

Performance of our students



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Principal's foreword

Introduction

Dear Parents and Community Members,

The Brigalow State School Annual Report is a cooperative document reporting on our school's activities and celebrations for the 2008 school year. The Parents' and Citizens' Association (P&C) and the School Administration Team have collaborated to provide this information and share the successes of the school with our community.

This report demonstrates the successes that can be achieved when a school community works together to provide quality education for its students.

Kind regards,

Sarah Lane

Principal

Future outlook

The 2009 school year heralds some exciting developments at Brigalow State School. With the implementation of the National School Pride and Building Education Revolution funding from the Federal Government, Brigalow will see some significant upgrades in facilities. The outcome of this program will provide enhancement for teaching and learning as well as performance and the facilities will be readily accessed by the community.

Curriculum renewal, particularly in literacy and numeracy, will be the school's main focus during the Triennial School Review in 2009. Literacy and Numeracy form the foundation for successful outcomes for students in other key learning areas. Through a commitment to assessment and monitoring of student performance we will continue to build a school that celebrates academic success.

Brigalow State School is expected to stay at a similar size of 30 students and two teachers.

School Profile

Total student enrolments for this school	34 (as at 23 March 2009)
Year levels offered	Prep – Year 7
Coeducational or single sex	Coeducational Primary School

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings:

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- Multi-age teaching catering for all year levels across all ability levels
- Innovative and extensive use of ICTs across all key learning areas
- Daily physical activity lessons
- Whole school musical
- Recorder lessons
- Celebration of special days: ie. NAIDOC week etc
- Art Council, Opera Queensland, Author visits throughout the year

Extra curricula activities:

- Tennis coaching before school
- Instrumental Music - Years 5 to 7 (Woodwind, Brass and Percussion)
- Strings Program - Years 5 to 7
- School camps
- Inter-school sport
- ICAS – International Competition and Assessment for Schools

How computers are used to assist learning:

Embedding of ICT as an integral component of curriculum, teaching and learning has been a major focus of Brigalow State School for a few years. Teachers use the computers and the interactive whiteboard to develop the students knowledge and skills.

Students use the Microsoft suite to create items such as digital newsletters, web pages and multimedia presentations to support units of work. Web quests, online courses and learning objects are used to enhance learning opportunities. Older students use Movie Maker and Photo Story to create their own videos.

Students participate in online chats with authors and they also participate in book raps on the Learning Place.

Social climate

The Brigalow school community consists predominantly of rural families. The farming sector is a closely-knit rural community, with many of the families being related. Here traditional, conservative values and religion are prized. The majority of the farms are operated by family members. The close knit, family environment provides a safe and supportive learning environment for students.

Actively seeking student voice to shape the future of our school and providing programs to develop informed and active citizens for the future is an integral part of our school philosophy. We are proactive in our approach to ensuring all community members are aware of the appropriate way to interact and seek to address any issues confidentially, sensitively and respectfully.

Peer Support Reading Program (Year 6 & 7 students lead daily peer reading support with the Prep class)

Social Skills Program (Year 7 students lead weekly school assemblies with students around topics such as resilience, speaking up, values, friendships)

Code of Conduct – (The expectations, rights and responsibilities of all community members are regularly published, modelled and monitored)

Adopt-a-Cop Program – (We have our very own Police Officer who comes and visits our school events like Prefect induction and sports days)

School Student Leadership Program (Year 4 – 7 students) Project Club

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Involving parents in their child's education.

Brigalow State School encourages and welcomes the support of adults (parents, caregivers, grandparents, community members) in our classrooms to enhance and support the teaching and learning programs that are offered. The school is always working to ensure that parents' ideas and opinions are valued and that:

Parents are:

- o regularly invited into the classroom and school events
- o receive regular reporting of what students are doing and how they are progressing
- o participate in excursions through attendance and providing transport

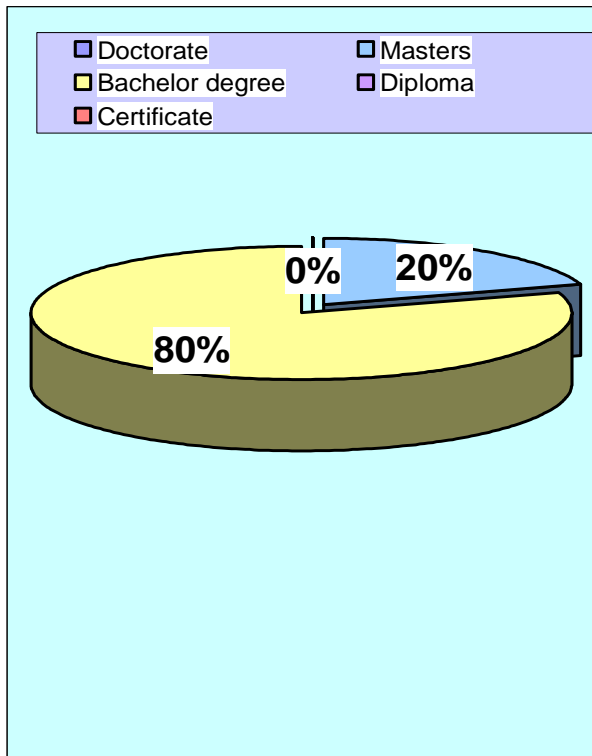
Educational research provides strong evidence of the powerful influence that parents have on their child/ren's success in school results and achievements. An influence that is as powerful as any other educational factor, including the role of schools.

Brigalow SS Parents' and Citizens' Association

The Brigalow Parents' and Citizens' Association is open to all parents and carers of children attending Brigalow State School. It provides a great opportunity for all parents to be more involved behind the scenes at the school, supporting the children's overall school experience. The P&C manages the tuckshop facilities, outdoor beautification projects, assists with school planning and contributes significant funds to the school through many great fundraising events throughout the year. The P&C meets on the first Monday of each month at either 7.30pm or 8pm and welcomes new members at any time.

Qualifications of all teachers:

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	20
Bachelor degree	80
Diploma	0
Certificate	0



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Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

- The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 were \$10,213.49 .
- The major professional development initiatives are as follows:
 - QCAR
 - Year 1 – 3 Literacy training for teachers
 - Numeracy
 - Literacy (Reading, Spelling)
 - Science (Primary Connections)
 - Smart Moves
 - QCATs
 - First Aid & CPR updates
 - Supporting and making modifications for students with special needs
- 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, 57% of staff were retained by the school for the entire 2008 school year.

Student attendance

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2008 was 95%.

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	Data withheld	456	526
	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	Data withheld	80%
Writing	Average score for the school	Data withheld	469	515
	Average score for Queensland	391.8	468.9	522.7

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	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	Data withheld	100%	100%
Spelling	Average score for the school		Data withheld	446	504
	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	Data withheld	60%	86%
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school		Data withheld	459	458
	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	Data withheld	80%	71%
Numeracy	Average score for the school		Data withheld	457	535
	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	Data withheld	100%	100%

Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net

	Percentage of students not requiring additional support
Reading	Data withheld
Writing	Data withheld
Number	Data withheld

Value added

It is difficult to compare years and results in standardised testing due to the small numbers of students in each year level. The small size of these cohorts needs to be considered when interpreting school data.

Academic learning outcomes, as measured by the NAPLAN: Year 3, 5 & 7 Tests, are mostly above the Australian means. The outcomes for Years 5 and 7 in Spelling were slightly below the Queensland mean in 2008.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

The parents, students and staff believe that Brigalow State School is a good school according to our school opinion survey data. 89% of students and 83% of parents were satisfied that students were getting a good education from the school and 89% of parents were satisfied that Brigalow State School is a good school.