

| | | |
|---|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
|  | PO Address | Japoon Road, Silkwood, 4856 |
| | Phone | 40652188 |
| | Fax | 40652419 |
| | Email | the.principal@silkwoodss.eq.edu.au |
| | Website or Contact Person | www.silkwoodss.eq.edu.au |

Principal's foreword

Introduction

The school has always been regarded as an integral part of the wider community. We pride ourselves on our community involvement and how we are viewed in the eyes of the community. It has been the policy at the school to always present our school and our students in a positive manner. We encourage our students to take pride in themselves, their community and to strive to be the best possible person they can be.

We are extremely proud of our school especially in the opportunities it offers our students to do well in all Key Learning areas. We have learning support programmes in place for all students at risk and allocate a significant part of our school budget to ensure their success. This is an on-going programme and its measure of success can be seen in results from our external tests for 2008. One of the main goals for 2009 is to build on this success and to strive to do better in this year and the years to come. We have a dedicated and professional staff at the school whose sole function is to see that every student achieves success.

The school has a caring environment with consistent policies in regards to Behaviour Management.

Future outlook

Our goals for the future are to continue to provide all students with the opportunity to do well. This has been a school goal for many years. To enable this to happen, we will continue to provide students with programs that are appropriate to their individual learning levels. We are also committed to involving community members more by inviting them to use school resources. We planned to have our pottery shed with a kiln up and running by last year but unfortunately this wasn't the case. It was a priority for 2009 year and will be in operation in Term 3.

We will continue to encourage community members to use our computer lab to up grade their word processing skills. We are always willing for external groups in our community to use school resources where appropriate and we will continue to do so. The school is heavily committed to providing each teaching area with an interactive whiteboard in 2009 which will enhance the delivery of curriculum programs to our students, this has been achieved.

Priorities for this year include improving the number of staff engaged in professional development, improving our Reading results in all year levels, a strong focus on Behaviour Management and finally to improve our Numeracy results across the school.

School Profile

Total student enrolments for our school is 107

Year levels offered are from Prep to Year 7.

We are a Co-educational school.

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

- We have an integrated gardening program each year for Year Prep-1 and Year 6-7.
- We have set up a Red Claw pond as part of our Science Investigation Program.
- We have established a pottery kiln as part of Art Curriculum.

Extra curricula activities

- We have a very strong and committed Junior Red Cross group.
- We have an instrumental music programme available in strings and percussion for Years 4 to 7

How computers are used to assist learning

We have a fully functional computer lab at our school which all classes use on a regular basis for either research using the Internet, or as a Word Processor to complete set writing tasks or using set programs to enhance various learning areas. Children have access to computer from Prep to Year 7 and by the end of their primary school are fully conversant with all aspects of computer usage. Each classroom also has at least two computers for students to access at any time. All teachers have lap tops which they use for planning program, keeping student assessment records and accessing professional development opportunities through information put out through emails.

The school has also set up Interactive Whiteboards in each teaching area to further enhance the delivery of programs to our students. We plan to have by the end of 2008 a number of teachers with ICT Certificates and at least one teacher with a Pedagogical License in ICT. The school also will have in place by the end of the year Interactive Whiteboards in each teaching area with stand alone lap tops and appropriate software connected to the Internet.

Social climate

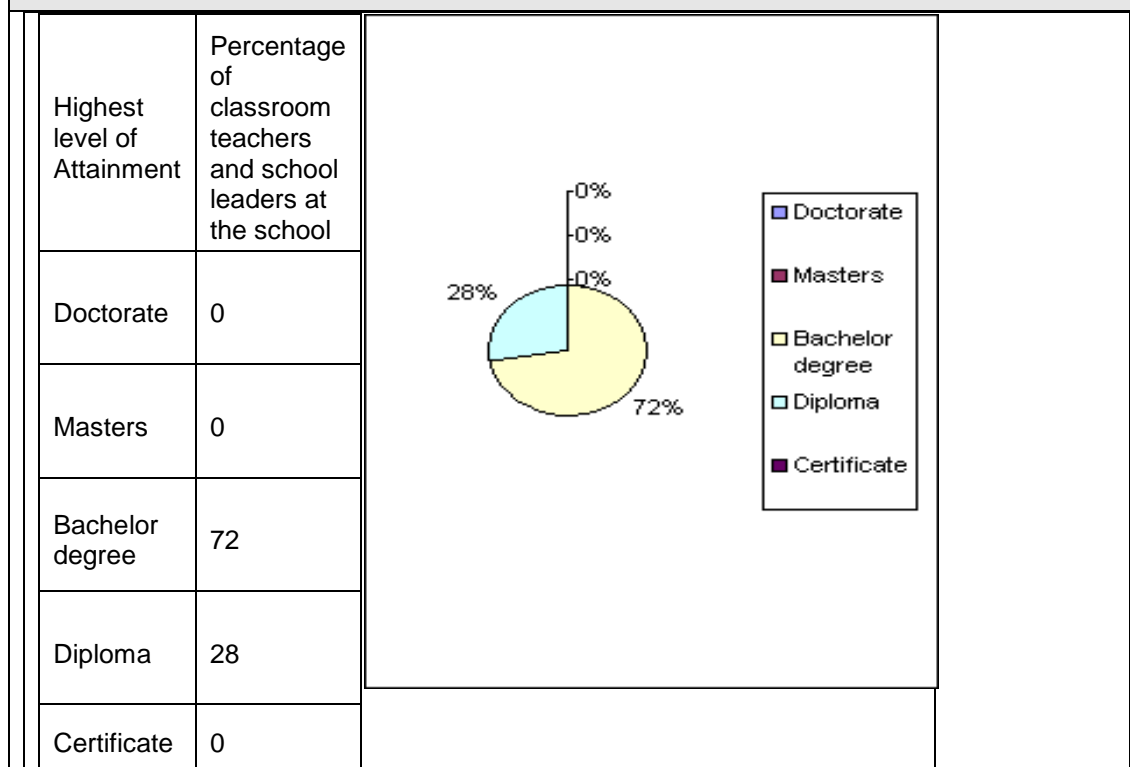
We pride ourselves on being a school where consideration and supportiveness are expected values and not something that needs to be constantly reinforced. Both parents and students have expressed, in our School Opinion Survey, that they feel their children are safe or the children themselves feel safe at our school. **(100% students, 91% parents)**. Fairness is something we also strive to enforce with **86% of our students** feeling that they are treated fairly at our school. Behaviour and discipline are also areas we endeavour to maintain **with 77% of parents** also satisfied that we have good behaviour and discipline at the school. Are students happy to go to our school? – **95% of students** surveyed have indicated that they are and **88% of parents** indicate that they were satisfied to send them here.

Involving parents in their child's education.

One of the strategies we have found to be very effective in improving our reading standards is by having children read out aloud every night to a parent or caregiver who then has to sign a set reading folder documenting how much time they spent on their reading and what they thought of the reading standard for that night. We have involved parents and caregivers in reading programmes as well as in Art and Craft programmes. Our policy has always been to encourage parents or caregivers to become involved in their child's education. We find that the more parents are involved in the school the more supportive they are of what we are doing in regards to their child's education.

Our staff profile

Qualifications of all teachers.



A number of our teachers have diplomas in teaching as well as degrees in education.

Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

- The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was \$5000.
- The major professional development initiatives are as follows:
 - Science Pedagogy
 - Literacy Training
- The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2008 was 100%.
- Numeracy Training
- ICT Training

Average staff attendance

For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 97% in 2008.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

From the end of the 2007 school year, 100% 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 95%.

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 | 82% | | | |
| Writing | 82% | | | |
| Number | 71% | | | |
| National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results | | | | |
| Domain | Measures | Yr 3 | Yr 5 | Yr 7 |
| Reading | Average score for the school | 357 | 447 | 538 |
| | 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 | 82% | 83% |
| Writing | Average score for the school | 405 | 450 | 526 |
| | 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 | 100% | 100% |
| Spelling | Average score for the school | 345 | 455 | 559 |
| | 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 | 82% | 100% |
| Grammar and Punctuation | Average score for the school | 364 | 472 | 534 |
| | 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 | 82% | 92% |
| Numeracy | Average score for the school | 354 | 451 | 523 |
| | 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% |

Other Key Outcomes

Value added

Over the last five years we have seen a steady improvement in the areas of writing and numeracy in the key targeted areas of Years 3,5 and 7. We have always had high expectations for our students and our staff strives to get the best possible results from each student.

In 2008 we allocated over \$20 000 in extra funds on both human and material resources so that our students do have the best opportunity to experience success and this can be seen from the results that have been achieved. Using our school Data from the Year 2 Net we have been able to track those students who have been identified as needing assistance at an early age and provide the necessary assistance fro them.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

It has been very pleasing to see from the data provided in the Destination 2010 – School targets that all of our stakeholders feel that the school is providing for the needs of all groups.

Data from our School Opinion Surveys in 2008 should that in quite a number of areas surveyed we were above State averages. This is a remarkable achievement and one the school should feel proud of. Staff morale has always been very high and the majority of our staff have been at the school for quite a number of years. They know the children, they care for the children and they are approachable. Parents see that the school is concerned not just for the academic growth of their child but for their emotional and social growth as well.

We have strived over the years to develop a culture of caring and sharing. We follow a Values program which encourages individuals to be aware of the rights of others and to make the choices which will make them a better person in their community. There is a pride in the school that can be seen by anyone who has anything to do with our school.