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Principal's foreword

Introduction

Happy Valley State School is committed to developing each child's individuality, responsibility and potential through quality teaching and learning, which focuses on our priority areas:

Literacy

Numeracy

Information and Communication Technologies

Integrated Curriculum studies

Happy Valley State School is an Education Queensland state primary school, offering co-educational classes from Preparatory Year to Year 7.

Happy Valley State School is focussed on creating high quality educational programs for all students, with curriculum offerings across all Key Learning Areas, within an inviting, safe and supportive environment. Other key areas of focus have been:

Improving and upgrading our grounds and facilities

Reviewing and implementing the "Responsible Behaviour Plan for Student"

Future outlook

Key Priority areas for 2007-2009 will include:

Early Years

Middle Phase of Learning

Curriculum areas of Literacy, Numeracy, ICT and Integrated Curriculum

Growing an Assessment Culture

Ensuring a supportive school environment through the foundation of 'social skills'

Creating and maintaining a welcoming and safe

In recent years Happy Valley State School has had a strong focus on literacy, numeracy, ICT and integrated

curriculum. This focus will continue into 2007, with particular emphasis on the key areas of literacy and numeracy. In recent years the focus has been on 'the teaching of reading', which has included ensuring consistency in programs and planning, teaching strategies and assessment tools. 2007 will also see a whole school focus on the implementation of the new Maths syllabus, including an emphasis on the teaching of mental computation and problem solving in maths. Literacy focus areas include: reading, writing, spelling and speaking. The years P-3 classes will continue to have an emphasis on oral language development through the District Speech Language Program. The key focus in writing for 2007 will be a whole school approach to editing and proofreading and the implementation of grammar and criteria based assessment.

2006 was the final year of Preschool in Education Queensland schools. Having been apart of the Queensland Preparatory Trial for the past few years, we are very well placed to continue the successful implementation of Prep in 2007. The major focus in the Prep years will be ensuring students have a smooth transition from Prep into Year 1.

Other areas of future direction include our focus on engaging students in our middle years. Our Middle Phase focus on 'authentic' curriculum units, which promote leaning with community links, is also aimed at engaging and re-engaging students who are at risk of somehow disengaging from learning. Through these units teachers and students access community persons as experts in the field. The units are based on negotiated curriculum and enquiry-based learning, where real tasks are undertaken. For example, designing and constructing a garden, organising and presenting an art show, conducting a survey for a local business and presenting the results or investigating the local industries. These units are diverse yet fit within 3 overarching guidelines:

Creating a product or process

Solving a real world problem

Conducting a community development project.

School Profile

375 Total student enrolments

Preschool / Preparatory Year – Year 7

Coeducational

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

- Single year level and composite class groupings
- Computers in each classroom and a computer lab for whole class lessons
- Social Skills approach underpinning our Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students
- Music, Health and Physical Education and Japanese language teaching specialists
- Reading Recovery teacher
- Support Teacher / Learning Difficulties and Guidance Officer support
- Consistency across year levels as outlined in our District and School Curriculum Framework
- All Key Learning Areas are offered: English, Mathematics, Science, Studies of Society and the Environment, Health and Physical Education, The Arts, Technology, Languages Other Than English.
- Students are assessed against specific learning standards

- Standards are moderated among year levels and across schools in Mt Isa
- Specific local needs are made possible through the curriculum units (eg 75th celebrations for the school prompted a local history unit among upper primary classes)

Extra curricula activities

- Instrumental Music Teachers (Woodwind, Percussion and Strings)
- After School Sports Program
- School Age Care Service (P&C)
- Choir
- Student Leadership positions (Captains, Vice Captains, House Captains, Student Councillors)
- Rockpop Mime
- ANZAC Day ceremonies
- Rodeo events and Mardi Gras parade entry
- Garry Nixon Balloon Day event
- Optiminds

How computers are used to assist learning

Happy Valley State School has 2 – 4 computers in each classroom as well as a computer lab with 18 computers for whole class lessons.

Our major project for 2007 will be the upgrade of our connectivity across the school. Our Module A (Classrooms for years 1-3) will be cabled in semester 1 and a wireless connection will be set up for our Prep Classrooms.

At Happy Valley State School we aim to provide enhanced learning opportunities with ICT integrated across the curriculum.

Social climate

Happy Valley State School has a good reputation and we continually work to enhance and improve our positive, friendly atmosphere. We offer support and care through the following:

Whole school social skills lesson and program

Student council (Year 4-7 representatives)

Weekly Guidance Officer (GO) support

Part-time Support Teacher/Learning Difficulties (STLD) based at Happy Valley State School – coordinates student support plans, teacher aide programs and student assessment and intervention. The STLD also liaises with other support personnel (eg Speech Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, other visiting advisory staff such as teachers of Hearing Impaired or Visual Impairment).

Involving parents in their child's education.

Parents and carers are encouraged to become involved in their children's education and time at Happy Valley State School. Involvement includes a range of ways:

Parent information sessions

Parent helpers at tuckshop, library, classrooms, sports activities

Parents attend camps or excursions

Parents visit classes for one-off or regular lessons

Parents are trained in reading and writing programs and become regular volunteer support personnel

Parents become involved in Preschool &/ or school (Year 1-7) Parent & Citizen (P&C) Association groups

Parents become involved in our Year 4-7 community projects

Parents come along to our class culminating activities throughout the year

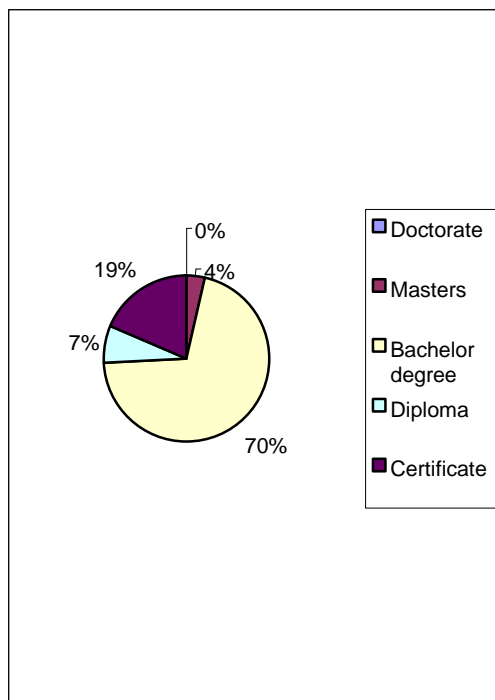
Parents attend our weekly parades (Monday 8:30am)

Parents attend our special events or support fundraising ventures

Our staff profile

Qualifications of all teachers.

Highest level of Attainment	Percentage of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	1
Bachelor degree	19
Diploma	2
Certificate	5



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2006 was \$15, 950.24

The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

- District Literacy Team (coaching sessions, Writing criteria sheets)
- Grammar workshops
- Key Teacher training and coaching sessions
- Reading workshops – guided reading and analysing running records, Shared texts
- English Syllabus workshops
- Indigenous Bandscales workshops
- Making the Jump (ESL – Indigenous languages) workshop
- Maths syllabus inservice
- Maths Investigation workshops
- Curriculum planning days with Curriculum Coordinator
- Curriculum Coordinator network meetings, Principal Business Meetings
- Curriculum moderation in school and across town

Our staff profile

- In school coaching sessions with all teachers
- Brain gym workshop
- Support-A-Reader, Writer, Number workshops for Teacher Aides and Parents
- Partners For Success – Cultural training and awareness session
- What works? (Indigenous Education workshop)
- Prep Training
- ICT SOE training
- First Aid training
- WHS Training
- Code of Conduct training
- Student Protection training
- Financial training

The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2006 was 69.2 %

Average staff attendance

For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 94% in 2006.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

From the end of the 2005 school year, 76 % of staff were retained by the school for the entire 2006 school year.

Performance of our students

Student attendance

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2006 was 91.6 %.

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	88%
Writing	74%
Number	84%

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	510	594	659	
	Average score for Queensland	535	608	679	
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2006	97.8 %	72.2 %	74.5 %
		2005	85.2 %	60.5 %	87.5 %
Writing	Average score for the school	508	634	669	
	Average score for Queensland	522	627	696	
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2006	91.3 %	100.0 %	95.7 %
		2005	88.9 %	72.1 %	97.5 %
Numeracy	Average score for the school	479	580	627	
	Average score for Queensland	529	599	653	
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2006	63.0 %	80.6 %	54.2 %
		2005	96.3 %	63.6 %	82.5 %

Other Key Outcomes

Value added

Happy Valley State School is located in Mount Isa, which is one of North Queensland and Australia's premier mining areas. Happy Valley SS, which was originally opened in 1932 as Isa Mine State School, officially became Happy Valley State School in 1971 when it was relocated to the current Happy Valley site. Due to changes in the local mining operations Mt Isa experiences fluctuations in population, which has recently increased again due to the resources boom. Happy Valley state School community reflects Mount Isa's multicultural population and includes approximately 15% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students through specific classroom Indigenous and English As A Second Language support programs.

Performance of our students

Over the past few years staff and parents have been working hard to improve the grounds and facilities at our school. Projects, from successful commonwealth and state government grants, have included:

- Refurbishment of our library
- Establishment of a new P-2 Adventure Play Fort
- Refurbishment of our tuckshop
- Purchase and implementation of computers for classrooms
- Installation of new shade for our fort areas
- Upgrade of our administration area and the establishment of a school memorabilia display
- Upgrade of furniture for classrooms

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Over the past 3 years parents have shown they are increasingly satisfied with both Learning and School Climate on the SOS. With the introduction trend in both areas, with an above state average recorded in School Climate. In student SOS data, the satisfaction rates are in the very satisfied to satisfied within both the state average range. There is a slightly downward trend in learning and an upward trend in School Climate. Through our Behaviour management committee and our whole school focus on 'School Improvement' our staff has been focused on improving the school climate, especially in the areas of staff leadership and capacity building, social skills and creating an open and welcoming environment in both the school and within classrooms.

In 2006 77.6% of students and 77.8% of parents were satisfied that they were getting a good education. Our target for 2007 is an 87% satisfaction rate for both students and parents. Our results are very similar to the state target of 80%.

In 2006 89.5% of parents were satisfied that the school is a good school. This result is above the state average. Our target for 2007 is 92%.