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Principal's foreword

Introduction

This annual report seeks to capture the major achievements of our school over the preceding 12 months. Ferny Hills State School has a proud tradition of providing a complete educational experience for all students. We believe strongly in educating for the 'whole child' and insist on students contributing as well as receiving from our community. Literacy and Numeracy are at the heart of what we seek to teach. It is our goal for every child to succeed to absolute best of their ability and accordingly we provide deep and timely intervention for students experiencing difficulty from Prep-Year 7. Information Technology is a critical tool for enhancing student learning and Ferny Hills is very well resourced in this area. Our teachers are constantly upgrading their skills and knowledge base to stay 'ahead of the game'. Our teaching team is dedicated and work very well as a team to ensure we collectively make a difference for our students. The essence of our school is captured in our vision which highlights our commitment to 'Active Minds Active Bodies and Celebrating the Ferny Way'

Future outlook

In 2009 we have identified 2 areas for improvement. We seek to further improve student literacy and numeracy performance across all measures and to better integrate e-learning principles into our teaching.

Our school at a glance

School Profile

Ferny Hills State School is a co-educational school of 544 students catering for students from Prep-Year 7.

Curriculum offerings

Our Distinctive Curriculum Offerings include.

A commitment to structured numeracy and literacy instruction in all year levels each day of the week. Our program strives to match the quality of teaching to the standard of work required for each year level.

Students who need more time to embed literacy and numeracy are provided with intervention to support their improvement.

All Prep students are screened for language readiness within the first term each year. Students requiring additional support are then provided with additional instruction for the first semester.

Extra curricula activities

Ferny Hills has developed a specific program for students in Years 4-7 designed to enhance their involvement in learning. Each term we offer our students a choice of up to 15 elective courses that they take part in for six consecutive afternoons each term. Our electives program is very well received by the students and is a popular addition to our curriculum program.

Our interschool sporting program involves all students from years 5-7 and allows students to be actively participating in organised physical activity for 30 weeks every year.

Our school musical is a highlight of our music program because it provides real and meaningful performance opportunities for our kids. The dedication and commitment of our teachers to this project is outstanding.

How computers are used to assist learning

Information technology is an increasingly important feature of our curriculum offerings at Ferny Hills State School. Computers are seen as a tool to enhance literacy and numeracy outcomes for students by opening up learning to the endless opportunities provided online and through other tools such as digital cameras, podcasts, online classrooms, blogs and wikis. Our teachers are actively experimenting with how new technologies can enhance student learning and are committed to integrating them into our teaching. Our school has two fully connected computer labs with 30 computers in each. Another computer pod is located in the library and each classroom also has access to several machines.

Social climate

Ferny Hills is a safe and supportive school with a strong commitment to values based education. We believe strongly in our values of; respect, commitment, honesty, responsibility, caring and compassion.

In the 2008 school opinion survey the following data supported this statement:

88% of students stated that they are happy to go to this school.

70% of students reported that they are safe at school (4% dissatisfied)

81% of parents are satisfied with student discipline.

94% of parents are satisfied that their child is safe at school.

100% of staff are satisfied that they get on well with the students at Ferny Hills.

91% of staff report that staff and students respect each other.

Our school at a glance

98% of staff are satisfied with staff community relations

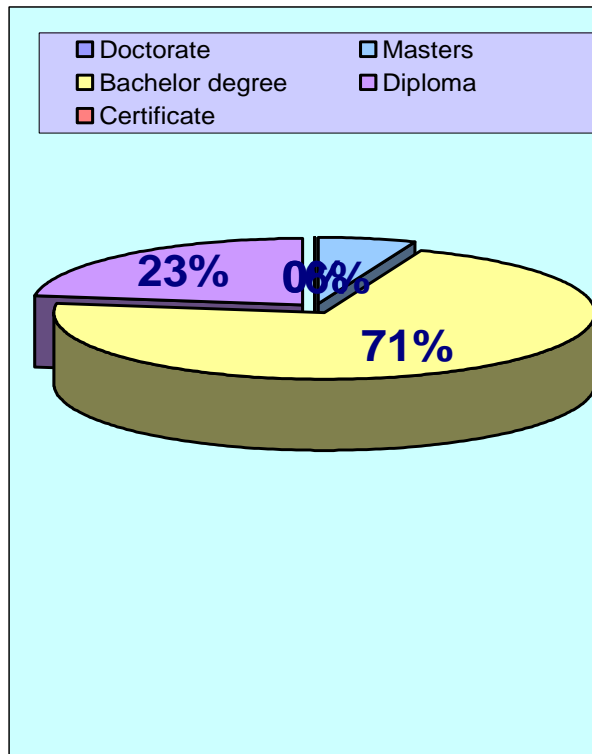
Involving parents in their child's education.

Our parent community is increasingly active in the life of our school. Our P and C have recently set up a parent room to allow parents to interact informally and formally as the need arises. Parent teacher interviews are conducted in term one and three and are designed to keep parents informed as to the progress of their child. A P and C newsletter is distributed each fortnight along with our newsletter, which can also be delivered electronically to every family. Parents in the lower school regularly help out in classes and this will always be encouraged.

Our staff profile

Qualifications of all teachers.

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	2
Bachelor degree	25
Diploma	8
Certificate	0



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 were \$15388.

The major professional development initiatives are as follows: Literacy professional development, Computers for Teachers initiative, One School training, Developing Performance Framework.

The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2008 was 93 %.

Average staff attendance

For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 96% in 2008.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

From the end of the 2007 school year, 95 % of staff was 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		373	463	545
	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	86 %	87 %	97 %
Writing	Average score for the school		396	478	534
	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	97 %	96 %	93 %
Spelling	Average score for the school		373	452	524
	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	93 %	90 %	90 %
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school		370	472	539
	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	88 %	92 %	94 %
Numeracy	Average score for the school		361	461	544
	Average score for Queensland		367.9	458.2	539.0
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	87 %	87 %	96 %

Performance of our students

Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net	
	Percentage of students not requiring additional support
Reading	86%
Writing	91%
Number	95%

Value added

Over the last 5 years Ferny Hills State School has made a significant difference to the behaviour standards of our students. Over that time the number of referrals for intervention or consequences has reduced from over 900 per year to less than 200 in 2008. Our students want to come to school, they want to learn and they treat each other with respect and courtesy for the most part. Twice each year we send parents a behaviour report that tells parents how their child's behaviour compares to the values we espouse. Each student rates themselves and has their teacher check to confirm the rating on each value.

We are committed to creating a community school. A school that teaches children what it means to contribute to a community and to make the world a better place in some small way. We actively support orphan students in a small town in Zimbabwe to get to school. We do this by supporting a local Ferny Hills charity who commits 100% of funds raised to the orphans. We support those in our own community experiencing difficulty. Our Chaplain is active in ensuring children experiencing trauma and upset in their lives have a safe place to go. Ferny Hills families treat their school as a place of community as well as learning

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Parent Satisfaction feedback.

90% of parents believe their child is making sufficient progress.

97% of parents are satisfied with the variety of school activities.

93% of parents believe their child is happy to go to our school.

93% of parents believe they are made to feel welcome at FHSS.9

90% of parents say that FHSS is a good school.

93% of parents believe their child is getting a good education at FHSS

Student Satisfaction Feedback

Student Satisfaction feedback.

88% of students are happy to go to FHSS.

93% of students believe FHSS is a good school.

Performance of our students

Staff Satisfaction Feedback

96% of staff are happy working at Ferny Hills.

98% believe there is a strong commitment to physical activity.

96% of staff agrees that this is a good place to work.