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Principal's foreword

Des Gribbin

Introduction

Peachester State School is a small rural school (134 students) in the hinterland of the Sunshine Coast. It is one of eight schools that belong to the Glasshouse Coalition of State Schools. All students are of an English speaking background. Employment in the community is varied and includes management, professional, government, education, farming and trades. Peachester State School provides a safe, supportive, stimulating environment where staff, parents and community members work to provide quality education for our students. The school has developed close partnerships with community groups – there is a very strong environmental awareness in both the school and the community. Our school and community are concentrating on maintaining and improving literacy – daily reading occurs, with parents and community members involved in a daily one-on-one reading programme with the early year's students. Fostering a reading culture will continue to be one of our 'main things'.

Future outlook

The Triennial School Review process was undertaken in 2007 and a three year Strategic Plan was commenced. The direction set via this process has continued through 2008 with a focus on:

- Literacy & Numeracy
- Aligning curriculum, assessment and reporting - QCAR
- Building partnerships with the community
- Providing a safe, supportive learning environment
- Preparing students for living in a diverse community through a solid curriculum framework

School Profile

In 2008 the student enrolment was 134 with co-educational classes from Prep to Year 7 offered.

Curriculum offerings

Each of the six classes at Peachester has access to networked classroom computers allowing ICT's to be integrated across the Key Learning Areas of their learning. Data projectors and interactive whiteboards add to the effectiveness of student ICT skill development.

Reading homework is schedule each night and is reinforced through a volunteer tutoring programme each morning with the parents and early year's classes. The focus on building successful reading skills has led to a peer buddy system between the Year 6/7 and Year 2/3 class. Reading is our most distinctive and successful offering at Peachester State School with huge successes in student outcomes. Reading success is tracked through benchmarking and these results are shared with the feeder high school to help with a smooth transition from primary to secondary.

Spanish is the LOTE studied at Peachester and can be continued at Beerwah SHS.

Excursions, camps, performances and guest artists are made available throughout the year to enhance and add value to the classroom programme. These programmes help develop leadership, teamwork and social skills as well as promoting skills and cultural awareness.

Extra curricula activities

Instrumental Music – 38% of students learn to play a musical instrument – alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, clarinet, bass clarinet, trumpet, flute, euphonium, percussion and trombone.

Active After School Sport is held every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon – offering a healthy afternoon snack followed by activities such as dance, ball skills, martial arts, game skills, ...

An Environmental Club involves many students, across all year levels, who take on a variety of tasks throughout the year – mulching, establishing and maintaining a frog habitat, worm farm, weeding camphor laurel seedlings, litter management,

How computers are used to assist learning

All six classrooms have data projectors with three of these connected to interactive whiteboards. All computers are networked and run the latest EQ software. ICT's support student learning and are integrated in all KLA's. Both teachers and students make use of resources available on the Learning Place. Students research and publish using computers – as well class initiated learning, students also assist a local history group to download data from a digital weather station located at the school and publish this in local media. Teachers access computers to communicate, plan, record and report.

Social climate

The community of Peachester State School is committed to learning, respect and optimism through a secure, supportive and cooperative environment, which recognises and accepts individual differences. Our school fosters a warm, supportive environment where students can be happy. Using Program Achieve's five Keys to Success – CONFIDENCE, PERSISTENCE, ORGANIZATION, GETTING ALONG, RESILIENCE – students are encouraged to achieve their academic, emotional, interpersonal and behavioural potential

Students are supported to reach their potential by the 13 Habits of the Mind -playing by the rules, thinking first, being tolerant of others, planning time; setting goals, working tough, giving effort, I Can Do It" attitude, being independent, taking risks, accepting self, calming yourself down, controlling your behaviour and social responsibility.

The preferred school approach involves - clear and visible rules that are written in observable terms, conscious and consistent use of descriptive encouragement (i.e. recognising students doing the right thing and describing what they are doing), a non-confrontational focus, least to most intrusive style, fair and related consequences, defer consequences until after "Cool off Time" if the student is highly agitated, positive correction, the promotion of positive behaviour, collegial support, emphasising behaviour as a choice, due processes for follow through and follow-up, social skills training programs, behaviour specific feedback that focuses on the process employed.

Involving parents in their child's education.

Parents are actively engaged in the 'goings-on' of the school in a number of ways. Classes welcome the involvement of parents in the learning process by supporting the homework programme and assisting within the classroom with activities such as reading, art and group work. Parents and community volunteers also assist in the daily reading programme in the early years programme. Other parents have offered to help with the environmental group and library.

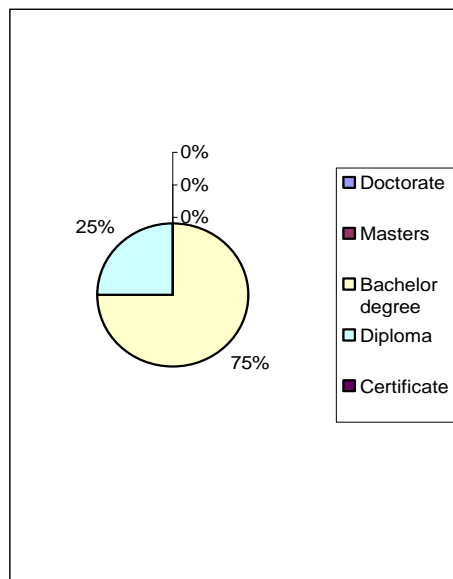
The P&C is an active body within the school and offers opportunities for community involvement – P&C meetings, canteen, special events and fund raising projects.

Through regular newsletters and parades parents are kept informed on whole school information and through class updates and reporting they are able to stay in touch with their child's learning.

Performance of our students

Qualifications of all teachers.

Highest level of attainment	Percentage of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	0
Bachelor degree	75
Diploma	25
Certificate	0



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

The involvement of teaching staff in professional development activities was 100% during 2008 with a total of \$10 579.40 being spent.

The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

- ICTs
- Principal's Professional Business Days
- Key to Literacy
- Science
- QCAR Transition & Implementation

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, 84% of staff were retained by the school for the entire 2008 school year.

Student attendance

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2008 was 94%.

Performance of our students

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	93%
Writing	100%
Number	100%

Our 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		361	450	532
	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	88 %	92%	96%
		2007	90 %	68 %	70 %
Writing	Average score for the school		405	440	448
	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	94%	92%	87%
		2007	80%	100%	100%
Spelling	Average score for the school		330	412	536
	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	82%	62%	96%
		2007	n/a	n/a	n/a
Grammar & Punctuation	Average score for the school		338	450	531
	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	88%	85%	91%
		2007	n/a	n/a	n/a
Numeracy	Average score for the school		365	441	516
	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%	79%	95%
		2007	90%	83%	100%

Performance of our students

Other Key Outcomes

Value added

Children who attend Peachester State School receive the best education that we can provide. Expectation in behaviour and attitude to learning is of a very high level. Staff and community members model positive, honest and responsible values at all times. At Peachester State School we equip students with specific skills to understand and develop personal and social responsibilities.

Instruction is delivered in a positive non-threatening, happy environment.

Children leave our school at the end of primary education with a positive happy attitude to education and society.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Parents

School-community relations were rated well above the state mean while in general parents showed a 'satisfied' level with regard to

- Curriculum
- Pedagogy
- Learning climate
- School climate
- Resources

Students

Peachester students showed a 'satisfied' level with regard to

- Student outcomes
- Curriculum
- Pedagogy
- Learning climate
- School climate
- Resources

Staff

The 2008 year has been very positive for all staff workplace Dimensions with results of surveys showing significantly higher results than the state mean in

- Support, Resources and Training
- Work Roles
- Work Value and Recognition
- School Operations
- Staff Morale
- Relationships