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## Principal's foreword

### Introduction

Our motto at Mapleton State School is, "Top of the Range". During 2008, we continued to live up to this motto as we worked towards achieving our goals, as well as those of Education Queensland.

We are very proud of our school and maintain an excellent reputation in the community. One of our strengths is the relationships that are developed at the school between staff, students and parents and carers.

As a staff, we believe in working together to achieve the best possible learning outcomes for our students, as well as creating a safe and caring environment for all school community members. During 2008 we conducted a Triennial School Review which took into account recommendations for improvement from parents, staff and students

This School Annual Report provides a summary of our achievements during 2008, as well as providing information about where the school is heading in the future.

### Future outlook

We look to the future at our school with much enthusiasm and energy.

During 2009, using Building Education Revolution funding, our two main teaching blocks will be refurbished, and a new Library will be built next to existing classrooms. The school will also benefit from the provision of a second covered games area, and we will advocate for one of the covered games areas to be enclosed making it a space which can be used in all weathers.

Our Head of Curriculum leads the teaching staff in continually reflecting on their teaching practices with a view to finding strategies to engage our students in their learning. In 2009 we plan to develop a Numeracy Framework to complement the Curriculum and Literacy Frameworks that were developed in 2008. Our aim is to provide a strong and relevant curriculum that keeps up with current trends in education and prepares students for the future, while maintaining our strong focus on literacy, numeracy and technology.

We will continue to listen to our school community and maintain strong links with it, but our focus has always been and will remain, directed at our students and their social, emotional, academic and physical development. We are promoting our school as being a school of choice on the Blackall Range.

## Our school at a glance

### School Profile

Total student enrolments for this school: 220

Year levels offered: Prep – Year 7

Coeducational or single sex: Coeducational

### Curriculum offerings

#### Our distinctive curriculum offerings

Our school values achievement in all aspects of the curriculum: academic, sporting and cultural.

We believe that our children learn at different rates and with different learning styles, and that we should do everything we can to encourage all students to produce their best work at all times. As well as the regular key learning areas, Mapleton State School offers:

- Environmental Science (using Baxter Creek Environmental Site)
- Instrumental Music
- Support-a-Reader program
- Support-a-Talker program
- Mathematics Tournament participation
- Tournament of the Minds participation
- ICAS testing program participation
- Sporting, Athletics and Swimming programs, including inter school sporting activities

#### Extra curricula activities

- Cosmic Kids – a club for children interested in using our astronomical observatory.
- Active After School Care (through Mapleton Out of School Hours Care),

#### How computers are used to assist learning

- Mapleton SS has a computer laboratory equipped with a SmartBoard, and computers in each of the classrooms.
- Our ICT coordinator works with the teachers on skills development, or using the computers to complement the integrated units of work planned for the students
- Mapleton State School is successfully integrating Information and Communication Technologies [ICT] into all curriculum areas. Classrooms and the Resource Centre are fully networked, with access to the Internet and a diverse range of educational, multi-literacy software and multimedia programs.
- Our goal is to have SmartBoards in each classroom by the end of 2011.
- Children access programs that help promote fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, problem solving, thinking and team building skills. They publish stories, complete research, create digital presentations and present assessment items in a variety of formats.
- Students work with our I.C.T teacher each week to develop specific I.C.T skills and with classroom teachers when integrating computer technology with their other areas of study. We cater for a variety of learning styles through the use of computers across the curriculum.
- On-going professional learning for all staff is a priority, with staff attending various seminars and workshops at the I.C.T. Centre at the University of the Sunshine Coast and ensuring that ICTs are an integral part of all aspects of our curriculum offerings.

### Social climate

At Mapleton SS, the staff, students, parents and carers work as a team to maintain a happy atmosphere and:

- create a safe, supportive, respectful environment where success is encouraged
- develop in our students life skills of confidence, persistence, organisation, getting along with others and emotional resilience
- prepare our children academically and socially for a future characterised by rapid change, and
- encourage students to strive to achieve their individual potential

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

We encourage all parents to take an active interest in their child's education. We believe that if a child knows that his/her parents have a friendly relationship with school staff, then this will have a very beneficial effect on his/her attitude to school and his/her progress. Parents are encouraged to:

- Visit our school often and talk with the teachers;
- Participate enthusiastically in parent-teacher conferences, to discuss in detail development and attainments;

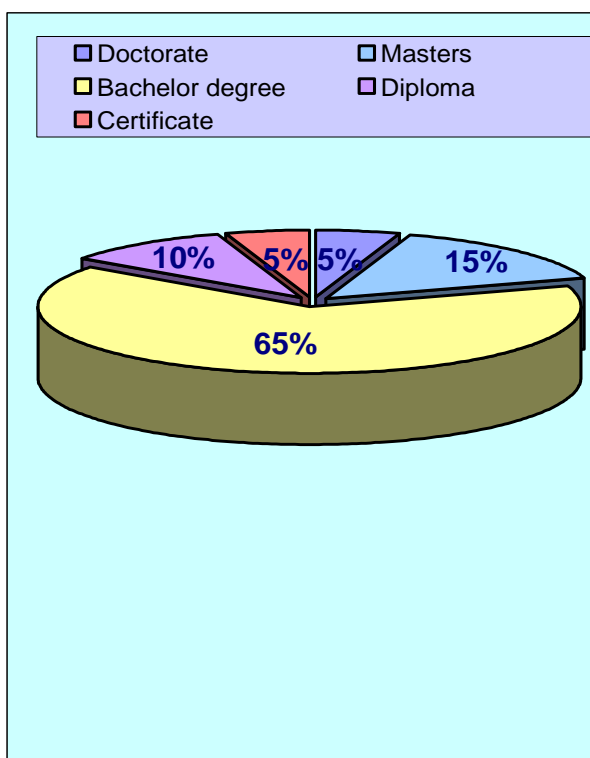
## Our school at a glance

- Speak to the principal and staff members about any issues they may have.
- Read with and to their children regularly;
- Supervise their children's homework and discuss with them what they are doing at school;
- Help out at school, if possible, even if only for an hour or so each week;
- Attend P&C Association meetings and assist at their fund-raising activities; and
- Read the school's weekly newsletter, as well as other correspondence from their child's teacher

## Our staff profile

### Qualifications of all teachers

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	1
Masters	3
Bachelor degree	13
Diploma	2
Certificate	1



### Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was \$16 351. The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

- QCAR
- Literacy, including specific training in developing writing skills for students
- Numeracy
- Science
- First Aid

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 96% in 2008. .

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

- From the end of the 2007 school year, 90 % 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 94%.

### 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		451	490	541
	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	100%	96%	97%
Writing	Average score for the school		434	500	523
	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%	96%	86%
Spelling	Average score for the school		413	474	507
	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	96%	92%	82%
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school		423	499	515
	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	96%	92%	83%
Numeracy	Average score for the school		454	507	574
	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	100%	100%	100%

### Value added

Mapleton has been recognised by Education Queensland as a high performing school through its excellent results in the Year 3, 5, and 7 State and National testing (NAPLAN). In 2008, in the NAPLAN tests, our results in 14 of 15 areas were above the State mean. Similar results have been achieved since at least 2005.

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

In the School Opinion Survey, 98% of our students are satisfied that they are getting a good education at this school. This compares very favourably with the State average of 79%. While 91% of parents indicated that Mapleton is a good school, 72% of parents are satisfied that their children are getting a good education. From a staff perspective, 93% are satisfied with the morale in the school. 81% of our whole staff have been engaged in professional development and this is equivalent to the State result.