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Principal's foreword

Introduction

The intent of this report is to provide parents and the community with information which is common for all State and Non State schools in Queensland. It provides an overview of the highlights and successes of Elanora State School during 2007.

The Elanora School community is drawn from the immediate area of Elanora. It identifies strongly with the area and parents have actively sought out a school which, they think, best suits their child's needs. This results in a school community who are supportive of the school and its staff; who have chosen a high quality educational environment and who expect that their children will enjoy a safe and secure learning environment.

Elanora is justifiably proud of our record of academic achievement. Given the diversity of our student clientele and a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds, these successes have been the result of a coordinated and planned approach to curriculum delivery.

Our ongoing success has been based on the following key tenets:

- ◆ High expectations for all groups of students;
- ◆ Setting if standards and targets
- ◆ Relentless approach to achieving success;
- ◆ Establishment and promotion of a performance culture;
- ◆ A belief by all staff that student outcomes can and will be improved through explicit teaching and focussed learning episodes;
- ◆ An understanding that teachers can make a difference and that all students can engage in higher order learning;
- ◆ A strong commitment by all that Literacy development is everybody's business and is embedded in the teaching of all key learning areas;
- ◆ A solid understanding and support for teacher professionalism;
- ◆ A rejection of the "one size fits all" model.

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Future outlook

During 2008, our school will work on the following activities and strategies:

GOALS FOR 2008

Curriculum and Teaching

- 2008 – The Year of the Classroom
- Challenging, inquiry based curriculum delivery
- Integration of ICT
- Trial of integrated tasks
- Refinement of intervention resources – support teachers, teacher aides
- LOTE reinvigoration (Years 5, 6 & 7)
- Development of classes of Excellence in ICT
- Focus on inquiry based science program delivery.
- Implementation of QCARF (Queensland Curriculum and Reporting Framework) including essential learnings, standards, assessment tasks
- Implementation of new KLA syllabus documents
- Consolidation of Prep Implementation and formulation of Early Years Philosophical Statement and Direction – Early Years Action Plan

ICT

- Preparation for implementation of MOE
- Development of Smart Classrooms Initiative – Computers for Teachers, ONE school

Students

- Consolidation of Smart Choices
- Implementation of Smart Moves
- Safe school environment – student pastoral care, values education, review of behaviour management consequences, whole school strong approach to unacceptable behaviour
- Implement Dare to Lead Program

Staff Training and Development

- Implementation of Flying Start Induction Toolkit
- Continuation of Literacy Training for staff
- Implement Developing Performance Framework

Facilities

- Air conditioning of Performing Arts Centre
- Provision of additional adventure playground for students in upper year levels
- Address directives from workplace health and safety officers
- Admin block modifications including floor coverings and HOC Office

School Profile

Elanora State School was established in January 1983, with an enrolment of 200 students. This has increased rapidly and at present Elanora State School has 1140 students currently enrolled for the 2008 school year.

The Elanora school community has a diverse student population with a core of middle class families and a significant number from the lower rental areas of Palm Beach and Currumbin. There are significant numbers of students from one-parent families adding to the complexity of the school. The school attracts many students from interstate and overseas. In recent years the school has sustained strong enrolments from New Zealand and the Polynesia whilst a steady number of new overseas students are relocating from England.

Curriculum offerings

The Curriculum Program covers all Key Learning Areas – English, Mathematics, Science, The Arts, Study of Society & Environment, Technology, Health and Physical Education and Language Other Than English. The Language Other Than English (LOTE) is Japanese.

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

- ◆ Extension classes (academic excellence, classes of ICT excellence).
- ◆ High school enrichment - interface with 7/8 at Palm Beach Currumbin High School and Elanora State High School.
- ◆ Pastoral care- behaviour management revision, Seasons Program, Special Needs Committee, Buddy Program, teacher aide for behaviour management, carpentry sessions, social skills and anger management programs, Kids Hope Program in conjunction with the Uniting Church.
- ◆ Support Services Department promotes inclusion and provides programs, resources and support for the educational adjustments being made for students with disabilities.
- ◆ Performing Arts, Drama and Dance (including Specialist Teachers).
- ◆ Chess Club
- ◆ Sport – inter, intra, athletics, swimming, cross country
- ◆ Choirs, bands , ensembles
- ◆ Technology teacher
- ◆ Media Lab
- ◆ Interactive whiteboards used extensively across the campus.
- ◆ Under 8's Week
- ◆ Support a Reader / Writer / Maths Intervention Program
- ◆ Gold Coast Eisteddfods, Fanfare, Brisbane Festival of Music

- ◆ HOC
- ◆ Comprehensive Prep Program.
- ◆ Camps for Years 5 - 7

Extra curricula activities

- ◆ "Elanora Idol" Performing Arts plus Talent Quest
- ◆ Bike Safety
- ◆ Student Discos
- ◆ Band and Choir Concert
- ◆ SEAT Program
- ◆ Education Week
- ◆ Parent In-service SAR / SAW / SAM
- ◆ Positive Parenting Program (3P)
- ◆ Life Education
- ◆ University of NSW Testing/Competitions
- ◆ Wipe Out Waste Program
- ◆ HRE Program – Years 5-7
- ◆ Science Week
- ◆ Student Council

How computers are used to assist learning

The use of computers to assist and enhance learning commences in Prep and continues through to Year 7. There is a gradual increase in complexity and students are encouraged to work through a skill development program as well as use the ICT facilities as and when required. Both students and teachers use computers as a major communication tool, an integral part of their planning and presentation and as a source of enjoyment.

Research, multi media, word processing and design all form a major part of student usage and interaction with computers and teachers and students engage with ICT both formally and informally throughout the school year.

The introduction of on-line learning environments such as Blackboard have been successfully implemented in classrooms and teachers experienced in these programs have been mentoring other staff. Teachers are utilising Project Rooms, Travel Buddies, and On-line Chats via the Learning Place to set home tasks and provide interactive learning experiences for the children.

Children as young seven are preparing projects on Power Point.

Staff training in the use of ICT has intensified to ensure contemporary programs and hardware are utilised in our school.

The use of the interactive whiteboard has quadrupled and these are now a valuable teaching tool.

Social climate

Students and parents alike acknowledge that this school is their preferred option. They indicate overwhelmingly that they consider the school to be a safe learning environment in which students are comfortable with the teaching and administration staff; there is little bullying behaviour and where they are treated with respect and dignity. They also acknowledge the high expectations teaching staff place on student learning and the resultant outcomes they achieve.

Parents feel that Elanora provides their children with a quality education and have an expectation that this will lead to success across the curriculum. They indicate almost unanimously that they require the school to develop students who are actively engaged in learning.

Involving parents in their child's education.

Parents are heavily involved across the campus supporting teachers and students in the teaching learning process. Their involvement is multi lateral with some directly involved regularly in classroom activities, excursions and school productions.

Some demonstrate their support for the teaching learning process through involvement in both the Parents and Citizen's Association and School Council, providing advice and assistance to the School Administration at a strategic and operational level.

Still others provide voluntary assistance in the management and operation of the Uniform Shop, Book Store and School Canteen. All provide student support at varying levels of school management and they do so at a level and at a time when they feel most comfortable.

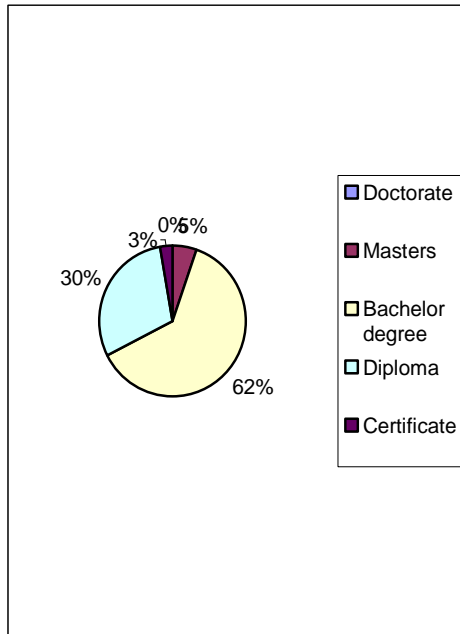
Almost 50% of the parent body at some stage throughout the school year provide explicit support for their child. Almost all parents are involved in 'at home' activities including assisting with project work, homework, sports preparation or cultural pursuits.

Many parents are completing their voluntary hours for the Certificate 111 in Education Support at our school and assisting with programs such as Support-A-Talker and Support-A-Reader.

All add to the richness of the education students receive at Elanora.

Qualifications of all teachers.

Highest level of Attainment	Percentage of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	4
Bachelor degree	46
Diploma	22
Certificate	2



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2007 was **\$ 41033.15**

The major professional development initiatives were as follows:

- Queensland Curriculum and Reporting Framework (QCARF)
- Essential Learnings
- Queensland Comparable Assessment tasks (QCAT) trials Year 4 math, Year 6 science
- Moderation Years 1 – 3; Year 4; Year 6
- Assessment Immersion
- English Syllabus inc. Functional Grammar
- Maths Syllabus inc. designing assessment tasks
- Prep Year Implementation
- Prep Continuity day Prep – Year 1
- Middle Schooling Conference
- ICT Certificates
- ICT Pedagogical Licence
- Aspiring Leaders Program

Our staff profile

- Boys in Education
- Guided Reading
- Diversity in Education
- First Aid

It is recognised by all staff at Elanora, that Professional Development serves to expand our knowledge, maintain and improve on our pedagogy; with the sole aim of improving student results. It is also recognised that all personnel employed on the Elanora campus access professional development to promote the highest quality educational opportunities for our student body.

The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2007 was **100%**

Average staff attendance

For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 97.3 % in 2007.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

From the end of the 2006 school year, 100% of staff were retained by the school for the entire 2007 school year.

Performance of our students

Student attendance

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2007 was 95.1%.

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	85 %
Writing	93.2 %
Number	89.5 %

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	545	618	687	
	Average score for Queensland	521	600	665	
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	97.4 %	81.9 %	90.0 %
		2006	97.4 %	90.3 %	95.3 %
Writing	Average score for the school	552	613	707	
	Average score for Queensland	518	594	675	
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	94.8 %	96.1 %	97.5 %
		2006	96.7 %	95.1 %	98.7 %
Numeracy	Average score for the school	531	615	688	
	Average score for Queensland	514	582	642	
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	93.4 %	91 %	91.5 %
		2006	89.5 %	88.9 %	96.0 %

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Other Key Outcomes

Value added

- ◆ This school recognises the high expectations the Elanora community has in student Literacy and Numeracy attainment. Intervention strategies in the Early Years of schooling are deemed integral to the improvement of student learning throughout the Primary years and this school demonstrates this belief through the provision of Support a Reader / Maths / Writer throughout Years 1 – 3. Further, a before school intervention program is conducted to provide extra support for the students in years one and two who are experiencing difficulties with their reading.
- ◆ This program identifies students at risk as early as possible and, as well as providing explicit support for students identified in the Year 2 Net, also provides continuing support for students in Literacy and Numeracy in Year 1 and 3.
- ◆ Learning Support programs which focus upon Literacy and Maths intervention are also delivered for students with learning difficulties at Elanora. These students are identified through referral from class teachers to the Special Needs Committee. Assessment, relevant programs, modifications and support are then provided by Specialist Teachers for Learning Difficulties working in this area.
- ◆ The Support Services Department at Elanora works closely with students, parents and teachers to provide Individual Education Plans and relevant adjustments to assist students with disabilities to access school programs and community. Educational adjustments required are identified for individual students. The Support Services Department then provide a range of services to students to support inclusion and implement these adjustments. Services can include teacher consultation, modifications to programs and materials, training of staff and students, provision of supporting programs in Literacy and Maths and Teacher Aide and Specialist Teacher time. Also provided are a range of alternative programs which promote and teach social skills, positive behaviour, self esteem and / or general living skills.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Parents indicate that:

93.4% consider that their child is receiving a good education at Elanora

91.9% consider that their child is safe at Elanora

91.9% consider Elanora to be a good school

Students indicate that:

93.3% consider that they receive a good education at Elanora

80.8% consider that they are safe at Elanora

96.7% consider that Elanora is a good school.

Staff indicate that:

98.8% are happy working at Elanora

95.1% consider they are safe working at Elanora

92.7% consider that their work efforts are worthwhile.