

Performance of our students



PO address	Amelia Street Nundah Qld 4034
Phone	07 3370 2333
Fax	07 3370 2300
Email	admin@northgatss.eq.edu.au
Website or Contact Person	www.northgatss.eq.edu.au

Principal's foreword

Introduction

It is with great pride that I present the 2007 Annual Report for Northgate State School.

2007 was an action packed adventure from day one with each term promising exciting adventures in learning for all year levels. The school participated in a triennial school review strategically planning and setting goals for the next three years.

Northgate provides a unique experience for inner city Brisbane students nicely hidden in Amelia Street Nundah situated amongst the trees protected from the hustle and bustle of city life and the dangers of busy roads. A community school where everyone knows everyone, 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 provides a brief snapshot of the activities and performance of Northgate State School during 2007. To truly experience the atmosphere of a great learning environment in a student centred world you'll just have to come and visit. We welcome prospective parents, students, friends and community members to see the wonders of state schooling in action.

I still boast loudly and proudly that Northgate State School is the best school in Brisbane for three sole reasons:

Wonderful Staff

Fantastic Parents

Amazing Students

Future outlook

The major aim for Northgate State School to achieve over the next three years is:

To develop an engaging, consistent learning program based on the developments of the Queensland Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Framework. This program needs to have included set "Gateways of Success" for each year level consistent with the standards developed by QCAR. Effective and efficient internal monitoring processes need to be developed in line with this Whole of School Curriculum Reform to ensure smooth and effective transitions through the early and middle phases of learning.

To ensure we achieve this vision, during 2008, our main focus areas will be in ensuring as many staff as possible complete the mandated state funded Literacy Training and enhancing our numeracy scope and sequence based on the Essential Learnings developed by Queensland Curriculum Corporation and released in February 2008.

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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 2007 maintained an enrolment of just over 200 students. Classes consisted of mainly single teaching spaces. Cooperative planning and assessment occurs across the school. In 2007 there were 9 classes in the school inclusive of 1 Preparatory group.

Total official student enrolments for Northgate State School: 206

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

- Each class curriculum is broken into three main areas. Literacy, Numeracy and Integrated Studies (Incorporating SOSE, Science, The Arts, HPE and technology)
- The School offers Japanese for LOTE (Languages other than English)
- Specialist Support Programs also offered at Northgate State School include SAT (Support-A-Talker) – an early years oracy program, Seasons for Growth (Personal Development in change management for children)
- Out of School Hours Care – Jabiru OSHC
- Sporting program for Year 4-7 consisting of Aussie Rules, Touch Football, Athletics Training and Softball.
- Instrumental Music Program
- Choir
- Religious Instruction Program
- The Great Race – Cross Country Preparation Initiative
- Student Council

Extra curricula activities

- Students are offered opportunities throughout the year to participate in a number of extra curricular activities. These include but are certainly not limited to:
- City District Representative Sports
- Choir
- Instrumental Music
- Music Camps
- Sports Clinics
- Class and Interest group excursions
- Year 6/7 Camp
- Student Council
- Nudgee Beach Environmental Education Centre - Extension Days and Outdoor Education Programs

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- School Discos
- School Christmas Concert
- Various Nationwide Science, Maths, English, Spelling and Computer Skills competitions.
- Arts Council

How computers are used to assist learning

- Every classroom teacher has been allocated a dedicated Laptop Computer. These laptops have been utilised for planning curriculum, implementing programs, email and internet facilities, developing and recording assessment and reporting, just to name a few.
- Each classroom has also been equipped with an electronic whiteboard (Smartboards), data projector and surround sound system ensuring that every student has access and that the use of technology is not prohibited by timetables and access to equipment.
- 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.
- On average each classroom has four computers for student access as well as access to the computer POD consisting of 14 networked computers.
- Northgate State School was one of the earlier schools in Queensland to be provided with the Education Queensland Managed Operating environment which has greatly enhanced the efficiency of the network and support to technical assistance ensuring our computers are well maintained and ready for student use at all times.

Social climate

The success of Northgate State School's performance can be directly attributed to the climate emanated by our whole school community. In school opinion surveys Northgate continually outperforms state and like school averages.

In the area of school climate Parent responses rate in the **Very Satisfied** range. Parent responses include:

That your child is happy to go to this school	100% in satisfied range
About the behaviour of students at the school	89.6% in the satisfied range
With student discipline in the school	86.2% in the satisfied range
That your child is safe at this school	96.6% in the satisfied range
That your child is treated fairly at this school	89.7% in the satisfied range

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.

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Involving parents in their child's education.

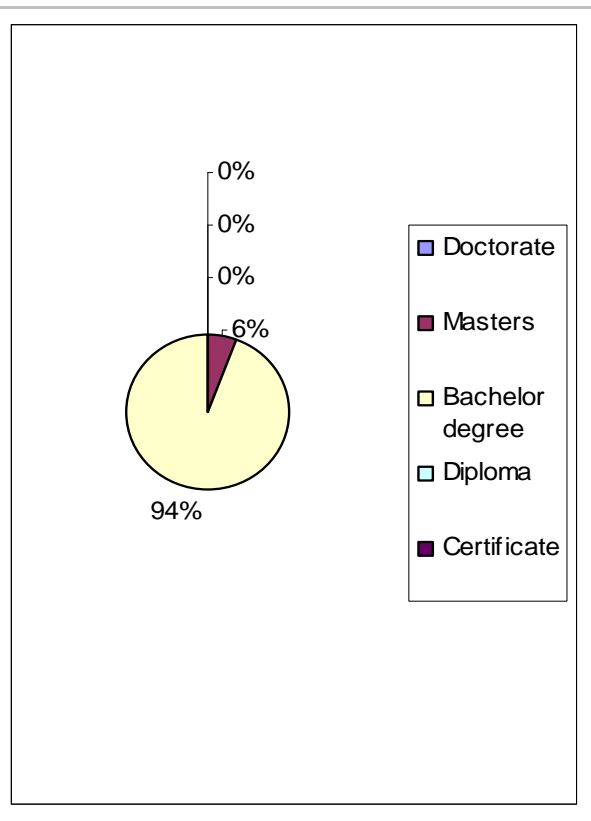
Northgate State School recognises that we live in a very diverse world where many parents work and families lead busy work and social lives. That being said it takes a village to raise a child and our village consists of staff, parents, students, grandparents and friends. We strongly encourage all stakeholders 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, supervisors for class excursions, taxi drivers to various extra curricular activities, tuckshop helpers and fundraising assistants.
- 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	1
Bachelor degree	16
Diploma	0
Certificate	0



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Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

- The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2007 was \$7977 .
- The major professional development initiatives are as follows:
- Teacher Aide Literacy Training
- CPR Recertification
- ICT Pedagogical Licence
- Asthma First Training
- Support-A-Talker Training
- Functional Grammar
- Numeracy
- The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2007 was 80 %.

Average staff attendance

- For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 97% in 2007.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

- From the end of the 2006 school year, 68 % of staff were retained by the school for the entire 2007 school year.

Student attendance

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2007 was 95 %.

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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	96
Writing	96
Number	92

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		526	630	691
	Average score for Queensland		527	606	672
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	89 %	76 %	96 %
		2006	96 %	77 %	88 %
Writing	Average score for the school		520	615	701
	Average score for Queensland		523	600	681
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	89 %	86 %	96 %
		2006	100 %	97 %	100 %
Numeracy	Average score for the school		502	602	667
	Average score for Queensland		521	588	648
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	86 %	76 %	88 %
		2006	88 %	81 %	82 %

Other Key Outcomes

Value added

Northgate State School is proud of the achievements of students and holds a fine tradition of advancement with regards to student outcomes. Being a relatively small school our data can be distorted by the performance of annual cohorts and it can be difficult to identify significant trends. An analysis of data indicates students demonstrate positive levels of growth as they continue to progress at Northgate State School. Our aim is to ensure that all students demonstrate a distance travelled similar to or above their state-wide cohorts as they progress through key schooling junctions.

Information Communication Technologies (ICT's) are a strength of Northgate State School's Staff and the school boasts excellent resources for student and staff use. Teachers utilise this technology to better engage students in learning. It is the intention of our school to further enhance our skills in this area to provide our Y and Z generation clients with an education preparing them for their future. Further links to the following ICT support networks will guide us in the right direction for the next three years:

Interactive whiteboard support group

Local and national companies (Origin Energy – Solar Schools Program)

Smart Classrooms

Local and national software companies

Northgate State School has an active Special Needs Committee. This committee consists of the Support Teacher; Learning Difficulties (ST;LD) and the Principal with fluid attendance by all classroom teachers as needs arise and progress reports or updates are required. The special needs committee manages the intervention needs of students with learning difficulties and learning disabilities, the intervention needs of students demonstrating gifted and talented attributes, monitoring of attendance of students, student welfare and student protection issues and well as professional support and advice for all student related issues. Northgate State School values the skills and benefits the position of ST;LD brings to our school by allocating an additional staffing allocation annually to provide enhanced services such as 'seasons for growth' and other student welfare programs.

Northgate State School students also have the opportunity to participate in the University of New South Wales Competitions. In 2007 the students who participated received the following awards:

Science	3 Distinctions, 3 Credit and 8 participation
Mathematics	4 Distinctions, 3 Credit and 18 Participation
English	1 High Distinction, 1 Distinction, 8 Credit and 5 Participation
Writing	5 Credit and 7 Participation
Spelling	4 Distinctions, 3 Credit and 9 Participation.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Northgate State School has excellent School Opinion Survey Results.

Please check the following addresses to see our 2006 and 2007 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>
- <http://northgatss.eq.edu.au/nss/performance/Parents07.pdf>
- <http://northgatss.eq.edu.au/nss/performance/Staff07.pdf>
- <http://northgatss.eq.edu.au/nss/performance/Students07.pdf>

Northgate State School conducted our own survey of parents during 2007 as part of our Triennial School Review. The following is some of the feedback comments we received on that survey:

- Good small school with enthusiastic caring teachers
- As a school with children from varied racial and ethnic backgrounds it is generally free from bullying and racial vilification which my children experienced at other schools
- Bullying and disruptive behaviour properly addressed
- Northgate SS rocks!
- All staff is to be commended on the job they do. I am glad my son is a student at such a caring and friendly and focussed school. I do not feel my son misses out on any learning tools by attending a smaller school
- I have found NSS to be a great place. I've enjoyed seeing the multipurpose room being finished, new playground, new music room and stage and shade all being completed. The school is slowly growing
- We have moved to Bracken Ridge and do not want to move our kids from this school as we really think it's a fantastic friendly and positive school
- I've had children in this school for a lot of years including one that has moved on to high school and I have been very happy with this school. I would recommend this school to anyone and have done in the past. My children continue to grow through the encouragement of the teachers and staff at NSS. I can't think of a better place for them during these important times in their life. Thank-you all for your support over the years
- Very happy thus far. I very much like that my daughter in Prep is familiar with who Mr Duncan is and feels comfortable with his role
- We like the fact that N is a small school with a strong sense of community. We'd like to see this maintained if possible. A special thank-you to for the efforts of Ms Low, Karen and Sue who teach Prep. Their enthusiastic efforts are much appreciated.
- Great School.
- I appreciate my son's teacher and school staff very much
- Northgate is a great school. Coming from a much larger school shows the difference in closeness of staff and students.
- We are more than happy with Northgate. I think it's indicative of how good a school is by how loved the principal and staff are. I have seen so many touching moments where kids have approached Mr Duncan or teachers and you have appeared genuinely engaged and interested in the kids. The smiles I've seen on the faces after these encounters speak volumes.