

Aspley East State School

“Reward for Effort”

 Aspley East State School	PO address	31 Helena Street, Aspley
	Phone	07 32632800
	Fax	07 32637527
	Email	info@aspleastss.eq.edu.au
	Website or Contact Person	http://www.aspleastss.eq.edu.au



Principal's foreword

Introduction

This report outlines Aspley East State School's progress, and highlights our achievements throughout in 2008. It also provides an overview of our priorities for 2009. Our students have had a very successful year academically; we have refined our curriculum programs, expanded our facilities and resources and welcomed many new families to our growing school community. We look forward to another engaging and rewarding year in 2009.

During 2008, we have focused on consolidation of our curriculum planning processes and continued to plan collaboratively an engaging and challenging curriculum, set high expectations for pedagogy and student learning and offered each student the very best environment conducive to a happy and rewarding school life. The student data from internal and systemic testing were interrogated and specific areas for improvement were targeted. Teacher professional development and expansion of resources and facilities were also integral to our success in achieving improved student outcomes.

A snapshot of our achievements for 2008 include:

- implementation of strategies to improve student literacy and numeracy skills;
- continued micro-skilling of teachers in areas of Literacy and Numeracy pedagogy and use of ICTs;
- development and implementation of units of work, incorporating the Essential Learnings and Standards, in line with the Queensland Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Framework (QCAR);
- improved student outcomes as evidenced by Years Three, Five and Seven results in the National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy;
- consolidation and expansion of our Preparatory Year implementation;
- consolidation of inclusive practices which cater successfully for a wide range of student abilities with the expansion of our Special Education Program;
- implementation of effective intervention strategies to accommodate the needs of all students;
- expansion of student access to ICTs; and,
- consolidation of partnerships within the school community and outside agencies for improved opportunities for student learning.

Future outlook

Improvement Priorities for 2009

Some of our 2009 priorities are included in our responses to Aspley East's Triennial School Review findings of 2007 and through strategies outlined in our resulting Strategic Plan 2008-2010. This plan set school direction for three years, identifying school priorities and focus areas in curriculum and learning, school practices and workforce. Others are a result of our responding to Federal and State Educational initiatives.

The following are some specific initiatives planned for 2009:

- expanding resources and teacher expertise in the Preparatory Year implementation;
- effectively accommodating student advancements in our P-3 programs to enhance student learning in the Early Years and maximizing the impact of the Preparatory Year;
- further enhancing Middle Phase of Learning programs to improve student engagement and community understanding of student learning;
- increasing teacher skills and student access to ICTs across the eight year levels and utilising e-Learning in all Key Learning Areas;
- focusing on student literacy and numeracy outcomes and further refining school management structures to enable innovative responses to analysis of Years Three, Five and Seven NAPLAN (national) and school data;
- designing processes for the introduction of the Developing Performance Framework and initiating individual and whole staff professional development plans aligned to Professional Standards for Teachers and school literacy, numeracy, ICT and special needs initiatives, and enhancing school structures to support professional learning opportunities for all members of staff;
- consolidating management structures for a supportive and effective Chaplaincy position in the school community;
- consolidating innovative practices to increase community access to school facilities and to build stronger partnerships with members of the wider community;
- consolidating links with the three independent day care complexes that share a common boundary with the school;
- supporting the Parents and Citizens' Association and the School Council, especially in their endeavours to engage more parents and caregivers to take an active role in school activities;
- further enhancing and expanding school facilities, under the State and Federal Government's State Schools of Tomorrow and Building Education Revolution Projects, by upgrading existing school buildings, incorporating state of the art E-learning resources, installing new playground areas and equipment, creating stimulating outdoor learning areas and building a Multi-Media Creative Arts Resource Centre; and,
- exploring genuine and innovative avenues to celebrate student, staff, and parent and caregiver successes.

Our school at a glance

School profile

Total Student Enrolments

Aspley East State School has experienced managed enrolment growth for more than a decade.

The Aspley East School Community is very proud of its support for inclusive educational practices, as exemplified by the operation of a Special Education Program for students with vision impairments, autistic spectrum disorder and intellectual impairments. Currently more than fifty-five special needs students are supported by the school community.

The School Community also takes great pride in being one of Education Queensland's six approved primary schools to enrol long term, full fee paying international students. These students add significantly to the cultural mix of the school and provide all students with an opportunity to appreciate cultural diversity.

There are 704 students enrolled. This figure includes all students who are supported across the campus including international students.

Students from Preparatory Year through to Year Seven are supported at Aspley East State School.

Aspley East State School is a co-education campus.

Curriculum offerings



Our Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

Aspley East State Schools offers a large range of distinctive curriculum offerings that enhance the eight Key Learning Areas of English, Mathematics Science, Technology Studies of Society and Environment, The Arts, Languages other than English and Health and Physical Education. We cater for these Key Learning Areas in an engaging and stimulating integrated curriculum that connects to our students' lives and interests and provides each student with the capacity to reach his or her potential. We encourage academic excellence and focus on high expectation from our teachers and students. Aspley East caters for all students, regardless of abilities, providing quality support for students with special needs and offering extension activities for those with gifts and talents in all areas of the curriculum.

Our distinctive offerings provide students with the opportunity to participate in a number of academic, cultural, sporting and social activities. These include extensive participation of students in the ICAS competitions, including English, Writing, Spelling, Mathematics, Science and Computer competitions. One hundred of our students from Years Three to Seven are funded to participate in the Australian Mathematics Competition as part of our Gifted and Talented Program.

Aspley East hosts an annual Speaking Competition 'Let It Be Heard at Aspley East', involving all students from Years Five, Six and Seven. The standard of the speakers in the finals has been recognised and applauded by the official judges.

During 2008, we have expanded student access to information and communication technologies, with the installation of a number of interactive white boards, and extensively incorporated their use by our students and teachers in learning experiences and other activities. The ICT facilities in our Multi-Purpose Activity Centre enable the use of multi-media technology by students at assemblies and presentations.

Extra Curricula Activities

There are many exciting activities in which students at Aspley East State School are encouraged to participate throughout the year. Most of these activities occur on campus, however, an increasing number of opportunities are being provided for students to represent their school and interact with peers and community representatives from throughout the district. Extra Curricular activities include:

Our school at a glance

- Student Council fundraising activities run by students in Years Five, Six and Seven;
- Community participation activities e.g. school fete, bush dances, arts and crafts displays;
- Braille reading activities and competitions;
- Environment Club and related activities, including its participation in planting gardens at P & C working bees;
- Music Extension Program and Performing Arts activities including:
 - Instrumental Program (includes lessons in strings, woodwind, brass and percussion)
 - Concert Band
 - String Ensemble
 - Marching Band
 - Intra-school Music Competition - This is for all music instrumental music students and is run in Term Three
 - singing groups - These include a girls' singing group, *Girl Talk*, and a boys' singing group, *Secret Men's Business*
 - choirs - These choirs include a Year Three Choir, Junior Choir (Years 4 & 5) and Senior Choir (Years 6 & 7))These groups perform at a Show Case Evening in Term Four;
- Junior and Senior Discos;
- Inter-School Sports Program for Years Five, Six and Seven in the Bramble Bay District Sports Competition; and
- Years Six and Seven Camping Program.

How computers are used to assist learning

Our goal is to provide a supportive and challenging learning environment that will achieve desirable learning outcomes for all. An important strategy to achieve this goal involves the effective use of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) by all teachers and students from Preparatory Year to Year Seven.

The inclusion of ICTs into each year level's four mandated teaching units ensures a whole of school developmental approach to using computers and delivering Information Communication Technologies.

Curriculum delivery is supported by sound school management processes that ensure that the extensive network that links all classrooms is well maintained. Responsiveness to student and staff needs is provided by school based staff including a full time ICT technician and full time ICT trainee.

A variety of interesting and challenging approaches is supported at Aspley East State School to make effective use of computers and Information Communication Technologies. These include:

- sharing information and reports on school events, student achievements and community participation via the development of DVDs that are shown at special events;
- guided use of the Internet (In School Opinion Survey Data, no parent registered dissatisfaction with his/her child's access to the internet);
- publication of students' work using Microsoft and various media packages;
- access to a variety of electronic learning programs access via the school network;
- presentations prepared by students, using digital photographic equipment and subsequently enhanced by software applications;
- development of digital portfolios to support development of the Preparatory Year Early Learning Records, and;
- development of school information materials using publishing software

Our school at a glance

Social climate



Our School motto is “Reward for Effort”.

Our mission is to provide a learning environment where each student will have the best possible opportunities to fulfil his or her potential. We strive to provide high quality educational experiences that assist all students to love learning, to develop judgement and a sense of responsibility, to understand the past and to prepare to embrace the future.

Our intention is to equip our students for the future to enable them to contribute to a socially, economically and culturally vibrant society.

Aspley East State School has a strong sense of community that values the contribution that each person can make to the school and the ultimate successes that every child should experience. We believe that all students have the right to learn and be safe and happy in a socially just and supportive environment. We acknowledge that children come from different backgrounds and experiences and have different personalities, skills, abilities and learning styles.

We believe that social skills, good manners, tolerance and good citizenship need to be developed through explicit teaching, modelling and encouragement and that children need to be accountable for their actions. In School Opinion Survey data, there are no parents dissatisfied with the school’s social skilling of their children, or with their children’s ability to work well at school. We respect the uniqueness of the individual but believe that everyone has the same rights and responsibilities, which need to be promoted and preserved. We believe that our school must foster an environment where teachers can teach and students can learn, free from disruptive behaviours causing uninvited and unwanted interruptions to curriculum delivery.

Our School Community is committed to an approach where the rights of all members are preserved, at the same time as an expectation of responsibilities is met.

Our success in building a safe and happy school environment is evidenced in our School Opinion Survey Data. Over 80% of parents and students believe that the school is a safe place. Parent and student data regarding discipline and fair treatment of students are also above average, with most parents (over 70%) stating they are satisfied with the discipline at the school, and nearly 80% of parents satisfied that their children are fairly treated.

Our school at a glance

Involving parents in their child's education



Aspley East State School has a very strong sense of community and is committed to involving parents and caregivers in their children's education. This is exemplified by the high levels of community involvement in a wide variety of school events from working bees to school review forums. In the School Opinion Survey data around 90% of parents believe that the school makes them feel welcome.

Almost every teacher reports close to 100% attendance by parents and caregivers at parent teacher interviews.

At Aspley East State School we:

- promote the importance of and the operations of the Parents and Citizen's Association;
- support the School Council in its role as the strategic body for the school community;
- encourage parents, caregivers and members of the wider school community to share their expertise, knowledge and skills to enhance the learning environment for all students;
- enlist the expertise of staff and outside consultants to provide parents and caregivers with opportunities to understand how children learn and to appreciate the significant and lasting impact that partnerships between home and school have upon a child's life-long learning;
- ensure that school processes inform parents and caregivers of the progress their children are making at school; (These processes include much more than the issuing of semester report cards. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to make contact with school staff to discuss their child's progress. This open and welcoming approach is a corner stone of the school culture.);
- have established school management practices that encourage and skill parents and caregivers to support student learning activities across all Key Learning Areas, and;
- support many parent groups including the Music Support Group, the Marching Band Committee, the Fundraising Committee and the Special Education Unit Sub-Committee. (Each of these groups, along with other community support groups is acknowledged through school forums, publications and wider community events.).

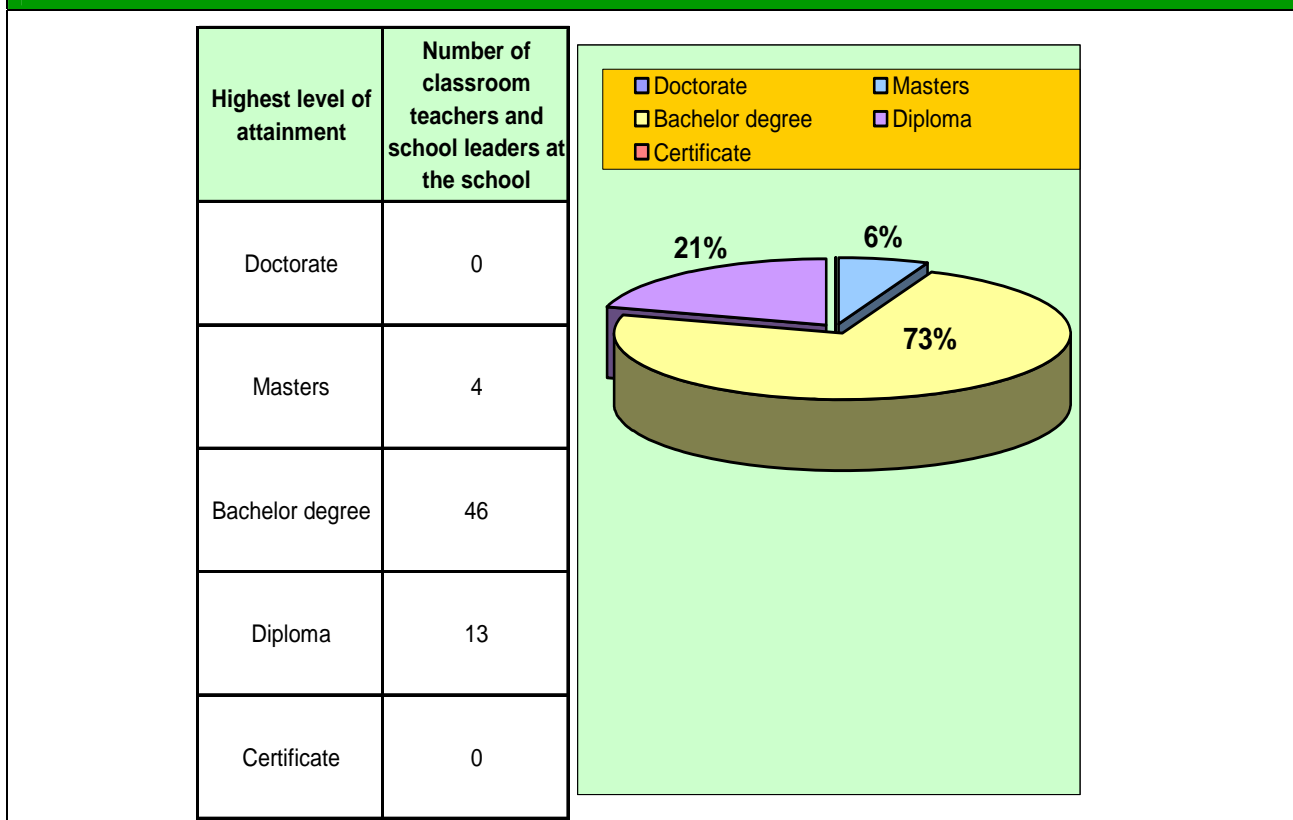
The Aspley East State School Parents and Citizens' Association must be applauded for the tireless efforts of its members. The dedication of the members, and the financial contributions made to school projects have been outstanding. The Association also provides an excellent forum for parents and caregivers to share their views on wide range of topics. The Association also provides support and guidance for a number of specific interest groups and school operations, including the Tuckshop, Bookshop and Special Education Unit Sub-Committee.

The School Council provides valued strategic leadership for the school community. It responds to systemic and school priorities and endorses plans, program and initiatives to enhance student learning outcomes. The School Council is responsible for endorsing the Annual Operational Plan (including the School Budget), guiding the Triennial School Review and developing a detailed set of responses to the interrogation of data sets that inform staff, parents and caregivers on student and school performance.

At Aspley East we value the involvement of parents and caregivers and look forward to parental involvement in class and extra curricula activities. We have a saying... "When we work together as one, we get the job done".

Our staff profile

Qualifications of all teachers



Expenditure on, and teacher participation in professional development



The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 were **\$22 540**.

The major professional development initiatives provided for teachers were as follows:

- Year level sessions - best practice sharing, unit development incorporating the Essential Learnings and Standards and moderation with the Head of Curriculum;
- Five day Literacy Training for Years 1-3 teachers ;
- ICT Pedagogical Licences Training;
- Science – Primary Connections Conference;
- School Grammar Program professional development;
- Pupil Free Days, concentrating on systemic priorities: Essential Learnings and Standards, QCAR initiatives, data analysis and OneSchool's Reporting and Behaviour Management packages ; and,
- Early Years Continuity days; and
- Teacher Learning Network sessions.

Our staff profile

The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2008 was **96 %**.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

From the end of the 2007 school year, **100%** of staff was retained by the school for the entire 2008 school year.

Average staff attendance

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

Performance of our students

Student attendance

The average student attendance rate as a percentage in 2008 was **94%**.

Key outcomes

Domain	Measures	Yr 3	Yr 5	Yr 7
Reading	Average score for the school	405	487	545
	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	91%	94%
Writing	Average score for the school	405	495	543
	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	92%	93%
Spelling	Average score for the school	390	496	557
	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	93%	95%
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school	415	514	558
	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	93%	96%
Numeracy	Average score for the school	398	483	559
	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%	96%

Performance of our students

Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net	
	Percentage of students not requiring additional support
Reading	85%
Writing	91%
Number	93%

Value added



Our 2008 data from the National Testing Program for Literacy and Numeracy have evidenced a continued improvement in student outcomes. Our students produced results well above state average, and equal or better than nation average in all areas. It should be noted that we cater for a significant number of students with disabilities, with a large Special Education Program for Vision Impaired students, Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Intellectual Impairments and Speech Language Impairment. We have very inclusive practices and ensure that all our students have access to every possible facet of education.

Our students who participated in ICAS and Australian Mathematics competitions also achieved outstanding results with a significant amount of High Distinction, Distinction and Merit certificates presented. Aspley East has strong ties to feeder high schools and our students participate in 'Days of Excellence' in areas ranging from technology and science to volleyball.

Our senior students participate in a Leadership Program, which gives them the opportunity to accept official roles in a number of school functions and activities throughout the year. Public speaking is enhanced, as are the organisational and social skills of our students.

Aspley East has implemented a very successful chaplaincy program, which is highly valued by the school community.

Performance of our students

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school



School Opinion Survey Results

School Opinion Survey is designed to gather data about parent / caregiver, student and staff satisfaction with various aspects of the school, including student learning outcomes, curriculum delivery, pedagogy, learning climate, school-community relations, resources and school operations. The following table illustrates the school results in major areas compared with EQ targets for 2008.

Performance Indicator	2008 School Performance	2008 EQ Target
Percentage of parents and students satisfied that they are getting a good education at the school	Parents - 85%	Parents - 78%
	Students - 90%	Students - 79%
Percentage of parents satisfied that the school is a good school	90%	84%
Percentage of the school workforce satisfied with access to professional development opportunities that relate to school and systemic initiatives	81%	73%
Percentage of staff members satisfied with morale in the school	92%	80%

Staff Responses:

My appreciation is extended to all who made it possible to:

- achieve the results recorded in this School Annual Report;
- report on the positive and dynamic Aspley East School Community;
- respond to data that identifies priorities for 2007 and 2008; and,
- align school resources to enhance student learning outcomes.