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Principal's foreword

Introduction

Welcome to Yarwun State School. I have held the position of Acting Principal since January 2008. It was an exciting moment for me when I acquired the position as permanent Principal in June 2008. Yarwun is a fabulous school that is committed to offering high quality and supportive education to its students in a challenging and positive environment. Every student is supported individually when "Striving For Success" to reach his/her potential.

Our school is embracing the Essential Learnings which will eventually become the core curriculum. The Queensland Studies Authority syllabus documents are used as support for integrated units of work that students study. Curriculum and assessment will be aligned with the Queensland Curriculum Assessment and Reporting (QCAR) approach which is currently being introduced across Queensland.

Everything we do at Yarwun State School focuses toward helping students achieve life long learning and engage in higher order thinking. Our staff members are keen to provide students with the best possible education. We encourage students to reach their potential by setting goals and steadily working towards attaining them.

Parents, students and staff are all valued members of our school community. We also strive to develop strong working relationships with industry, feeder High Schools (supporting the Middle Phase) and the local community.

We believe that we are best able to provide excellence in teaching and learning by providing specialist teachers for our students in select areas. Students received specialist tuition in: Music, LOTE – Korean, Physical Education and Library.

HIGHLIGHTS

We believe that opportunities for our students to participate in a variety of curricula and extra-curricular activities should be encouraged and supported. Our school was successful in achieving high standards in:

Mount Larcom Show

1st Place in Gladstone Eisteddfod Choir for Small Schools

3rd Place in Gladstone Eisteddfod Folk Group

Selection of students in Port Curtis Cross Country and Athletics teams

Implementation of Primary Connections

KEY OUTCOMES AND GOALS ACHIEVED

An Annual Report was developed as part of our Strategic Plan. Key performance measures were identified and strategies put in place to improve key initiatives in:

Improvement of Student Achievement Data in Literacy and Numeracy

ICT's to be embedded into the curriculum in all KLA's

Implement initiatives to cater for diversity and individual difference.

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Improve communication between staff, parents, students and the community.

Maintaining high standards of teaching and learning in all areas.

Key measures were implemented to improve the assessment and reporting framework throughout the school.

Key initiatives were undertaken to prepare teaching staff and community for the implementation of The Preparatory Year.

Middle Phase of Learning Agenda embedded into Yarwun practice with the implementation of a three year Partnership between Yarwun State School, State High School and Rio Tinto to support a program that will address identified needs of our students.

Future outlook

KEY FOCUS AND DIRECTION FOR 2008:

Development of Partnership Engaging Science Technologies – PEST project with GSHS and Rio Tinto through the implementation of a 3 year partnership agreement to address Middle Phase of Learning issues.

Implementation of Intensive Reading Program to improve Literacy

Improve communication links with parents and community.

School computer systems MOE and One School – school reporting on One School

Improve school facilities through SCDF grants and application for Investing in Our Schools funds to provide Outdoor Learning Area for Early Years Students, Weatherproofing of Outdoor Area and Outdoor Furniture.

Ongoing Professional Development for all staff

Implementation of Primary Connections across school

Promotion of school throughout community via weekly newsletter, community noticeboard, pamphlet and Community night once per term to celebrate our term.

Introduction of Playgroup meeting each Wednesday mornings.

Implementation of extensive Learning Support (Supersonic Club)

Development of Literacy and Numeracy Scope and Sequence

Introduction of Student Council

Introduction of two Working Bees per year

Implementation of a whole school fitness and healthy eating program

Develop closer working relationship with Mt Larcom School

Our school at a glance

School Profile

Total student enrolments for your school: 49

Year levels offered: Prep – Year 7

Coeducational or single sex: Coeducational

Curriculum offerings

Yarwun State School operates with a multi-aged philosophy. The focus is on student achievement and developing lifelong learning attributes in all students. We are able to achieve this by:

- Daily Literacy and Numeracy Blocks
- Offering a wide range of student centred flexible learning experiences across all KLA's
- Recognizing and rewarding student achievement and behaviour.
- Networking with other district cluster schools. E.g. Mt Larcom, Ambrose and Calliope
- Providing opportunities for disengaged students through Virtual Schooling – Ollie Up
- Providing opportunities for students with individual differences
- ICT's are extensive and up to date and their use is embedded in the curriculum by all teachers. Computers are used to assist teaching and learning in ways that include:
 - Networked computers in all class rooms.
 - Research through networked internet access
 - On line learning with virtual schooling – Ollie Up
 - Word processing
 - Interactive on-line software – Rainforest Maths, Ziptales, Learning Objects – Used across KLA's

How computers are used to assist learning

At Yarwun State School we have approximately one computer per two students. Computers are networked in all classrooms. Children use computers for research, word processing, on-line learning and virtual schooling. They use powerpoint for presentation of data.

Social climate

Yarwun school is a country school built on country values respecting the rights of the individual. If we are to have our rights respected we must respect the rights of others. We believe that students, parents and staff choose the way they behave and as such must accept responsibility for the consequences for their behaviour.

Students, teachers and parents have the right to operate in an environment that is free of harassment. Everyone has the right to be treated with respect and fairness.

“Teachers have the right to teach and students have the right to learn in a safe and supportive environment.”

These values are expressed in our Code of School Behaviour and are supported through our CATS – Cool Attitude Toward School reward program. Anti-bullying strategies are developed from a very young age with the support of the “You Can Do It” program.

Staff at Yarwun is supported in the care of our students by the Guidance Officer, AVT's Student Services, Early and

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Our school at a glance

Middles Phase Behaviour Management Teams.

Involving parents in their child's education.

Yarwun school values and encourages parent and caregiver participation in the education of their children. All members of staff value and appreciate the productive partnerships formed when parents and community are involved in the school. The school values the open and productive communication it experiences with the parents and the wider community and our "Open Door Policy" is embedded in practice and is evidenced by:

Parent involvement in classroom daily Reading

Parent volunteers in classroom and tuckshop

Parent attendance at weekly parades

Attendance at student/teacher/parent interviews once per year

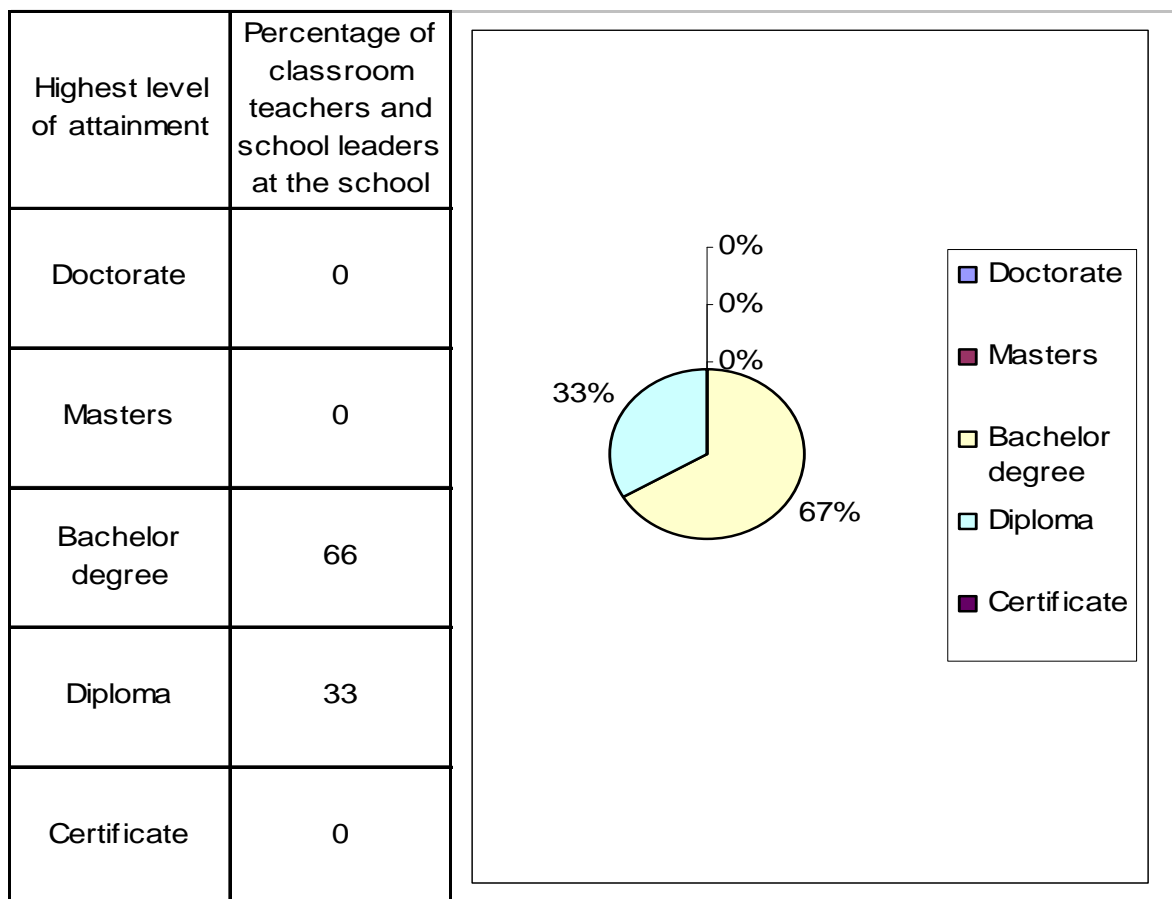
Informal constructive feedback

Opportunities for interviews at any time

Parent and community attendance at school and social occasions.

Our staff profile

Qualifications of all teachers.



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

- The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2007 were \$12,144. The major professional development initiatives are as follows:
- QCAR
- Primary Connections
- Non-Violent Crisis
- Assessment and Reporting
- Crossing Cultures
- Autism
- Preparatory
- Literacy P-3 Week
- Thrass

Our staff profile

- TGT
- MOE Training
- Maths – Go Maths
- Functional Grammar
- 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 95% in 2007.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

From the end of the 2006 school year, 95 % of staff was retained by the school for the entire 2007 school year.

Performance of our students

Student attendance

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2007 was 96 %.

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		58			
Writing		58			
Number		67			
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		575	590	678
	Average score for Queensland		527	606	672
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	100 %	83 %	100 %
		2006	100 %	44 %	100 %
Writing	Average score for the school		552	603	670
	Average score for Queensland		523	600	681
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	100 %	100 %	100 %
		2006	100 %	89 %	100 %
Numeracy	Average score for the school		578	584	697
	Average score for Queensland		521	588	648
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	100 %	83 %	100 %
		2006	100 %	78 %	100 %

Other Key Outcomes

Value added

Yarwun State School takes pride in providing a wide range of opportunities for its student to cater for their individual needs and interests. Such activities conducted at Yarwun are:

School Choir and Folk Group

Ollie Up – virtual



Performance of our students

Robotics class conducted with Gladstone State High School
Homework class for students who wait for buses in the afternoon.
Student of the Month that is sponsored by Rio Tinto Aluminium - Yarwun

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Data indicates that parent and student satisfaction levels differ and as a consequence the school needs to communicate more effectively with parents on curriculum.