

# OUR SCHOOL AT A GLANCE



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## Principal's foreword

### Introduction

Ithaca Creek State School's vision is that of a learning environment which engages, enables and empowers students to think, create, communicate, investigate, participate, reflect and understand within the globalised society of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Our philosophy and practices are underpinned by the values of:

- ☆ Care and compassion
- ☆ Doing your best
- ☆ Fair go
- ☆ Freedom
- ☆ Honesty and trustworthiness
- ☆ Integrity
- ☆ Respect
- ☆ Responsibility
- ☆ Understanding, tolerance and inclusion



We believe every child should experience a learning environment which is challenging, structured, enjoyable and safe.

We believe children should become independent learners, able to work collaboratively to achieve their goals.

To support each student's success in learning, we believe our educational program needs to be built around a framework of basic skills in literacy, numeracy, social skills and technology.

## 2007 School Annual Report

## OUR SCHOOL AT A GLANCE

Our purpose is for each student to develop the skills, competencies and confidence to become:

- ☆ A knowledgeable person with deep understandings
- ☆ A complex thinker
- ☆ A responsive creator
- ☆ An active investigator
- ☆ An effective communicator
- ☆ A participant in an interdependent world: and
- ☆ A reflective and self-directed learner.

### Future outlook

- ☆ Investigate the factors that are resulting in the high achievement and engagement of all students and build upon this.
- ☆ Continue to improve our ability to cater for the individual needs of students and further develop in targeted areas particularly in relation to Gifted and Talented students and early years students.
- ☆ Continue to implement the Queensland Curriculum Assessment and Reporting framework (QCAR)
- ☆ Improve the learning engagement and achievement of all students by embedding the school's Early Years Philosophy and the Middle Phase of Learning Action Plan.
- ☆ Collaborate with parents/caregivers and members of the wider school community to encourage community participation and involvement in all aspects of the school
- ☆ Develop a "Facilities Master Development Plan" for the coming 10 years.
- ☆ Enacting the mantras:
  - ☆ We teach individuals, not classes
  - ☆ Teaching individuals, respecting individuality
  - ☆ A school of choice, not of convenience
  - ☆ A quality education in a caring environment

# OUR SCHOOL AT A GLANCE

## School Profile

Ithaca Creek State School is a Band 7 school situated in the suburb of Bardon. The school mostly attracts students from the neighbouring suburbs of Bardon, Ashgrove, Paddington, Red Hill and The Gap.

**Ithaca Creek State School is a coeducational school which currently caters for students from Preparatory to Year 7.**

We have a current enrolment of *350 students*.

The school has experienced a steady growth in enrolments over the past four years. With this growth has also come an expansion of cultural diversity.

Student attendance is of a high standard with a very small movement of students out of the school during the school year. There is a growth in enrolment throughout the year with the majority of the students coming from interstate and overseas.

The school operates a combined school and P&C budget. The P&C Association contributes funds amounting to approximately \$20 000 per annum.

The major revenue for the school comes from Education Queensland core and targeted funds. A small amount of funding, approximately \$5 000 is obtained by way of a parent voluntary levy.

Approximately \$15 000 dollars annually is obtained through the hiring of school facilities.

The school is well resourced and has no leased assets.

In 1999 the school community chose Enhanced Flexibility 1 as our preference for school-based management.

All major decisions concerning the school are discussed and approved at staff meetings and P&C meetings.

The school uses a program management structure of management under the two areas of Early years Education and The Middle Phase of Learning education.



Ithaca  
Creek's  
Queensland  
Readers  
Cup Team  
2008

# OUR SCHOOL AT A GLANCE

## Curriculum offerings

### Our distinctive curriculum offerings

- ☆ Student learning is planned through integrated learning opportunities across the 8 key learning areas framed by curriculum organisers. These organisers are a lens through which student learning is focused. Each organiser is based on a key KLA, with minor contributing KLAs.
- ☆ A Physical education program including Outdoor Education and/ or camps.
- ☆ Sports Clinics
- ☆ Classroom Music Program including Choir
- ☆ Instrumental Music program for strings and brass/woodwind/percussion. Extension music through *Wildcatz* program
- ☆ Sports Education Program – Soccer, Netball, Cricket, AFL, Touch Football
- ☆ German LOTE Program
- ☆ Active Maths Program
- ☆ Learning Support – intervention programs for special needs students with appraisal occurring as required
- ☆ Guidance Officer – Learning and counselling support
- ☆ Curriculum related excursions

### How computers are used to assist learning

Technology and ICTs are integrated into all units of work with an emphasis upon the use of computers as one tool that can be used for learning and research purposes.

Students use computers to

☆ Produce:	☆ Research / find:	☆ Present
☆ Graphs	☆ data	☆ talks
☆ Movies	☆ history	☆ displays
☆ Posters	☆ people	☆ presentations
☆ Brochures	☆ events	☆
☆ Assignments	☆	☆

☆

## OUR SCHOOL AT A GLANCE

### Social climate

Our school community uses the National Safe Schools Framework as our set of values which continue to be embedded within student social and academic learning. This component forms the basis of a whole school social skills program

Our Code of Conduct continues to be centred on 3 principles– RESPECT, SAFETY and LEARNING. We reviewed our Behaviour Management program to align strategies with these 3 principles and the National Safe Schools Framework.

Staff and students continue to integrate these two components to develop a shared understanding of their importance in learning successfully.

Students in years 6 and 7 participate a school based leadership program through which school leaders are elected as school captains, house captains and student council representatives. They also participate in a National Young Leaders program.

Students are provided an active forum for the students' participation in decision making processes in the school.

Several classes have a 'buddy' partnership system in place to support younger students. These partnerships are used in a range of classrooms and social situations.

Our P&C actively participate in strategic decision making processes and provide additional financial support to assist the school with implementation of programs that support student learning.

### Involving parents in their child's education.

The school has a very active and involved parent body. This involvement includes working in the classrooms, assisting in the Enrichment program, assisting with the coaching of sporting teams and running such school events as the Mystery Festival and Think Sports. There is high community expectation for student achievement.

Some of the areas for which parents seek out our school include:

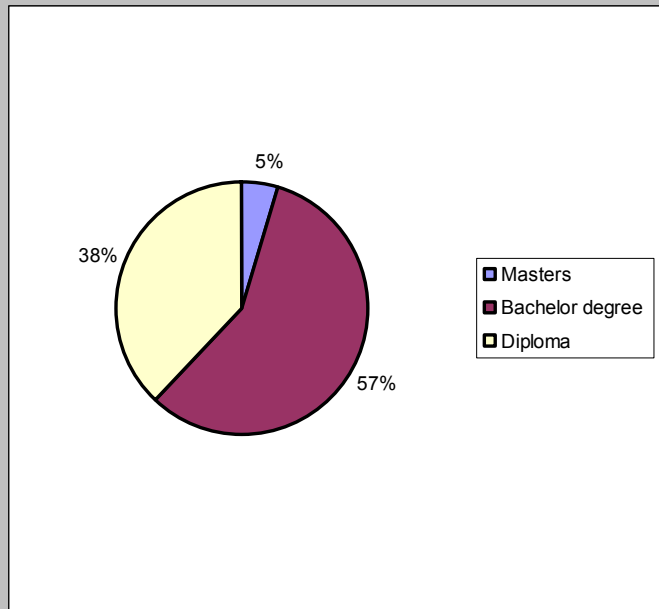
- ☆ Support for students with learning difficulties or disabilities
- ☆ Enrichment program
- ☆ Classroom music program and instrumental music programs
- ☆ Physical education program
- ☆ Supportive school environment for students and parents.

In addition to these areas the school community generally expects the school to provide a broad education in all areas including academic and social knowledge and skills so that students can participate effectively in community life and engage confidently with others.

# PERFORMANCE OF OUR STUDENTS

## Qualifications of all teachers

Highest level of Attainment	Percentage of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Masters	1
Bachelor degree	12
Diploma	8



## Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2007 was \$12 000+. It is to be noted that professional development not only included off-site presentations and course, but peer presentations and teachers from the local cluster.

- ☆ The major professional development initiatives are as follows:
- ☆ Queensland Curriculum Assessment and reporting Framework
- ☆ Literacy and Numeracy initiatives
- ☆ Gifted and talented recognition and support

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

## ***PERFORMANCE OF OUR STUDENTS***



RAAF Hot Air Balloon visited the school in 2008

### **Average staff attendance**

For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was **95%** in 2007.

### **Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.**

From the end of the 2006 school year, **94 %** 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 **96 %**

# PERFORMANCE OF OUR STUDENTS

## 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	95%	Writing	95%	Number	95%

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		564	641	716	
	Average score for Queensland		527	606	672	
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	100%	96 %	93%	
		2006	100%	98%	97 %	
		2005	100 %	89 %	100 %	
Writing	Average score for the school		529	669	703	
	Average score for Queensland		523	600	681	
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	100 %	96 %	98%	
		2006	100 %	100 %	100 %	
		2005	93 %	89 %	100 %	
Numeracy	Average score for the school		545	644	674	
	Average score for Queensland		521	588	648	
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	98 %	93 %	87%	
		2006	100 %	98 %	86 %	
		2005	100 %	96 %	94 %	

# PERFORMANCE OF OUR STUDENTS

## Other Key Outcomes

### Value added

- ☆ Our involvement in the *National KidsMatter* project provides a focus for engagement with the whole school community and the needs of individual children
- ☆ *Bounce Back* is the resilience program used by the staff with the students

### Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Percentage of students satisfied they are getting a good education	80%
Percentage of parents and caregivers satisfied students receiving a good education	80%
Percentage of parents and caregivers satisfied that school is a good school	88%
Percentage of staff satisfied with morale at school	80%



Queensland Athletics All Schools Cross Country Championships  
Queensland Champion under 9 girls team –Ithaca Creek.