


GATTON STATE SCHOOL

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Gatton State School is proud to be a member of the **Lockyer State Schools** Education Cluster. The cluster is made up of most of the State Schools, both Primary and Secondary, in the Lockyer Valley between Gatton and Toowoomba. These schools support each other to achieve the best outcomes for the students.



Principal's foreword

Introduction

Gatton State School has a diverse and growing population. Enrolments are unpredictable but growing due to the influences of the local agricultural industry, our proximity to the University of Queensland (Gatton Campus) and the steady population growth in the south-east corner of Queensland. This growth has brought with it increased enrolments, staff numbers, additional facilities and services.

A significant challenge for this school in coming years will be to respond to the anticipated rapid enrolment growth.

Future outlook

In 2009, we plan to implement the goals formulated in our 2008 Triennial School Review. Other projects for 2009 include the continued implementation of the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Framework (QCAR) and our involvement in the Schoolwide Positive Behaviour Support program (SWPBS).

Our school at a glance

School Profile

The school caters for male and female students from Prep to year 7. In addition the school has a large Special Education Program and an Early Childhood Development Class (ECDC) for children with disabilities who have not yet reached primary school age. The August 2008 enrolment for the school was 652.

The school draws its enrolment from the town of Gatton plus other Lockyer Valley towns or rural residences. Between 35 and 40% of the enrolment live outside of Gatton. These students travel to and from school by buses and private vehicles. Approximately 2% of students live at the University of Queensland, Gatton Campus and commute to school by bus or car. Due to the school's proximity to the University of Queensland - Gatton Campus, plus our location in the Lockyer Valley, the school caters for the needs of many families from Non-English Speaking Backgrounds (NESB). These students make up 5% of the school's enrolment. In order to support these students, the school has an ESL Education Advisor who visits from Toowoomba for one to two days per week, depending on the number of NESB students enrolled at any one time. In addition, the school also employs teacher aides to work specifically with these students under the direction of the Education Advisor.

The school has an indigenous population of approximately 5%. In addition to classroom programs, indigenous students experiencing difficulty are provided with additional teacher aide support.

The school experiences a large increase in enrolments each year between February and August. These increases are caused by the annual movement of itinerant workers, often from southern states. As a result, each year the school often experiences a change to class organization. On average, each classroom experiences 9 changes of enrolment each year. Over the last decade, school enrolments have increased steadily. With the construction of the Gatton prison commencing in late 2008, enrolments will continue to increase but probably at a faster rate. Special Education Program enrolments have also been steadily increasing.

Curriculum offerings

In term 4, 2008, the school offered upper school students a Middle School Options Program where each week one session was devoted to a variety of optional programs offered by teachers and aides.

THE STUDENT COUNCIL is comprised of representatives from all classes in Years 4-7 as well as the school captains. The S.C. provides student perspectives into the operation of the school, funds special projects within the school and makes donations to charities.

The School's GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM has been maintained in recent years. A variety of activities were conducted including:- the Annual Academic Awards Ceremony, Art & Craft, Robotics workshops, State-wide competitions, etc.

ESL PROGRAM – ESL students make up 5% of the school's enrolment. In order to support these students, the school has an ESL Education Advisor who visits from Toowoomba each week. The school also employs teacher aides to work specifically with these students under the direction of the Education Advisor.

The school offers a distinctive HRE Puberty program for students in years 5-7. This program has operated for many years and has been extremely successful.

The school offers distinctive MUSIC AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS. The music program includes school choirs, a 'Signing Choir', recorder lessons for all year 4-7 students, a detailed classroom music program and an instrumental music program. The Physical Education program includes a wonderful swimming program, camps for year 5-7 students, interschool sport, etc.

Extra curricula activities

The school offers numerous extra-curricula activities to support the learning needs of our students. There are too many to list them all but some examples are included below:-

- Breakfast Program – several mornings per week
- Student Council
- Student leadership positions – school captains, house sporting captains, Music captains, Library monitors
- An organised lunch-time sports program
- Adopt-a-cop program
- Gifted & Talented Program
- Bicycle Safety Program

How computers are used to assist learning

Computers are an integral part of most subject areas at the school. Students from years prep to year 7 have access to both classroom computers and two computer labs.

In 2008, the school took on the Education Queensland MOE (Managed Operating Environment) where all computers were linked to the network using a common state-wide system. To accomplish this goal, funds were spent to upgrade optical fibre and copper network connections plus replace some of the school's aging computers.

Social climate

Surveys of parents, staff and students in 2008 indicate that Gatton SS is achieving above average results in this area:-

In the annual School Survey, Parents gave the school a rating of 2.91 for School Climate as compared to 2.86 for the state mean. Students rated the school at 2.83 compared to the state mean of 2.84 while staff rated the school at 3.28 for Morale as against 2.99 for the state mean.

The school uses a variety of mechanisms to provide a supportive school environment. These include:-

The school's *Responsible Behaviour Plan*, the document which details how the school manages student behaviour. Key elements of the program include Behaviour Levels, anti-bullying procedures and regular reviews of student behaviour.

- School Chaplain – the school chaplaincy program operates for 5 days per week.
- Breakfast Program
- Student Council
- Lunchtime Craft Activities
- Student leadership positions – school captains, house sporting captains, Music captains, Library monitors
- An organised lunch-time sports program
- Outside School Hours Care & Vacation Care
- Adopt-a-cop program
- Gifted & Talented Program
- Bicycle Safety Program
- Reading Recovery
- Maths Support teacher paid from school based funds
- Teacher aide support for indigenous children

Involving parents in their child's education.

Parent School Opinion Results for our school are consistently above the state average. We believe that this is due to the high degree of involvement offered to parents.

The school community supports the Parents and Citizen Association and the running of the school tuckshop.

The following committee also operates in the school but is not part of the P&C Association:-
'Gatton Concerned Parents for the Disabled' – this is an incorporated parent group who manage commonwealth programs which support the Special Education Program and school.

The school regularly liaises with the following community groups/personnel:-

- 'Gatton & District Ministers' Fraternal' regarding the school's ecumenical Religious Education and the establishment of a school chaplain position.
- Gatton Police – usually with reference to the adopt-a-cop program
- Gatton Ambulance – conducting programs for students
- Gatton Hospital Social worker – regarding support for families in need
- Toowoomba Child and Mental Health – for student referrals
- Lockyer Valley Regional Council – in 2008 the school again won some Regional Green & Healthy School awards. This was supported by the close relationship which we have with the Shire Council.
- Local schools including the Lockyer District High School
- Department of Child Safety

Use of the school by the community is encouraged and is exemplified by:-

Community use of the schools sporting facilities on a regular weekly basis – tennis courts & sporting ovals;

Regular use of the Admin Block by the Gatton Quilters for meetings

Use of the school's computer equipment & infrastructure by community groups

Use of various buildings for inservice courses e.g. First-aid and brain Gym.

Use of the school grounds by Gatton Outside School Hours Care;

Use of the school tennis fence for free advertising of community events;

Use of shade tents hired out for community events;

VOLUNTEERS – One of the school committees manages the Volunteer program. Volunteers across the campus are provided with badges and sign-on books in various locations.

Volunteers are acknowledged throughout the year and at a special function in term 4 where staff provided morning tea to volunteers to show their appreciation.

All volunteers (over 100 each year) are provided with certificates of appreciation. This program will be continued in 2009.

Our staff profile

Qualifications of all teachers

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	4
Bachelor degree	29
Diploma	15
Certificate	2

The pie chart illustrates the distribution of teacher qualifications. The largest segment is Bachelor degree at 58%, followed by Diploma at 30%, Certificate at 4%, and Masters at 8%.

Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was \$26,866.

The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

- School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (Behaviour) Training
- Year P-3 Literacy Training
- Laptop for Teachers Professional Development
- *OneSchool* Training Program
- QCAR Planning
- QCAT Training
- Year 2 Net Moderation and Training
- Code of Conduct & Child Protection Training

The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2008 was 91%.

Average staff attendance

For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 95% in 2008.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

From the end of the 2007 school year, 94 % of staff were retained by the school for the entire 2008 school year.

Student attendance

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2008 was 92 %.

Performance of our students

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 and 7.

Domain	Measures		Yr 3	Yr 5	Yr 7
Reading	Average score for the school		365	449	524
	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	82 %	80 %	88 %
Writing	Average score for the school		373	446	485
	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	88 %	79 %	83 %
Spelling	Average score for the school		358	452	515
	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	79 %	79 %	87 %
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school		340	460	511
	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	78 %	78 %	83 %
Numeracy	Average score for the school		324	447	538
	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	78 %	84 %	90 %

Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net	Percentage of students not requiring additional support
Reading	60.6 %
Writing	49.3 %
Number	50.7 %

Value added

Year 2 children who are identified as requiring additional support in the year 2 net are provided with an intensive intervention program in term 3 each year. This program is co-ordinated by the key teacher and implemented by trained teacher aides.

The school's results in all areas are below the State average despite intensive intervention by school staff and support personnel. In recent years there has been a rapid increase in enrolments and the school has a large itinerant population. On average, each class experiences 9 children arriving or leaving during the school year. Many of the children who are identified as requiring additional support did in fact not start school at Gatton State School - these children have transferred in from other schools and states. Regardless of this, our programs do cater for these children and following intervention by the school in term three 2008 with those students identified for support, there was a marked improvement in results. Programs which we have been implemented in recent years such as support-a-talker and ELF (a metalinguistics program for prep children) will hopefully improve our results in future years.

It was pleasing to see some areas where the children performed very close to the State means. These included the year 3 and 7 reading, year 3 spelling, year 7 grammar & punctuation and year 7 numeracy.

Each year, Upper Primary Literacy Grant funding is available for students identified as having difficulties with the year 5 test. These funds are used by the school to support the children in years 6 and 7 who require additional support. This program will continue in 2009 and we are hopeful it will assist in improving outcomes in future years.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

There is a high level of satisfaction with the school by students, parents and staff as demonstrated by the following figures from the 2008 School Survey:-

- Parents: The overall parent satisfaction score for the school was 2.94 compared with 2.90 for the State mean.
 - Staff: The overall staff satisfaction score for the school was 3.02 which was significantly above the State mean of 2.85.
 - Students: The overall student satisfaction score for the school was 2.90 compared with 2.98 for the State mean.
- Parent and student results were extremely pleasing. The student results were an improvement on those of 2008.