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Principal's foreword

Introduction

Northgate State School provides a quality education in a caring and supportive environment. Children are given every opportunity to develop to their full potential and so be able to confidently take their place in society.

With a strong focus on the basics, combined with current research and professional knowledge, our aim is to provide an engaging and relevant curriculum that prepares our students for their future.

As Principal of Northgate State School I have the best job in the world. I work with the most amazing staff, wonderful supportive parents and students that work hard to achieve their goals and live life to the full. I am proud to report on the school's 2008 achievements.

This report provides a snapshot of the past 12 months as we progress the agenda detailed in the Northgate State School Strategic Plan 2008-2010.

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

It was great in '08' at Northgate and we're CONTINUING TO SHINE in '09!

With much occurring at the federal level with regards to curriculum it is fitting that one of our triennium goals focuses on a whole school curriculum reform.

With the National Curriculum Agenda finding some tactility Northgate State School will ensure that our curriculum aligns with the national agenda whilst also providing our students with learning opportunities relevant to their context.

Enrolments continue to rise at Northgate with just over 200 in 2006 to up to 240 predicted in 2010. The Building the Education Revolution Agenda promises to see some very exciting additions to our school.

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 2008 maintained an enrolment of just over 200 students. Classes consisted of mainly single teaching spaces. Cooperative planning and assessment occurs across the school. In 2008 there were 9 classes in the school inclusive of 11/2 Preparatory groups.

Total official student enrolments for Northgate State School: 211

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

- Every classroom is fully reverse cycle air-conditioned.
- Each class curriculum is broken into three main areas. English, Maths and Integrated Studies (Incorporating Literacy, Numeracy, 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, SAR (Support-a-Reader) and Seasons for Growth (Personal Development in change management for children) to name a few.
- Out of School Hours Care – Jabiru OSHC
- Sporting and Electives Program for Year 4-7 consisting of such programs as outdoor sports, drama, dance, scrapbooking, movie making, wood work and much much more..
- Instrumental Music Program.
- Choir.
- Religious Instruction Program.
- The Great Race – Cross Country Preparation Initiative.
- Student Council.
- Get Active Program 8:30am – 9:00am three mornings per week.

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

Our school at a glance

- Nudgee Beach Environmental Education Centre - Extension Days and Outdoor Education Programs
- School Discos
- School Christmas Concert
- Various Nationwide Science, Maths, English, Spelling and Computer Skills competitions.
- Arts Council

How computers are used to assist learning

- Technology and its effective use to enhance learning for students is a real strength of Northgate State School.
- Every classroom is equipped with its own electronic whiteboard (Smartboard), data projector, teacher assigned laptop computer, class assigned desktop computers and a surround sound system.
- Teachers regularly utilise their laptop computers for planning, implementation, recording and reporting of student assessment and achievement. Regular use of email, internet and intranet facilities enhances communication with all stakeholders and provides a gateway to real life and relevant learning episodes for students.
- The plethora of technology ensures that every student has access to and use of such equipment, when required, to boost learning without being limited to such structures as 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.
- Six Apple computers were purchased for the upper school specifically for their movie and multimedia making capability. The year 6&7 classes for 2008 made several movies throughout the year which were showcased at various school and community events.

Social climate

Thanks largely to the efforts of our Support Teacher: Learning Difficulties (Ms Pennie McDowell), a school chaplain commenced at Northgate State School two days per week. The School Chaplain (Ms Bek Ang) quickly developed a close rapport with students, staff and families. Bek is a wonderful addition to our school community and an amazing support to staff, students and parents alike.

Northgate State School truly emanates a traditional family atmosphere. Students know they 'have a job to do' when they come to school and work hard to achieve their goals.

In school opinion surveys Northgate continually outperforms state and like school averages.

Our school at a glance

In the area of school climate in the 2008 survey parent responses rate in the **Very Satisfied** range. Parent responses include:

That your child is happy to go to this school	96.5% in satisfied range
About the behaviour of students at the school	89.7% in the satisfied range
With student discipline in the school	93% in the satisfied range
That your child is safe at this school	100% in the satisfied range
That your child is treated fairly at this school	96.6% in the satisfied range

Not surprisingly, even the students think highly of the school climate – indicating the following in the 2008 school opinion survey.

That you are happy to go to this school	93.9% in satisfied range
About the behaviour of students at the school	81.6% in the satisfied range
That you are safe at this school	93.9% in the satisfied range
That you are treated fairly at this school	81.6% 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 Support Teacher Learning Difficulties and an intervention manager on site. A Speech Language Pathologist, Guidance Officer and English as a Second Language Teacher work with identified students on a regular basis.

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.

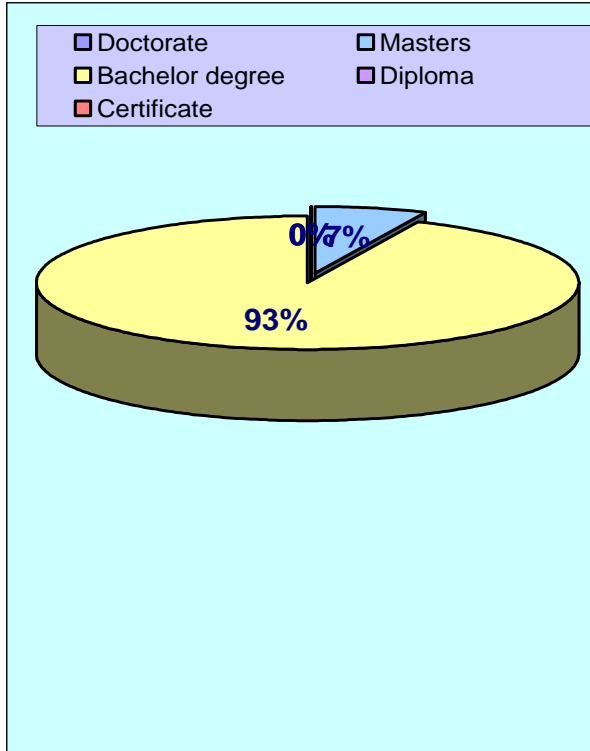
Every contribution helps to make a difference –the whole community of Northgate State School prides itself on working together to raise our kids. Parents are involved in our school in a number of ways (not limited to the below):

- 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.
- Sports – Parents volunteer their talents as sporting coaches and trainers for students in a number of different disciplines.
- External providers – Parents work with our teachers to provide exciting learning opportunities during our Year 4-7 elective program

Our staff profile

Qualifications of all teachers.

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	1
Bachelor degree	14
Diploma	0
Certificate	0



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

- The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was \$4750 .
- The major professional development initiatives are as follows:
 - Literacy Training for Teachers
 - Literacy Training for Teacher Aides
 - First Aide (Full Course) for all staff
 - Boys in Education
 - ICT
 - Crossing Cultures
 - Mathematics Program
 - Commbiz Banking
 - Early Years Conference
 - LOTE Conference
 - NAPLAN Marking Operation training
 - Anaphylaxis Management

Our staff profile

- Learning Place info session
- Schools Officer network seminar

- 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, 89 % of staff were 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 95 %.

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	376	466	518
	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%	83%	86%
Writing	Average score for the school	409	485	525
	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%	92%	89%
Spelling	Average score for the school	388	500	536
	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%	92%	96%
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school	387	487	514
	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 100%	92%	89%
Numeracy	Average score for the school	363	474	541
	Average score for Queensland	367.9	458.2	539.0

Performance of our students

	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	92%	92%	93%
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Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net	
	Percentage of students not requiring additional support
Reading	74%
Writing	95%
Number	79%

Value added

A particular focus on boys and their continued progression was a focal point of the 2008 school year. Key staff attended professional development by Ian Lillico (leading professional in the education of boys) and provided support to all staff on strategies to employ in the classroom.

2008 was the first year of the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy. As the NAPLAN data can not be directly correlated with its predecessor it is difficult to demonstrate a measurable distance travelled of students for this year. To support measurable distance travelled by students Northgate State School has also introduced the Progressive Achievement Tests in mathematics for all year levels. It is envisaged that this data, combined with NAPLAN and classroom data will provide a well balanced, moderated and comprehensive analysis of student achievements.

It must be noted that we are very proud of the achievements of our students. 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. Our data does indicate that students demonstrate positive levels of growth as they continue to progress at Northgate State School. Our aim will always be to ensure that all students demonstrate a distance travelled similar to or above their state-wide cohorts as they progress through key schooling junctions.

An important part of preparing students for their future is also ensuring we play an active role in environmental sustainability. During 2008 Northgate State School installed three large water tanks (approximately 150,000L), a 2kw solar energy system and worked with a Victorian Company to develop a website detailing our energy production and usage. Early indications detail that we produced well in excess of 2000kw of electricity in 2008 saving over 1.8T of greenhouse gas emissions + our last Brisbane City Council rates notice indicated a decrease in town water usage by over 80%.

Northgate State School students also have the opportunity to participate in the University of New South Wales Competitions. In 2008 the students who participated received the following awards:

Mathematics	1 Distinctions, 5 Credit and 5 Participation
English	1 Distinction, 5 Credit and 4 Participation
Writing	2 Credit and 6 Participation
Computer	3 Distinctions, 5 Credit and 5 Participation.

Performance of our students

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 - 2008 School Opinion Survey Results:

<http://northgatss.eq.edu.au/nss/performance/SOS.php>

It must be said that in EVERY area for EVERY respondent area Northgate State School demonstrates an average satisfaction level higher than the state and like school benchmarks.

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.