



**Slacks Creek State School**  
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## 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.

**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.**

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.

At the beginning of 2008, all teachers participated in a rigorous training programme in teaching Philosophy to Children. Philosophy in the Classroom is now a cornerstone of the school culture.

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

Mike Sawbridge  
Principal



## Future Outlook

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

- Continued focus on the teaching of Reading as core business;
- Improvement in Numeracy outcomes, particularly in year 7;
- Introduction of Philosophy in the Classroom;
- Continued focus on the appropriately phased introduction of QCARF;
- Improvement in the management and delivery of Physical Education and implementation of SMART MOVES;
- Introduction of Schoolwide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS); and
- Creation of School Facilities Development Plan and focus on improving school grounds.

## 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 provides **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.



- that the teaching of **philosophy** enhances learning in all areas of the curriculum

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 knowledge, processes and values embedded in each learning experience. Deep Understandings will promote relevance and rigour in our curriculum.

The teaching of philosophy has been introduced this year and promotes deep thinking offering benefits to all areas of the curriculum. Students learn to evaluate, question and self correct. Philosophy promotes respect for self and others while building self-esteem and intellectual confidence. The introduction of philosophy supports our focus on the explicit teaching of literacy and numeracy and is a positive teaching tool.

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 Interschool Sports, Supa Club, Instrumental Music Programme, Choir, Interschool Mathematic Competitions and Westpac Maths Competitions, Tennis and Rap Club.

## Social Climate

Slacks Creek State School welcomes students from a diverse range of backgrounds. At present our school community believes that shared ownership



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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.

The school has begun to embed the Schoolwide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) programme into its culture. The programme emphasises that all members of the school community have responsibilities around developing positive behaviour in the school. At Slacks Creek State School, the programme is led by Ms Holly Brock (Class Teacher Year 4/5 in 2008). For more information about SWPBS visit (website).

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 2007 School Opinion Survey (Parents) provides the following information about our school climate:

Item	% Satisfied
Your child is happy to go to this school	83%
The behaviour of students at this school	62%
Student discipline in the school	62%
Your child is safe at this school	76%
Your child is treated fairly	76%

The 2007 School Opinion Survey (Students) provides the following information about our school climate:

Item	% Satisfied
You are happy to go to this school	85%
The behaviour of students at this school	56%
You are safe at this school	81%
You are treated fairly	75%



## 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:

- Information sessions hosted each semester 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

<b>Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net</b>	
	Percentage of students <b>not</b> requiring additional support
Reading	68% Reading
Writing	71% Writing
Number	73% Number

<b>Our reading, writing and numeracy results for the Queensland Years 3, 5 and 7 Literacy and Numeracy Tests.</b>					
		Yr 3	Yr 5	Yr 7	
<b>Reading</b>	Average score for the school	502	590	632	
	Average score for Queensland	521	602	665	
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	93%	63%	66%
		2006	93%	76%	78%



<b>Writing</b>	Average score for the school		503	597	622
	Average score for Queensland		518	620	675
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	91%	100%	100%
		2006	93%	100%	91%
<b>Numeracy</b>	Average score for the school		502	582	600
	Average score for Queensland		515	593	641
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	91%	83%	58%
		2006	62%	81%	81%

### Average Student Attendance

The average rate of attendance for students at Slacks Creek State School was 94%.

### 2007 Highlights

During 2007, Slacks Creek State School enjoyed some high profile events:

#### Prep Opening

At the beginning of 2007 we welcomed our first cohort of Prep children to our school. This first cohort was a small cohort as only students born within a six month window enrolled. Our first year of Prep was extremely successful. The children were engaged with the play-based curriculum offered and participated in a high quality learning programme delivered by Mrs Trish Kellett. Mrs Kellett was, and continues to be supported by Mrs Sharon Evans (Prep Teacher Aide).

All students who enrol in Prep at Slacks Creek State School receive two books from the school; "Reading Magic" by Mem Fox and "Where Is the Green Sheep?", also by Mem Fox. This initiative highlights the importance of reading aloud to young children to support early literacy development.



### Queensland State Government Grant

A successful submission to the Queensland Government enabled us to install a complete irrigation system in the main school oval. Water is harvested into 3 separate in-ground water tanks and electrically pumped to the underground irrigation system. This means that Slacks Creek State School does not have to rely on town water to maintain the main oval to a high standard.

### Academic Highlights

#### ***Maths Teams Challenge***

In 2007, Slacks Creek State School organised the district Mathematics Teams Challenge. The Challenge aims to foster a love of Mathematics within children and celebrates academic success. Slacks Creek State School entered two teams into the competition. They were placed second and third in the district.

#### ***Optiminds***

Slacks Creek State School entered two teams into the 2007 Optiminds Tournament.

#### ***Westpac Maths Competition***

Students from years 3-7 had the opportunity to participate in the UNSW Mathematics Competition sponsored by Westpac. Students performed very well in this competition, some of them receiving High Distinctions.

### Other Highlights

Our Senior Strings concert band achieved 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Beenleigh Eisteddfod.

In September, our choir members and instrumentalists performed at the Slacks Creek State School Gala Concert at the Butterbox Theatre in Kingston.

Members of our instrumental music programme also participated in the Logan District Senior and Intermediate Music Camps. The Intermediate Music Camp culminated in a hugely successful concert at the Sleeman Theatre, Chandler.

Our inaugural prep class hosted an evening art gallery after a trip to Logan City Art Gallery. This was a very successful evening attended by our Prep families.

Students in years 5,6 and 7 had the opportunity to participate in the district soccer, netball and touch football competitions.

Slack Creek State School was represented by students in cross country and athletics at district and regional level



Our year 7 students participated in an outdoor adventure camp at Camp Goodenough.

Our year 6 students participated in an outdoor adventure camp at Apex Camp Mudjimba.

## 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 2007 was \$13888.
- The major professional development initiatives were as follows: Literacy – The Key to Learning; Numeracy – Natural Mathematics Programme;
- The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities in 2007 was 100%.

### Average Staff Attendance

- For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 92.5% in 2007.

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

- From the end of the 2007 school year, 65% of staff was retained by the school for the entire 2007 school year.



## Other Key Outcomes

### Parent, Student and Staff Satisfaction with the School

The 2007 School Opinion survey provided the following data:

	Parents	Students	Staff
The school is developing your child's numeracy skills.	76% Satisfied or Very Satisfied	N/A	N/A
The school is developing your child's literacy skills.	86% Satisfied or Very Satisfied	N/A	N/A
That your child is getting a good education at this school.	78% Satisfied or Very Satisfied	75% Satisfied or Very Satisfied	N/A
That this is a good school.	93% Satisfied or Very Satisfied	82% Satisfied or Very Satisfied	N/A
I am happy working at this school.	N/A	N/A	88% satisfied or very satisfied
The staff in this school put a lot of energy into their work.	N/A	N/A	94% satisfied or very satisfied

School data indicates that students are making very significant gains in their learning in Literacy and Numeracy from years 3 – 5. These gains become less significant between years 5 – 7. This has been discussed with staff and parents through the Triennial School Review process and we have decided that a major 'push' needs to occur to ensure gains occurred earlier in school are sustained in the final 3 years of primary schooling.