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Principal's foreword

Introduction

Northgate State School is a great school. There are three distinct reasons for this honour:

Great Staff

Great Parents

Great Students

A smaller school in the big city, a community school where everyone knows everyone, where kids can be kids and where learning focuses on having a strong emphasis on the basics whilst also preparing children for their future utilising engaging technology in innovative ways.

This report will focus on the achievements of Northgate State School over the past twelve months. Whilst there are nearly 1000 words in this document, a full picture can only be obtained by coming in and having a look at our school in action. We welcome you to take advantage of that opportunity.

Future outlook

Northgate State School will be undertaking a Triennial School Review in 2007. This will involve a detailed investigation of data, stakeholder opinion and achievements over the past three years, and will inform the future direction of Northgate State School for 2008-2010.

Curriculum is a national debate at present and one that Northgate State School will be monitoring closely as new syllabi are developed and released.

A continued focus on Literacy and Numeracy will drive the agenda for Northgate State School with all staff undertaking training in Literacy during 2007 – 2008.

Our school at a glance

School Profile

Northgate State School is a state co-educational Primary School situated in Amelia Street, Nundah, an inner northern suburb of Brisbane. The school offers the Preparatory Year to Year 7. The school in 2006 maintained an enrolment of just over 200 students. Classes consist of mainly single teaching spaces. Cooperative planning and assessment occurs across the school. In 2006 there were 9 classes in the school and 2 Preschool groups.

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

Northgate is a truly wonderful relatively small school by metropolitan standards secretly hidden in the quiet streets of Nundah. We have just over 200 students.

Our aim is to prepare our students for their future. Education has changed, the world is rapidly changing to become a place where knowledge is not everything. We need to prepare students to not only have knowledge but to be active in seeking it on their journey as lifelong learners.

We value the traditional methodologies of teaching however without dismissing the need to be future focused. Our staff continually focus on good research to engage our Y and Z generation clients to do their very best!

Northgate's strengths are in quality teaching and technology. Every teacher is allocated their own laptop computer, every classroom is fitted with a data projector, surround sound system and an interactive SMARTboard. Imagine the possibilities for your children! We don't just teach - we engage and interact in learning!

Not only are we proud of our technology but even more so we're proud of the way it is utilised and the skills of our staff. Many classroom lessons are interactive and students have made movies, created, developed and programmed robots, and even claymation movies (See the school website to view the work of our students). We've even video-conferenced via the internet with the University of Queensland's Scanning Electron Microscope without leaving the classroom.

Extra curricula activities

During 2006 students were offered the opportunity to participate in a variety of extra curricular activities. Some of these include:

- Interschool Sport – Summer and winter seasons with City District Schools.
- Nudgee Beach Environmental Education Centre - Extension Days and Outdoor Education Programs
- Year 6/7 Camp to the Sunshine Coast
- Year 4/5 Camp to the Gold Coast.
- School Discos
- School Christmas Concert
- Various Nationwide Science, Maths, English, Spelling and Computer Skills competitions.
- Arts Council
- Classroom related excursions to real life experiences

2006 School Annual Report

Our school at a glance

How computers are used to assist learning

- Every classroom teacher has been allocated a dedicated Laptop Computer. These laptops have been utilized for planning curriculum, implementing programs, email and internet facilities, developing and recording assessment and finally reporting to name a few.
- Each classroom has also been equipped with an electronic whiteboard, data projector and surround sound system.
- Finally all teaching staff are committed to developing their skills and use of computers. Northgate State School was the first school in Queensland to have the entire teaching staff fully accredited with the ICT certificate. Teachers submitted planning, work samples, assessment pieces and responses to specific questions to an external accreditation group before achieving the milestone. Not only do the teachers have access to the technology, they know how to use it to enhance learning in their classrooms.
- The school also has two computer rooms for class use as well as small banks of computer in the middle to upper classes.

Social climate

Northgate State School students come from a range of backgrounds and are catered for within the realms of the school program. The school has a Guidance officer and a Support Teacher Learning Difficulties, a visiting Speech Language Pathologist and visiting English as a Second Language Teacher. In 2006 we utilised flexible staffing arrangements to employ an additional teacher minimising class sizes, enhancing relationships and the ability for focused support for students by teachers.

Students and Parents surveyed in 2006 rate the school very highly when it comes to feeling safe at school, being treated fairly and whether they are happy to go to this school. Consistently Northgate State School rates higher than similar schools and well above the state average with regards to stakeholder responses in this area.

Involving parents in their child's education.

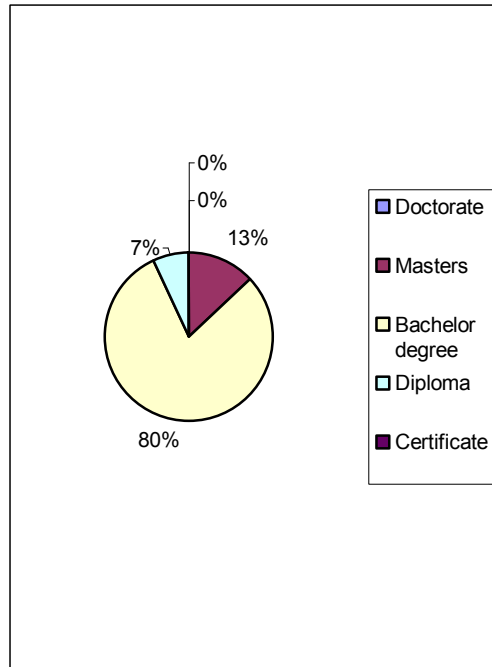
We strongly encourage parents, grandparents and friends to take an active role in the education process.

Every contribution helps to make a difference –the whole community of Northgate State School prides itself on working together to raise our kids. Parents are involved in our school in a number of ways (not limited to below):

- P & C Association - provides opportunities for parents to be involved in the strategic direction of the school.
- Parent/teacher interviews - parents are able to talk and work directly with their child's teacher to focus not just on improving learning outcomes but also to discuss any concerns regarding their children's development.
- Volunteer - as classroom helpers, tuckshop helpers and fundraising assistants.
- Attend Parent Information Sessions, Discussion Forums and Parent/Teacher interviews on a number of occasions during the year.

Qualifications of all teachers.

Highest level of Attainment	Percentage of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	13
Bachelor degree	80
Diploma	7
Certificate	0



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

- The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2006 was \$7331 .

The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

- Senior First Aid and Asthma First Aide and Treatment
- Innovations Conference
- Teacher Aides and the ASD Child
- Team Teach Training
- Purchasing Policy
- Early Childhood Grammar
- Early Childhood Conference
- Conflict Resolution
- Subscriptions and attendance at Professional Development Network and Teacher Learning Network functions.
- Drawing Workshops
- ICT Certificate
- Technology – use of and implementation of I.T. in the classroom.
- New English and Mathematics Syllabus
- The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2006 was 100%.

Average staff attendance

- For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 95% in 2006.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

- From the end of the 2005 school year, 100 % 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 94.7 %.

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	81%
Writing	72%
Number	78%

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		532	596	662
	Average score for Queensland		535	608	679
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2006	96 %	77% %	88% %
		2005	100 %	90.9 %	95.8 %
Writing	Average score for the school		538	623	751
	Average score for Queensland		522	627	696
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2006	100 %	97 %	100 %
		2005	76.9 %	81.8 %	95.8 %
Numeracy	Average score for the school		514	579	686
	Average score for Queensland		529	599	653
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2006	88 %	81 %	82 %
		2005	100 %	100 %	66.7 %

Other Key Outcomes

Value added

During 2006 Northgate State School utilised flexible staffing and other funding opportunities to enhance learning outcomes for targeted children. The School's Special Needs Committee took advantage of external or additional funding opportunities to target students who were "at risk".

Outcomes from such initiatives include:

Season for Growth Program being implemented

Additional funding to support students in care of the state

Additional funding to target 'at risk' ATSI students. Students involved in the program demonstrated significant gains in their reading comprehension levels

Significant gains have been made in the area of technology and the utilisation of ICT's to engage students in learning.

This is evident by:

All staff being accredited with ICT Certificate

Accessibility and utilisation of ICT resources within the school

Student engagement in lessons and enhancement of student and teacher skills in the use of computers for word processing, presentations and finally movie and claymation making.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

In 2006, Northgate State School's Satisfaction Rating for each stakeholder group was higher than that of the state and similar schools in every performance area.

Please check the following addresses to see our 2006 School Opinion Survey Results:

- <http://northgatss.eq.edu.au/nss/performance/Parents.pdf>
- <http://northgatss.eq.edu.au/nss/performance/Staff.pdf>
- <http://northgatss.eq.edu.au/nss/performance/Students.pdf>