

PALMERSTON EAST STATE SCHOOL



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Principal's Foreword

Introduction

East Palmerston State School has a well recognised reputation for achieving excellence in the educational outcomes for primary school students. The school is located 26km west of Innisfail and is set amongst a tropical rainforest backdrop.

We provide quality public education that delivers rich opportunities for all students to achieve learning outcomes and reach their potential. The school provides excellence in educational opportunity to prepare students for an active part in global economy. It is guided by the values of care, belonging, success, and enjoyment. The learning programs support students to demonstrate self responsibility, citizenship and excellence.

At East Palmerston State School we are a team, consisting of staff, parents and children, working together to improve school curriculum results and improve our facilities. Our team, are determined to provide appropriate, quality educational opportunities, support and resource for all learners (Prep-Yr 7), recognising the worth of each individual, and catering for the needs that each individual brings to the learning situation. The positive attitudes and keen participants, make this unique tropical community school, a family friendly educational environment.

Another successful year has allowed us to achieve many of the outcomes and goals set forth in our AOP, including more computers, an outdoor learning area, a new covered area, a extension to the adventure playground, an interactive whiteboard and more support resources for the numeracy program, the reading program and integrated units.

Two full time teacher aides allowing for small group work and individual intervention programs to run everyday in our school.

We are ensuring that: Every Day Counts for Every Student because Kids are our Business!

Future outlook

Together, our team undertook the writing of the Triennial School Review, where parents, staff, children and community members planned the direction of our school in the next three years. This plan is available to view on our website. We envisage that the improvements in the school, workplace and curriculum will assist attending students and encourage others to attend our family friendly school.

We continue to emphasize the importance of setting high expectations for our students and encouraging our staff to attend Professional Development so we can deliver quality teaching. This will be done by providing a relevant curriculum, academic rigor, innovation and opportunities for all students to achieve to their potential.

This school will continue to provide many extra curriculum opportunities for students to develop their individual strengths and talents.

HOST OF SMALL SCHOOL HEALTHY LIFESTYLE DAY

Initially we will introduce the "Crunch, Munch Sip" program and "Breakfast" program. This event will be held in 2009 for the first time. It will have many of the small schools visiting our school with sporting mentors from various sports attending to teach the children various skills. The children will be involved in a pedometer competition with the staff prior to the day and awards will be given to the "Walker of the Year." A healthy lunch will be provided by our dedicated P&C but made by the children

PLAYGROUP FOR PRE-SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN

Each Tuesday and Thursday morning between 9-11am, we will invite parents and their young children to join us at school. This will provide a great opportunity for parents, both new and old, to introduce their young children to our family friendly rural school and what we have to offer.

HOST OF SMALL SCHOOL "BOOK IT!" WEEK

This is another project the children will be involved in during 2009. We are hoping for a book launch, visits from indigenous and other authors and illustrators. The children will have the opportunity to meet these famous people and be involved in creating books and illustrating them.

FACILITIES

Our intent in 2009 is to build a new library, create a pleasant parent waiting room and refurbish an existing room into a multi-purpose room for teacher reference, staff room, teacher aide preparation and the delivery of professional development to our staff and that of surrounding schools.

LEARNING

In 2009 we have a budget set aside to purchase 10 laptops, two interactive whiteboards, new reading materials, more resources to compliment the numeracy program and integrated units.

Our school at a glance

School Profile

EAST PALMERSTON is a coeducational State School catering for children from Prep to Year 7. We currently consist of 13 students.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY AND PROFILE

East Palmerston State School is located in a rural area known as the East Palmerston. The school has been established for over 70 years and serves a stable, farming community. The nearest town is Innisfail which is approximately 26km from the school. Children are able to travel to school on the community bus. The school has an active Parents and Citizens Association.

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

At East Palmerston State School we strive for academic excellence from the Preparatory year through to Year Seven.

Our school-based curriculum programs are based on the Queensland Studies Authority's (QSA) Queensland Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Framework (QCARF) with our emphasis on the alignment of curriculum assessment and reporting.

In 2008 we implemented our curriculum framework and its related programs. We have a focus on pedagogy, quality assessment tasks, explicit teaching of literacy and numeracy and continued moderation between our school and other small schools in the Cane Cutter Cluster.

CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

These curriculum programs are structured around the Essential Learnings and Standards and in the Preparatory Year, the Early Years Curriculum Program.

All units include integration of Science, SOSE, Technology, the Arts and HPE with inclusion of ICT activities. These units are collaboratively planned with teachers from other small schools and allow teachers to plan units to meet the unique need and interests of their students while providing them with a multiple explicit learning opportunities to achieve the essential learnings at each juncture. Our programs foster negotiated yet rigorous learning contexts in which students can actively engage and construct their learning.

Embedded in and integral to all of our curriculum programs is the explicit teaching of and meaningful use of literacy, numeracy and information and communication technologies (ICTs).

Units are designed to include the deep understanding, active investigations, effective communication, creativity and reflection.

By engaging in real-life and life-like learning contexts our students are supported to achieve to their potential and demonstrate their learning in contexts which build a 'love of learning'.

LITERACY FRAMEWORK

Small groups involved in distinct reading program, include explicit teaching of grammar, punctuation, spelling. All genres covered during allocated time for reading and viewing, writing and designing, speaking and listening.

NUMERACY FRAMEWORK

Provide a structured program based on Go math program with ICT included in all units. We emphasize progressive development of mental computation, number sense and place value.

BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

We currently rotate through three programs which all emphasize the same values and beliefs. These are Values Toolkit, You Can Do It! And V-Kids.

SMART MOVES ACTION PLAN

The children are involved in 15minute health program each morning. We are part of the SMCSA (small school sports association) and are included in athletic softball, netball, soccer, cricket and cross country carnivals. We intend introducing "Healthy Lifestyle" day in 2009 with pedometer competitions.

Our school at a glance

EXTRA CURRICULUM ACTIVITIES

ENVIRO CLUB

Is run each Wednesday morning. The children are involved in growing their own vegetables, a fruit orchard, maintaining and improving the existing gardens and continuing to run their fruit stall. They also have a rainforest walk through the rainforest plot situated at the rear of the school. This year the children won two awards (\$500 for each award) and used this money to create a butterfly garden and a frog pond.

HOST OF SMALL SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

All of the children completed this event. Many of them were successful and made it to the Peninsula Cross Country trials. The parents worked together to supply every child a healthy lunch.

HOST OF SMALL SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL DAY

This was the second time this event was held and we had over 130 attend from various small schools within the district. The children were involved in international sporting events, cooking, craft and complete activities with Okka Wikka.

SCHOOL CHOIR

Another successful year with the school choir achieving 1st and 3rd place.

YEAR 7 LEADERSHIP CAMP

All year 7 students have the opportunity to attend a leadership camp. This camp is paid for by the funds raised by children.

How computers are used to assist learning

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are integral to teaching and learning across all area of the curriculum at East Palmerston School.

Students are explicitly taught to utilize Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) as a means to access, manage, evaluate and communicate information to develop new understandings and ideas and effectively participate as lifelong learners in the 21st century.

Some examples include:

Using email to communicate to others

Accessing the internet to research and communicate with others

Manipulating images and text to communicate information using a variety of applications appropriate to the task eg. Excel, Microsoft Word, Power Point, Publisher and

Using critical literacies to appraise and reflect on issues such as ethnics, safety and popular culture

Using digital cameras and other peripherals to enhance our computer program.

Our commitment to the use of computers to assist in learning had us purchase 5 new desktops for the junior and an interactive whiteboard. We intent purchasing 2 more interactive whiteboards and 8 laptops for the seniors in 2009.

Our school at a glance

Social climate

East Palmerston State School has a supportive and caring school social climate. Students are supported by class teachers and teacher aides who identify their individual needs and plan to provide opportunities where students are challenged in a supportive, safe environment.

The behaviour management policies and strategies provide positive reinforcement of the appropriate student behaviour and define clear strategies to support students to demonstrate appropriate behaviour. All students are acknowledged for their consistent choices to behave appropriately.

Our Behaviour Code is endorsed by staff and parents and is reflected in the positive behaviour exhibited by the children. Our Behaviour Code instils within students the internal qualities needed to achieve and social – emotional development.

The school opinion surveys show that parents and students are happy with our school and believe they are getting a good education.

Education Queensland STUDENT

SURVEY AREA	SATISFACTION RANGE	SCHOOL SCORE	STATE SCORE
Safe at school	Very Satisfied	3.63	3.17
Treated fairly	Very Satisfied	3.25	2.83
Behaviour and discipline	Satisfied	2.75	2.19
Happy to go to school	Satisfied	3.13	3.19

Education Queensland PARENT surveys

SURVEY AREA	SATISFACTION RANGE	SCHOOL SCORE	STATE SCORE
Safe at school	Satisfied	2.50	3.00
Treated fairly	Very Satisfied	2.67	2.98
Behaviour	Satisfied	2.50	2.48
Discipline	Satisfied	2.50	2.66
Happy to go to school	Satisfied	3.00	3.19

Our school at a glance

Involving parents in their child's education.

Parents are welcome and encouraged to assist with any of the following activities:

Involvement in the quality reading group lessons

Involvement in the structured numeracy groups lessons

art and technology activities

accompanying students on school excursions

Classroom resource person – sharing their expertise

School information sessions

Involvement in school development teams (eg Triennial School Report)

Parents are involved in the “Enviro” club, joining us to complete various gardening projects. Fruit stall local banana farmer, Martin Buchanan provides a box of bananas every week.

Playgroup will start in 2009 and provide parents with the opportunity to meet and chat while their children are involved in simple activities.

Although we are a small community, our parents have an active and welcoming Parents and Citizens Association which hold fundraising events and social functions. This small group of dedicated parents are truly appreciated for their hard work and commitment to improving our school.

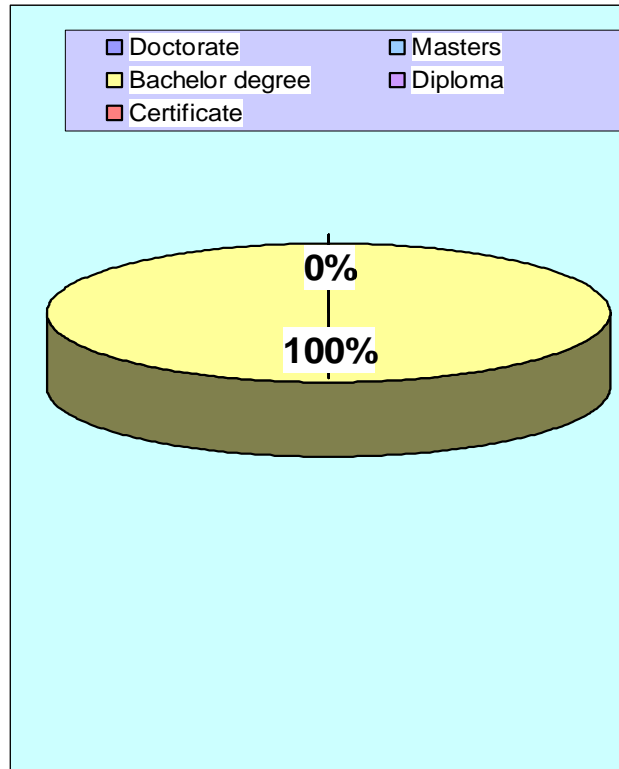
The school has a fortnightly newsletter providing parents with information about current and upcoming events. It also includes a student page and a community page.

Parents are regularly informed about their child's learning progress through the opportunity to attend two interviews each year, or as required. Informative summative student reports clearly communicate student progress each semester.

Our staff profile

Qualifications of all teachers.

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	0
Bachelor degree	1
Diploma	0
Certificate	0



Our staff profile

Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was \$6159.62 .

The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

Code of Conduct for all staff

5 day Literacy Training for teachers P-3

3 day Literacy Training for teacher aides P-3

Cane Cutter Cluster Principal Conference for 2 days- Leadership Training

2 days of District Principal Meetings

One School training

Whole Cluster Science conference (ASISTM)

Crossing Cultures

First Aide

WPHS

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 96% 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 97 %.

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.

Domain	Measures		Yr 3	Yr 5	Yr 7
Reading	Average score for the school		370.5	429.3	568.5
	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	100%	100%	100%
Writing	Average score for the school		387.1	464.0	567.8
	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%	100%
Spelling	Average score for the school		432.9	444.3	542.9
	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	100%	100%	100%
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school		325.0	408.9	586.3
	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	100%	100 %	100 %
Numeracy	Average score for the school		351.2	468.7	557.4
	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 %	100 %

Performance of our students

Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net

	Percentage of students not requiring additional support
Reading	N/A
Writing	N/A
Number	N/A

Value added

We have a small number of children and employ two full time teacher aides enabling us to offer one to one intervention to all children experiencing difficulties or needing extension. Each student has their own individual plan. We are also able to have children working within small groups throughout the day.

The 2008 results and data show the benefits of an education in a small school setting with a clear reduction in the number of students falling below in National (100% of our children within or above the required band scale for their age).

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Education Queensland Parent Opinion Survey 2008

PERCENTAGE OF PARENTS/CARGIVERS SATISFIED THAT OUR SCHOOL IS A GOOD SCHOOL - 16 %

PERCENTAGE OF PARENTS/CAREGIVERS VERY SATISFIED THAT OUR SCHOOL IS A GOOD SCHOOL- 67%

SURVEY AREA	SATISFACTION RANGE	SCHOOL SCORE	STATE SCORE
STUDENT OUTCOMES	Neutral	2.21	2.92
CURRICULUM	Satisfied	2.64	3.00
PEDAGOGY	Satisfied	2.43	2.83
LEARNING CLIMATE	Satisfied	2.67	2.98
SCHOOL CLIMATE	Satisfied	2.63	2.86
SCHOOL-COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS	Satisfied	2.77	2.93
RESOURCES	Neutral	2.40	2.81
OVERALL	Satisfied	2.55	2.90

Performance of our students

Education Queensland Staff Opinion Survey 2008

PERCENTAGE OF STAFF THAT AGREE THAT THIS IS A GOOD PLACE IN WHICH TO WORK- 9.1%

PERCENTAGE OF STAFF THAT STRONGLY AGREE THAT THIS IS A GOOD PLACE IN WHICH TO WORK- 90.9%

SURVEY AREA	AGREEMENT RANGE	SCHOL SCORE	STATE SCORE
PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	Strongly Agree	3.65	2.75
RELATIONSHIPS	Strongly Agree	3.87	3.03
SCHOOL OPERATIONS	Strongly Agree	3.80	2.81
STAFF MORALE	Strongly Agree	3.85	2.99
SUPPORT, RESOURCES, TRAINING	Strongly Agree	3.60	2.66
WORK ROLE	Strongly Agree	3.80	2.93
WORK VALUE AND RECOGNITION	Strongly Agree	3.80	2.90
OVERALL	Strongly Agree	3.75	2.85

Education Queensland Student Opinion Survey 2008

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS SATISFIED THAT THEY ARE GETTING A GOOD EDUCATION-25 %

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS VERY SATISFIED THAT THEY ARE GETTING A GOOD EDUCATION-75%

SURVEY AREA	AGREEMENT RANGE	SCHOOL SCORE	STATE SCORE
STUDENT OUTCOMES	Satisfied	3.19	3.14
CURRICULUM	Satisfied	3.17	3.02
PEDAGOGY	Satisfied	3.00	2.94
LEARNING CLIMATE	Satisfied	3.16	3.17
SCHOOL CLIMATE	Satisfied	3.19	2.85
RESOURCES	Satisfied	2.91	2.90
OVERALL	Satisfied	3.12	2.98