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 Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students and our Code of Conduct. We develop social cohesion by celebrating Australian culture and tradition and students here are encouraged to display cultural respect, civic duty, problem solving skills and a desire to participate. As our school motto says, we must strive to be 'Our Best Always'.

In 2008 we completed the first year of our three years School 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 an upgrade in infrastructure and professional development for staff. A whole school approach to the Queensland, Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Framework (QCARG) complemented by teachers planning together has enhanced curriculum delivery across our school.

Congratulations to all students, staff and community members who worked together towards achieving our goals in 2008.

Janine Leach
Principal

Future outlook

In the Year 2009 the key focus areas for improvement will be:

Further development of our whole school approach to curriculum planning, implementation, assessment and reporting – with a continued focus on the Queensland Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Framework - integrating the Essential Learnings and striving for best practice in moderation and assessment. Higher expectations and more individualized and focused intervention programs to improve outcomes for all students in Literacy and Numeracy.

Development of extension programs and enhanced student leadership opportunities.
Our school at a glance

School Profile

Mt Gravatt East State School was established in 1955. It presently has an enrolment of 272 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 school hall, playgrounds and two community pools constructed by Brisbane City Council in our grounds. We enjoy free entry during the school day for lessons in the pool. The Federal Government ‘Building Education Revolution’ will provide the school with a new Resource Centre and an upgrade to our school hall.

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings:

- Early Phase of Learning (Prep to Year 3) with its emphasis on active learning
- Middle Phase of Learning (Years 4-7) where higher order thinking is promoted along with student learning responsibilities
- Information Communication & Technology instruction supported by a Technology Teacher and Teacher Librarian
- Social Skill Program (Prep to Year 7) ‘You Can Do It Program!’
- Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students including a whole school focus on anti bullying behaviours
- Junior & Senior Choirs
- Instrumental Music Programs (Strings, Woodwind, Brass and Percussion)
- Interschool, Intraschool, District & Regional Sporting Competitions
- Student Leadership Program
- Reading Friends and Student Buddy System
- Cross Country and Track and Field Training
- District Sport Selection Trials

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
- Student Council
- Arts Council performances
- Choirs (Yrs 3-7), Drum Fife Marching Band (Yrs P-7) & Band Tattoos, Music Excursions and Public Performances and Instrumental Band and Strings Camps
- Peer Support
- Library Monitors
- Premiers’ Readers Challenge
- Years 6 & 7 Camp
- P&C Association
- School Cultural Events.
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 computer laboratory which allows a whole class to access individual computers simultaneously. A multimedia centre in the library also provides student access through the use of a pod of computers and an interactive whiteboard. Teachers in A, B and C block also utilise interactive whiteboards to assist learning. Students have access to digital cameras, MP3 players, Beebots, Robotics and a range of software to enhance learning. In addition teachers in Queensland have been provided laptops to further enhance integration of ICT 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 Responsible Behaviour Management Plan for all members of the school community.

Mt Gravatt East has a consistent and structured approach to behaviour management. The playground is a place where our staff and students are known and valued as individuals. 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 students and encourages them to work together as a team towards this reward.

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

Responses in the 2008 School Opinion Survey are as follows:

PARENTS
79% parents satisfied or very satisfied that this is a good school
83% parents are satisfied or very satisfied that the school makes you feel welcome
83% parents are satisfied or very satisfied that your child is happy to go to this school
86% parents are satisfied or very satisfied that your child is safe at this school
80% parents are satisfied or very satisfied that your child is treated fairly at this school
85% parents are satisfied that school staff are approachable when you want to talk about your child

STUDENTS
The percentage of students satisfied that they are “safe and happy at this school” and that “this is a good school” is similar to State and Like schools means.

TEACHERS
98% of teachers are satisfied that they “get on well with the students in this school”
88% of teachers are satisfied that they “have good working relationships with other staff”.

Involving parents in their child’s education.

The staff at MGESS is committed to maintaining productive partnerships with parents. Parent feedback and input was sought via Year Level Surveys, our P&C Association and through daily conversations with community members.

The P&C group is actively involved in Out of Hours School Care, Tuck-shop, Stationery & Uniform Shop, Drum Fife Marching Band and Fundraising.

At the school level parent involvement is encouraged at assemblies, sporting events, musical performances, secondary school events and during Open Days, Education Week, Book Week, Harmony Day, Anzac Day etc.

Parents are welcomed as classroom helpers in a variety of roles and regular communication (either written or face to face) between staff and parents is an integral part of life in our school.

Parent satisfaction with the school in 2008 indicated that the 83% of parents believe that the school makes them feel welcome.
Our staff profile

Qualifications of all teachers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highest level of attainment</th>
<th>Number 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>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor degree</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diploma</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>0</td>
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</table>

Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

- The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was $15,405.
- The major professional development initiatives are as follows: Leadership, Literacy, Numeracy, Information Communication Technologies, Queensland Curriculum Assessment & Reporting Team Planning, Team Moderation of Assessment, Behaviour Management, Boys in Education, Science, Prep Curriculum, Early Years of Learning, Music, LOTE, and Specialist Teacher Network Meetings.
- 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, 96% of staff was 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 94%.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Measures</th>
<th>Yr 3</th>
<th>Yr 5</th>
<th>Yr 7</th>
<th>Yr 9</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Average score for the school</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>502</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Average score for Queensland</td>
<td>371.1</td>
<td>466.1</td>
<td>528.1</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For the school the percentage of students at</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>or above the national minimum standard.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Average score for the school</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>406</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Average score for Queensland</td>
<td>391.8</td>
<td>468.9</td>
<td>522.7</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>or above the national minimum standard.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Average score for the school</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>414</td>
<td>508</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Average score for Queensland</td>
<td>366.7</td>
<td>462.0</td>
<td>528.0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
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<td>For the school the percentage of students at</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>or above the national minimum standard.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>N/A  %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>Average score for the school</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>478</td>
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<td>Average score for Queensland</td>
<td>370.4</td>
<td>476.6</td>
<td>518.0</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>or above the national minimum standard.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar and Punctuation</td>
<td>Average score for the school</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>418</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Average score for Queensland</td>
<td>367.9</td>
<td>458.2</td>
<td>539.0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For the school the percentage of students at</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>or above the national minimum standard.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Performance of our students

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>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 ‘Behaviour Management’, Speech Language Pathologists and a Support Teacher for Learning Difficulties.

Our school prides itself in our Special Education Program which caters for students with disabilities in an inclusive environment. In 2008 we had a Head of Special Education, 2 Special Education Teachers and Special Education Teacher Aides to support students with various disabilities.

We also structure specific intervention programs to help students with difficulties in Literacy and Numeracy eg Refugee & Education Queensland International Programs, Year 2 Net and Upper Primary Literacy Intervention and a Buddy Reading Program.

Within classroom environments, teachers use a range of strategies to cater for individualised needs to improve student outcomes. 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 both academically, socially, emotionally and culturally.

Our school strives to support individual students’ cultural, social, emotional and physical needs and our staff work together to ensure that our school environment is one in which students are not only given the opportunity to achieve the best they can academically, but also one in which they can learn the social and life skills essential to effective participation in society. The implementation in 2008 of the “You Can Do It! Program Achieve” across the whole school supports this goal.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

PARENTS
In 2008 the overall rating for all questions of surveyed parents reported that on average the parents were satisfied with Mt Gravatt East State School.

STUDENTS
In 2008 the overall rating for all questions of surveyed Year 5 & 7 students reported that on average the students were satisfied with Mt Gravatt East State School.

STAFF
In 2008 the overall rating for all questions of surveyed staff reported that on average the staff was satisfied with Mt Gravatt East State School.