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## Principal's foreword

### Introduction

Our goal at Emerald State School is to provide quality public education that delivers excellence by enhancing educational opportunities for all. Our teachers work cooperatively with support staff and services, families, students and as professional teams to plan and deliver innovative and rigorous learning opportunities, both within and beyond the classroom setting. We aim to provide students with the skills necessary to be active and informed citizens, life-long learners, creative, critical thinkers and problem solvers who have a love of learning, are happy, skilled and confident self-managed individuals who are prepared for a changing future.

### Future outlook

As a result of the Triennial School Review process (held in October, 2006), our focus for 2007-2009 will be on:

- Focusing on the requirements of the Qld Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Framework (QCARF) that defines the essential learnings and set standards of student achievement.
- Networking with neighbouring schools to engage in conversations around curriculum, assessment and reporting.
- Moderating student assessment pieces to ensure consistency of teacher judgement.
- Ensuring our reporting processes meet with National guidelines.
- Focusing on the teaching of reading, writing and spelling.
- Maintaining our reputation in the community as a "good" school by positively promoting ourselves and showcasing student outcomes.
- Providing appropriate professional development for all staff.

## Our school at a glance

### School Profile

Total student enrolments for your school : 360

Year levels offered : Prep – Year 7

Coeducational or single sex : Coeducational

### Curriculum offerings

#### Our distinctive curriculum offerings

- Year 4-7 Camp program
- LOTE (Indonesian) Years 6 and 7
- Perceptual Motor Program
- THRASS program
- Year 7 Leadership Program

#### Extra curricula activities.

- Multi-skills program
- Instrumental Music program for Years 5-7
- Entry into the University of NSW competitions ( Spelling, English, Writing, Science, Computer, Mathematics, Science)
- Optiminds Tournament
- Choirs
- Verse Speaking groups
- Sports program – tennis, swimming, athletics, touch football, rugby league, netball and cricket.
- Y-lead program
- Pentathlon 5
- Gifted Education Camp

#### How computers are used to assist learning

All classrooms have access to the internet. Students make use of a computer lab and a bank of computers in the library.

ICTs are integrated into units that embed the Essential Learnings and are taught in the classroom, computer lab and the library. Data projectors, digital, still and video cameras, scanners, PDA's and other ICT devices, as well as access to a variety of CD Roms and the internet are used by teachers and students for an array of teaching and learning experiences.

Teachers access professional development and peer support to ensure they are confident and competent in the effective use and integration of ICTs into the curriculum.

## Our school at a glance

### Social climate

Our school values its staff, parents and the wider community and fosters a positive and supportive environment conducive to student learning. Students are happy, well behaved and friendly towards each other, feel safe and enjoy learning. We have high expectations of student behaviour and this has resulted in:

92% of parents believing that this is a safe school and that their child is happy to attend this school.

93% of students in Years 5 and 7 are happy to attend this school.

97% of students agreed that Emerald State School was a 'good school'. (School Opinion Survey 2007)

Outside the classroom evidence of a positive environment included a thumbs Up award program and organised lunchtime activities by older students.

Our teachers plan and implement inclusive and challenging learning experiences that accommodate students' learning styles.

Our School Chaplain and Guidance Officer provide additional support for students.

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

Parents are actively involved in our school and participate in a variety of school activities. Results from our 2007 School Opinion Survey indicate that:

87% of parents were satisfied to very satisfied that school staff are approachable when they want to talk about their child.

82% of parents were satisfied to very satisfied that they had opportunities to participate in the life of the school.

70% of parents were satisfied to very satisfied that they have opportunities to participate in school decision-making.

90% of parents were satisfied to very satisfied that the school makes them feel welcome.

90% of parents were satisfied to very satisfied that the school communicates well with them.

Our school has a large group of parent and community volunteers that assist to make the school a success. This is evidenced by the size of our two major P&C fundraisers per year – the Easter Fete and Christmas Craft Fair.

Special information sessions are held for Prep and Year 1 families at the end of the previous year in readiness for their child's entry into our school.

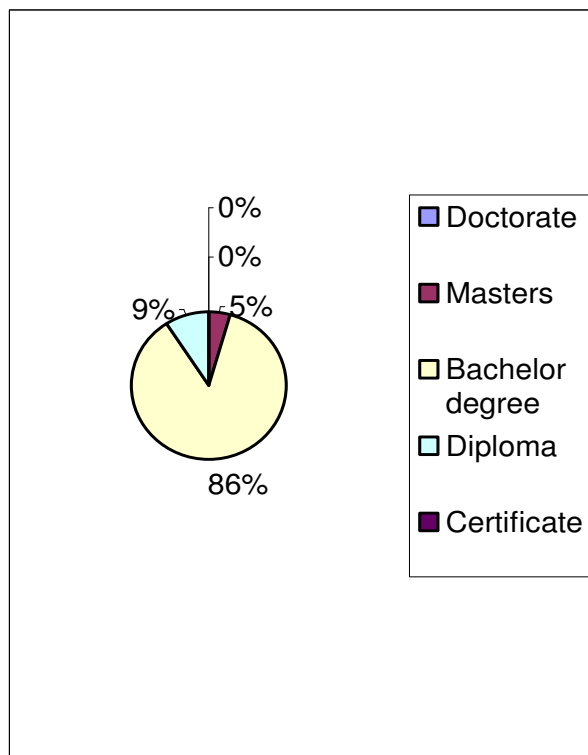
Parents are encouraged to actively participate in classroom activities, including culminating events and reading group supports.

The school curricula and extra-curricula activities are enhanced by the support of parent volunteers. Such activities include reading and maths groups, excursions, camps, arts events, sports coaching and home reader swaps.

## Our staff profile

### Qualifications of all teachers.

Highest level of attainment	Percentage of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	1
Bachelor degree	19
Diploma	2
Certificate	0



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

- The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2007 was \$15859 . The major professional development initiatives are as follows:
  - Crossing Cultures
  - Student Protection
  - Voice Preservation
  - Functional Grammar
  - Reporting Standards
  - EAP training
  - Prep training
  - Supportive Behaviour
  - Circle Speak.
- The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2007 was 77 %.

## Our staff profile

### Average staff attendance

- For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 97% in 2007.

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

- From the end of the 2006 school year, 83 % of staff were 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 94 %.

## 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		85%			
Writing		85%			
Number		83%			
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		518	621	674
	Average score for Queensland		527	606	672
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	90 %	96 %	91 %
		2006	96 %	74 %	84 %
Writing	Average score for the school		482	646	694
	Average score for Queensland		523	600	681
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	79 %	98 %	98 %
		2006	98 %	98 %	95 %
Numeracy	Average score for the school		482	613	651
	Average score for Queensland		521	588	648
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	77%	91 %	85 %
		2006	92%	85%	79%



## Other Key Outcomes

### Value added

Triennial School review conducted in October 2006.

Administering benchmark testing twice per year in literacy and numeracy to measure value-adding from baseline data.

Refurbishment of a room into a kitchen facility for whole class and small group use.

Promoting healthy activity with our focus on Active After School Sport and selling 'green' and 'amber' foods from the tuckshop. All students are involved in our Swimming and Athletics Carnivals.

All students have a supervised and healthy Brain Break mid-morning to improve their ability to concentrate during class.

Upgrade of Early Phase facilities to accommodate full-time Prep students.

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

Over 93% of students are happy to come to Emerald State School. Over 92% of parents believe this to be a good school. Our philosophy of learning is based on the theory of collective strength. By working together, staff, students, parents and community, we create a more effective centre of learning for all of our students. Together we can achieve great things, one child at a time.