


Our profile

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Principal's foreword

Introduction

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Supporters

The Bulimba State School (BSS) Annual Report is a cooperative document reporting on our schools activities and celebrations for the 2008 school year. The Parents' and Citizens' Association (P&C) and School Administration Team have collaborated to provide this information and share the successes of the school with our community.

This report demonstrates the successes that can be achieved when a school community works together to provide quality education for its students.

Michael Zeuschner
Principal

Future outlook

The 2009 School Year heralds some exciting developments at Bulimba State School. With the implementation of the Building Education Revolution funding from the Federal Government, Bulimba will see some significant upgrades in facilities. The outcome of this program will provide enhancement for teaching and learning as well as performance and community facilities.

Promoting outstanding results in Literacy and Numeracy will always be a major objective of our school. Literacy and Numeracy form the foundation for successful outcomes for students in other key learning areas. Through a commitment to assessment and monitoring of student performance we will continue to build a school that celebrates academic success.

Our Student Welfare Assessment Team will continue to monitor students needing extra support as well as a special focus on students who are recognised as being gifted or talented. Our school Gifted Education Mentor will provide opportunities at a school level and within the Gateway Learning Community to encourage, enhance and extend our students.

2009 will see our first full year as the Queensland demonstration school for the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program. This offers an exciting new program for our students, teachers and community to be involved in. Students will learn the importance of healthy eating by planting, tending, harvesting, preparing, cooking and sharing a wide variety of foods. This program will offer many rich ways to enhance Literacy and Numeracy through real life experiences.

Sustainability is a significant part of our whole school philosophy and we will continue to explore ways to extend and imbed the school's sustainability program. We see as our responsibility, to not only engage our students and community in this area but to share our successes with other schools within Queensland, Australia and the world. We will continue to work with the Gateway Learning Community on our Earthworks project in collaboration with Greening Australia and the Boeing Corporation.

A Culture of Thinking is being developed in our school, based on the work of Ron Richart, of Project Zero, at Harvard University. Bulimba, with other GLC schools, is currently in the second year of a three year project to challenge staff and students to use higher order thinking as a tool in their learning. The goal of this project is to enculturate productive patterns of thinking in students and develop a culture of thinking within the school.

Italian continues to be a significant part of our program, providing students with an opportunity to learn a second language, develop an understanding of another culture and improve their abilities in problem solving, language and cultural awareness. We will achieve this through a partnership with Co-as-it, an Italian Government funded initiative.

In 2009 we will continue to implement a "Reggio Emilio" inspired approach in our Prep classes and look for opportunities to promote this approach across our school.

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School Profile

Total student enrolments for this school:	576 (as at 20 May 2008)
Year levels offered:	Prep – Year 7
School Type:	Coeducational Primary School
Enrolments	2008
PREP	91
Year 1	64
Year 2	76
Year 3	87
Year 4	76
Year 5	60
Year 6	55
Year 7	67
Total	576

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings:

- Italian for students in Years Prep to 7
- A curriculum embedded in Sustainability
- Integrated Technology
- Peer Support
- Leadership for students
- Year 6 Buddies Program
- Student Council
- Outdoor Education Camping Program
- Active Sporting Program
- Developing Reggio Emilia Early Childhood Program
- A Queensland Environmentally Sustainable Schools Initiative (QESSI) Hub
- Junior and Senior Choir
- Wildwords – Gateway Learning Community Festival
- “Bulimba’s Got Talent”

Extra curricula activities:

- Tennis Coaching before and after school
- Balmoral Super Challenge
- Regional Maths Challenge
- Instrumental Music Years 5 to 7 (Woodwind, Brass and Percussion)
- Strings Program Year 1 to 7
- Piano Lessons
- Guitar Lessons
- Speech and Drama
- Common Thread Drama Production
- Parents' and Citizens' Association Swim Club
- After school swim squad and lessons
- Tae kwon do
- Go Sports
- Environmental Committee
- ICAS – International Competition and Assessment for Schools

How computers are used to assist learning:

Embedding of ICT as an integral component of curriculum, teaching and learning has been a major focus of Bulimba State School for a number of years. Teachers use the computer labs, Interactive Whiteboards and in-class computers to develop all computer skills.

Students use the Microsoft suite to create items such as digital newsletters, WebPages and multi media presentations to support the term unit. Web quests, on-line courses and learning objects are used to enhance learning opportunities. Older students also use Movie Maker to create their own videos.

Students participate in an on-line Literature Festival through Author Chats and Book Wraps.

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Social climate

- Our students and parents are highlighted as being significantly above state average in their satisfaction with the school climate according to our School Opinion Survey. Establishing a safe, supportive and caring environment where students, parents and staff feel heard and valued is a goal of every facet of our school. Actively seeking student voice to shape the future of our school and providing programs to develop informed and active citizens for the future is an integral part of our school philosophy. We are proactive in our approach to ensuring all community members are aware of the appropriate way to interact and seek to address any issues confidentially, sensitively and respectfully.
- Peer Support Program (Year 7 students lead weekly sessions with students from Year 1-7 around topics such as resilience, speaking up, values, friendships.)
- BSS Code of Conduct – The expectations, rights and responsibilities of all community members are regularly published, modelled and monitored.
- School Student Leadership Program (Year 4-7 students) Student Council, Leadership training initiatives
- Class meetings to encourage “Student Voice”.
- Setting Up for Success – Each year students review school and class expectations around behaviour, attitude, work presentation and academic achievement.
- Prep School Buddies (Year 6 / Prep Buddy partnerships to help transition to Year 1)
- Environmental Club (Year 4-7 students)
- Sexual Harassment Referral Officer (Semester classroom visits focussing on strategies to address aspects of personal safety.)
- Personal Enhancement Program for Year 7 – Department, Grooming, Goal Setting, Time Management and organization
- Chaplaincy program
- Member of the Gateway Learning Community

Involving parents in their child's education.

Bulimba State School encourages and welcomes the support of adults (parents, caregivers, grandparents, community members) in our classrooms to enhance and support the teaching and learning program.

Educational research provides strong evidence of the powerful influence which parents have on their children's success in school results and achievements. An influence that is as powerful as any other educational factor, including the role of schools.

We welcome parents into our classroom but remind them that it is a privilege to share in their child's learning journey while respecting the confidentiality of the other students their child shares this journey with. Providing parents with a supportive network within our school is seen as a priority due to the large number of interstate and overseas families without extended family support in our community. A part time Community Liaison Officer coordinates a Parent Representative Network to ensure each class has parents to help organise classroom parent involvement, social outings and parent support.

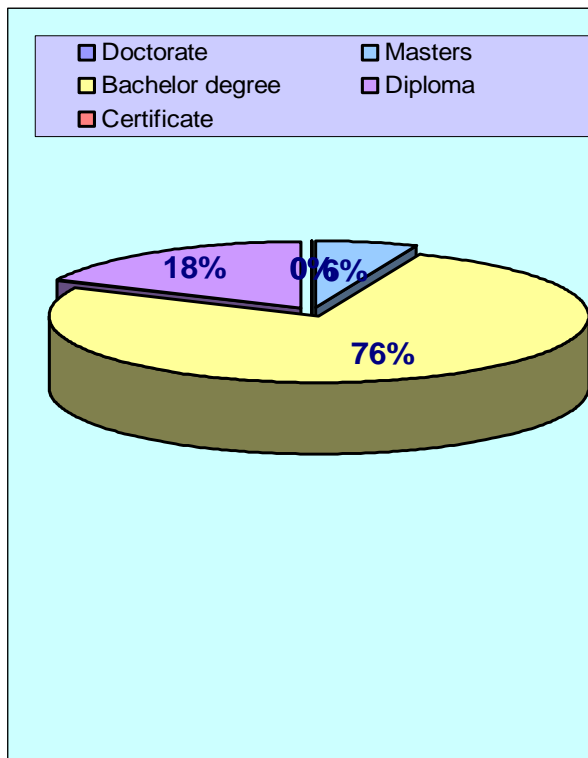
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Bulimba SS Parents and Citizens Association

The Bulimba Parents and Citizens Association is open to all parents and carers of children attending Bulimba State School. It provides a great opportunity for all parents to be more involved behind the scenes at the school, supporting the children's overall school experience. The P&C manages the Outside Hours School Care and Tuck Shop facilities, School Traffic Safety, Swim Club, Outdoor Beautification projects, assists with school planning and contributes significant funds to the school through many great fundraising events throughout the year. The P&C meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7.00pm and welcomes new members at any time.

Qualifications of all teachers.

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	2
Bachelor degree	25
Diploma	6
Certificate	0



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

- The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was \$32 519.
- This amount included a \$5 920 Pat Purcell Bursary, a \$11 720 GLC membership and \$14 879 for replacement of staff and conference fees.

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- The major professional development initiatives are as follows:
 - QCAR (Queensland Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Framework)
 - Year 1 to 3 Literacy training for teachers
 - Numeracy
 - Reggio Emilia – Philosophy for child centred learning.
 - Literacy (Reading, Spelling)
 - Science
 - School Leaders Learning Circle
 - Smart Moves
 - QCATs
 - Culture of Thinking
 - CPR
 - Supporting and making modifications for students with Special Needs
- 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 95% in 2008.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

- From the end of the 2007 school year, 100% of staff was 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 94%.

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	432	507	565
	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	98%	97%
Writing	Average score for the school	428	506	507
	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	96%	98%
Spelling	Average score for the school	416	492	548
	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%	97%
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school	422	528	547
	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	99%	97%
Numeracy	Average score for the school	403	481	552
	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	99%	97%

Performance of our students

Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net	
	Percentage of students not requiring additional support
Reading	76%
Writing	80%
Number	85%

Value added

Academic learning outcomes, as measured by the *NAPLAN: Year 3, 5 & 7 Tests*, are “measurably above” Queensland, and “Australian” means. The outcome for year 7 “Writing” was slightly below the “Queensland” mean in 2008.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

95.7% of parents, 85.6% of students and 94.4% of staff believe Bulimba State School is a good school according to our school opinion survey data. These results are all significantly above state average