Principal’s foreword

Introduction

At Mt Gravatt East State School our goal is to provide high quality education that makes a positive difference to the lives of all our students. We equip young people for the future to enable them to contribute to a socially, economically and culturally vibrant society.

Mt Gravatt East State School is an inclusive, co-educational state primary school that welcomes and supports children from all over the world. We enjoy many benefits of being a relatively small school, where all individuals are valued and encouraged to participate to the best of their ability. We expect students and parents to support our school values and beliefs. All in the school community must support our behaviour code of conduct. We develop social cohesion by preserving the Australian culture and tradition and students here are encouraged to display cultural respect, civic duty, problem solving skills and a desire to participate and, as our school motto says, strive for their best always.

In 2007 we completed our Triennial School Review and developed our three year Strategic Plan. Pleasing progress has already been made by the school community in working towards the identified goals established together for school improvement. For example, the school undertook strategies to enhance literacy intervention and also developed the use of ICTs through upgrade in infrastructure, the establishment of another mini computer lab and professional development for staff. A whole school approach to the teaching of maths and teachers planning together have enhanced curriculum delivery across our school.

Congratulations to all students, staff and community members who have worked together towards achieving our goals in 2007.

Robyn Wilton
Principal

Future outlook

In the coming year key focus areas for improvement will be:
Further development of our whole school approach to curriculum planning and implementation – with a focus on the Queensland Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Framework - integrating the Essential Learnings and adopting best practice in assessment.

Provision of targeted intervention programs to maximise outcomes for all students in literacy and numeracy (especially in the early Years).

Development of extension programs and enhanced student leadership opportunities.
School Profile

Mt Gravatt East State School was established in 1955. It presently has an enrolment of 265 students from Prep to Year 7. All classes are co-educational and are comprised of mixed ability groupings. Having once been a much larger school it enjoys the benefits of extensive grounds and facilities, including a Hall, playgrounds and two (soon to be completed) heated Community pools being constructed by Brisbane City Council in our grounds.

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

The curriculum at Mt Gravatt East State School has focused primarily on developing students’ skills in literacy and numeracy with:

- Daily, explicit teaching of reading and writing.
- Daily, explicit teaching in Mathematics

In addition it also acknowledges a very significant need to develop our students' social and life skills through explicit teaching. The “You Can Do It- Program Achieve” has been implemented across the school as a means to enhance academic learning by developing social skills and emotional resilience.

Connectedness across the Key Learning Areas of Science, Study of Society and the Environment, The Arts, Technology and Health and Physical Education is achieved by way of four Integrated Units per Year Level. The Essential Learnings are utilised to plan units of work and related assessment under four school Curriculum Organisers –

Valuing………. Ourselves and Others
   Our Healthy Lifestyle
   Our Natural World
   Our Industrious World

Teachers plan in teams, with the Head of Curriculum at the end of each term.

Extra curricula activities

Mt Gravatt East State School provides a range of extra curricular activities which are designed to actively engage and motivate students. These include:

Interschool sports
Lunch time club activities- art, robotics
Student Council
Arts Council performances
Excursions
Instrumental Band
Choirs (Yr 2-7)
Marching band/Tattoo (Yr2-7)
Music camp
Opportunities to participate in National tests in Maths, English, Science & Technology
Peer Support activities
   - The Sunflower Café (planning menus, shopping, cooking, inviting guests and serving lunch in our Café environment)
How computers are used to assist learning

At Mt Gravatt East State School all current classroom spaces are linked to the school intranet and the internet. Teachers plan units of work which integrate the use of technology in a meaningful way and also provide the means to develop students' computer skills. In addition to computers in classrooms, our school has a lab which allows a whole class to access individual computers simultaneously and in 2007 a new multi media centre was developed in the library. Students also utilise digital cameras and a range of software, including robotics, to motivate and enhance learning. In addition a network upgrade and provision of laptops for all of our teaching staff, further enhance our ability to integrate ICTs effectively into the curriculum.

Social climate

The provision of quality teaching and learning experiences at Mt Gravatt East is dependent on the maintenance of a caring school environment which strives to meet the needs of all individual students. To sustain this environment the school has a documented behaviour management policy.

Mt Gravatt East has a consistent and structured approach to behaviour management. The playground is a harmonious and happy place, with all of our staff and students enjoying the benefits of a relatively small school, where they are known and valued as individuals. Any incidents are dealt with in a fair and consistent way, with reference to our school and classroom rules and documented consequences. Parents are called on to support our efforts to maintain a positive, supportive school environment. At the end of each term a Reward Day, acknowledges and rewards the ongoing positive behaviours of the overwhelming majority of our students.

Explicit teaching of social skills is an integral part of every classroom program through the "Program Achieve".

Responses in the 2007 School Opinion Survey are as follows:

PARENTS
83% parents satisfied that this is a good school
89% parents satisfied, or very satisfied, with student discipline in this school

STUDENTS
The percentage of students satisfied that they are "safe at this school" and that "this is a good school" is above the State and Like schools means.

TEACHERS
100% of teachers are satisfied that they "get on well with the students in this school"
Qualifications of all teachers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highest level of attainment</th>
<th>Percentage of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctorate</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masters</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor degree</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diploma</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

- The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2007 was $11026. The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2007 was 92%.
- In 2007 staff satisfaction with their “access to quality professional development” was flagged as well above the State and Like schools means.
- A range of opportunities were taken up, both internal and external of the school, by teachers and other staff, to engage in a range of professional learning. The major professional development initiatives in 2007 were:
  - QCAR – Queensland Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Framework
  - ICT
  - Numeracy
  - Literacy
  - “Crossing Cultures” and “Hidden Histories” – understanding indigenous perspectives in the curriculum
  - The “You Can Do It” Program for supporting social development and emotional resilience in our students
Average staff attendance

- For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 95% in 2007.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

- From the end of the 2006 school year, 80% of staff were retained by the school for the entire 2007 school year.

Student attendance

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2007 was 93%.
# Performance of our students

## Key outcomes in the early and middle phases of learning

### Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentage of students not requiring additional support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yr 3</th>
<th>Yr 5</th>
<th>Yr 7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reading</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average score for the school</td>
<td>515</td>
<td>603</td>
<td>664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average score for Queensland</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>606</td>
<td>672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark</td>
<td>2007: 81%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Writing</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average score for the school</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>599</td>
<td>667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average score for Queensland</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>681</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark</td>
<td>2007: 81%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Numeracy</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average score for the school</td>
<td>472</td>
<td>587</td>
<td>647</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average score for Queensland</td>
<td>521</td>
<td>588</td>
<td>648</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark</td>
<td>2007: 74%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Performance of our students

Other Key Outcomes

Value added

At Mt Gravatt East we strive to maximise the learning for each and every one of our students. In order to do this we draw on a range of support personnel such as Advisory Visiting Teachers in English as a second Language and in various disability areas, speech language pathologists, Support Teachers for Learning Difficulties and structured intervention programs to help students with difficulties in literacy and numeracy. In addition we strive to extend those students who are able to achieve more readily and also to provide a range of extra curricula activities that enhance students' experience of school.

Our school prides itself on being supportive of individual students' social/emotional needs, as well as academic and our staff work together to ensure that our school environment is one in which students are not only given the opportunity or achieve the best they can academically, but also one in which, because they come from so many different ethnic and socio economic backgrounds, they can learn the social and life skills essential to effective participation in society. Implementation in 2007 of the “You Can Do It-Program Achieve” across the whole school further supports this goal.

Student performance trends, measured against the state means, reach their highest levels in Year 7. This trend indicates the value adding qualities of a number of support programs and the quality of classroom teaching that takes place at Mt Gravatt East State School.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Parent and student satisfaction in our school in terms of student learning, the quality of our staff and their teaching, and our school climate, is high.

Relationships between parents and teachers in our school are particularly positive with:

- 80% parents satisfied with the "interest that the teachers take in their child"
- 86% parents satisfied with the "quality of teaching their children receive"

(These were flagged as well above the Mean of other schools in the State)

In addition:

- 88% parents are satisfied with "what their child is learning in this school"

Student satisfaction that they are "getting a good education at this school” and that “this is a good school” are measurably above state benchmarks.

Teacher satisfaction that “staff and students respect each other in this school” is also flagged as well above the Mean of other schools in the State.