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Principal's foreword

Introduction

The 2008 School Annual Report details the outcomes that Windorah State School has achieved over the last 12 months. From these results the staff have collaborated and developed the goals for the 2009 Annual Operational Plan.

Windorah State School has a proud tradition of providing a quality education to students in western Queensland. Since opening on the 30th July 1888, the school has evolved into a modern learning environment. Our school illustrates that one teacher schools offer equivalent learning outcomes to our large school counterparts. At Windorah State School we strive to provide quality education - excellence in the outback.

Future outlook

Windorah State School will be focussed on improving student skills in literacy and numeracy, through dedicated and intensive daily literacy and numeracy blocks.

Windorah State School is also a committed member of the 'Outback Advantage'. Outback Advantage is a cluster of small schools that believe there are many advantages to being educated in a small rural multi-age school. We have a shared approach to curriculum, teaching, assessment and reporting. In doing so, the educational outcomes of both teachers and students in our schools are not only increased, but invaluable to our quest for life-long learning. Through this team we will work to implement quality assured, moderated integrated units in the multi-age classroom.

Our school at a glance

School Profile

Windorah State School is located within the Fitzroy Central West Region, Longreach District, and services the town of Windorah. The town is located in the Barcoo Shire, 250 km west of Quilpie and 300 km south of Longreach. The one teacher school provides a co-educational multi-grade education from preparatory year to year seven for students residing within this remote, geographically isolated area. There are currently eight students enrolled in the school, in years 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

The student community consists of both male and female students whose interests are closely related to the environment. The abilities of the students naturally vary but they are all motivated to achieve high levels of academic and sporting achievement. The community considers Windorah State School to be a safe and supportive environment fostering high standards of behaviour based on cooperation, mutual responsibility and self discipline. Windorah State School strives to provide students with every opportunity to achieve excellence.

Windorah State School has a teaching principal, teacher aide, a visiting support teacher, an administration officer, a cleaner and a grounds person.

Curriculum offerings

A quality integrated curriculum program is offered at the school encompassing the eight key learning areas of the Queensland syllabus. In this multi-age setting all children are offered a differentiated curriculum.

Our distinctive curriculum offerings are:

- Intercultural Investigations in years 1, 4 & 5
- LOTE in years 6 & 7

Extra curricular activities

- Our school hosts the annual Windorah Sports Camp, providing opportunities for isolated students to participate in six sports with accredited professional coaches and to be able to interact with students from other small schools from within the Longreach District.
- Our students attend a variety of academic, cultural and sporting events, including the Winton Poetry Festival, the Barcoo Sports carnivals (swimming and athletics), the Small Schools carnivals (swimming and athletics), the Barcoo Swim Camp, the ANZAC Day service and other opportune events.
- Students attend regular 'Cluster Days' hosted by the other schools within the Barcoo Cluster. These events have included arts workshops, swim training and sports coaching events.

How computers are used to assist learning

Students of Windorah State School enjoy a high ratio of computers to students within the classroom. We are fortunate to have access to desktop and laptop computers, a digital still camera, scanner, digital video recorder, an iPod, printers, a multifunction centre, an interactive whiteboard and other software. These technologies will be the tools of the future and students regularly work to become competent in their application. Technologies are also used to consolidate learning and reinforce concepts. The technology in our school is made easily accessible to all students and staff.

Social climate

Windorah State School celebrates a positive social climate. The positive feedback is reflected within the annual school opinion surveys with most participants noting satisfaction in relation to the overall social climate of the school. The staff of Windorah State School ensure all students and other stakeholders feel safe and secure within the school environment. Parents have reported they are satisfied with the behaviour and discipline, their students are happy to attend the school and that their children are treated fairly.

Students also have the support of visiting services such as the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) offering support in health related issues as well as religious education welcomed from a number of denominations. Education Queensland provides Windorah State School with access to a Speech Language Pathologist, a Guidance Officer and other professional support staff as required.

Our school at a glance

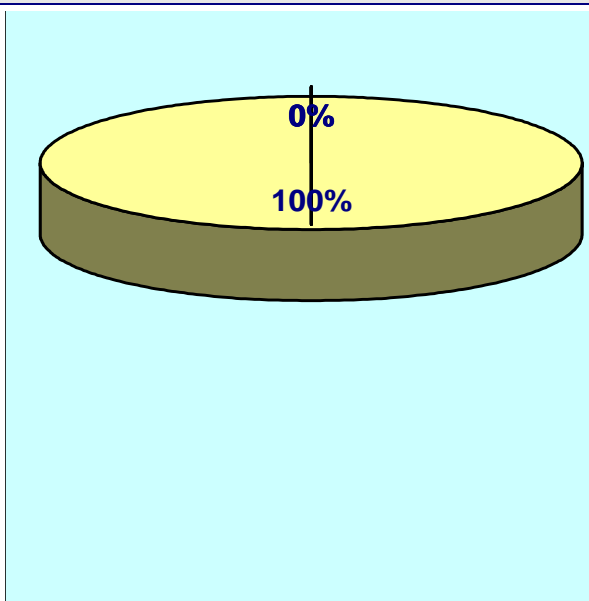
Involving parents in their child's education.

The involvement of parents in programs is commendable. There is an extreme willingness of parents to make sacrifices to support their child's education. The P&C has an active involvement in fundraising, community events, working bees and the Windorah Sports Camp. Parents are often required for transport assistance and are very willing to offer their time. Newsletters, the Education Celebrations board, parent-teacher interviews, informal interactions and detailed written reports combine to strengthen partnerships.

Our staff profile

Qualifications of teachers.

Doctorate	0
Masters	0
Bachelor degree	1
Diploma	0
Certificate	0



Windorah State School is a one teacher school with the teaching Principal holding a Bachelors degree. All visiting specialist and itinerant staff hold Bachelor degrees and are registered with the Queensland College of Teachers.

Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was \$9616.71.

The major professional development initiatives were as follows:

- Regular principal meetings – each term
- Regular Outback Advantage meetings – each term
- Attendance at the Longreach District Educator's Conference
- State wide Literacy Training

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 100% 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

Windorah State School (0461)

Student attendance

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2008 was 90%.

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.

All year level cohorts at Windorah State School are small. To respect the privacy of individual students, NAPLAN results cannot be published.

For the year 2008 our performance in the NAPLAN tests were similar to other Band 5 schools in Queensland, and can be summarized as follows:

- For all components of the test students were mostly above the national minimum standard.

Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net

All year level cohorts at Windorah State School are small. To respect the privacy of individual students, Year 2 Diagnostic Net results cannot be published.

For the year 2008 our performance in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net were similar to Band 5 schools in Queensland, and can be summarized as follows:

- No students required additional support in reading, writing or number.

Value added

Students have a keen interest in environmental issues and have participated in the annual Planet Ark Plant a Tree Day and the Schools Clean Up Day for Clean Up Australia Day.

Students are heavily involved in community events and have attended Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, fundraised for the Royal Flying Doctor Service and attended health presentations by the North and West Queensland Primary Health Care team.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

According to the School Opinion Surveys, parents were similarly satisfied as like schools with the quality of education at Windorah State School. The results indicate parents were less satisfied with the school climate than like schools.

Students expressed similar satisfaction to like schools, and rated the school's learning climate above that of like schools.

School staff indicated they were satisfied with their role at Windorah State School and rated staff morale higher than the State Benchmark.

Performance of our students

Windorah State School (0461)

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.

Student Counts	2006	2007	2008	2009
Full-time Enrolment*	6	11	12	8

Disciplinary Absences	Reporting Period			
	2006 Full Year	2007 Full Year	2008 Full Year	2009 Semester 1
Short Suspensions - 1 to 5 days	0	0	0	0
Long Suspensions - 6 to 20 days	0	0	0	0
Exclusions	0	0	0	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.