and take, mentoring, coaching)
- The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2008 was 90 %.

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, 95 % 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 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	364	499	558
	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	89%	96%
Writing	Average score for the school	408	500	558
	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	96 %	98%
Spelling	Average score for the school	354	476	555
	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	91%	94%
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school	367	506	544
	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	91%	99%
Numeracy	Average score for the school	385	488	567
	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	98%	100%

Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net

	Percentage of students not requiring additional support
Reading	80%
Writing	88%
Number	89%

Performance of our students

Value added

The professionalism of our teachers and their team planning efforts ensure our students have exciting and appropriate learning opportunities.

Literacy and Numeracy results in the Year 3/5/7 tests indicate continuing high performance.

Well planned and implemented intervention programs ensure students make progress.

The support of our very active P&C is much appreciated. Their efforts this year have helped enhance the quality of our classroom resources.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Students

83.6% of students responding in the 2008 School Opinion Survey indicated they were satisfied or very satisfied that this is a good school.

Parents

96.9% of parents responding in the 2008 School Opinion Survey indicated they were satisfied or very satisfied that this is a good school.

Staff

88.7% of staff responding in the 2008 School Opinion Survey indicated they were satisfied or very satisfied that this school is a good place in which to work.