

## Our school at a glance

	PO address	Winslow Street DARRA Q 4076
	Phone	(07) 3375 4285
	Fax	(07) 3375 1657
	Email	the.principal@darrass.eq.edu.au
	Website or Contact Person	<a href="http://www.darrass.eq.edu.au">http://www.darrass.eq.edu.au</a>

### Principal's foreword

#### Introduction

Darra State School is located in the south-western region of Brisbane and is in the Moreton East District of Moreton Region. The school was opened in 1916 and has a reputation as a safe, supportive and inclusive community minded school, where all students are valued as individuals and supported to attain to their maximum potential.

Some major achievements in the 2008 school year include:

#### LEARNING

- ☺ Progressing the implementation of new Years 1-10 English Syllabus
- ☺ Cars & Stars literal comprehension program
- ☺ THRASS phonological awareness & spelling program Years 3-7
- ☺ Jolly Phonics Prep – Year 2
- ☺ Years 1-10 Mathematics Syllabus and GO Maths support program for Yrs 1-7
- ☺ Improved Curriculum, Teaching, Assessment and Reporting
- ☺ Review of School's Curriculum Plan / Literacy Strategy
- ☺ Review of School's Assessment & Reporting Framework, including implementation of new student report cards
- ☺ Full implementation of the Smart Moves Strategy to compliment the Healthy Choices Strategy

#### SCHOOLS

- ☺ Continue to develop Curriculum that includes an emphasis on inclusive & supportive practices
- ☺ Chaplaincy program integrated with Values Education
- ☺ Refining of school's proactive Responsible Student Behaviour Plan
- ☺ Maintain and improve school facilities through:
  - ☺ Provision of a new large assembly area
  - ☺ Conversion of old preschool building to a Performing Arts/Community Centre
  - ☺ Completion of School's Art Studio

## Our school at a glance

- ☺ Ambitious water sustainability Project – installation of 3 of 26,000L rainwater tanks for water harvesting / storage (provide all water to toilet blocks)

### WORKFORCE

- ☺ Provision of appropriate and timely professional development opportunities to build school staff capacity to meet both school and systemic priorities
- ☺ Functional Grammar, Literacy Action Plan, Assessment Immersion, School / Cluster & District Moderation, ICTs Intel Accreditation

### Future outlook

Improvement Priorities for the 2009 School Year:

#### LITERACY

Whole school focus :-

- ☺ Reading Comprehension
- ☺ Writing
- ☺ Spelling, Grammar & Punctuation

#### NUMERACY

Whole School focus :-

- ☺ Comprehension of mathematical problems
- ☺ Students identifying their Ways of Working

#### INCLUSIVE PLANNING & TEACHING INFORMED BY STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT DATA

Teachers using data to inform planning that shows:-

- ☺ Differentiation for individuals and groups
- ☺ Modification for individuals and groups
- ☺ Behaviour/Emotional & Social Support Programs

#### ICTS - INFRASTRUCTURE, SOFTWARE & EMBEDDING IN TEACHING & LEARNING

Teachers achieving and implementing the use of:-

- ☺ ICTS Certificate
- ☺ ICT Pedagogical Licence

#### COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS

- ☺ Professional development that is aligned to our strategic priorities
- ☺ Understanding and applying the Professional Standards for Teachers
- ☺ Staff developing Individual Performance Plans

## Our school at a glance

☺ Health, Safety & wellbeing of Staff and Students

### School Profile

Darra State School provides co-education from Prep to Year 7 for 208 students in a multi-cultural learning environment in the southwest region of Brisbane.

Over 12 cultural backgrounds are represented with more than 75% of students from a Vietnamese background and more than 75% of the total student population being from a Non English Speaking Background.

Our purpose is to create, in partnership with parents and the community, a safe, tolerant, technologically advanced school where academic achievement and effort, school spirit, self-discipline and morality are highly valued. First languages and cultures are appreciated and respected while competencies in English and the ability to think critically are fostered to maximise life opportunities.

### Curriculum offerings

#### OUR DISTINCTIVE CURRICULUM OFFERINGS:

We have one Prep Class, 4 single year classes and 5 composite classes: - Prep, Prep/1B, 1/2D, 3H, 3/4L, 4/5H, 5/6R, 6G & 7B

Learning Programs are designed each year around the needs of individuals, small groups and whole classes to meet the developmental learning needs of early years students, middle years students, students with disabilities, students with English as a second language, refugee students, non-English speaking backgrounds, students with speech language difficulties, students with Hearing Impairments, Intellectual Impairments and Autism Spectrum Disorder.

We have networked modern computers in every classroom in addition to a modern, fully resourced computer lab.

We run Arts & Drama Programs, for all year levels as 2009 is the Year of Creativity. Large Art Studio catering for a comprehensive Arts Program (specialist Arts teacher)

Co-curricula programs for cultural and sporting areas provide a range of pathways to support individual gifted and talented students.

We have very experienced Bi-lingual & ESL support staff.

Comprehensive Year 7⇒8 transition programs with both Centenary State High and Corinda State High Schools.

#### EXTRA CURRICULA ACTIVITIES:

- ☺ The University of NSW academic competitions (English, Mathematics, Science, Spelling & Writing)
- ☺ Centenary Cup Challenge for selected Years 6&7 students
- ☺ Corinda Super Challenge for selected 5,6&7 students
- ☺ Centenary Gifted & Talented Program (TAGERs) for selected Yrs 5,6&7 students through merit process

#### HOW COMPUTERS ARE USED TO ASSIST LEARNING:

Networked computers are in all classrooms in addition to a modern, fully resourced computer

## Our school at a glance

lab.

### Social climate

Promotion of a positive learning and social environment through:

- ☺ A strong focus on pastoral care; Breakfast & Homework Programs
- ☺ A Chaplaincy Program; focus on resilience & self-worth
- ☺ A proactive Responsible Student Behaviour Plan
- ☺ A safe and supportive learning & social environment incorporating anti-bullying strategies – ‘Hi Five’, Crime Stoppers Youth Challenge
- ☺ An integrated Focus Forty Social Skills Program for Prep – Year 3 & Years 4-7
- ☺ Empowerment through student leadership roles (School Captains & Sports Captains)
- ☺ Empowerment through decision-making by the Student Council (Years 3-7)
- ☺ Computer Club / Games Club (Social Skilling)
- ☺ Strong emphasis on:
  - ☺ Celebrating diversity through Chinese New Year, Harmony Day, NAIDOC, United Nations Day, Vietnamese and Samoan Dance Groups, Darra Street Festival.
  - ☺ School has a partnership with QUT (languages & applied linguistics) hosting groups of overseas teachers each term which fosters cultural diversity

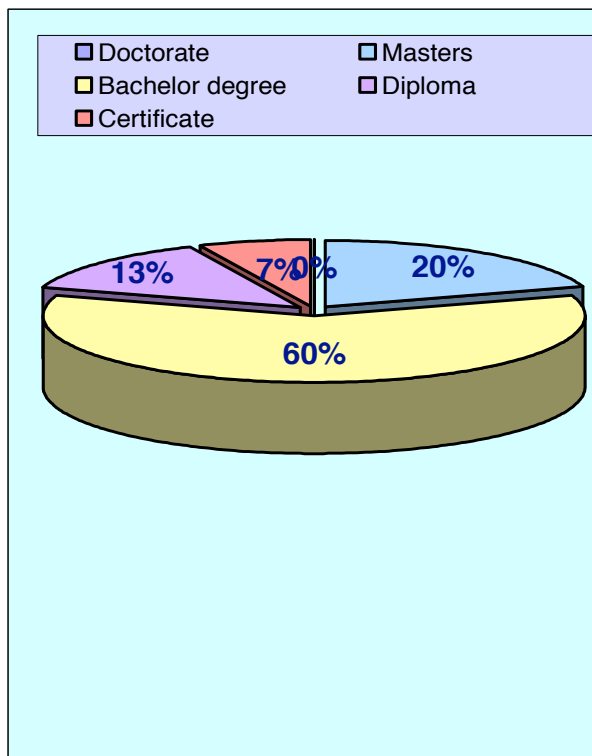
### Involving parents in their child's education.

- ☺ Active Parents & Citizens Association
- ☺ School Tuckshop
- ☺ Vietnamese Food Day once a month
- ☺ Open Day / Orientation Days
- ☺ Parent Information Afternoons
- ☺ Class celebrations
- ☺ School Newsletter (English & Vietnamese)
- ☺ Student Progress Reports twice yearly (English & Vietnamese)
- ☺ Student Behaviour Reports each term
- ☺ Parent /Teacher Interviews twice yearly and on a needs basis (Translators provided)
- ☺ Informative and up-to-date School Website
- ☺ Up-to-date external school signs
- ☺ Updated School display at Darra Newsagency

## Our staff profile

### Qualifications of all teachers.

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	3
Bachelor degree	9
Diploma	2
Certificate	1



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

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was \$18,700.

The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

- ☺ Functional Grammar, Literacy Action Plan, Assessment Immersion, School / Cluster & District Moderation, ICTs Intel Accreditation
- ☺ 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, 78 % 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 96%.

### 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		373	444	526
	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	91%	85%	92%
Writing	Average score for the school		394	493	558
	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	94%	89%	100%
Spelling	Average score for the school		373	514	593
	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	84%	85%	100%
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school		364	502	531
	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	91%	93%	96%
Numeracy	Average score for the school		350	468	575
	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	88%	89%	96%

## Performance of our students

Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net	
	Percentage of students not requiring additional support
Reading	75%
Writing	78%
Number	81%

Value added
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☺ Advisory Visiting Teachers for Inclusive Education support our students who have specific special needs and provide assistance and advice to class teachers.</li> <li>☺ A Guidance Officer is in attendance at Darra one day per week for counselling and testing of students and working with families.</li> <li>☺ An ESL Support Teacher and teacher aide works at the school three days per week to support those students whose main language at home is not English.</li> <li>☺ LOTE (Languages Other Than English) is part of the curriculum and Chinese is the language being taught at Darra, for students from Years 4-7. A specialist teacher works at the school for two days per week.</li> <li>☺ A Music Specialist conducts a comprehensive music program two days per week for all classes, in addition to the Instrumental Music program.</li> <li>☺ Weekly Physical Education is conducted by two PE specialists. In terms one and four the program focuses on swimming lessons. Two PE specialists implement programs, prep – Year 4 &amp; Years 5-7.</li> <li>☺ Students have access to a Speech Language Pathologist and parents and/or teachers can make recommendations for assessment. Limited places are available.</li> <li>☺ A Support Teacher Learning Difficulties works two days per week to assist children on individual programs and coordinate support for these children.</li> </ul>

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school
<p>Darra State School is well maintained and resourced. The quality of the grounds, buildings and levels of accessible equipment all received recognition from students and parents alike.</p> <p>Staff indicates a desire to work at Darra and to support our students in a culturally diverse setting.</p> <p>Staff were very satisfied with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☺ Relationships between staff, students &amp; parents</li> <li>☺ Way in which the school is operates</li> <li>☺ Support, resources and training to teach effectively</li> <li>☺ Roles and demands and expectations of teaching roles at Darra</li> <li>☺ Appreciation of their skills and value they fell in contributing to the school</li> </ul>