

Queensland State School Reporting (2009)

Burrowes State School



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Principal's foreword...

Introduction...

This report gives our community and visitors a snapshot of our school during 2009. By perusing the following pages you will see the involvement of students, staff and parents in a diverse range of academic, cultural and sporting activities throughout the year, and the excellent results they have achieved.

Burrowes State School has proudly served the community since 1987. Our school strives to provide a safe and supportive educational environment and a curriculum that is responsive to the needs of each student.

School progress towards its goals in 2009...

KEY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2009 included:

- * Implement NAPLAN strategy
- * Implement BER initiatives
- * Implement Laptop Program for year 7 students
- * Complete communications audit and develop communication plan with Griffith University undergraduates to ensure effective relationships with community
- * Establish Local Consultative Committee to initiate improvements in work organisation and safety
- * Literacy Pilot Project (Oral Language)
- * Implement our Gifted Education strategy and professional development for staff

Future outlook...

Burrowes State School continues to position itself as a valued community resource. In 2010 we will consolidate school initiatives such as our breakfast club and our zero to five programs which include Playgroup and the Early Years Language Project.

We will also implement a gifted and talented program and continue our extensive initiatives with our grounds and facilities. We look forward to the facilities upgrades through the Building the Education Revolution program.

The improvement of literacy, numeracy & science outcomes for all students will continue to be our unrelenting focus, especially through:

- * First Steps in Number
- * Words Their Way (Spelling)
- * Functional Grammar
- * Primary Connections Science
- * Literacy Leadership Pilot (Language Development in the Early Years)
- * ICT
- * Closing the Gap action plan for indigenous students
- * Gifted Education

Moments at our school...



Happy Heart and the Jump Rope Program



Prep classes have a visit from Old McDonald



Sports day fun



Thinking of Mum at the SEP Mother's Day Stall

Our school at a glance...

Burrowes State School

School Profile...

Co-educational or single sex: Co-educational
Year levels offered: Prep to Year 7
Total student enrolments: 713

Characteristics of the student body:

Total Enrolment	Girls	Boys	Enrolment Continuity (Feb 2009 – Nov 2009)
713	365	348	88%

Additional Information:

Burrowes State School is situated on the outskirts of Brisbane in an urban setting. Our student population is approximately 713 students from various cultural backgrounds including children from South East Asia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. Approximately 6% of our students identify as Indigenous Australians who maintain an 87% attendance rate. Our students have access to after school care in the school hall 5 days a week.

A large number of our Prep students have attended local day care centres. Our Junior school, Prep- 3, has an average class size of 22 students, and the Senior school 4-7 has an average class size of 26 students. A large percentage of our students transition to 3 local high schools in order to complete their secondary education after completing Year 7.

Most children enrolled at Burrowes live within walking distance of the school. A small percentage of parents choose to travel long distances to attend Burrowes. These families usually have a child with a disability, or a child experiencing learning or behavioural difficulties.

Burrowes has an inclusive policy relating to the support of students with difficulties and disabilities. The school Learning Centre (SEP) supports approximately 60 students with disability - 10% of our school population. The programs supporting students include using assistive technology to promote student success, small group focused learning within the learning centre and one to one assistance for specific priority programs to support student inclusion.

Class sizes (Proportion of school: Classes achieving class size targets in 2009):

Phase	Average Class Size	Percentage of classes in the school			
		On or under target	Under Target	On Target	Over Target
Prep – Year 3	22	100%	80%	20%	0%
Year 4 – Year 10	27	93%	57%	36%	7%
All Classes	24	97%	69%	28%	3%

School disciplinary absences:

Disciplinary Absences	Count of Incidents
Short Suspensions - 1 to 5 days	271
Long Suspensions - 6 to 20 days	<5
Exclusions	0
Cancellations of Enrolment	0

Curriculum offerings...

Our distinctive curriculum offerings include:

The principles of effective teaching and learning underpin Burrowes State School's educational programs from Prep through to Year 7. Single class and composite groupings are used across the eight year levels.

A range of intervention programs is provided to cater for students with specialized learning support needs. These include services from the following:

- * Special Education Program
- * Support Teachers Learning Difficulty

- * Advisory Visiting Teachers (ESL, Hearing Impairment)
- * Guidance Officer
- * Behaviour Advisory Team
- * Speech & Language Pathologist

Extra curricula activities:

Burrowes State School meets the diverse needs of its students and community and has developed productive partnerships with the school community. School initiatives have included:

- * A school breakfast program
- * A variety of clubs including chess, environment, art, science, technology, German, sewing, drama, skipping, book and computer.
- * A Student Council and school leadership positions including house and school captains.
- * A Healthy Community – Healthy Families project to ensure school readiness of children from birth to five years old.

How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning:

We use ICTs as a tool to enhance student learning outcomes at Burrowes. Every classroom in P-3 has a Smartboard and computers which enable access to the internet. Every classroom in Yrs 4-7 has a roof mounted data projector and networked computer.

Two computer labs, one with sixteen computers and the other with twenty-seven computers are in daily use at the school. All classrooms have timetabled access to these labs where cross-curricular ICT skills are taught and modelled.

All Year 7 students use a laptop computer for a majority of their regular daily studies.

School climate...

A focus of the school is the provision of an inclusive, nurturing and supportive learning environment. Everybody has the right to be safe at our school. Students are encouraged to develop responsibility for their own learning, to achieve their maximum potential and to respect the rights of others to learn. Social skills are taught explicitly in all year levels and opportunities for student leadership are provided through a School Council and Buddy Rangers program.

Parent, student & teacher satisfaction with the school...

Parent Satisfaction Levels...

Area	State Mean	Burrowes Mean 2009	Burrowes Mean 2008	Variation / Trend
Student outcomes	2.90	2.57	2.73	-0.16
Curriculum	2.98	2.59	2.77	-0.18
Pedagogy	2.82	2.31	2.55	-0.24
Learning Climate	2.96	2.65	2.59	+0.06
School Climate	2.85	2.59	2.42	+0.17
School-community Relations	2.94	2.53	2.60	-0.07
Resources	2.80	2.35	2.45	-0.10
Additional items	2.86	2.53	2.60	-0.07
Overall rating for all questions	2.89	2.52	2.60	-0.08

Commentary

Analysis of the individual survey response items in 2009 indicates that parents are

- Confident that their children are happy to come to this school, that their child works well and is confident using computers.

- Not satisfied that our school is well equipped, with the behaviour of students and with how well we communicate with them.
- Gains were made in opinion of both school and learning climates.

The school did not meet its targets in relation to parents/caregivers perceptions that this is a good school and that their child was getting a good education at Burrowes.

Student Satisfaction Levels...

Area	State Mean	Burrowes Mean 2009	Burrowes Mean 2008	Variation / Trend
Student outcomes	3.12	3.19	3.17	+0.02
Curriculum	3.00	3.00	2.79	+0.21
Pedagogy	2.93	2.86	2.73	+0.13
Learning Climate	3.16	3.33	3.11	+0.22
School Climate	2.84	2.64	2.50	+0.14
Resources	2.88	2.90	2.74	+0.16
Additional items	2.69	2.84	2.72	+0.12
Overall rating for all questions	2.97	2.98	2.85	+0.13

Commentary

Analysis of the individual survey response items in 2009 indicates that students are:

- Confident with how well they were learning at Burrowes, with the computer skills they learned and that what their teachers told them helped them to improve their school work.
- Not satisfied with the school buildings and grounds that they were doing the best they could in their schoolwork and with the behaviour of students.
- Good gains were made in student opinion from 2008 to 2009 in all areas.
- Students were most happy with their learning climate and this area was flagged as 'Above State Mean'

The school met its target in terms of the percentage of students satisfied that they were getting a good education at Burrowes

Staff Satisfaction Levels...

Area	State Mean	Burrowes Mean 2009	Burrowes Mean 2008	Variation / Trend
Physical Work Environment	2.76	2.08	2.34	-0.26
Relationships	3.03	2.76	2.90	-0.14
School Operations	2.80	2.63	2.60	+0.03
Staff Morale	2.99	2.58	2.65	-0.07
Support, Resources & Training	2.67	2.33	2.41	-0.08
Work Roles	2.93	2.83	2.90	-0.07
Work Value & Recognition	2.90	2.71	2.73	-0.02
Overall rating for all questions	2.85	2.55	2.64	-0.09

Commentary

Analysis of the individual survey response items in 2009 indicates that school staff members believe:

- The school is a safe place in which to work, that they have good working relationships with other staff and get on well with students.
- That they are treated with respect encouraged to take responsibility for their work and are able to cope with the job demands placed upon them.
- They have clear work responsibilities, are able to do what is expected of them and believe their work efforts to be worthwhile.
- School staff were not satisfied with the level of team spirit, with opportunities to improve their skills and with how their work skills were appreciated.

The school did not meet its target in terms of staff satisfaction with school morale.

Performance measure	Result 2009 / (Goal)
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Percentage of parents/caregivers satisfied that their child is getting a good education at school	60% / (75%)
Percentage of students satisfied that they are getting a good education at school	88% / (85%)
Percentage of parents/caregivers satisfied with their child's school	60% / (85%)
Percentage of school workforce satisfied with access to professional development opportunities that relate to school and systemic initiatives	65% / (75%)
Percentage of staff members satisfied with morale in the school	67% / (80%)

Involving parent's in their child's education...

Our school openly welcomes family involvement at school. There are a number of strategies used to involve parents in their child's education. We have an open door policy to classrooms with most classrooms utilising parent volunteer help. Parents and community members are encouraged to support our school through:

- * Parent information sessions
- * Parent interviews for reporting each semester
- * Classroom volunteer activities
- * Class culminating activities
- * Under 8's Day celebration
- * Walk safely to school mornings
- * Arts Council performances
- * Assemblies
- * Sports fun days (Athletics, Cross-Country)
- * School discos
- * Year 7 Graduation
- * Bush Dance
- * Involvement in P&C activities

Moments at our school...



Sharing the fun at Under 8's day



Helping at the Year 1 Space Invaders evening



Cheering at sports day

Our staff...

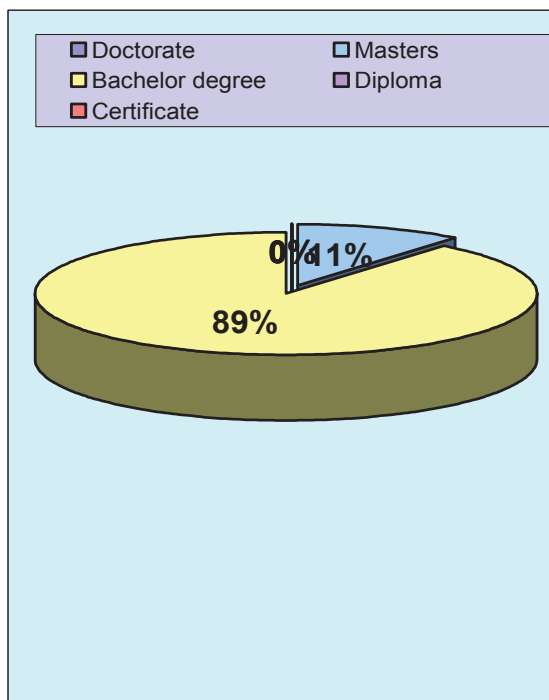
Burrowes State School

Staff composition (including indigenous staff)...

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-teaching Staff	Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	65	33	2
Full-time equivalents	55	20	2

Qualifications of all teachers.

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	7
Bachelor degree	58
Diploma	0
Certificate	0



Expenditure for (& teacher participation in) professional development in 2009...

The total funds expended on teacher professional development was \$10 112 (12.23% of school grant)

The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

- * Data Analysis to inform programming and teaching
- * You Can Do It program
- * Non-violent crisis intervention (SEP)
- * Gifted education
- * ICT Pedagogical Licence
- * Literacy (English)
- * Autism workshops (SEP)

The involvement of teaching staff in professional development activities during 2009 was 72.9 %

Average Staff attendance...

For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders, the staff attendance rate was 94% in 2009.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous year...

From the end of the 2009 school year, 86% of staff were retained by the school for the entire 2009 school year.

Performance of students...

Burrowes State School

Key student outcomes...

Student attendance (2009) ...

The average attendance rate for the whole school as a percentage in 2009 was 91%.

Student attendance for each year level...

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
91%	92%	92%	92%	91%	92%	91%			

Description of how non-attendance is managed by the school...

Marking of Rolls...

- Rolls are marked by teachers twice daily, each morning and again after lunch break.
- Codes are used to identify the reason for the absence
- Rolls are collected daily by the office daily for absences to be recorded on OneSchool / SMS
- Unexplained absences are followed up by office staff.

Following up on absences...

1. Roll date is entered onto OneSchool/SMS each day
2. At the end of each week a consecutive absences report is generated. This report shows absences of 3 days or longer
3. Absences are investigated through:
 - Contact the class teacher to see if they have been notified by parents
 - Consult SDA register
 - Contact parent
4. If genuine reasons for absence are determined the
 - Electronic roll is corrected with the new absence code
 - A notation is made on the students file.
5. If either no reason or an inadequate reason is given for an absence or pattern or concern is apparent, the Principal is notified
6. The Principal then:
 - Contacts the family to discuss attendance problem
 - Development of individual support plan to encourage attendance
 - Recommendation for external support for families
 - Utilises the EQ 'Compulsory Schooling' enforcement letter process
7. Records are maintained in
 - OneSchool
 - Absenteeism File

Moments at our school...

Ditto (from Bravehearts) teaches students about personal safety...





A visit to KITE Theatre at QPAC and the magical 'Sand Song' ritual...

Prince Charming in the class play...



Studying hard for NAPLAN...

Achievement (Years 3, 5 & 7)...

National Assessment Program (Literacy & Numeracy results for Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar & Punctuation and Numeracy for Years 3, 5 & 7 in 2009

Domain	Measures		Yr 3	Yr 5	Yr 7
Reading	Average score for the school in 2009		341	429	500
	Average score for Australia in 2009		410.8	493.9	541.1
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	85%	61%	83%
		2009	87%	82%	78%
For the school the percentage of students in the	2008	14%	2%	10%	

Domain	Measures		Yr 3	Yr 5	Yr 7
	upper two bands	2009	12%	8%	11%
Writing	Average score for the school in 2009		364	430	503
	Average score for Australia in 2009		414.5	484.7	532.4
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	92%	76%	83%
		2009	89%	79%	88%
	For the school the percentage of students in the upper two bands	2008	26%	4%	17%
2009		21%	3%	13%	
Spelling	Average score for the school in 2009		342	431	506
	Average score for Australia in 2009		404.8	487.2	540.0
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	84%	70%	87%
		2009	85%	78%	85%
	For the school the percentage of students in the upper two bands	2008	18%	9%	18%
2009		15%	6%	12%	
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school in 2009		347	440	500
	Average score for Australia in 2009		419.7	499.7	539.5
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	87%	78%	79%
		2009	79%	81%	85%
	For the school the percentage of students in the upper two bands	2008	12%	8%	7%
2009		14%	9%	12%	
Numeracy	Average score for the school in 2009		321	435	504
	Average score for Australia in 2009		393.9	486.8	543.6
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	85%	67%	91%
		2009	77%	92%	94%
	For the school the percentage of students in the upper two bands	2008	4%	3%	9%
2009		4%	6%	5%	