

Walkervale State School – Annual Report 2008



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Principal's Foreword

It is with much pride that I present the 2008 School Annual Report for Walkervale State School. Our Triennial School Review process in 2008 provided the school community with an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate our school's achievements over the past three years and to plan strategically for the next three years.

Walkervale State School opened in January 1955 and continues to be the centre of great educational opportunities for the children of the area. The school has great facilities and is set in a spacious and attractive environment. We continue to upgrade and enhance our facilities whenever possible. A school hall and new resource centre will be completed in semester 2, 2009.

The school prides itself on the vision statement "*Together We Achieve the Extraordinary*" and we work hard to ensure that the community has opportunities to participate in and celebrate the learning journeys of Walkervale students. At Walkervale, a wide range of curriculum and extra-curricula activities are offered. Parents and Caregivers are encouraged to become involved wherever possible, whether as a classroom volunteer and/or a P&C member. This report paints a comprehensive picture of the school's achievements for 2008 and outlines our future priorities. Students are also guided by our school motto –

"Always Do Your Best!"

For further information on the school and its policies, please contact the School Office on 4155 5666.

Michael Fay, Principal

Future outlook

At Walkervale State School, the following strategies and programs are priorities for 2009 and beyond: Throughout 2009, major areas of curriculum focus will be Literacy and Numeracy. A continuing focus on professional development for Literacy will target teachers in years 4 to 7, building on the professional development provided to teachers in years Prep to 3 in 2008. Schoolwide professional development in First Steps Mathematics for teachers and teacher aides in 2009 will provide a sound foundation for an on-going focus on all areas of Mathematics.

Other areas of focus include ongoing implementation and review of the Responsible Behaviour Plan for students, supported by "You Can Do It!" strategies for social and emotional learning for students.

School Profile

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 (for Prep to Year 7 students) and an Early Childhood Developmental Program (ECDP - for students with special needs younger than Prep age).

ENROLMENTS

The 2008 School Year commenced with 23 Class Groups, with 564.4 students enrolled including 3 Prep Class Groups totalling 76 students.

Year level enrolment information is shown on page 2:

CURRICULUM OFFERINGS

Our 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) and Term 4 (Years 1-7). Our twenty-five metre swimming pool was recently upgraded and substantial work on the dressing sheds was completed in 2008.



2008 Enrolments	February
Prep	76
Year 1	54
Year 2	60
Year 3	76
Year 4	61.4
Year 5	90
Year 6	74
Year 7	72
Total P - 7	563.4
ECDP	1.0
Overall Total	564.4

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.

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.



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 2008. 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 from Year 3 to 5 can participate in the Junior Choir while students in Years 6 and 7 can take part in the senior choir. Students involved in any of these music groups take part in competitions such as the Bundaberg Eisteddfod and Fanfare. In 2008, the Fanfare competition was for Instrumental groups. Walkervale's String Ensemble received a Silver Award and the Concert Band a Bronze Award.

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

Throughout 2008, many students produced fine individual efforts in national Mathematics, English, Writing, Spelling, Science and Technology competitions with students achieving in the top 10% in Queensland.

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: 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.

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.

Kids Get Published Writers' Group - 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 twelfth year of operation of the Club. Over the past 12 years, the club has flourished with many students achieving the original aim of the group, to be published. Students have been published locally, across the state and nationally in magazines, collections and on the web.

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.

Student Services / Support

Walkervale's Special Needs Committee ensured Intervention programs for all students with special needs continued throughout 2008. 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. A chaplaincy program is also in operation.

An Outside School Hours and Vacation Care program operates at the school.

Student Council 2008

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. The major project decided upon for 2008 was to assist the P&C with the school wide air conditioning project.



Involving parents in their child's education

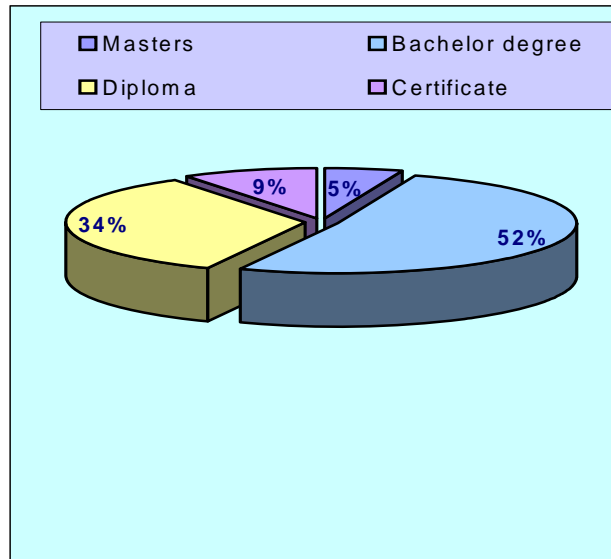
Strategies Used For Involving Parents In Their Children's Education

Parents were involved in their child's education in 2008 in a multitude of ways. Some of these included:

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

Qualifications of all teachers

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Masters	4
Bachelor degree	39
Diploma	26
Certificate	7



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 totalled \$21,138.00

During 2008, 28.1% (or \$24,212) of the School's General Grant allocation was used to support staff professional development. The proportion of teaching staff participating in professional development activities during 2008 as per the Staff Opinion Survey was 90%, but when in-house Professional Development is considered, this figure is raised to 100%.

The major professional development initiatives undertaken by all staff are shown below:

Application of Chemicals	Code of Conduct
Curriculum Development	Early Childhood Development Guidance
Encouraging Diversity	EOY Financial Procedures
Excel Training	Grounds Staff Professional Day
HPE Conference 2008	IDEAS Learning Forum
Integrating ICTs into LOTE Curriculum	Interactive Whiteboard Training
Literacy Training	Music Conference 2008
Numeracy Workshops	Orange Card In-service
Prep – Yr 3 T/Aide workshops	Primary Connections – Teacher Leadership
Professional BSM meetings	QASSP Conference
Rehabilitation/Return to Work training	Renewed Cleaning Methods
School-wide Positive Behaviour	Senior First Aid
Special Education Training	Student Protection
The Child in Care	THRASS
Understanding & Working with Autism/Aspergers	Understanding Neurobiology of Complex Trauma
Validation processes – EAPS	

Average staff attendance

For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 95% in 2008.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

From the end of the 2007 school year, 97% of staff were retained by the school for the entire 2008 school year.

Key Outcomes

Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net				
Percentage of students not requiring additional support.		Reading	Writing	Number
		52%	66%	74%
National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results - our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the Years 3, 5, 7.				
Domain	Measures	Yr 3	Yr 5	Yr 7
Reading	Average score for the school	327	414	504
	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	78 %	68 %
Writing	Average score for the school	369	422	480
	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	85%	71%
Spelling	Average score for the school	346	411	503
	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	85%	68%
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school	322	421	487
	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	73%	73%
Numeracy	Average score for the school	342	424	509
	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	88%	79%

Value Added

Opinion Surveys - Positive Student Opinion Data showed results similar to State and Like Schools in most areas of focus in 2008. Above Flags were registered against Like Schools in Student Opinion in the following areas: Satisfaction with School Buildings, Student Behaviour and the variety of activities undertaken. Staff opinion results were significantly above both State and Like Schools in most areas. Parent Opinion results were similar to both State and Like Schools data in almost all areas with above State flags in the quality of teaching children receive, the variety of activities available, the interest that teachers take in children and that the school makes parents feel welcome.

School opinion Survey Results – Percentage Satisfied	School Result 2008	State Target 2009
Students 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 and Development	90%	85%

Year 3, 5 and 7 Tests - While school averages are somewhat lower than State averages in early years, the average differential is smaller in most cases in the older years. This would suggest that significant progress is made by many students within our school community as they progress through their primary years. These results follow on from a letter of congratulations from the Premier which was received in late 2007 which recognised the outstanding results of the students in Year 7 in the area of writing. Focus areas for future whole school focus include Oral Language in Literacy and the implementation of First Steps Mathematics in Numeracy.



SCHOOL WEBSITE

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

Student Counts	2006	2007	2008	2009
Full-time Enrolment*	596	603	585	580

School Disciplinary Absences**July 2009**

Many strategies are used by our school to provide appropriate consequences for unacceptable student behaviour. The use of School Disciplinary Absences - suspensions, exclusions and cancellations of enrolment - are consequences used after consideration has been given to all other responses.

The Principal must be reasonably satisfied that grounds exist under the [Education \(General Provisions\) Act 2006](#) outlined in sections 284, 289 and 316 prior to making the decision to suspend, recommend exclusion or cancel the enrolment of a student.

For further information on suspensions, exclusions and cancellations of enrolment, refer to the policy [SMS-PR-021: Safe, Supportive and Disciplined School Environment](#).

The data are provided in terms of aggregate counts of incidents recorded by the school. The data do not represent the outcomes of any related appeal decisions.

Disciplinary Absences	Reporting Period			
	2006 Full Year	2007 Full Year	2008 Full Year	2009 Semester 1
Short Suspensions - 1 to 5 days	67	163	116	33
Long Suspensions - 6 to 20 days	0	0	<5	<5
Exclusions	0	0	<5	0
Cancellations of Enrolment	0	0	0	0

* The enrolment figures are counts of full-time students. 2006 - 2008 enrolment data are sourced from August (Census) Corporate Data Downloads, and 2009 enrolment data are sourced from the February Corporate Data Download.