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Principal's foreword

Introduction

"INDIVIDUALS TOGETHER"

Our school motto drives a strong focus on the recognition of the individual needs (academic, social, developmental) of all students within a supportive whole school community. There is a commitment to the provision of opportunities across a wide range of areas for all students to experience success and to build self esteem, independence and a life long love of learning. The multi-age structure across the whole school supports the philosophy that education for life involves a range of social groupings and different learning contexts.

During 2008 Kurwongbah State School built upon the successes of past years, and the strong community links were further enhanced through the following highlights of the year:

A Triennial School Review (TSR) provided the school community with the opportunity to reflect upon the success of the previous 3 years and to develop clear directions for the next 3 years.

The focus on Success For Our Students through strong partnerships, service to the school community, development and training and the provision of a safe learning environment will be the goals for the future.

The whole school community commitment to multi-age was reaffirmed through the TSR.

A drive towards greater consistency and clarity in teaching and learning and the further enhancement of the whole school Thinking Skills Program were also identified as key goals for the future.

Improved school facilities included the redesigning and refurbishment of two Prep classrooms, and the installation of two 150,000 litre water tanks and an underground sprinkler system. This has created an improved playing oval for all students.

Two additional interactive whiteboards were purchased for classrooms.

The school was also successful in obtaining funding to enhance the Performing Arts through the installation of a new sound system and stage curtains for the School Hall.

Chaplaincy was successfully introduced to Kurwongbah SS in 2008 and is providing pastoral care for the school community.

Another highly successful Effective Teaching Conference at Kurwongbah promoting excellence in teaching, involving 4 other local schools was held in October.

The contributions from students, parents and staff supporting school activities and initiatives are positively acknowledged in the successes experienced by Kurwongbah in 2008.



Future outlook

In 2009 the main focus targeted areas will include:

Enhancement of literacy and numeracy learning through the ongoing refinement of core school programs.

Enhancement of student and staff skills in the effective use of ICTs, including the embedding of ICTs in class units and the provision of quality IT infrastructure across the school.

Intensive staff professional development in key curriculum areas to ensure quality student learning.

A continued support for the Multi-age Philosophy and the School Thinking Skills Program to better prepare our students for success in their learning. This includes the introduction of Prep/Year 1 class structures as an organisational strategy.

Promotion of school community participation in the school to further strengthen partnerships.

Maintenance of high quality school facilities to ensure a safe learning environment for all school members.



Our school at a glance

School Profile

Kurwongbah State School is the only Multi-age School on the north side of Brisbane. The multi-age philosophy is the basis for the organizational strategy used at Kurwongbah which involves grouping children together over a span of age or year levels. By grouping children in this way it makes possible a range of strategies which will assist the school to be more responsive to the individual needs of our students.

2008 STUDENT ENROLMENTS – TOTAL – 800

Prep	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
121	56	115	95	96	133	98	86

Year levels offered:

All Multi Age classes offered in 2008 were co-educational with a mix of two or three years levels.

Prep	Prep/Year1	Years 1/2	Years 1/2/3	Years 2/3	Years 4/5	Years 4/5/6	Years 6/7
4 classes	2 classes	2 classes	2 classes	6 classes	7 classes	2 classes	6 classes

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

Whole School Thinking Skills Program

In a future of change students need to be able to think creatively, critically and analytically, to solve problems in original, interesting and divergent ways, to critique and challenge decisions, and to develop new ideas. This necessitates the development of innovative curriculum programs that challenge, excite and motivate student investigation, problem solving, decision making and higher order thinking. All students can learn to think more creatively and critically in order to become the entrepreneurs, decision makers and problem solvers of the future.

At Kurwongbah, we believe that students can be TAUGHT to THINK, and this belief underpins our curriculum planning. We know that learning and thinking involves more than the gathering and memorizing of facts and information. We believe that it involves the whole school developing a thinking culture, by talking about thinking strategies and skills and by using these to solve problems, develop ideas, work divergently and think in different ways within authentic contexts.

The Whole School Thinking Skills Program at Kurwongbah, which has been integral to our curriculum program since 2002, seeks to equip our students for life long learning. It provides our students with the critical and creative thinking skills that they will need for an ever-changing future where the skills of thinking will be highly valued.

At Kurwongbah State School we believe that each student is smart in their own unique way and that their dominant “smart” or intelligence as well as their other “smarts” can be developed further by building on a range of thinking skills within the classroom environment. Our curriculum programs are shaped around experiences and learning journeys that will allow students to think within and beyond their own “smart” and to shine as thinking individuals and productive group members.

Gifted and Talented Program

Our vision for students who are gifted is that they feel valued in a learning environment which both challenges and supports them to pursue excellence and develop a passion for lifelong learning. (Framework for Gifted Education, EQ, 2004)

Our Gifted and Talented Education Action Plan has been developed to acknowledge, support and provide for those students who have been identified as Gifted and Talented within an inclusive model.

Kurwongbah’s Support Teacher – Gifted and Talented - works one day a week to coordinate and facilitate the GATE Action Plan. This teacher works directly with identified students (and their teacher/s, within the current classroom program) and provides support and relevant resources for classroom teachers.



Our school at a glance

Our GATE Action Plan has been developed from Education Queensland's Framework for Gifted Education. This Framework for State Schools consists of The Policy for the Education of Students who are Gifted and Guidelines for Acceleration with the Compulsory Years of Schooling.

Multi-age Philosophy

For a number of years, there has been a call from many parents, teachers and others involved in the care and teaching of young children, for a more flexible approach to the grouping and progression of children particularly in their early years of schooling.

This call has come with the recognition that:

Children come to school uniquely different from their peers with individual needs, abilities and interests.

Children develop and learn at different rates and in different ways.

Multi-age grouping is an organisational strategy used at Kurwongbah which involves grouping children together over a span of age or year levels. By grouping children in this way it makes possible a range of strategies which will assist schools to be more responsive to the individual needs of our learners.

Specifically multi-age grouping allows –

- Flexibility in the grouping of children according to need, ability or interest, not just age or level;*
- Flexible progression through their years of schooling recognising that children learn at different rates;*
- Improved continuity of programs, curriculum and learning;*
- Peer role modelling for children, accepting that children can learn from other children around them.*

Curriculum Support Teacher

Teachers across all year levels work with the Curriculum Support Teacher to plan integrated units.

We believe that the collaborative nature of our planning based on sound curriculum organisation and significant pedagogical expertise has resulted in exciting curriculum programs that promote deep understandings, connect learning to student lives and prior learning while laying the groundwork for life long learning.

Extra curricula activities

Kurwongbah State School provides a range of extra curricula activities which allows students an opportunity to pursue their individual interests and/or to further develop their own skills and abilities by participation in these activities. It is a great way that students can contribute to their school and extend their own curriculum learnings.

Below is a list of Extra Curricular Activities available to Kurwongbah State School students in 2008:

*Junior Choir
Parade Presentations
Senior Choir
Drama
Harmony Group
Student Council
Leaders Council
Recorder Group
House Captains
Music Captains
Music Workshops
District Student Council
School Camps (Years 5,6 and 7)
Sporting Clinics*



Our school at a glance

Junior Band
Senior Band
Strings Ensemble
Interschool Sport (Years 6/7)
Intraschool Sport (Years 6/7)
District/Regional/State Sporting representation
School Excursions
Enrichment Group
Battle of the Brains
Tech Team
ACE Day
Fundraising competitions and activities
Engquest group
Library monitors
Fundamentals Day
Year 4 Activity Day
District Maths Tournament
Cross Country activities
High School Transition Programs

How computers are used to assist learning

Our vision is to achieve the best possible educational outcomes for every student at Kurwongbah State School by enabling improved learning through the integration of Information Communication Technologies (ICT's) into the curriculum and by providing support structures to ensure that the equipment is well maintained and teachers are supported in using ICTs in classrooms.

Computers and other Information Communication Technologies are viewed as valuable tools that engender interest, enthusiasm, and a willingness to explore new ways of learning as well as giving students valuable skills and knowledge necessary to be involved in our technologically connected world.

ICTs are used in many interesting and exciting ways at Kurwongbah and students may be involved in many of the activities listed below:

- *Researching a topic of interest using the internet.*
- *Participating in collaborative experiences with other students or with 'experts' in a field using email, chat, blogs and/or wikis*
- *Creating web pages to demonstrate their understandings and knowledge or to share with other students.*
- *Designing and publishing brochures about a particular topic.*
- *Developing and presenting a PowerPoint presentation for a variety of purposes.*
- *Writing using a word processor including editing, proofreading, etc. and publishing their work to share with others.*
- *Evaluating and deconstructing existing webpages, computer games, writings, advertising, etc. to see how they are put together with a view to improving their own work in these areas.*
- *Using drawing software to create drawing and illustrations.*
- *Learning spelling strategies using adventure spelling games*
- *Using digital cameras to take photographs, and then downloading and manipulating the digital images.*
- *Using digital video to create and edit digital video productions.*
- *Incorporating a variety of digital media into Parade Presentations.*
- *Using various digital resources (eg Learning Objects, Clickview Video Library, etc.) to extend their understandings and knowledge.*



Our school at a glance

Social climate

A very positive proactive approach to managing student behaviour has been implemented. All teachers have their own Classroom Management Plan which is also aligned to the School Code of Behaviour.

The 2008 Parent and Student Opinion Survey results certainly support the School Vision Statement that, "At Kurwongbah State School all students are encouraged to become responsible, confident, self-motivated and co-operative individuals who aspire to achieve their maximum potential within a safe, supportive multi-age setting."

Parent Responses:

*92% of parents are satisfied that Kurwongbah is a good school.
92% of parents are satisfied that their child is happy to go to Kurwongbah State School.
89% of parents are satisfied with the discipline at Kurwongbah State School.
92% of parents are satisfied that their child is safe at Kurwongbah State School
78% of parents are satisfied that their child is treated fairly at Kurwongbah State School.*

Student Survey:

*79% of students are satisfied this is a good school.
73% of students feel safe at Kurwongbah State School
77% of students are happy to attend Kurwongbah State School
62% of students feel that they are treated fairly at Kurwongbah State School*

PROACTIVE STRATEGIES AT KURWONGBAH

*Open and positive communication between staff, students, parents and the community.
Friendliness and respect of staff and students
Student Council meetings
Student Leaders' Council meetings
House Captain and Music Captain meetings
Year 6/7 student meetings
Class behaviour management plans
Class meetings
Negotiation of class rules
Regular Publication, distribution and discussion of 'B.M.I.' (Behaviour Management Issues)
Role-modelling on Parade of appropriate behaviour
Student Behaviour Report
Student Self Evaluation Report
'Seasons for Growth' Program
'Friends' Program
Social skills program
Parents Assisting Learners program (PAL)
Supervised play
Peer mediation
Peer tutoring
Buddying between senior and junior classes
'Aussie of the Month' awards
'Outstanding Student' achievement awards
Recognition of individual students – Top Kurwongbah Kid Award
Pro-active strategies and practices in place in individual classrooms
Goal setting by students and teachers
Rosters; responsibility of students eg Sports Room
Hall Games/Marble Area
Chess Club
Opti-Minds
School camps
Incursions and excursions
Term discos
Student initiated talent quests and competitions
Drama activities
Instrumental music*



Our school at a glance

*Choir/harmony group/recorder group
Band performances
Book Week parade
ACE day ('Across Cluster Enrichment Day)
Interhouse athletics pentathlon
Full school activity day
Sporting competitions
Free dress days
Theme days
Parade presentations
Class parent representatives*

The results of the Staff Opinion Survey in 2008 clearly reflect a positive relationship with students, community and their fellow workers. The Kurwongbah Staff is very enthusiastic in approaches to teaching and supporting students and they enjoy working at Kurwongbah State School.

Staff Responses 2008:

*95% of staff are satisfied that Kurwongbah State School is a good place to work
94% are satisfied with their relationship with other staff.
100% are satisfied that the staff put a lot of energy into their work
86% are satisfied they are treated with respect at Kurwongbah State School
96% are satisfied they get on well with students
94% are satisfied that they are happy to work at Kurwongbah State School*

Involving parents in their child's education.

Kurwongbah State School has always had a strong sense of community. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to be actively involved with their children's learning and within the school community.

We believe:

- *Adults in the wider community have skills and talents which can contribute to and enhance the nature of the learning experiences of children.*
- *Children benefit when there is an increase in the number of adults with whom they can interact.*
- *The school should actively seek a positive relationship with each child's family group.*
- *Children's learning is facilitated when the influences of the home and school are in harmony.*
- *Parents have a right to know what happens to their children at school.*
- *Schools have a responsibility to provide opportunities for parents to be informed of school happenings.*

Below are some of the ways that parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc can be actively involved at Kurwongbah:

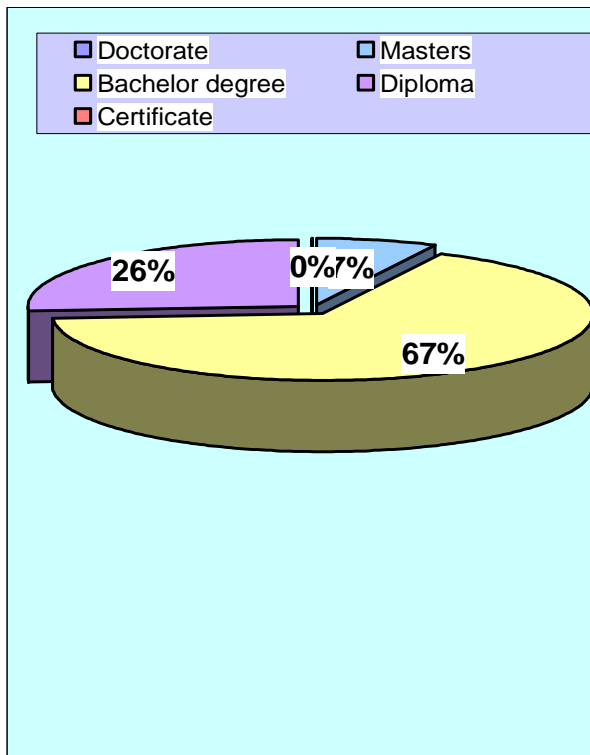
*Parents and Citizens' Association
School Council
Class Parent Representatives
Participating in Parent Forums
Classroom Volunteers
Fundraising Committee
Tuckshop Volunteers
Library Helpers
PAL (Parents Assisting Learning)
Fete Committee
Music Support Group
School Banking*



Our staff profile

Qualifications of all teachers

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	5
Bachelor degree	46
Diploma	18
Certificate	0



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was \$19933 .

The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

English and Literacy Training, Leadership Development, Mathematics Inservice, Information Communication and Technology Training, Reporting and Moderation Practices, First Aid Training and Recertification, Workplace Health and Safety Inservice, Workplace Rehabilitation Recertification, Special Education Training.

The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2008 was 96 %.

Average staff attendance

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

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

From the end of the 2007 school year, 97 % 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 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, 7 and 9.

Domain	Measures	Yr 3	Yr 5	Yr 7
Reading	Average score for the school	366	457	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 91 %	85 %	97 %
Writing	Average score for the school	391	470	524
	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 89 %	92 %	93 %
Spelling	Average score for the school	353	457	522
	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 85 %	88 %	93 %
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school	365	470	513
	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 93 %	90 %	91 %
Numeracy	Average score for the school	361	455	543
	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 94 %	91 %	98 %

Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net

	Percentage of students not requiring additional support
Reading	87.5%
Writing	93%
Number	92%



Performance of our students

Value added

Planning sessions between classroom teachers and the Kurwongbah State School Curriculum Support Teacher using the integrated unit planner ensures all teaching programs cater for the specific needs of individual students. This has strongly enhanced curriculum implementation at Kurwongbah State School.

A wide range of extra curricular activities are available to students to enable them to pursue their interests and develop the skills and knowledge necessary to live in a rapidly changing society. The personal growth and development in students have been most evident from their participation in these extra curricular activities.

Staff at Kurwongbah State School is a team of very skilled, highly motivated and energetic professionals. They are keen to undertake professional development and training sessions to further enhance their skills and abilities and are eager to share their new skills with other staff members.

The proactive learning and development initiative, Kurwongbah's Quality Teaching Conference, provides a valuable opportunity for teachers from a number of local schools to come together for a day of professional sharing, learning and development and networking. The conference promotes the notion of teachers learning together, as teachers present a variety of workshops sharing best practices.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

The Annual School Opinion Survey is designed to gather data about student, staff and parent satisfaction with various facets of the school including student outcomes, curriculum, pedagogy, learning climate, school-community relations, resources and school operations. Data from these surveys over many years has been positive and indicates that Kurwongbah caters well for students' learning and social development. It also reflects the strong community support that the school enjoys.

In 2008, 81% of parents indicated that they were satisfied that their child is getting a good education at Kurwongbah, 92% stated that their child is happy to go to this school and 92% feel that Kurwongbah is a good school.

In 2008, 83.4% of students indicated that they are getting a good education at Kurwongbah and 79% feel that this is a good school.

In 2008, 98.7% of staff indicated that they feel that Kurwongbah is a safe place to work, 93.6% stated that staff and community relations are good at the school, 91.5% are satisfied with professional development opportunities available to them, and 91% feel confident of being able to do what their work role demands of them.