


QUEENSLAND STATE SCHOOL REPORTING - 2010

Thulimbah State School (0803)

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Principal's foreword

Introduction

Thulimbah Primary School has a reputation as a caring community where each student's individual needs are met.

The school is situated approximately 15 kilometres north of Stanthorpe, about 3 kilometres north west of the township of Thulimbah. The students at our school come from both rural and urban properties.

The staff at Thulimbah teach in a way that caters for the learning styles of each student. Students with special needs are catered for through an intensive speech/language program while those with fine and gross motor needs are targeted through an occupational therapy program.

Numeracy and literacy are explicitly taught in English and Mathematics classes and then reinforced through all other Key Learning Area (KLA).

Science at Thulimbah aims to foster students' curiosity, imagination and knowledge so as to enhance their understanding of the natural and physical world around them. Scientific knowledge, thinking and problem solving is explicitly taught then reinforced through experimentation

Prep students are included with years 1 – 3 in an integrated program. Oral language is a high priority, and is focussed on through language programs which are developed through a play based program to promote successful formal reading and writing. Numeracy is developed through a play based program to promote a good number sense.

School progress towards its goals in 2010

The school has been able to meet all the strategic goals set out in the 2009 Annual Operational Plan.

Future outlook

Our experienced staff will continue to refine the curriculum we offer to meet the changing needs of our students and the requirements of the Department of Education and Training. All staff will be involved in professional development that will ensure the successful implementation of the National Curriculum. We will carry out all recommendations of the 2010 Teaching and Learning Audit process.

The major projects for 2011 revolve around further developing our grounds to act as a learningscape where students can engage in formal and informal learning.

Our school at a glance

School Profile

Coeducational or single sex: coeducational

Year levels offered: Prep to Year 7

Total student enrolments for this school:

Total Enrolment	Girls	Boys	Enrolment Continuity (Feb 2010 – Nov 2010)
33	15	18	100%

Characteristics of the student body:

Our school caters for students from both rural and urban properties. They come from a mix of socioeconomic background. Our numbers stayed in the mid-thirties the whole year.

Class sizes – Proportion of school classes achieving class size targets in 2010

Phase	Average Class Size	Percentage of classes in the school			
		On or under target	Under Target	On Target	Over Target
Prep – Year 3	13	100%	100%	0%	0%
Year 4 – Year 10	20	100%	100%	0%	0%
All Classes	17	100%	100%	0%	0%

School Disciplinary Absences

Disciplinary Absences	Count of Incidents
Short Suspensions - 1 to 5 days	0
Long Suspensions - 6 to 20 days	0
Exclusions	0
Cancellations of Enrolment	0

Our school at a glance

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

The majority of the school week is spent explicitly teaching all aspects of English & Mathematics. Students get to apply their Literacy and Numeracy knowledge and skills across a wide range of subject areas. Both English and Mathematics are explicitly taught and practised in 1.5 hour blocks daily.

In addition to all the Key Learning Areas, Thulimbah Primary School involves students in:-

African drumming -this involves explicit teaching, practice and performances,

Gardening – this is used as hands on science as well as free time activities for those who choose to do it

Creek study- looking at the health of the Broadwater River in Winter and Summer, this is a hands on Science activity

Independent technology activities with building things and deconstructing appliances

Extra curricula activities

Drumming performances for the general public

Singing and playing instruments for the elderly and the general public

How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning

At Thulimbah computers and other communication technologies are used to assist students learning but are not the major focus of our teaching and learning.

Thulimbah's students predominantly use Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) as a means to communicate better with their intended audience. They are taught how to use the hardware and software in lessons with the teacher and then they are encouraged to teach each other with a teacher or aide monitoring their performance.

Students are also taught how to critically use the Internet to collect information.

Social climate

All students are supported and nurtured to ensure each one develops socially, emotionally and academically. They are expected to display high levels of self-discipline, and to care about the well-being of all other members of our school community. A lot of time and energy is spent developing and maintaining positive relationships between all members of our learning community. All relationships are based on mutual respect. All adults are expected to be role models of positive interpersonal relationships

Our school at a glance

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

These results have remained the same for the last few years.

Performance measure	Result 2010
Percentage of parents/caregivers satisfied that their child is getting a good education at school	100%
Percentage of students satisfied that they are getting a good education at school	68%
Percentage of parents/caregivers satisfied with their child's school	100%
Percentage of school workforce satisfied with access to professional development opportunities that relate to school and systemic initiatives	89%
Percentage of staff members satisfied with morale in the school	100%

Involving parents in their child's education.

Parents are encouraged to be involved in the activities of our learning community. The school communicates with parents firstly by face to face but there is also a weekly newsletter and each infant child has a communication book.

In 2010 we had an open night in Term 1 and various day activities when parents were encouraged to be involved in their child's work. These were well attended. As per usual our end of year concert was extremely well attended with 100% of parents attending.

Parents were involved in the P&C meetings and the running of the weekly tuckshop. A number of parents coached our soccer, softball and cricket teams.

Reducing the school's environmental footprint

Thulimbah Primary School is attempting to reduce its environment footprint through a wide variety of environmental programs

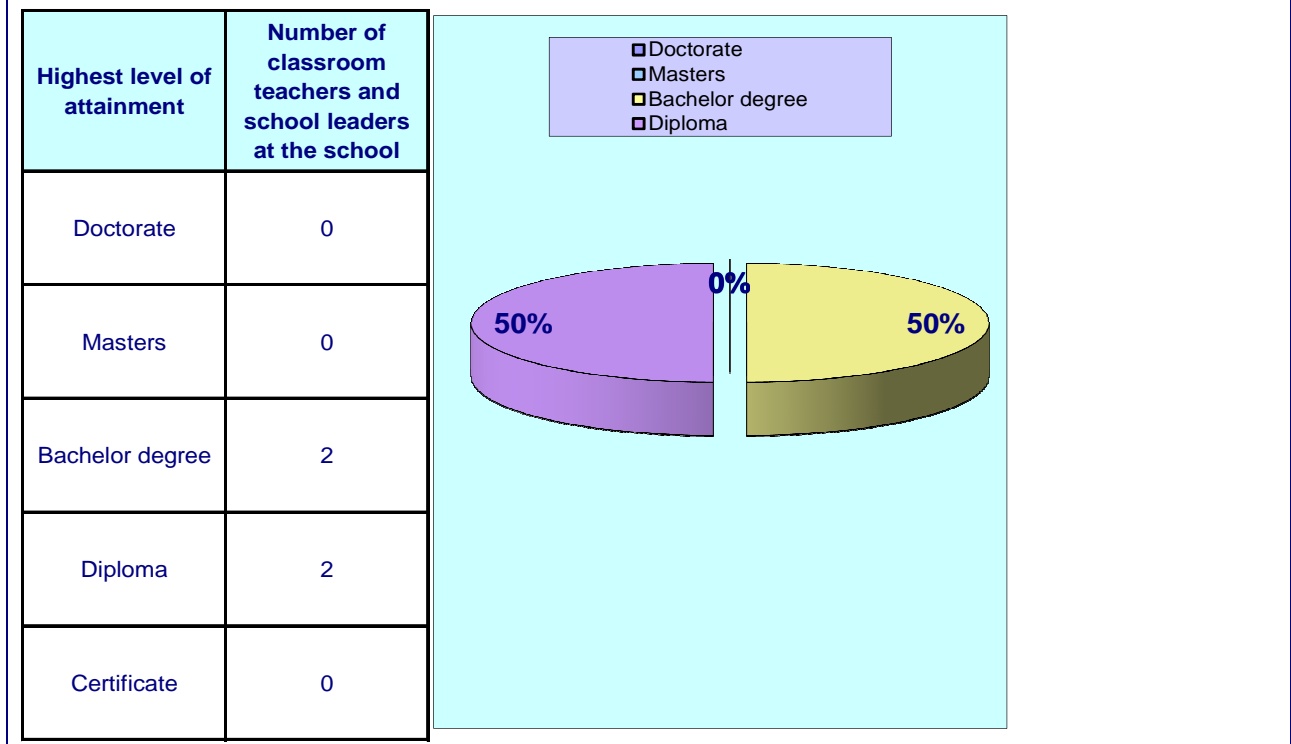
Year	Total	Electricity	Sewerage	Waste	Water	Gas	Other	Electricity kWh	WaterKL	GasMJ
2010	\$3,591	\$3,299	\$0	\$292	\$0	\$0	\$0	15,488	0	0
2009	\$4,600	\$4,379	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$221	25,968	0	0
% change 2009 - 2010	-22%	-25%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-100%	-40%	N/A	N/A

Performance of our students

Staff composition, including Indigenous Staff

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-teaching Staff	Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	5	6	0
Full-time equivalents	4	3	0

Qualifications of all teachers.



Performance of our students

Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2010 was \$4207

The major professional development initiatives are as follows: Catering for individual differences, differentiating when assessing, improving questioning techniques

The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2010 was 100 %.

Average staff attendance

For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders, the staff attendance rate was 95% in 2010.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

From the end of the previous school year, 100% of staff were retained by the school for the entire 2010 school year.

Key student outcomes

Attendance

Student attendance - 2010

The average attendance rate for the whole school as a percentage in 2010 was 96%.

Student attendance for each year level

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12
97%	91%	96%	95%	99%	96%	97%					

Description of how non-attendance is managed by the school

Non-attendance is managed in state schools in line with the DET policies, SMS-PR-029: Managing Student Absences and SMS-PR-036: Roll Marking in State Schools, which outline processes for managing and recording student attendance and absenteeism.

All attendance rolls are marked twice a day, before first break and after second break. Parents are expected to notify the school if their child is going to be absent. If the school has not been informed of why a child is going to be away the parent is contacted by 9:30 am to find out why the child is away. If the child is away regularly without a reasonable explanation the parents are contacted and counselled on the importance of being at school every day.

Achievement – Closing the Gap

Our indigenous students had no unexplained absences and achieved marked improvement in their literacy and numeracy. This was shown through internal school testing and work samples.

Performance of our students

Achievement – Years 3, 5, 7, and 9

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.

Our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are available via the MySchool website at <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>

To access our NAPLAN results, click on the MySchool link above. You will then be taken to the *My School* website with the following 'Find a school' text box.

Find a school

Search by school name

Search by suburb, town or postcode

Sector Government
 Non-government

Where it says '**Search by school name**', type in the name of the school whose NAPLAN results you wish to view, and select <GO>.

Read and follow the instructions on the next screen; you will be asked to accept the **Terms of Use** and Privacy Policy before being able to access NAPLAN data.

If you are unable to access the internet, please contact the school for a paper copy of our school's NAPLAN results.