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## Principal's foreword

### Introduction

Blenheim State School continually moves forward with current educational innovations, which are strategic initiatives of Education Queensland. The continued implementation of Prep and the Queensland Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Framework occurred in 2008. We also had the introduction of the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). Blenheim's strong performance in NAPLAN resulted in a letter of commendation from the Premier. In our small school, students are provided with individual learning support in a family-like environment. This creates the capacity for huge improvement in students' learning outcomes.

### Future outlook

Even though the students achieved pleasing results in 2008, the Triennial School Review which was done that year identified writing and spatial knowledge as focus areas for improvement. These have therefore been prioritised in the 2009 Annual Operational Plan.

## Our school at a glance

### School Profile

Blenheim State School is a coeducational school near Laidley in the Lockyer Valley. The school offers primary education from Prep through to Year 7. With an enrolment in 2008 of 20 students, Blenheim is a Band 5 school with a teaching principal, specialist music and physical education teachers, learning support teacher, guidance officer and chaplain.

### Curriculum offerings

#### Our distinctive curriculum offerings

- Middle Phase of Schooling curriculum offered
- Early Phase of Learning play based learning experiences combined with traditional teaching
- Low student to staff ratio
- Yearly excursion/incursion programme linked to curriculum studies
- Strong ICT programme including an Interactive Whiteboard
- Religious Education lessons available

#### Extra curricula activities

- Participation in the A. B. Paterson College Maths Modelling Challenge – member of winning team
- Annual musical presentation
- Tennis lessons
- Participation in Under 12 Ipswich Schools Rugby League competition

#### How computers are used to assist learning

In 2008 our computer to student ratio of 1:1.3 was much better than that recommended by Education Queensland (1:5). Through the school's wireless network and internet access as well as banks of laptop and desktop computers, the use of computers is embedded in learning tasks in Literacy, Numeracy, Technology and Integrated Studies. The students use interactive programs to enhance their engagement with learning activities and are often required to present assessment tasks in a digital document produced by a program such as Microsoft Word, Publisher, PowerPoint or Photo Story.

### Social climate

#### CHANGE

Blenheim State School is a welcoming, friendly campus. The small student cohort enables students of all ages to interact together and create a supportive family atmosphere. The addition of a Chaplain to the staff has had a very positive influence upon the whole school community. This is validated by the following data from the 2008 School Opinion Survey.

Question	School Mean	State Mean
Parents: Satisfied that their child is happy to go to this school.	3.25	3.19
Students: You are safe at this school.	3.50	3.17
Staff: This school is a good place in which to work.	3.67	3.04

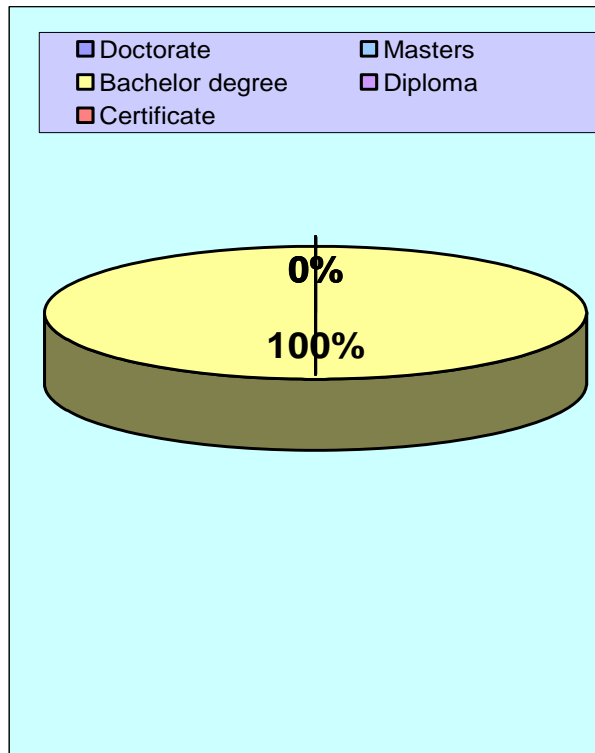
### Involving parents in their child's education.

Parents assist in the provision of quality education for their children through participation in the P&C Association, assistance with learning activities and home reading, fundraising, working bees, transporting students for excursions and organisation of special events such as District Cross Country Trials and School Sports Carnivals.

## 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	2
Diploma	0
Certificate	0



### Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

- The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was \$3,701
- The major professional development initiatives are as follows:
  - Queensland Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Framework
  - Literacy
  - Information and Communication Technology
- The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2008 was 100 %.

### Average staff attendance

- For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 93% in 2008.

### Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

- From the end of the 2007 school year, 42% 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 96 %.

### 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 and 7.

Domain	Measures	Yr 3	Yr 5	Yr 7
Reading	Average score for the school	474	491	537
	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 %	83 %
Writing	Average score for the school	419	446	506
	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 %	100 %
Spelling	Average score for the school	444	495	523
	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 %	100 %
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school	512	518	515
	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	523	479	551
	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	100 %	100 %

### Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net

Reading

Writing

Number

The small cohort of Year 2 students achieved varied results across the areas of Reading, Writing and Number.

## Performance of our students

### Value added

Blenheim State School has the added value of being a peaceful, attractive and well maintained school in a rural setting with the local hall immediately across the road. The hall is used throughout the year by the students for educational programmes such as Arts Council performances, annual musical performance and awards presentation night. The P&C Association also uses it for fundraising ventures. Having two important community facilities in such close proximity creates a strong community bond. The school's multi-purpose court is used by community members on weekends for social tennis games. Students greatly enjoy using the new playground equipment with rubber soft fall, which increases their fitness.

The quality learning programs at Blenheim State School have contributed toward many students demonstrating huge improvement in individual students' learning outcomes (based on Year 3, 5, 7 Test data).

Visitors to our school often comment on its beautiful grounds, well behaved students and quality resources.

### Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

The 2008 School Opinion Survey showed that 83.4 % of parents and 68.8% of students are satisfied that Blenheim State School is a good school. 100% of teachers are happy working at the school.