


QUEENSLAND STATE SCHOOL REPORTING - 2010

Ramsay State School (0029)

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Principal's foreword

Introduction

At Ramsay State School we pride ourselves on providing individual instruction in a family oriented small school environment. We achieve this through an interesting and varied curriculum program based around tasks which are real-life and connected to the child's real world. We foster in students respect for each other and community and a love of learning.

Our School Values are:

1. Respect
2. Fairness
3. Honesty
4. Life Long Learning
5. Responsibility
6. Enjoyment

Our school Behaviour Plan focuses on students accepting responsibility for their actions in a supportive and positive environment.

We are fortunate to have strong community support for our school, with community members giving of their time and skills to benefit student learning. Parents play an important role in our small school in all areas of curriculum, extra-curricular and social activities. We pride ourselves on providing an individualised, high quality curriculum which produces students who are knowledgeable, good thinkers, creative, good communicators, participants in society and reflective and self-directed learners.

We value our motto 'Learning Through Understanding'.

Mr David Gordon (Principal)

School progress towards its goals in 2010

In 2010 the school committed to improve in many areas and the ones of note are:

1. Achieved five Highs and three Mediums in our external Curriculum Audit.
2. Wrote and implemented NAPLAN Action Plans for all students,
3. Three students attaining an "A" grading in State-wide QCAT Science Task
4. Constructed new Undercover Games Area,
5. Participated in Moderation of students' tasks between schools and
6. Continued the Developing Performance Framework for teaching staff to improve their teaching skills.

Future outlook

In 2011 Ramsay State School will continue its absolute focus on instilling the essentials in numeracy and literacy. The relentless focus on reading will continue and include a renewed emphasis on writing and comprehending.

A new Curriculum Plan focuses on delivering the essentials is being implemented. This plan mandates best practice pedagogy delivered through the use of KLA skill lessons, Rich Tasks, Blueprint and Teacher Generated Tasks.

At Ramsay State School we believe that learning occurs in context, not as separate subject areas that have little or no interplay between them. Give children a real life task where:

1. they can see a connection to real life,
2. they are given support to succeed by peers, teachers and community members,
3. they are expected to learn knowledge and then apply it to produce a purposeful product and finally,
4. there is a real recognition of difference.

Historically, we believe that education has often worked on curriculum the wrong way, as this quote suggests.

“We do things backwards. We think in terms of getting a skill first, and then finding useful and interesting things to do with it. The sensible way, is to start with something worth doing, and then, moved by a strong desire to do it, get whatever skills are needed.”

John Holt (1967) How children learn. New York: Pitman

The focus on IT (Information Technology) skill development and integration into curriculum areas will continue to raise student and parent satisfaction levels.

We will continue to develop.

- First Steps In Reading Plans
- Seven Steps To Writing Success Plans
- Natural Maths to be explored
- All NAPLAN Targets to be achieved
- Devise NAPLAN Plan for Whole School
- Develop and implement Reading Program for the whole school
- Implement school EATSIPS Plan
- Achieve Student Attendance Targets
- Joint Enterprise between students, companies, community members and staff targeting improving sustainable practices. Business led by students that fall below NMS and coordinated by school funded teacher.
- Ensure New School Curriculum Plan is aligned with National Curriculum for 2012 readiness
- Align Whole School Assessment, Monitoring Framework with National Curriculum Guidelines
- Implement Curriculum Audit recommendations
- Ensure compliance with Time Allocations for English., Maths and Science
- Develop whole school programs, Scope and Sequence for National Curriculum for multi-age classrooms
- Continue to refine our Developing Performance Framework with all staff.
- Continue to hold meetings with all staff after they have self-reflected on the criteria for effectiveness within their job and rated themselves.

- Provide PD that meets Systemic, School or Personal Priorities through a transparent open system.
- Continue to work with the community to assist in worthwhile ventures.
- Continue to provide training programs for all parent helpers.
- Work with students, staff, parents, organisations and the community to audit and write our School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP).
- Continue to make available the school facilities to meet community needs.
- Hold community events once per term, eg bushdance, movie nights etc
- Continue to support students in a holistic education, including interschool sport and involvement in regional teams and carnivals.

Our school at a glance

School Profile

Coeducational or single sex: Coeducational

Year levels offered: P-7

Total student enrolments for this school:

Total Enrolment	Girls	Boys	Enrolment Continuity (Feb 2010 – Nov 2010)
23	6	17	100%

Characteristics of the student body:

Ramsay State School is a small school located on the rim of the Great Dividing Range, approximately twenty-five kilometres south of Toowoomba. The school is the central focus of the Ramsay District. Traditionally a farming community, the area is increasing in popularity for those who desire a rural lifestyle, and thus is becoming semi-rural in nature. The Hodgsonvale Playgroup meet each Friday at Ramsay State School utilising the Ramsay Community Club House and the Ramsay State School covered sandpit and playground area.

Class sizes – Proportion of school classes achieving class size targets in 2010

Phase	Average Class Size	Percentage of classes in the school			
		On or under target	Under Target	On Target	Over Target
Prep – Year 7	21	100%	100%	0%	0%
Year 8 – Year 10	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Year 11 – Year 12	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
All Classes	21	100%	100%	0%	0%

School Disciplinary Absences

Disciplinary Absences	Count of Incidents
Short Suspensions - 1 to 5 days	1
Long Suspensions - 6 to 20 days	0
Exclusions	0
Cancellations of Enrolment	0

Our school at a glance

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum

At Ramsay State School we teach individuals, not grade levels. From our fortnightly Learning Management Meetings we analyse student data to write programs that meet each child's needs. Our curriculum is based on student needs, regardless of age level. Where possible, we integrate subjects to best replicate real life. In real life we often use multiple subject disciplines together to solve problems.

Other offerings :

Chess Instruction and competitions

Interschool sporting exchanges with other small schools

Junior Performance Festival (biennial)

ICT skill development with a computer/student ratio of 1:2.

Extra curricula activities

Chess

Variety of School Sport Opportunities – District/Regional/State

How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning

Students access a variety of software and peripherals in the course of their curriculum studies. Spelling, Grammar and Number Fact programs to reinforce class lessons, word processing, multi-media, spread sheet and the use of the interactive Smartboard to organise and present information. We also utilise digital cameras, cds and DVDs as they are all important tools that are integrated into student learning experiences.

Virtual Classrooms

We have set up e-learning classrooms that students can access 24 hours a day to enhance their development in all subject areas.

Social climate

The social climate of Ramsay State School is underpinned by high expectations of staff, parents and students that students behave in socially acceptable ways and accept responsibility for their actions. Ramsay State School has a positive school climate, high level of compliance with school rules and values and is a happy place to learn.

Our school at a glance

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

School opinion survey results show that our school community is very supportive of our school with above average levels of satisfaction on questions of student safety, quality of education provided and that our school is a good school.

Performance measure	Result 2010
Percentage of parents/caregivers satisfied that their child is getting a good education at school	100%
Percentage of students satisfied that they are getting a good education at school	92%
Percentage of parents/caregivers satisfied with their child's school	100%
Percentage of school workforce satisfied with access to professional development opportunities that relate to school and systemic initiatives	71%
Percentage of staff members satisfied with morale in the school	100%

Involving parents in their child's education.

Parents are very involved in their children's education at Ramsay School. Classroom assistance (before school reading club), participation in P & C activities, grounds care, tuckshop, excursions and sport are all areas we rely on parent assistance to ensure a broad range of opportunities are available to our students.

Reducing the school's environmental footprint

Ramsay State School has taken an active role in reducing its environmental footprint. Our actions have been:

Developing units of work that focus students' attention on the sustainability of our planet. From this knowledge, students must make an action plan to improve our environmental footprint and promote this into the wider community.

Won an art competition in 2010 based around the topic- "Creating a futuristic vision for a carbon smart community."

Our school at a glance

Utilising Worm Farm and Bokashi bins to eliminate our food waste within the school. The waste products are then reused as liquid fertiliser and compost for gardens.

Introduced a paper recycling program which works alongside a local business to reduce our paper waste. The community is also active in using this facility. Extra water tanks have been installed to reduce our water usage.

Year	Total	Electricity	Sewerage	Waste	Water	Gas	Other	Electricity KwH	WaterKL	GasMJ
2010	\$2,983	\$2,748	\$0	\$135	\$100	\$0	\$0	13,888	1	0
2009	\$2,363	\$2,084	\$0	\$0	\$95	\$0	\$184	11,927	0	0
% change 2009 - 2010	26%	32%	N/A	N/A	5%	N/A	-100%	16%	N/A	N/A

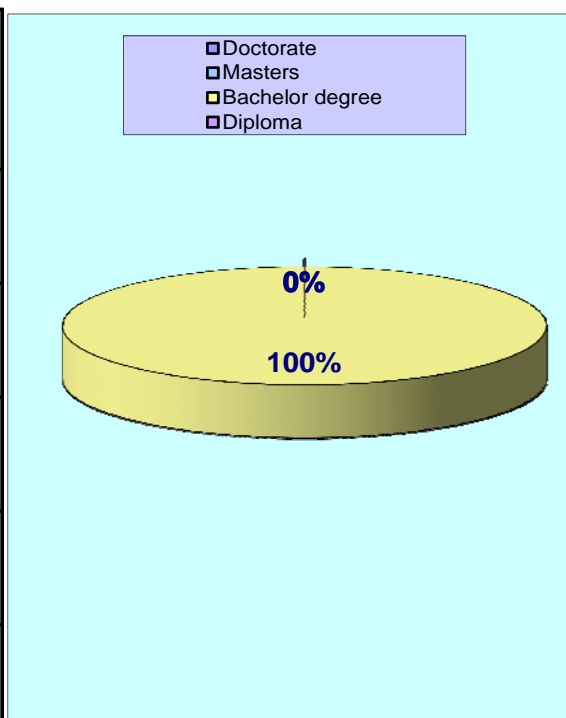
Our staff profile

Staff composition, including Indigenous Staff

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-teaching Staff	Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	6	4	0
Full-time equivalents	2	2	0

Qualifications of all teachers.

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



Our staff profile

Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2010 was \$6 230.00

The major professional development initiatives are as follows: The major professional development initiatives are as follows :

Teacher Relief for teachers and principals' meetings, Year 2 Net, Smart Classrooms, OneSchool Finance, Science, First Aid, Highlighting Writing and Literacy Conference.

The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2010 was 100%

The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2010 was 100 %.

Average staff attendance

For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders, the staff attendance rate was 97% in 2010.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

From the end of the previous school year, 95% of staff were retained by the school for the entire 2010 school year.

Performance of our students

Key student outcomes

Attendance

Student attendance - 2010

The average attendance rate for the whole school as a percentage in 2010 was 94%.

Student attendance for each year level

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12
D/W	D/W	D/W	D/W	D/W	94%	D/W					

** D/W- Data withheld due to student cohort being less than five students.**

Description of how non-attendance is managed by the school

Non-attendance is managed in state schools in line with the DET policies, SMS-PR-029: Managing Student Absences and SMS-PR-036: Roll Marking in State Schools, which outline processes for managing and recording student attendance and absenteeism.

At Ramsay State School students are to provide a note when they are away to explain their absence. In many instances parents phone the school when a child is absent; this is a practice that we encourage. If no note is forthcoming, a phone call is made by staff to home to investigate the absences. Roll marking occurs at the commencement of the day and again at 1.40pm.

Performance of our students

Achievement – Years 3, 5, 7, and 9

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.

Our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are available via the MySchool website at <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>

To access our NAPLAN results, click on the MySchool link above. You will then be taken to the *My School* website with the following ‘Find a school’ text box.



The screenshot shows a search interface titled "Find a school". It contains two main search sections. The first section is "Search by school name", which includes a text input field and a yellow "GO" button. The second section is "Search by suburb, town or postcode", which includes a text input field, two radio button options for "Sector" (Government and Non-government), and a yellow "SEARCH" button.

Where it says ‘**Search by school name**’, type in the name of the school whose NAPLAN results you wish to view, and select **<GO>**.

Read and follow the instructions on the next screen; you will be asked to accept the **Terms of Use** and Privacy Policy before being able to access NAPLAN data.

If you are unable to access the internet, please contact the school for a paper copy of our school’s NAPLAN results.

Achievement – Closing the Gap

Our school has no indigenous students at present. Although this is the case we are developing units of work to target indigenous perspectives within our school so that all students have an understanding of our countries past and present. This is extremely important if we are to develop responsible, informed citizens