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Principal's foreword

Introduction

Seven Hills State School is a co-educational Band 7 State School located at 152 D'Arcy Road in Seven Hills, Brisbane, Queensland. It is situated in the Brisbane South Education District, within the Greater Brisbane Region.

The suburb of Seven Hills is a small suburb (approx. 7km from the Brisbane CBD) nestled between the suburbs of Camp Hill, Morningside and Norman Park in the state electorate of Bulimba.

The school officially opened in 1960 with an enrolment of 148 students. The school has a current enrolment of 270 primary students in Prep to Year 7. In 2008 there were 9 classes in Years P-7 in multi-age groupings including one Prep/1 multi-age class, and 2 preparatory classes.

Seven Hills State School is a neighbourhood school serving the educational needs of students from a range of family backgrounds and structures. The socio economic status of families varies with the majority of parents employed in the trade, industry, professional, government and retail sectors while some families require welfare support. Many families own their homes in the local area; however, increasing levels of mobility have resulted in many families (55%) from outside our local community choosing to come to Seven Hills because of its education practice and facilities.

Future outlook

Seven Hills SS is keen to continue our tradition in academic excellence. Teachers are engaging in professional conversations in literacy and we have used flexible staffing to release teachers to lead the teaching of literacy and numeracy within our school.

As part of Federal government funding the school is also planning to upgrade B Block and install interactive white boards in our middle to upper year's classrooms. A performing Arts precinct will be re-established with the refurbishment of our old activities room. Plans have also been approved to build new library and multi-use hall.

We will continue to foster close links with our local community and continue to encourage our older citizens to participate in school life. Teaching staff will continue their close relationship with our community representatives

Our school at a glance

School Profile

Total student enrolments for Seven Hills: 218 (Day 8, 2008)

Year levels offered: Prep – Year 7 (7/5; 6/5; 4/3 (2 drafts); 2/1 (2 drafts); Prep/1; Prep (2 drafts) – 2008 configuration)

Coeducational or single sex: Coeducational

Curriculum offerings

Seven Hills State School has consciously built strong traditions of

- multi-age education
- positive relationships
- innovative teaching based on the perceived future needs of children,
- the systematic development of thinking skills,
- providing a wide range of co-curricular cultural and sporting activities,
- providing a wide range of co-curricular academic activities which challenge children's abilities,
- maintaining a supportive school environment which fosters cooperation and demands student safety, free from physical violence and verbal abuse
- ensuring a strong professional learning community

Our distinctive curriculum offerings include:

- *Philosophy* lessons from Prep - 7
- LOTE (French) from Yrs Prep - 7
- Art from Prep - 7

Extra curricula

- Cello and Violin ensemble
- Sing for Fun – Junior Choir (Prep – Year 2 students)
- Senior Choir (Yr 3-7 students)
- Environmental Studies –
 - Bushland,
 - nature trail
 - vegetable gardens,
 - fruit orchard
 - Adopt-a-farmer Program

Inter-school sport

Extra curricula activities

- Friday Fundays
- Wildwords
- Under 8's Big Day Out

How computers are used to assist learning:

Computers are used in a number of ways within the classroom. The programs used the vast majority of the time are open ended and are included in the Microsoft Education Agreement pack. The main programs used are: Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint and Microsoft Photostory3. The students write reports, prepare presentations and undertake research activities using the computers and the internet. Every student from Year 4 is given their own username and password for computer and internet access. Internet safety procedures are taught to all students at the beginning of each school year.

Social climate

Seven Hills is proudly multi-age. Children in any class may range across a two to three year age span. Children commonly stay with the same teacher for more than one year but internal transfers occur if it is considered in the child's interest. Teachers operate with a high level of professional autonomy. Teachers use a diverse repertoire of direct, indirect and collaborative teaching tactics with the whole group, small groups and individuals. The need to attend deliberately to developing higher order thinking skills is recognised.

The Seven Hills community recognises that its members have the right to work and play without disruption or disturbance in a positive, safe, secure and accepting environment. Our responsible behaviour plan emphasises that "every child has the right to learn and every teacher a right to teach. We believe that parents and teachers must work together to ensure that students develop responsibility, self-control, respect and courtesy. We also believe that constructive discipline grows out of warm student-teacher relationships.

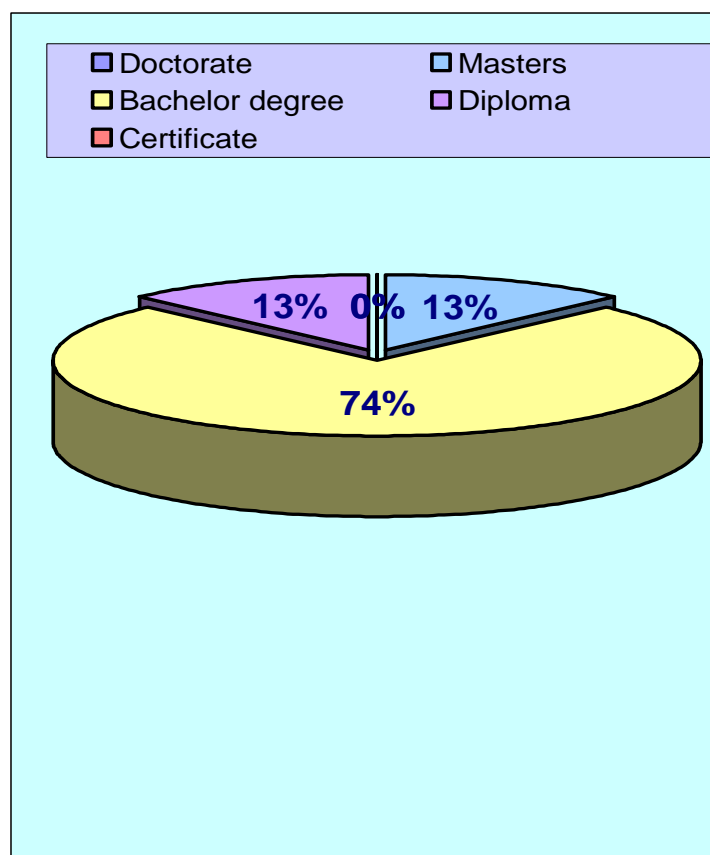
Involving parents in their child's education.

- Parents are encouraged to be a part of their child's education.
- Parents are kept informed of their child's progress through the process of formal and informal dialogue processes. Formal dialogue includes 2 written reports and 2 interviews per year. Informal dialogue include: end of unit presentations, class letters, and where appropriate emails and or phone conversations.
- Parents are invited to accompany students on school excursions.
- Parents are always welcome to help in the classroom. Examples include helping with reading, writing, maths groups and science activities.
- Parents are also involved in the school through their representative body – the P&C Association. Through this body the school and the parents work in close harmony to plan and prepare and resource the activities happening with the school teaching learning environment.
- A Community Care group has been in operation since 2008. This group supports the parent community. Each class has a representative who coordinates and liaises with parents and the P&C. Each term an event is held (Sunday Funday) to bring our school community together to meet and relax for a social occasion where the community can enjoy our school grounds and promote a sense of community.

Our staff profile

Qualifications of all teachers

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	2
Bachelor degree	12
Diploma	2
Certificate	0



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was \$16 782.40 .

The major professional development initiatives were as follows:

- Culture of Thinking Professional Development Conference and follow up sessions
- Unpacking the Essential Learnings and QCARF
- One School training and implementation
- Literacy 5 day training for P-3 teachers
- The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2008 was 100 %.

Average staff attendance

For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 97% in 2008.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

From the end of the 2007 school year, 92 % 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 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	422	520	569
	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 92 %	100 %	100 %
Writing	Average score for the school	434	511	611
	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 96 %	100 %	100 %
Spelling	Average score for the school	387	466	540
	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 100 %	90 %	100 %
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school	409	500	560
	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 96 %	100 %	94 %
Numeracy	Average score for the school	430	507	631
	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 100 %	100 %	100 %

Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net

	Percentage of students not requiring additional support
Reading	82%
Writing	94%
Number	82%

Value added

Enrolments continue to increase.

The school has grown from 162 in 2007 to 271 in 2009 (an increase of 4 classes).

Word of mouth is continuing to bring interest from parents of students from a wide geographic area as the community tell of the great learning culture that has been developed here, and the excellent academic results that our students are achieving (e.g. ALL students in years 3, 5 and 7 were at or above national benchmark standards for numeracy).

Performance of our students

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Parent satisfaction: 94%

Student satisfaction: 91.5%

Teacher satisfaction: 100%

