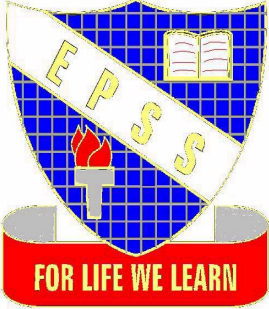


## Our school at a glance

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### Principal's foreword

#### Introduction

At East Palmerston State School we are a team, we consist of staff, parents and children working together to improve school curriculum results and improve our facilities. I'm sure with the positive attitudes and keen participants, who make this lovely community school feel like one big happy family, that we will achieve all of the outcomes and goals set forth in our AOP.

#### Future outlook

As a newly appointed principal, the future at East Palmerston, looks great! The parents and staff are keen to make improvements that will benefit all of the children and are willing to put in extra effort and extra time to reach the goals, we set forth, as a team. It is envisaged that this positive attitude when not only assist those children who currently attend the school but encourage others to attend our school and take advantage of the great learning opportunities.

#### School Profile

Total student enrolments for your school: 20

Year levels offered: prep to year seven

Coeducational

School community and location

East Palmerston State School is located in a rural area known as East Palmerston. The school has been established for 66 years and serves a stable, farming community. The nearest town is Innisfail which is approximately 26km from the school. The school has an active Parents and Citizens Association.

Students:

There are 20 students of different cultural backgrounds currently enrolled in the school. Over the last 3 years enrolments have fluctuated between 29 and 11.

# Our school at a glance

## Curriculum offerings

- Our distinctive curriculum offerings include:
- Literacy, Numeracy, SOSE, Science, HPE, The Arts, technology, Italian, You Can do It! (for the juniors) and V-Kids (for the seniors)
- We are part of the SMCSA (small schools sporting association) and are included in carnivals for athletics, softball, netball, soccer, cricket and cross country.

## Extra curricula activities

- “*Enviro*” club is run on Thursday afternoons. The children are involved in growing fruit and vegetables to sell at their stall. They are also keen gardeners who like to maintain and add to the existing flower gardens. There is a rainforest plot situated at the rear of the school and the children are keen to complete a rainforest walk and name each of the trees. They hope to include a frog pond, a butterfly sanctuary and a bush tucker garden.
- We have a school choir and a Senior and a Junior choir who compete at the local Young Performers and the local eisteddfod.
- The children participate in the Australasian Academic Competitions.
- Project Club consists of children from all grades working together to hold movie nights and other events to fundraise for community/ world wide programs.
- Our school hosts the *Cross country* for small schools in the district. We also host an *International Day* in term two and invite other small schools to join us in celebrating *Harmony Day* and *NAIDOC week*. This day is filled with many hands on activities, foods from many countries and cultural dances perform for the students.

## How computers are used to assist learning

We currently have a ration of one computer between two children. Children are allocated an ICT skills lesson during the week and are shown how to use a particular element of Microsoft Office ( word, publisher, power point, excel, web page). They then use these skills throughout all other subject areas.

## Our school at a glance

### Social climate

The school opinion surveys show that parents and students are happy with our school and believe they are getting a good education. The 2006 overall satisfaction rating for students surveyed placed us in the high 70 percentile, while parents overall satisfaction survey placed us in the 60 percentile and staff satisfaction surveys rated in the 90 percentile. Students expressed an interest in improving two areas; the standard of work expected, hence the introduction of criteria sheets with assessment tasks allowing individuals to self motivate themselves. The second was the way computer technology is used for learning at school so we have incorporated direct lessons for using the computers with a ration of one computer to two children, and integrated computers into all aspects of the curriculum. Parents did identify that they would like to see an improvement in their child's literacy and numeracy skills. Hence a new reading program and numeracy program have been developed and introduced since term four of 2006. Parents also would like to see their children involved in a greater variety of school activities. This year we have attended arts Council, involved children from other small schools in the district, to join us for an International Day and the Cross Country. The children have attended excursions to compliment the units of work they are studying, attended plays, community events and small school sporting carnivals with some children advancing and attending carnivals as district representatives.

### Involving parents in their child's education.

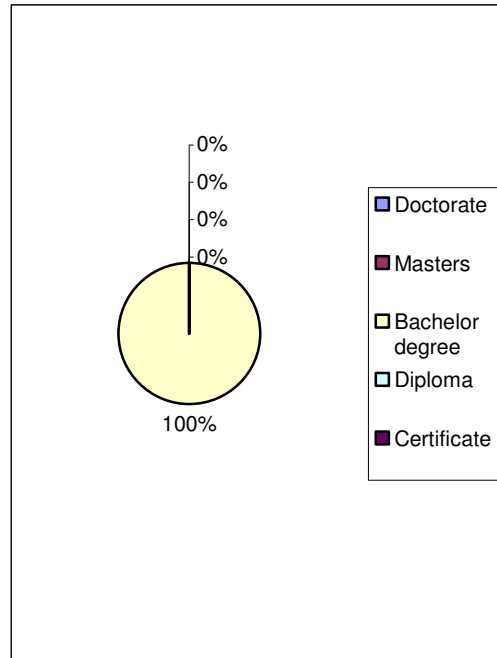
Parents are welcome to assist with any of the activities we have at our school. At the beginning of the year we encourage the parents to attend an afternoon to discuss the curriculum and to answer any questions of concern they may have regarding their child's education. We encourage parents to join us on school outings and to become involved in the after school "Enviro" club, as well as in class group activities such as reading or numeracy groups and art activities. We hold an open day at the end of each term inviting parents to see what the children have completed over the past term. It is also a time when the children teach their parents the particular skill they have learnt during ICT lessons.

Although a small community our parents have a P&C body which have fundraising events, social functions and assist with the writing of grants. This small group of people is very much appreciated for their hard work and dedication to the school.

# Our staff profile

## Qualifications of all teachers.

Highest level of Attainment	Percentage of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	
Masters	
Bachelor degree	100
Diploma	
Certificate	



## Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

- The total funds expended on teacher and staff professional development in 2006 was \$4,423.68 .

- The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

Our Guidance Officer provided in-service about working with children who are disengaged from learning.

Profiling was offered to the staff

Principal presented second FNQ literacy module to staff.

- The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2006 was 57 %.
- 71% of school workforce satisfied with access to learning opportunities that relate to school and systemic initiatives.

## Our staff profile

### Average staff attendance

- For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 96% in 2006.

### Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

- From the end of the 2005 school year, 42% of staff were retained by the school for the entire 2006 school year.

# Performance of our students

## Student attendance

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2006 was 94.6 %.

## 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	50%
Writing	100%
Number	0%

Our reading, writing and numeracy results for the Queensland Years 3, 5 and 7 Literacy and Numeracy Tests.

		Yr 3	Yr 5	Yr 7	
Reading	Average score for the school		522	609	672
	Average score for Queensland		535	608	679
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2006	80%	80%	75%
		2005	100%		0%
Writing	Average score for the school		498	641	700
	Average score for Queensland		522	627	696
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2006	80%	80%	100%
		2005	100%		100%
Numeracy	Average score for the school		441	599	687
	Average score for Queensland		529	599	653
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2006	20%	100%	100%
		2005	100%		0%

## Other Key Outcomes

### Value added

I am a new principal to this school. I've taken on an acting position over the last year and now have permanency. This school is situated in the area where I grew up so I am keen to improve the academic results of the children. I am also working with my community and staff to make the necessary curriculum improvements. As a team we will be implementing improvements to the facilities which will enhance our student's academic achievements.

### Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

The 2006 results show .....

100% of students are satisfied they are getting a good education from school

78% of parents/ caregivers, satisfied that students are getting a good education from school.

89% of parent /caregivers satisfied that the school is a good school.

100% of staff members satisfied with morale in the school