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Principal's foreword

Introduction

Serviceton South State School provides a caring, stimulating learning environment, where children are encouraged to reach their full potential by developing qualities, knowledge and skills to prepare them for future work and life. Our main goal is to improve students' literacy and numeracy and their social skills. Our Whole School Assessment including the results in the Year 3, 5, 7 tests shows that we are progressing well towards these goals.

Future outlook

IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES FOR 2007

- Introduction of Prep Year and the Early Years Curriculum
- Literacy – Improving students' comprehension
- Literacy – Professional development for all teachers and teacher aides
- Mathematics – implementing the new syllabus
- Gifted and Talented Education including Scientist-In-Residence project with UQ, Artists-In-Residence with Pullenvale Environmental Centre
- ICTs – imbedding in the teaching and learning process and Intel ICT submission
- Assessment alignment with curriculum, planning, teaching and reporting through the Inala Cluster CRAFT project
- Linking to Learn – Pathways to Prevention project with Mission Australia and Griffith University
- Chaplaincy submission in conjunction with Richlands East SS
- Facilities improvements including second Prep unit, air-conditioning all classrooms and resource centre, replacing existing play equipment, refurbishment of office, new school sign, completion of student amenities refurbishment and new disabled toilet and shower.

SCHOOL PROGRESS TOWARDS OUR GOALS

We successfully introduced one Prep class with a full time teacher aide to support their learning program.

We continued a range of projects that enhance student learning across areas in Literacy, Mathematics, Gifted and Talented Education. These include: Scientist-in-Residence, Artists-in-Residence as well as embedding ICTs in the teaching and learning process and through the successful Intel ICT submission.

In September, in conjunction with Richlands East we employed a Chaplain, Ms Amanda, to support the school community.

Close association with Pathways to Prevention continued through the ROAR (Reach Out and Read) program in Prep, Flip Side Circus for middle school behaviour improvement, Sand Play therapy for lower school children and Samoan Cultural Dance group.

Large scale facilities improvements included a second Prep Unit, air-conditioning all classrooms and resource centre, replacing existing play equipment, refurbishment of office, completion of student amenities as well as the refurbishment of the current toilets and a new disabled toilet and shower.

School Profile

Serviceton South State School is a co-educational state school situated in the south west Brisbane suburb of Inala. Our address is 59 Lorikeet Street, Inala and is very close to the Inala Civic Shopping Centre. We have 340 students from diverse cultural backgrounds and offer year levels from Prep to year 7. There is a Special Education Class for students with Speech Language Impairment and Intellectual Impairment, and a wide range of programs designed to cater for students who have learning difficulties.

Curriculum offerings

- Serviceton South SS 's curriculum includes Key Learning Areas; English, Mathematics, Study of Societies and the Environment, The Arts, Technology, Science, LOTE (German) HPE and Music. Students may also access Instrumental Music and Interschool Sport.
- Computers are used to assist learning through a range of whole school approaches. All students through the Resource Centre access information and use software programs that embed internet use in curriculum areas. Computers are also available in classrooms and are accessible by students for publishing and project work. The two year seven classes have exclusive access to a computer lab between two classrooms.
- Guided Reading classes are offered to all students in small groups with the support of teacher aides, Learning Support teacher, ESL teacher and speech language pathologist.
- Social skills are taught through classroom activities and whole school Peer Support Program.

Extra curricula activities

- Artist in Residence - students who have been recognised as gifted and talented students travel to Pullenvale Environmental Centre and participate in workshop with local artists and dance instructors.
- Scientist in Residence - where real Scientists come to the school regularly and conduct a series of scientific experiments and lessons with the students.
- Interschool Sport – Soccer and touch football
- Choir - for both junior and senior students
- Instrumental Music - woodwind and brass instruments
- Band - available to students after they have been learning an instrument for 12 months.
- Breakfast Club - A nutritional breakfast is provided each Tuesday and Thursday morning at a nominal cost of 20 cents
- Samoan Cultural Club - Regular lunch time sessions for Samoan dance and traditions
- Cricket as an after school activity in term 4

Social climate

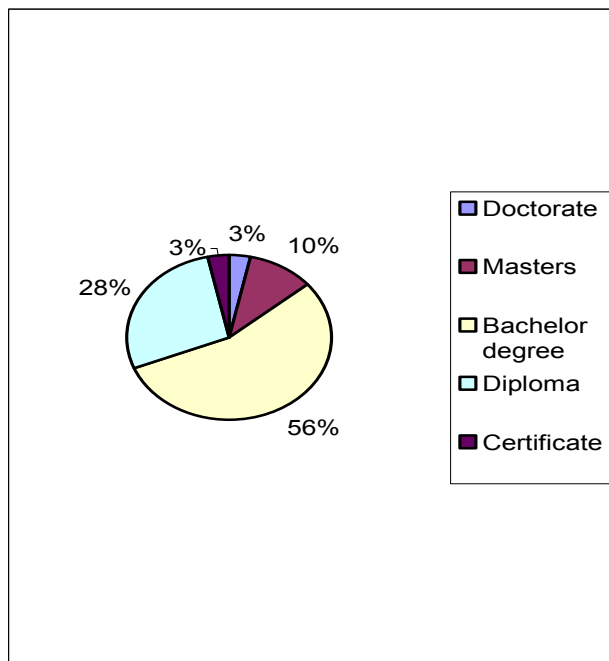
The social climate at our school is one of friendliness and respect. The entire school community work together for the benefit of children. The school promotes tolerance and valuing of students' backgrounds and diversity of cultures. The school is ethnically diverse with approximately 40% of the student population coming from Non-English Speaking Backgrounds (NESB). Nationalities other than English, New Zealand and Australian make up 61% of the school population. Pacifica and Vietnamese students make up the vast majority (30% and 25%) and are supported by Samoan and Vietnamese bilingual teacher-aides. The friendly, caring atmosphere at the school is enhanced by a range of programs including: Breakfast Club, Peer Support Program, Responsible Thinking Room, Community Service Agents, Samoan Cultural Club, Breakfast Club and Parent Room activity.

Involving parents in their child's education.

At Serviceton South SS we encourage parents/carers to become involved. We have parent and community volunteers who help with reading programs, the tuckshop and Breakfast Club. We also involve the wider school community in our Cultural Groups for dance, drama and special functions such as Harmony Day and End of Year School Concert. Parents help by umpiring, transporting and participating in Sports Day, cross country, interschool sports and Under Eights Day. Parents have an open invitation to talk to their child's class teacher and administration. Prep parents/carers were involved in the ROAR program (Reach Out and read) run in conjunction with Linking-To-Learn project. They started each morning for several weeks by reading to their child in the Prep room.

Qualifications of all teachers.

Highest level of Attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	1
Masters	3
Bachelor degree	16
Diploma	8
Certificate	1



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

- The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2007 was \$13 900, which included the main focus areas of Prep – Early Years, Web site development, Literacy with a focus on comprehension, Maths syllabus implementation, Queensland Curriculum Assessment Reporting framework, and Information Communication and Technology INTEL project.
- 86% of the teaching staff participated in professional development activities during 2007.

Average staff attendance

- For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 95% in 2007.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

- From the end of the 2006 school year, 94% of staff members 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	90%
Writing	80%
Number	90%

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	525	616	669	
	Average score for Queensland	527	606	672	
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	89%	76%	81%
		2006	85 %	90 %	67 %
Writing	Average score for the school	499	628	733	
	Average score for Queensland	523	600	681	
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	84%	82 %	94%
		2006	85%	100 %	91%
Numeracy	Average score for the school	531	599	679	
	Average score for Queensland	521	588	648	
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	92%	69%	65%
		2006	51 %	84 %	62 %

Performance of our students

Value Added

The positive effects of the Serviceton South SS literacy program are reflected in the test scores as students move through the year levels.

90% of Serviceton South State School year 2 students did not require additional support in Reading compared to state results of 76%.

80% of Serviceton South State School year 2 students did not require additional support in Writing compared to state results of 85%.

90% of Serviceton South State School year 2 students did not require additional support in Number compared to state results of 81%.

The school program that results in significant improvements is the Guided Reading classes for year levels 1 and 2 each term and the other year levels for 2 terms. Students are taught in small ability level groups.

As a result of the need to improve comprehension, it was decided to implement a new whole school program called CARS and STARS which have explicit teaching strategies.

The Reach Out and Read program (ROAR) run in conjunction with Pathways to Prevention/Linking to Learn provided parent support for focussed shared reading sessions with prep students. During the program students read over 300 books.

Our submission to employ a Chaplain with Richlands East SS was successful and we appointed Ms Amanda Nuimata.

We support students with challenging behaviours through a range of social skill programs such as Life Skills, CSAs who are years 6 "community service agents" who help mentor younger students in the Responsible Thinking Room and the playground. We provide activities and equipment at lunch breaks to engage students in play. Our students are responsible and cooperative in class and in the playground. We rarely need to suspend children for misbehaviour. School visitors and volunteers comment positively about the tone of the school and the conduct of the children.

Other Key Outcomes

Distinctive Skills of Staff

All staff members are very effective in implementing the supportive school environment strategies to ensure students are well supported in their learning and the students are happy and safe. The school employs a Vietnamese speaking Teacher Aide and a Samoan speaking Teacher Aide and an Indigenous Teacher Aide to support students in their learning. Staff members also keep up to date with their computer skills and new curriculum initiatives. Our early childhood teachers are highly skilled in explicitly teaching the basics. All staff share a belief that we make a positive difference in the lives of our students and their families every day.

Performance of our students

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

The vast majority of students (94%) are satisfied they are getting a good education at Serviceton South State School. This was well above the state average

The majority of parents and caregivers were also satisfied were satisfied they are getting a good education (74%) and that Serviceton south was a good school (71 %) and improvement on the previous year.

The majority of staff was satisfied with access to learning opportunities (70%) and the majority of staff members were satisfied with morale in the school (88%) which is above state results.

These are all improvements on the previous year.