

Mackay North State School

2008 School Annual Report

School Details

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Principal's Foreword

Introduction

Mackay North State School is known across our region as 'a great school!' The school has a long and proud tradition of excellent academic results, and is well known for our performing arts and sporting achievements. This fine reputation is backed by an experienced and enthusiastic staff, strong community involvement, and the high achievements of our students.

The school STATEMENT OF PURPOSE is to deliver high quality education in an inclusive and supportive environment which provides children with the knowledge and skills needed for their future.

Our school VISION is for children to reach their full potential, we will work in partnership with students, staff, parents and the wider community to deliver high quality teaching and learning programs.

Our school MOTTO, Learning, Caring and Sharing, encapsulates the values and long-held traditions which support student success at Mackay North State School.

Future Outlook

2008 was a year where the school experienced a major natural disaster (February 15 Flood) causing disruption to all aspects of school programs. The flood occurred early on Friday February 15, and work was carried out in the school during the next four days to clear away the debris and clean and sanitise the school in preparation for re-opening on Wednesday 20th February.

Many of our families and staff members were personally affected by the flood in their own homes and businesses. It was a time of devastation for the entire Mackay Community.

However, through the outstanding efforts of all staff, and strong community and systemic support, the school continued to provide all planned programs of learning, and even some additional programs during the months following and throughout the entire year. We concluded the year with some exceptional student results and improvements to a number of facilities and resources.

The following is a statement of achievements from 2008:

LEARNING:

- Strong writing results across the school
- Successful implementation of full cohort of Prep
- Refinement of Early Years Strategy
- Continuation of Middle Phase Action Plans
- Refinement of Whole School Mathematics Program
- Outstanding performing arts awards
- Optiminds Honours (for both teams)
- Outstanding School Concert

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SCHOOLS:

Improved facilities and resources in

- Music
- Special Education
- Activities Room
- Library
- Sport
- Computer Lab

Improved and strengthened relationships with local business and community groups

A new Amenities Block

WORKFORCE:

- Provision of professional development aligned to school priorities
- Implement the Workforce Sustainability Plan

Our school priorities for 2009 will focus on continuing the final year of School Strategic Plan, developed through the TRS Process 2007, which includes:

- Whole school focus on Information Technology: internal school communication system, improved student learning, teacher and staff professional skills.
- Continue implementation of QCARF - Essential Learnings, Student reporting, aligned curriculum and assessment.
- Develop Whole School English Program, refine Whole School Maths Program
- Continue use of Communication Books across whole school
- Continue implementation of Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students
- Continue school programs valued by community and include these as part of the Whole School Curriculum, eg Welcome Dance, Eisteddfod, Walkathon, Optiminds.

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Our school at a glance

School Profile

Total enrolments:	383
Year levels offered:	Prep - Year 7
Structure:	Co-educational

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings and Extra Curricula Activities:

Our distinctive Curriculum Offerings include the eight Key Learning Areas of English, Mathematics, Science, Studies of Society and Environment, The Arts, Technology, Language other than English and Health and Physical Education.

LOTE continued to take an Inter-Cultural Investigations Studies approach, with a focus on European Culture for the first semester, and the Asian Culture for the second Semester. This program aligns us with our feeder High School, which offered a single LOTE of Japanese.

The school has additional curriculum offerings of

- Gifted and Talented
- Special Education Unit – Cooking, Bowling, Fishing, Gymnastics, Life Skills, Woodworking
- Learning Support Programs, including Intensive Reading
- Integrated ICT in class programs
- Project Clubs year 5 - 7
- Library Monitors Program
- Opti-Minds
- Northside Consortium Scholarship
- Educational Competitions

The Arts:

- Instrumental Music (Strings; Woodwind, Brass and Percussion)
- Choir
- Recorder Band
- Wakakirri

Sporting:

- Club sports (Basketball, Hockey, Rugby League)
- Athletics (District, Regional and State Representation)
- Interschool Sport
- Swimming

Parents, in the Opinion Survey, reported a level of satisfaction with the variety of school activities at 83.3%

Students reported their level of satisfaction at 94.3%

How computers are used to assist learning:

Teaching staff enjoyed their first year using individual laptops as part of the Computers for Teachers Program. This enabled improved school-wide electronic communication, storage and retrieval of student and school data. This was further facilitated by the introduction of OneSchool through the year. Student reporting and student management was then transferred from our existing KidTrack software, to the universal OneSchool Program.

Throughout the year, staff have continued accessing training opportunities to improve their skills and confidence in using technology. Teachers have continued to make full use of the computer lab, the mini-lab located in the library, and the 2 or 3 computers in each classroom from Prep to Year 7.

Teachers have ensured that the use of ICTs is included in the Integrated Units taught each term, and students have demonstrated their knowledge of ICT skills through the accumulation and manipulation of information and the delivery of assessment tasks.

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Our school at a glance

Social climate

The expectation of excellent student behaviour continued to be an active focus for 2008. A continued focus on the whole school 'You Can Do It' program, which addresses the social-emotional well being of students, has been a priority for all class teachers, including regular presentations and celebrations on weekly assemblies. The school continued to use our Responsible Behaviour Plan for students, which clarifies the expectations of student behaviour and processes used to support students.

Following a trial in 2007, the whole school adopted in 2008 the practice of using a Communication Book for each student and this has been well received by staff and parents alike.

The school utilises a number of committees to support the learning, behaviour and engagement of students. A continuing strategy has been the partnership between school and parents, and additional community organisations, working together to support individual students through short or long term modified learning programs.

In 2007, the school successfully made application for a School Chaplain, and in 2008, this addition to our professional staff has been well received by students, parents and staff. Our School Chaplain attends school events, camps and support students incidently. Activities such as an after school homework program, and lunchtime walk have benefited many students in their success at school.

Mackay North State School led a cluster based initiative, successfully winning a Middle Phase grant from the REAL Project.

Through opportunities provided by the project, teachers have expanded their knowledge of clearly identifying curriculum intentions and then designing authentic assessment tasks, which then informs the pedagogy and delivered curriculum. The focus on front-end assessment and the development of explicit criteria and standards has consolidated developing knowledge for teachers.

The Year 6 students in our school involved in the project increased their positive engagement with numeracy, using ICT tools. This was particularly evident in the small number of students at risk of disengagement.

The project has additional benefits in the continued communication and sharing of best practice amongst cluster teachers who teach in the middle phase of learning.

During the second half of the year, our school was also involved in a winning cluster project which enabled our Deputy Principal to engage in 3 days training in the Mind Your Brain Program. This program will be implemented in 2009.

47.1% of students reported satisfaction with the behaviour of students at this school.

70% of parents reported satisfaction with the behaviour of students at this school.

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Our school at a glance

Involving parents in their child's education

Our school enjoys strong support from our parent body and local community.

Our students are well supported through extensive volunteer contributions in all aspects of school programs and especially the Literacy and Numeracy programs. It is a feature of the school that community events are held regularly and are valued through high attendance. These include (amongst other events) the annual ATSI BBQ, Welcome-back Dance, annual Walkathon and Cooking Competition and Volunteers' Thankyou Morning Tea.

At school events, such as Sports Day, Under Eights Celebrations, community representatives such as our Adopt-A-Cop, Adopt-An-Ambo and Adopt-A-Firey all are regular participants.

The School Concert held in Term 3 of 2008 was a particular highlight. This was held at the Mackay Entertainment Centre, and was extremely well supported by the attendance of parents.

Communication with parents and community are through the school website, fortnightly newsletter, the weekly assembly and twice-yearly parent teacher interviews, which complement the issuing of the formal report card for each student at the end of each semester. Annual events, such as the Year Seven Graduation and the Awards Ceremony also provide opportunity for communication and celebration.

Mackay North State School is regarded by our community as a 'Great School'.

The School Opinion Surveys from August 2008 show that in all areas, parent results are comparable to both State and Like schools and in many indicators, above like and state schools.

2008 was a time of unintentional renewal for the school, following the divesting flood early in the year. Support from parents and local business and community groups greatly assisted in the provision of continued excellent learning programs for students, despite a reduction and interruption of the provisions of many of the school facilities.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

93.3% of parents expressed satisfaction that their child is getting a good education at school.

Students reported their level of satisfaction at 88.5%

Parent responses to the Opinion Survey question about this being a good school indicated a level of satisfaction at 96.7%

62.5% of staff members reported that they were satisfied with the morale in the school.

Value added

The 2008 writing results from the NAPLAN show students who met the National Minimum Standards were 75% of year 3 (- a decline from 87% reaching the national benchmarks in 2007), 82% of year 5 (-a decline from 91% in 2007) and 90% of year 7 (- a decline from 93% in 2007).

The reading result from the NAPLAN show students who met the National Minimum Standards were 78% of Year 3 students (a decline from 91% reaching the national benchmarks in 2007). 84% of Year 5 (an increase from 73% in 2007) and 88% of year 7 students (an increase from 73% in 2007).

The numeracy results from the NAPLAN showed 73% of year 3 (a decline from 83% in 2007), 94% of year 5 (an increase from 90% in 2007) and 92 % of Year 7 (an increase from 70% in 2007) met the benchmark.

The transition from the state-based Year 3,5,7 testing program(2007) to the National Assessment Program in Literacy and Numeracy has revealed mixed results from our students. The school has responded to these results through a school based NAPLAN Analysis and Plan for improving the outcomes of our students. Students identified as not having met the benchmark are included in the Whole School Intervention Program, coordinated by the school's Support Teacher Learning Difficulties.

The percentage of students not requiring additional support for the 2008 Year 2 Diagnostic Net in Reading were 62% - a decline from 72% in 2007. Of the 2007 Year 2 cohort, when in Year 3 in 2008, 78% were above the National Minimum Standards in Reading.

The percentage of students not requiring additional support for the Year 2 Diagnostic Net in Writing were 66% -

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Our school at a glance

a decline from 72% in 2007. Of the 2007 Year 2 cohort, when in Year 3 in 2008, 75% were above the National Minimum Standards in Writing.

The percentage of students not requiring additional support for the Year 2 Diagnostic Net in Number were 70% - a decline from 79% in 2007. Of the 2007 Year 2 cohort, when in Year 3 in 2008, 73% were above the National Minimum Standards in Numeracy.

The school continued to provide intervention for those students identified as requiring additional support through Support-A-Reader / Writer / Maths Programs, Metalinguistics and Brain Gym Programs.

Student attendance

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2008 was 90.3%

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Our Staff Profile

Qualifications of all teachers and school leaders

Highest level of attainment

Percentage of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school

Doctorate

Masters

Bachelor degree

Diploma

Certificate

Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was \$33723

The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

Literacy

Numeracy

Information Technology

Early Years Pedagogy

Middle Years pedagogy

Leadership

All teaching staff participated in professional development in the Professional Standards Workshop in January 2008. All staff have been provided with opportunities for further professional development during the year.

The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2008 was 88.5%

Average staff attendance

For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate in 2008 was 96%

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

93% of staff were retained by the school from the end of the 2007 school year for the entire 2008 school year.

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Performance of our students

Please note that as information published in the tables below must maintain the privacy of individual students, data may have been withheld, especially for cohort sizes less than five. In these situations the 'Value Added' section at the beginning of this report provides a narrative in regards to student performance. Similarly, District Special Schools and Outdoor Education Centres may (or will) not have information to publish in these tables.

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:	62
Writing:	66
Number:	70

Our reading, writing, spelling, grammar & punctuation and numeracy results for the Queensland Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 Literacy and Numeracy Tests (NAPLAN)

		Yr 3:	Yr 5:	Yr 7:	Yr 9:
Reading	Average score for School:	315	472	508	
	Average score for QLD:	371.1	466.1	528.1	568.2
	Percentage of school students at or above the National Minimum Standard	2008 78	84	88	
Writing	Average score for School:	343	462	533	
	Average score for QLD:	391.8	468.9	522.7	555.3
	Percentage of school students at or above the National Minimum Standard	2008 75	82	90	
Spelling	Average score for School:	324	456	504	
	Average score for QLD:	366.7	462	528	567.8
	Percentage of school students at or above the National Minimum Standard	2008 77	86	83	
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for School:	325	504	520	
	Average score for QLD:	370.4	476.6	518	563.2
	Percentage of school students at or above the National Minimum Standard	2008 77	94	92	
Numeracy	Average score for School:	321	482	533	
	Average score for QLD:	367.9	458.2	539	570.7
	Percentage of school students at or above the National Minimum Standard	2008 73	96	92	