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## Principal's foreword

### Introduction

Dulong South State School's motto is ***Progress Through Learning***. Children are provided with a wide range of learning experiences that will enable them to be successful lifelong learners. Children are encouraged to challenge themselves and continually strive to improve.

A very supportive parent community ensures children are able to access experiences outside the local community on a regular basis.

In 2008, the P and C finalized the Investing In Our Schools grant and the much anticipated multi-purpose building arrived. This building has enabled many excess resources to be stored allowing much needed extra space to be made in the classrooms enhancing the quality of learning experiences being offered.

### Future outlook

Dulong South State School offers quality education and a long history of achieving high levels of achievement. To ensure this continues, staff and the community continually review policies and practices to ensure students are achieving the best possible outcomes.

The key focus areas for 2009 are:

Early Years Curriculum:

- Continue to resource prep to enhance the delivery of curriculum.

Middle Years Curriculum:

- Implement QCAR focussing on curriculum development using the Essential Learnings.
- Planning curriculum units with cluster schools and moderating work between all schools.
- Enhancing Literacy and Numeracy standards for all students and in particular those having difficulty accessing age appropriate curriculum.

Technology:

- Enhance the use of technology on the classrooms through extending skill development of children and the variety of hardware available to them.

## School Profile

Durong South State School opened in 1925. It is situated on the Mundubbera - Durong Road in the Wide Bay Burnett region. Our 2 teacher band 5 school is co-educational, providing multi-age classes from Prep to Year 7. During 2008, 42 students were enrolled. Classes were organized as P-3 and 4-7.

The school is in a rural area with a long history of tradition. Many children attending are second and third generation family members living in the local area.

Recently, the area has experienced a growth in population due to the large number of people relocating from metropolitan areas to experience a quieter lifestyle. Many of these families travel to work in Kingaroy or surrounds. These new enrolments are changing the core group of students from a rural economic background to a more urban based economic background. This change is having a significant impact on the dynamics of the school.

This is making our school grow and enhancing the experiences of students already at the school.

## Curriculum offerings

### Our distinctive curriculum offerings

- Focus on high levels of Literacy and Numeracy.
- Are developed on a 3 year cycle to incorporate the teaching of Essential Learnings across all 8 key learning areas.
- Are developed in conjunction with other Band 5 cluster schools.
- Are developed through having an extensive knowledge of each child due to the mapping and recording of individual progress regularly throughout the year.
- Encourage children to continually challenge their knowledge and skills.
- Are designed to meet different learning styles to ensure every child has the optimum chance to succeed.

### Extra curricula activities Durong South State School participate in:

- 4-7 class recorder ensemble participate in Kingaroy Eisteddfod.
- 4-7 Choir join with Burra Burri State School in the Dalby Eisteddfod.
- Interschool and District Sports
- Proston Show
- Wondai Art Gallery Display
- Boondooma Homestead Art Competition
- School camp in Bundaberg
- Kingaroy Small Schools cluster events
- ICAS Competitions
- Local community Art competitions and events
- School vegetable garden and orchard

## Our school at a glance

### How computers are used to assist learning

Technology is a main focus of Dulong South State school. It enables students too interact with the wider world on a daily basis. Children are encouraged to learn a variety of technological skills to enhance their own capabilities. 100 % of computers are connected to the internet. Specific skills are taught through direct teaching utilising the assistance of teacher aides. Typing is introduced to the students in Prep and continued throughout the school to enable children to develop skills of a high standard. Children participate in district technology challenges e.g. robotics challenge.

Computers are used in a variety of ways:

Reinforce basic skills.

Research information on-line

Presentation of work

Communication with peers and family outside the local area.

### Social climate

We are a small school and pride ourselves on the family atmosphere in our school.

The Responsible Behaviour Plan provides a clear direction of the processes used to provide a safe and supportive learning environment. Children are expected to be self disciplining and the Responsible Behaviour Plan clearly outlines rewards and consequences for the behaviour choices they make. Bullying is not tolerated under any circumstances. In 2008, a "Gold Day" was introduced to reward children who have been on the Gold level of the Responsible Behaviour Plan.

Children interact in the playground across all ages and a caring, sharing atmosphere prevails. Children in the 4-7 class are encouraged to be responsible for their own learning by ensuring they choose their own homework reading books, returning homework and completing daily jobs that enhance the running of the school. This also encourages leadership skills. Children are encouraged to take risks within their learning and know that they will be supported by staff.

The senior students are involved in Student Council which is supervised by a parent. Student Council is given the opportunity to have input into school decisions and conduct social events for students.

The wearing of the uniform is supported by the P and C and children are expected to wear it daily.

### Involving parents in their child's education.

The parents and general community play an important role in the education provided at Dulong South State School. The school has an "open door" policy and all parents are welcome to discuss their child's progress formally or informally at any time throughout the year. Formal parent interviews are offered twice a year after the issuing of report cards.

The P and C is very active and provide much appreciated funding to enable children to use modern resources and access learning experiences outside the local community. During 2008, the P and C provided funding for the school camp to Bundaberg, travel to cluster events and swimming lessons. The P and C are involved in the development of school policies and planning documents and parent input is welcomed, appreciated and expected. The P and C were successful in hosting the Active After School Communities programme which is conducted once per week and is overseen by willing parent volunteers.

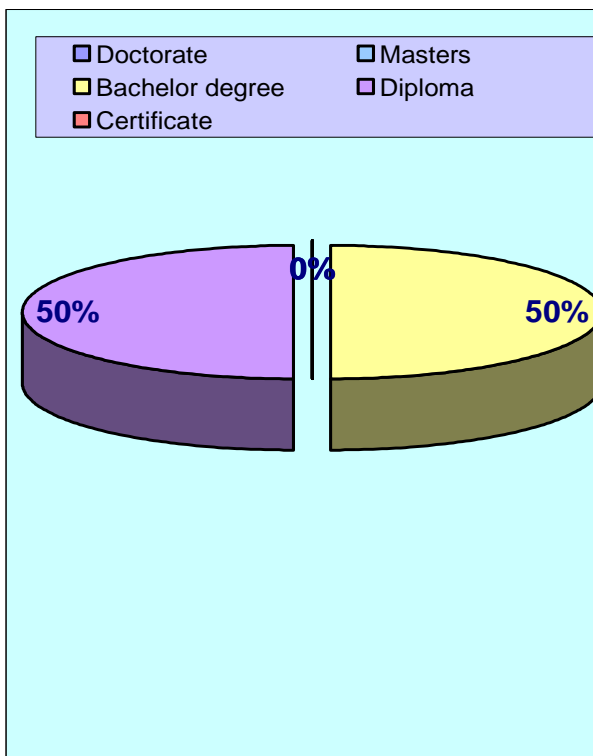
A dedicated group of Support-A-Reader tutors ensure our students at risk are receiving constant reading support every morning. Parents have constructed a vegetable garden and orchard teaching the children to grow their own food.

Parent communication is highly valued and the use of Keep In Touch books provide daily communication between families and the school. A weekly newsletter containing school and community information is circulated amongst the general community keeping all stakeholders informed.

## Our staff profile

### Qualifications of all teachers.

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	0
Bachelor degree	50
Diploma	50
Certificate	0



### Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

- The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was \$5282.
- The major professional development initiatives are as follows:
  - \*5 day literacy training for P-3 teacher and ST:LD
  - \*Leadership conference for Principal
  - \* Non Violent Crisis Intervention
  - \*Active After School Communities Coaching Course
  - \*Technology skilling with Mart Classrooms Mentor for Aides
  - \*Network and Cluster meetings to develop curriculum initiatives
  - \*First Steps in Maths training for 2 teachers
- 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 99% in 2008.

### Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

- From the end of the 2007 school year, 100 % of staff were 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 93 %.

## 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	389	423	615
	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 80 %	67 %	100 %
Writing	Average score for the school	434	479	565
	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 100 %	100 %	100 %
Spelling	Average score for the school	353	457	582
	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 100 %	100 %	100 %
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school	450	452	594
	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 100 %	83 %	100 %
Numeracy	Average score for the school	413	437	608
	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 100 %	100 %	100 %

## Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net

	Percentage of students not requiring additional support
Reading	100%
Writing	100%
Number	100%

## Performance of our students

### Value added

Durong South State School adds value to a quality state education by providing a variety of extra curricular activities. Children perform in local competitions for sport, music, literacy and numeracy. 1 child participated in the Showcamp during 2008 and students also completed the ICAS competitions. Charities are supported throughout the year through student fundraising. The school is part of the Kingaroy Small Schools Cluster and the Kingaroy Education Group and participates in any initiatives organised by these clusters when possible.

Student Council operates tuckshop and discos involving children in the planning and preparation of an event including counting money, compiling orders, serving customers and setting up and cleaning up of the hall.

### Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

The 2008 School Opinion Survey results indicate that parents, students and staff are satisfied with this school.

Students are satisfied with the outcomes they are achieving.

Students were satisfied in all other areas surveyed.

All of the parent survey responses were in the satisfied or very satisfied range.

All of the staff responses were in the strongly agree range.