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Principal's foreword

Introduction

Ballandean State School has a proud reputation for meeting the diverse educational, social and emotional needs of the children who are enrolled at the school. The school caters for children from both urban and rural properties from an area that encompasses Stanthorpe through to Wallangarra.

Situated on the New England Highway, approximately 19 kilometres south of Stanthorpe, the school will celebrate its centenary in October this year.

The aim of the school is to help prepare the children for their futures in a family orientated, small school environment. Children are encouraged to be responsible for their learning and behaviours. The curriculum offered at the school combines innovation with good old fashioned teaching and learning opportunities. In this manner the children are exposed to a range of learning situations and environments that we believe will help them reach their potential as lifelong learners. There is a commitment to improving literacy and numeracy and we are also focussed on the importance of the Early Years in the provision of learning experiences.

Ballandean State School has an experienced and motivated staff who endeavour to provide meaningful and relevant learning for the children in their care. The school enjoys a high level of support offered by the local community.

Future outlook

The future outlook for Ballandean state school is bright and positive.

The school is well placed to offer an excellent educational program for children from their early years through to year seven. Ballandean State School has implemented the aspects of QCAR (Queensland Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting) framework and is working hard to make sure that the children in the school benefit from the full implementation of it in 2009. Our school is ready for the advent of the National Curriculum. We are enthusiastic about the potential that this initiative has – as it relates to improved teaching and learning, improved accountability and improved outcomes for children.

Our school is working to provide facilities that will meet the learning needs of the children. In conjunction with the State and Federal governments, the school and school community will continue to advocate for the provision of facilities that will assist us in providing for the teaching and learning needs of our children. Ballandean State School children will also continue to be at the forefront of authentic education about the environment and sustainability through the programs and opportunities offered by the school. This was evidenced in 2005 and 2007 through our attendance at the *International River Health Conference* an event organised by the Murray Darling Commission and Firestarter. Ballandean State School was one of three schools from Queensland to attend this event and the school will again send representatives in 2009.

We care about our kids and aim goal is to

“Prepare our children for their futures”

Our school at a glance

School Profile

Ballandean State School is a coeducational school that currently has 87 enrolments. It offers educational within a multi-age setting for year levels Prep to Yr.7

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

- 8 Key Curriculum areas
 - English
 - Math
 - Science
 - SOSE
 - Health and Physical Education
 - The Arts
 - Technology
 - LOTE (Italian)
- Environmental education
- Strings Tuition (Violin / Cello / Guitar)
- Performances (Presentations for Easter and Christmas, school theatrical performances)
- Participation in National and International competitions and Assessments

Our curriculum is planned and taught in the Key Learning Areas with Technology and use of Information and Communication Technology being integrated in a natural and authentic manner across the key curriculum areas.

Extra curricula activities

- Children are invited to attend a camp or outdoor learning function every year in the grades 4 – 7
- Children are invited to participate in inter school spots – including activities that are held outside of school hours
- Participation in the Granite Belt Eisteddfod is optional from year to year.

How computers are used to assist learning

Computers and other technology is used to enhance and complement the planning, teaching and learning in all curriculum areas in a meaningful and authentic manner. Children who have an interest in use of computers are encouraged to explore and develop their talents.

The school uses the GBCoSS (Granite Belt Community of State Schools) end of year 7 checklist as a guide to computer and information technology education.

Our school at a glance

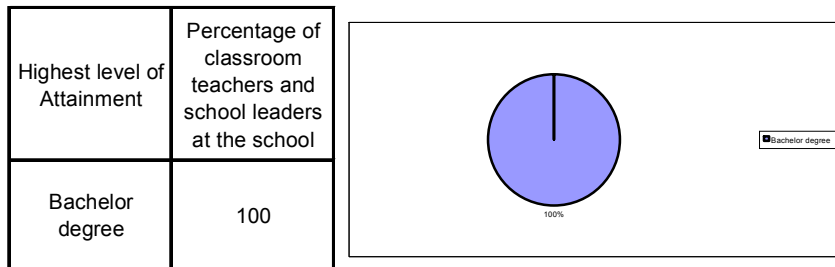
Social climate

Ballandean State School endeavours to meet the academic, social and behavioural needs of each child. The school places emphasis on children being responsible and accountable for their behaviour and learning in a supported environment. Our behavioural expectations are high but also consider the needs and the background of the child. We provide continuous support for children and families as they strive to meet the expectations. Our small school environment leads to a supportive atmosphere for learning. We engage with the wider community of professional support networks to meet the needs of our children. We encourage parents to contact the school if they feel that the needs of their child are not being met.

Involving parents in their child's education.

Parents are welcome and encouraged to be involved in the education of their children. This can occur in many ways – including through assisting in the day to day function of the school, through involvement in P and C fundraising / Social activities or through donating time or knowledge for the teaching and learning programs at the school – both within classrooms and extra curricular. We hope that through the involvement and support parents, children feel secure and safe to learn how to be socially competent citizens in our society.

Qualifications of all teachers.



Many of our staff have double degrees. Three of our staff members are early childhood trained. Many of our staff have also received recognition in other areas (community based - 'Miss Ring 'n Rodeo'; 'Ms Yandina', 'Miss Ipswich High') which we believe complement the formal academic recognition that staff have received through attendance at University. Many of the staff at Ballandean State School also have training in areas not directly related to education (e.g. reflexology, Psychology) - which again, adds to the essences of the holistic nature of education. Staff also has accreditation in sports - 1 x Level 1 Soccer coach, 1 x Level 1 Athletics Coach, 1 x Level 2 Baseball coach, 1 x Level 1 GFA Gliding Instructor.

Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

- The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was \$5206.00 .
- The major professional development initiatives are as follows:
 - Early Childhood Education
 - Introduction of the preparatory year – Continuity days and reflection days
 - Teacher Aide conference
 - Literacy PD (Teacher Aides)
 - Phonological Awareness
 - Queensland Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting
 - National Curriculum
 - Science in Education Queensland Mathematics in Education Queensland Assessment and Reporting
 - First Aid
 - Support A Talker
 - Information and Communications Technology
- The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2008 was 50 %.

Our staff profile

Average staff attendance

- For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 99% in 2008.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

- From the end of the 2007 school year, 80% 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 2007 was 95 %.

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	90 %
Writing	70 %
Number	90 %

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

		Yr 3	Yr 5	Yr 7	
Reading	Average score for the school	396	459	544	
	Average score for Queensland	371.1	466.1	528.1	
	Percentage of students at or above the school above the national benchmark	2008	90 %	80 %	94 %
		2007	100 %	73 %	100 %
Writing	Average score for the school	381	440	499	
	Average score for Queensland	391.8	468.9	522.7	
	Percentage of students at or above the school above the national benchmark	2008	80%	90%	69%
		2007	100%	100 %	100 %
Spelling	Average score for the school	360	452	513	
	Average score for Queensland	366.7	462.0	528.0	
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	90%	80%	81%	
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school	371	503	549	
	Average score for Queensland	370.4	476.6	518.0	
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	90%	90 %	90 %	
Numeracy	Average score for the school	380	487	551	
	Average score for Queensland	367.9	458.2	539.0	
	Percentage of students at or	2008	91 %	90 %	100 %

Performance of our students

above the school above the national benchmark	2007	100 %	67 %	100 %
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Other Key Outcomes

Value added

Ballandean State School has produced some high quality academic and social outcomes for the children at the school. These outcomes reflect the child centred teaching philosophy and associated strategies employed by our staff. Our school endeavours to cater for the wide range of demonstrated abilities and personalities of our children. To do this we offer a range of learning experiences – both within and outside the classroom and with in and outside the school grounds. Our learning outcomes are not only measured by point in time test data, but more so by improvement trends which are available over time. Our school looks forward to the continued implementation of the Early Learning Years Curriculum and the full implementation of the Queensland Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Framework and will use these drivers to continue in our aim to prepare our children for their futures.

Parent, student and staff satisfaction with the school

Parent, student and staff satisfaction levels have been maintained at a very high rate for a number of years.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

All data from the School Opinion Survey process for 2008 indicated that our school was above both 'state benchmarks' and 'like schools benchmarks' in every area.