



Walkervale State School

46A Hurst Street, Bundaberg Qld 4670

PO Box 4349 Bundaberg South Qld 4670

Primary (07) 4151 4800

Fax: (07) 4153 2795

Prep (07) 4152 3470

Resource Centre (07) 4153 3090

ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT – 2007

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Walkervale State School is a co-educational state school which was officially opened in 1955 and services the suburbs of Walkervale, Avenell Heights and Kepnock. These catchment areas constitute 59% of total school enrolments. Educational programs are provided for students from Prep to Year 7 as well as a Special Education Program and an Early Childhood Developmental Program. (ECDP)



ENROLMENTS

The 2007 School Year commenced with 22 Primary Class Groups, 538.7 primary students enrolled and 2 Prep Class Groups totalling 52 students.

Enrolments (Feb)	Primary
Prep	52
Year 1	61
Year 2	79
Year 3	68
Year 4	79
Year 5	77.5
Year 6	85
Year 7	89.2
Total P - 7	590.7
ECDP	3.8
Overall Total	594.5



Aerial View of Walkervale School

Apparent Retention Rates

Apparent retention rates across key junctures are shown below. These figures indicate apparent retention of student numbers from Preschool to Year 1 at Walkervale and from Year 7 at Walkervale to Queensland state high schools.

Juncture	Apparent Retention Rate
Preschool 2006 to Year 1 2007	86.5%
Year 7 2006 to Year 8 2007	89.9%

Student Attendance – The average student attendance rate for 2007 was 92.9%.

DISTINCTIVE CURRICULUM OFFERINGS

Walkervale State School is a co-educational facility which provides a wide variety of learning experiences for students from Prep through to Year 7 through curriculum programs in all Key Learning Areas.

LOTE - Students in Years 6 and 7 study German as a second language.

School Pool – Swimming skills of all students were enhanced by swimming lessons in Term 1 (Years 2-7). Swimming lessons were not held in Term 4 to allow upgrades to our twenty-five metre swimming pool.

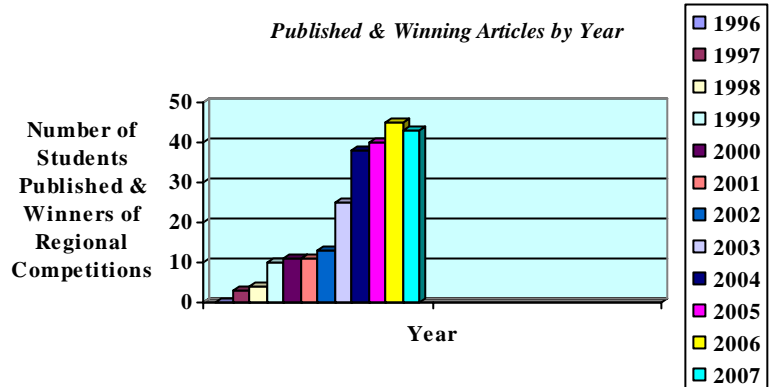
Technology – The entire school is networked with internet access available to all classrooms from Prep to Year 7. This capability is further enhanced by the school's computer laboratory which allows for whole class interaction with technology. This school wide capacity to access technology and integrate computers into learning has allowed students to develop high level skills in technology, producing Powerpoints, and designing personal web-sites on Think.com. Teachers are also utilising this technology to develop e-portfolios of students' work. Two additional computer pod areas are available within the school, in the year 7 classroom area and the Resource Centre.



School Vision: Together we Achieve the Extraordinary

Writers' Club – The 'Kids Get Published' Writers' Club group operates from Year 5 to Year 7 with exceptional successes in the area of writing. This was the eleventh year of operation of the Club. Over the past 11 years, the club has flourished as indicated in the graph opposite.

Over 25 students had their writing published in anthologies, magazines and on web sites and in 2007 several students were paid for submissions to magazines.



For the past five years, the young writers have also taken part in a writers' retreat at several venues. In 2007, the retreat was held at Mount Perry and the writers focussed their literary efforts on Bush Poetry. A continued focus on the area of Literacy has seen Walkervale receive recognition as a celebration school during Literacy and Numeracy Week awards for the past five years.

STUDENT SERVICES / SUPPORT

Walkervale's Special Needs Committee ensured Intervention programs for all students with special needs continued throughout 2007. Regular support from Guidance Officer, Speech Language Pathologist and Special Education teachers was provided to students in need. Support programs for learners were also provided by Learning Support teachers. Access to support services from the Behaviour Management Unit was also accessed for students with needs in this area.

STUDENT COUNCIL 2007

Our Student Council made a valued contribution to the operation of Walkervale State School. Councillors were involved in Leadership development and learnt and implemented formal meeting procedures throughout the year. Projects which assisted with fundraising included the Student Council Social, non-uniform days and operation of a weekly soft drink stall. The major project decided upon for 2007 was the provision of another cold water bubbler in 2008.



SOCIAL CLIMATE - PASTORAL CARE

Walkervale School aims to provide a caring and supportive environment for students characterised by mutual respect between students and staff. This is encouraged by the Responsible Thinking Process which helps all students to think and to act responsibly and is in turn supported by regular classroom meetings at all levels of the school. Parents are also involved in the Responsible Thinking Process.

EXTRA CURRICULA ACTIVITIES

Music Program – Classroom and Instrumental

Our vibrant Music Program continued to shine with all choirs, the Concert Band and String Ensembles performing at a very high standard throughout 2007. Students in the instrumental music program undertake strings lessons from Year 3 to Year 7 and Brass, Woodwind and Percussion lessons can be undertaken from Year 5 to Year 7. Students involved in these groups take part in competitions such as the Bundaberg Eisteddfod and Fanfare. In 2007, the Fanfare competition was for Choral groups. Walkervale's senior choir received a Gold Award and the Junior choir a Silver Award.



Competitions – ETC Maths, English, Spelling, Writing, Computers

Throughout 2007, many students produced fine individual efforts in national Mathematics, English, Writing, Science and Technology competitions with many students achieving in the top 10% in Queensland and some even reaching the top 1% in the state.

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Camping Program – Our School Camping Program continued to provide students with a range of experiences and social development skills outside the school setting.

Year 5 – 7: Writers’ Retreat – at Mount Perry – developing bush poetry skills and teamwork

Year 5: Science Based Camps at Mon Repos

Year 6: At Riverside Retreat – adventure training, social skilling, leadership and teamwork

Year 7: To Brisbane – Social skill development, study of Government and the sciences.

Active After School Communities Program - AASC is an after school hours program that aims to improve the health and well being of Australia’s primary school aged children through structured physical activity. The AASC program commenced at Walkervale in 2005 and continued throughout 2007 with approximately 30 students per program involved. An accredited coach on staff operated the program.

Sporting Activities - Students also reached regional and state carnival level in a range of sports. Many positive results were also achieved in interschool team competitions, not simply in terms of winning but also in terms of how our students took part – and at Walkervale we believe that’s even more important.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES:

During 2007, 18.45% (or \$16,559) of the School’s General Grant allocation was used to support teacher professional development. The proportion of teaching staff participating in professional development activities during 2007 as per the Staff Opinion Survey was 84%, but when in-house Professional Development is considered, this figure is raised to 100%.

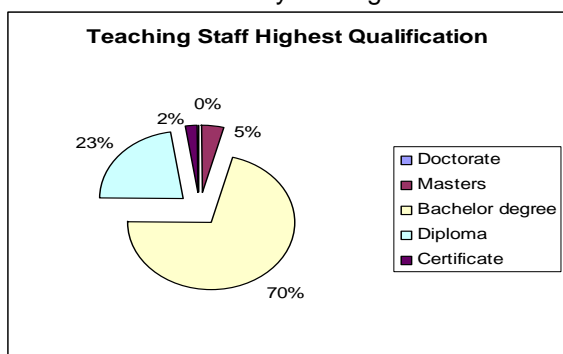
Professional development undertaken by all staff in 2007 included:

- Mathematics in-service – GoMaths
- Spelling
- Webmail
- UQ ELF Training
- Code of Conduct
- Student Protection
- Special Education Training
- The Key to Learning
- Encouraging Diversity
- Chainsaw course
- WISC Test Training
- Support a Talker
- Occupational Therapy/Phonological awareness
- Literacy Conference
- Reading Link – decoding
- Autism/Asperger’s Syndrome In-service
- SWOT/Appreciative Enquiry – CDW data in recent years
- Teachers’ E-Handbook – all teaching staff
- Professional Conversations workshop – all teachers (Literacy/Spelling)
- HPE conference 2007
- Senior First Aid
- Differentiating Curriculum
- Human Resource Admin Procedures
- State Registrars’ Association PD
- EOY Financial Procedures
- IT Service Centre Training
- Prep Reflection Day
- EAP Training
- KLAs & Essential Learning
- Aided Language Stimulation
- QASSP Conference
- APPA Conference
- ACER Conference
- IDEAS Learning Forum
- Teachers’ E-Handbook – all teaching staff
- Music Conference 2007
- RTP inservice - all staff
- SHARE IT 2007 - teachers
- Validation processes – EAPs

DISTINCTIVE SKILLS OF STAFF

Specialist Staff – Specialist staff include our Classroom Music Teacher, Physical Education Specialist, Learning Support Teachers, Special Education Teachers, visiting Instrumental Music Teachers and a Speech Language Pathologist as well as a Guidance Officer based at the school.

Sports – Many staff at school contribute to school based sport, district sport and regional sport. At Walkervale we boast a number of staff members with coaching certificates in various sports and other dedicated staff members who are always willing to volunteer for district and regional sport team manager positions.



Qualifications of all teachers – This graph indicates the highest level of qualifications held by teaching staff at the end of 2007. Whilst this graph only shows highest qualifications held, 46% of teaching staff hold other qualifications.

Retention rates of teaching staff 2006 to 2007 - From the end of 2006 to the commencement of 2007, 89.58% of teaching staff were retained.

STAFF ATTENDANCE

2007 – Based on full time equivalent for all staff at Walkervale – attendance was 96.39 %.

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STRATEGIES USED FOR INVOLVING PARENTS IN THEIR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

Parents were involved in their child's education in 2007 in a multitude of ways. Some of these included:

- Parent/Teacher class and individual meetings
- Written reports with interviews on request.
- Voluntary work as members of the P & C
- Assisting the fundraising committee
- Attendance at weekly parades
- Membership of the School Council
- Volunteer helpers in the classroom, on excursions, in the Tuckshop, at the pool
- Supporting and helping at school functions
- Actively reading School Newsletters

READING, WRITING AND NUMERACY RESULTS

Year 2 Diagnostic Net and Year 3, 5 & 7 test data provide valuable information for us as a school on the achievements of students in Literacy and Numeracy. The following tables show average scores for the State, Like Schools and Walkervale in a range of areas.

Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net	
	Percentage of students not requiring additional support 2007
Reading	50.6%
Writing	62.4%
Number	67.1%

Reading, Writing and Numeracy results Queensland Years 3, 5 and 7 Literacy and Numeracy Tests.					
		Yr 3	Yr 5	Yr 7	
Reading	Average score for the school		519	590	654
	Average score for Like Schools		501	584	646
	Average score for Queensland		527	606	672
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	87.0%	68.5%	74.4%
		2006	87.3 %	67.8 %	78.1 %
Writing	Average score for the school		518	610	707
	Average score for Like Schools		498	572	658
	Average score for Queensland		523	600	681
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	88.4%	89.0%	94.2%
		2006	86.1 %	89.8 %	78.1 %
Numeracy	Average score for the school		497	569	628
	Average score for Like Schools		494	561	618
	Average score for Queensland		521	588	648
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	73.9%	68.5%	75.6%
		2006	79.7 %	87.6 %	59.0 %

SCHOOL OPINION SURVEY RESULTS

School opinion Survey Results – Percentage Satisfied	School Result 2007	State Target 2008
Student satisfied that they are getting a good education	83.0%	85%
Parents satisfied students are getting a good education	83.3%	85%
Parents satisfied that the school is a good school	91.8%	90%
Staff satisfied with morale in the school	82.8%	85%
Workforce engaged in Learning & Development	77.2%	85%

VALUE ADDED

Opinion Surveys: Improved Student Opinion Data led to results significantly above both state and Like Schools in most areas of focus in 2007. Recent focus on resource improvements (Air Conditioning all primary classes) assisted in an above flag for parent perceptions in the resources area. Staff opinion results were similar to those of Like Schools.

Year 3, 5 and 7 Tests: Significant progress compared to state growth has been made by the majority of students in many aspects of Literacy and Numeracy from Year 3, 2005 to Year 5, 2007. A letter of congratulations from the Premier was received which recognised the outstanding results of the students in Year 7 in the area of writing. Focus areas for future whole school focus include Spelling in Literacy and Space in Numeracy.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

The school web-site link is: <http://www.walkervass.eq.edu.au> Email: admin@walkervass.eq.edu.au

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