



SLACKS CREEK STATE SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT 2006

Slacks Creek State School
Daisy Hill Road
Daisy Hill, Qld, 4127
Phone: 07 3208 2211
Fax: 07 3808 7232
msawb1@eq.edu.au
<http://slaccress.eq.edu.au/wcmss/>

Principal's Forward

Introduction

Welcome to Slacks Creek State School. Our school is a co-educational, state school catering for students in prep to year 7. Approximately 290 students attend our school and they are supported in their learning by a group of hard working and dedicated teachers and ancillary staff.

Our core business is the teaching of reading. It is my belief that being able to read provides a strong foundation for all other learning. Explicit teaching of reading skills and strategies takes place in every classroom, every day at Slacks Creek State School.

Slacks Creek State School aims to provide a balanced education for our children in a supportive environment. We aim to develop self-esteem, knowledge, skills, attitudes and values on an equitable basis, thus establishing a foundation for lifelong learning.

As principal of Slacks Creek State School, I have high expectations for our students. They are as capable as any other children in Australia and they have huge potential.

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Mike Sawbridge
Principal

Future Outlook

Consultation with the whole school community at the beginning of 2007 highlighted the following improvement priorities:

- Development of a whole school approach to the teaching of reading;
- Improve numeracy outcomes for students;
- Development of a coherent and rigorous curriculum framework;
- Staff cohesiveness and staff morale.



Further analysis of progress and school status has indicated a need to develop robust Literacy and Numeracy Strategies to take our school forward.

It is also our intention to establish some growth in our school. Current enrolment trends indicate that, at the end of the school year, approximately 300 children will be enrolled at the school. Slacks Creek has capacity for a larger enrolment. The P and C and school community has discussed potential for a future enrolment of between 400 and 450.

School Profile

Slacks Creek State School is a co-educational, state school catering for students in prep to year 7. Approximately 290 students attend our school and they are supported in their learning by a group of hard working and dedicated teachers and ancillary staff. The students are grouped in traditional, single year classes where numbers permit. However, because of numbers, some of our students are placed in composite classes. The school is part of the Logan-Albert-Beaudesert District of Education Queensland.

Curriculum Offerings

At Slacks Creek State School, we regard curriculum as the sum total of all the learning opportunities a child will be exposed to at school. Our curriculum is based on the following principles:

- that the teaching and learning of Reading underpins all other learning;
- that the integrity of English and Mathematics must be retained;
- that the curriculum provide **consistency** of delivery across year levels;
- that the curriculum develops **progressively** between year levels;
- that the development of the **integrated work units** which identify deep understandings, meet the needs and capabilities of all students;
- that improved implementation, monitoring and reviewing of teaching and learning practices will be achieved as part of our commitment to the promotion of a learning community within our school.

The curriculum at Slacks Creek is organised under the eight Key Learning Areas:

- English
- Mathematics
- Studies of Society and the Environment (S.O.S.E)
- Science
- The Arts
- Technology
- Health and Physical Education (HPE)
- Languages Other Than English (LOTE)



Core content in each KLA will be delivered in a way that promotes the knowledges, processes and values embedded in each learning experience. Deep Understandings will promote relevance and rigour in our curriculum.

Information and Communication Technologies education is highly valued at our school. Every class has access to the internet and we have a student computer ratio of 1:5. All classes have access to digital cameras, data projectors and all teachers are provided with a laptop to facilitate the delivery of the curriculum. In addition to classroom computers, students have access to a computer bank located in the school library.

Extra curricular offerings include Optiminds, Interschool Sports, Joggers Club, Supa Club, Instrumental Music Program, Read Aloud Club, and Westpac Maths Competitions.

Our school also offers a Leadership Program which culminated in a Student Leadership Conference in 2006.

Social Climate

Slacks Creek State School welcomes students from a diverse range of backgrounds. At present our School Community believes that shared ownership and responsibility for a positive social climate leads to the development and sustainability of a caring, supportive environment where all members feel safe, welcome and ready to learn.

Slacks Creek State School operates within the following rule framework:

- Participate and Cooperate.
- Act Safely and Be Safe.
- Speak to Please.
- Care for Property and the Environment

It is expected that all stakeholders know and uphold these rules.

The 2006 School Opinion Survey (Parents) provides the following information about our school climate:

Item	% Satisfied
Your child is happy to go to this school	91%
The behaviour of students at this school	59%
Student discipline in the school	63%
Your child is safe at this school	72%
Your child is treated fairly	84%



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The 2006 School Opinion Survey (Students) provides the following information about our school climate:

Item	% Satisfied
You are happy to go to this school	71%
The behaviour of students at this school	37%
You are safe at this school	70%
You are treated fairly	59%

Parental Involvement

Parents are actively involved in many ways at our school. They are encouraged to participate in classroom learning activities and as volunteers in a range of contexts throughout school life.

Parents are informed of school initiatives and children's progress through:

- Termly information sessions hosted by the Principal.
- Monthly Principal Morning Teas.
- Weekly Happy Hours - Friday phone calls home to celebrate individual children's success.
- Twice yearly written reports and twice yearly oral reports

Parents are involved in an active and productive Parents and Citizens association at school.

Performance of our students

Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net

	Percentage of students not requiring additional support
Reading	68% Reading
Writing	72% Writing
Number	94% Number



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

		Yr 3	Yr 5	Yr 7
Reading	Average score for the school	511	597	666
	Average score for Queensland	535	608	679
	Percentage of 2006 students at the school above the national benchmark	93%	76%	78%
	Percentage of 2005 students at the school above the national benchmark	94%	73%	88%
Writing	Average score for the school	511	613	662
	Average score for Queensland	522	627	696
	Percentage of 2006 students at the school above the national benchmark	94%	100%	91%
	Percentage of 2005 students at the school above the national benchmark	86%	86%	97%
Numeracy	Average score for the school	473	582	644
	Average score for Queensland	529	599	653
	Percentage of 2006 students at the school above the national benchmark	62%	81%	81%
	Percentage of 2005 students at the school above the national benchmark	82%	70%	73%

Average Student Attendance

The average rate of attendance for students at Slacks Creek State School was 94.5%.

2006 Highlights

During 2006, Slacks Creek State School enjoyed some high profile events:

School Leadership Conference

In 2006, as part of their leadership programme, the year 7 students worked with staff to host a leadership conference. The event key note speaker was the Governor of QLD, Hon. Quentin Bryce. Other notable guests included Barbara Stone MP, Aidan McLindon MP, Kerry Holst (Executive Director – Schools) and other leaders from our community. Student leaders from five local schools participated in the conference. Students rotated through leadership workshops which supported leadership skills, planning and attitudes.



School Musical

In 2006, Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream* was rewritten and performed by more than 100 of our students from Preschool to year 7. The musical was held at the Kingston Butter Factory over two sold out nights. More than 20 parents formed costume, stage and lighting committees who helped to bring the student's vision to life on stage. The event was a huge success and showcased the many talented students, parents and teachers we have at Slacks Creek State School.

Opening of Koala Fodder Plantation

In 2006, the P&C and school, in partnership with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service transformed an unused parcel of land (2 acres) at the bottom of our school into a Koala Fodder Plantation. The school community planted 1250 trees which have now grown to more than a metre high. This plantation will provide for the rehabilitation of the koala population in our area. A memorandum of understanding was signed ensuring that all stakeholders recognise the collaborative nature of this project.

Investing in Our Schools Programme (IOSP)

Slacks Creek State School received \$150 000 from the Federal Government's IOSP initiative. This money has been used to upgrade and improve play facilities and outdoor areas for students.

Staff Profile

Qualifications of all teachers

Highest Level of Attainment	Percentage of Teachers and Leaders
Masters	5%
Graduate Diploma	15%
Bachelor	75%
Diploma	5%

Expenditure on and teacher participation in Professional Development

- Total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2006 was \$4659.
- The major professional development initiatives are as follows: Literacy (Implementation of new syllabus)
- The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities in 2006 was 73%.

Average Staff Attendance

- For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 91% in 2006.



Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

- From the end of the 2005 school year, 89% of staff was retained by the school for the entire 2006 school year.

Other Key Outcomes

Parent and Student Satisfaction with the School

The 2006 School Opinion survey provided the following data:

	Parents	Students
The school is developing your child's numeracy skills.	77.4% <i>Satisfied or Very Satisfied</i>	N/A
The school is developing your child's literacy skills.	80.6% <i>Satisfied or Very Satisfied</i>	N/A
That your child is getting a good education at this school.	81.3% <i>Satisfied or Very Satisfied</i>	80.3% <i>Satisfied or Very Satisfied</i>
That this is a good school.	78.1% <i>Satisfied or Very Satisfied</i>	80.6% <i>Satisfied or Very Satisfied</i>