

NORTHGATE STATE SCHOOL

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Principal's foreword

Introduction

It is with great pride that I encourage you to read the following School Annual Report for 2005. At Northgate, we engage our students in all aspects of our school's academic, social and cultural program. We are a small school that fosters a caring and supportive environment for our students. Class numbers are kept small due to the school using its resources to employ an additional teacher for class teaching. Working together teachers, students and parents strive to achieve the goals for the year ahead, maximising the very best outcomes for all learners.

Highlights

Learning

- High standard of reading in the lower school with 100% of Year 3 students achieving above the national benchmark, due to whole school literacy approach focusing on the value of reading. Year 5 and 7 results all above 90% indicate the wonderful foundation the students have received in their early years of schooling.
- In Numeracy, 100% of our Year 3 and 5 students achieved above the national benchmarks. These achievements reflect upon the continued improvement in all our results of a strong whole school literacy & numeracy program.
- The school christened our new Outdoor stage with a wonderful musical featuring the talents of all our classes.
- A Science Expo in August was the first of an annual event to highlight student engagement in the wonders of Science. The whole day event featured water testing due to our close association with Nudgee Beach Environmental Education Centre, Flight Simulations (Hendra Secondary College), Aboriginal Technology, Model Planes and Robotics.
- Staff also introduced the students to new technologies including robotics and Claymation.

Cultural

- The first year of Instrumental music allowed the school to set a clear direction to involve more children in the musical program. In 2006, the school will form a band when more students enter the program. The plans for the future will see continued strong involvement across school in Music and Choral programs.
- Opportunities for all students in Years 4-7 to participate in the school intra and interschool sports program have been developed for 2006.

Facilities

- Constant improvements to the school include a new telephone system and a new Precinct. A lightning strike on the school in December 2005 destroying a large amount of electronic equipment will be a challenge for the year ahead to replace these items.



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Key outcomes and goals achieved

Increased Usage of Learning Technologies

The staff undertook training in key areas to further utilize Learning Technologies. Key activities included Claymation and Robotics. The skills learnt by staff were transferred and enhanced by the students. Celebrations of those achievements were published on the website and within activities at the school including the Science Expo.

Develop Three Year Plan for Music

The first year of the three year plan was implemented with an initial group of students enrolled in the program. A close liaison with the Classroom Music Teacher and the Instrumental teacher has further developed plans for 2006 and beyond including a purpose built area and further activities to engage the community.

Professional Development Plans for Teachers

All teachers established plans to increase their understanding, knowledge and skills so that these plans could be achieved for the betterment of the school and staff.

Future outlook

Continued emphasis on teaching and learning in literacy and numeracy. A focus on the explicit teaching of writing will be a goal for 2006 to improve the standards of the students in writing in a wide range of Genres.

A strong middle phase focus to further foster links formed between the primary and secondary school.

Development of new Code of School Behaviour.

Students from Years 4-7 to be further involved in team sports activities and increase involvement in physical activity Year 1-7.

Further development of The Arts including instrumental and choral music with provision of opportunities for as many students as possible.

Foster greater involvement of community members in school activities through better promotion and targeting of groups.

Facilities improvements including: Future plans for the enhancement of facilities in the Preschool that will enhance Teaching and Learning including opening up the existing veranda, new kitchen and upgrading toilets; Seek Replacement of Asbestos roofing; Resolve drainage issues around A Block.

Construction of a Music area and rooms for Specialist Support Staff using Investing in our Schools funding.

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 Preschool to Year 7. The school enrolments have grown from 174 in 2000 to 236 in 2005. Classes consist of mainly single teaching spaces. Cooperative planning and assessment occurs across the school. There are 9 classes in the school and 2 Preschool groups. Class numbers are kept small due to the school using its resources to employ an additional teacher.

Curriculum offerings

The school curriculum is developed around the eight key learning areas and integrated units. Numeracy and Literacy are a priority in every aspect of Northgate State School life. The Jolly Phonics program features in the lower school as well as a very successful reading program.

As well as attending professional development associated with the updated or production of new work programs from newly released syllabus documents, the school staff attended a number of professional development activities associated with the direction of education as well as areas of interest and or need.

Additionally there is a high level of ICT utilised across all areas of the curriculum including:

Networked computers in all classrooms.

1 computer pod with data projection facilities.

Internet access to all classrooms.

Students are provided with extensive opportunities to participate in extra curricula activities including

School camps

Instrumental music and a variety of choirs

Interschool sport

Social climate

At Northgate State School our students come from a range of backgrounds and are catered for by school programs. 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 2005, we introduced a Cool Schools program that involves Students acting as Peer Mediators for their younger students in the playground.

Data from our School Opinion Surveys indicate that the Community School relationships are very strong with parents valuing that their child is treated fairly at school and that staff are highly approachable.

Parents and the community

Parents are encouraged to participate in their student's education at a number of levels. The P & C Association provide opportunities for parents to be involved in the strategic direction of the school. Through 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. Parents are also encouraged to volunteer as classroom helpers, tuckshop helpers and fundraisers for sports events.

Parents are invited to attend Parent Information Sessions and Parent/Teacher interviews on a number of occasions during the year.

Performance of our students

Key outcomes in the early and middle years

Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net

Performance measures: percentage of students not requiring additional support	
Strands	Result (%)
	2005
Reading	92.3%
Writing	92.3%
Number	88.5%

Our reading, writing and numeracy results for the Queensland Year 3, 5 and 7 Literacy and Numeracy Tests.

Strands	Measures	Results for 2005		
		Year 3	Year 5	Year 7
Reading	School average on Queensland Test	534	661	683
	Queensland average	548	614	689
	Percentage of students at school above national benchmark	100%	90.9%	95.8%
Writing	School average on Queensland Test	506	612	761
	Queensland average	509	606	746
	Percentage of students at school above national benchmark	76.9%	81.8%	95.8%
Numeracy	School average on Queensland Test	551	661	634
	Queensland average	534	605	663
	Percentage of students at school above national benchmark	100%	100%	66.7%



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Our staff profile

Professional engagement in 2005

The staff development priorities for 2005 were based upon the individual Development plans of staff and a school focus on new Curricula being introduced and investing resources in the training of staff to take advantage of new technologies.

In-service was carried out on Pupil Free Days and after school with many staff taking advantage of offerings available on holidays and weekends.

Resources and training was provided for staff to undertake specific skilling in the use of Digital cameras and Videos, Claymation and Robotics.

Year Level meetings focused on the P-3 and middle schooling areas with a future focus on the Prep implementation.

Staff have continued to value the well-being of students with fifteen staff updating their qualifications in First Aid and Resuscitation.



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