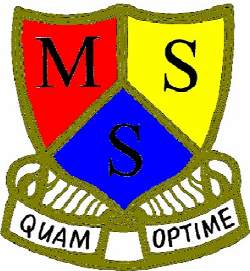


# Mitchell State School

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## Principal's foreword

### Introduction

Mitchell State School is a P-10 school located in the town of Mitchell and providing school access to students from Mitchell, Mungallala, Amby and surrounding properties. Mitchell State School aims to provide every student with quality educational experiences, developing each child's moral, emotional, physical, social, creative and academic well being; and fostering practices for life-long learning.

2008 was the year to "Aim High and Reach Out". To Aim High meant to encourage students to set goals and work to achieve or surpass these. Reach Out was particularly about interactions between students, interactions between staff and students, and, interactions between students and parents/visitors. Students were encouraged to respond positively to difference, help others and show compassion. These became the focus of Principal Awards on parade and in every aspect of daily school life, children (and staff) were encouraged to reach out and aim high. Teachers gave awards to students who had been achieving personal bests in any area.

In 2008, our key priorities included continuing to build capabilities of staff within the Queensland Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Framework: extending teachers' knowledge in use of the Alignment Planning Process, focussing on developing quality, authentic assessment tasks with strong criteria and standards based teacher judgments on these tasks.

We also particularly focussed on encouraging positive interactions, good attendance and wearing the school uniform.

### Future outlook

2009 motto is: "Together we are better". Our focus will be on building a supportive school environment, working as teams and helping each other to learn and to achieve high standards.

### School Profile

Mitchell State School is a coeducational school, offering students educational experiences that develop each child's moral, emotional, social, creative and academic wellbeing from Preparatory Year to Year 10. In 2008, our student enrolment was 156 full-time students, Prep to Year 10. 34% of students are indigenous.

### Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings:

#### Primary

- Group Learning Projects (Home Economics, Manual Arts, Music, ICT)
- Values Education
- Careers Education (Years 4-7)
- Recreational Options
- LOTE – Japanese (Icls)

#### Secondary

- ICT – all secondary students are required to complete an ICT subject
- ITD – which included Wood Work and Metal Work
- Home Economics
- Childcare

- Business
- History & Geography
- Visual Arts & Drama
- Lifewise, which includes Values Education, Life Skills and Career Education
- Work experience and school based traineeships
- SQIT Roma Campus. Workplace Access courses – Certificate I in Engineering, Certificate I in Hospitality, Certificate I in Information Technology, Certificate I in Business
- Certificate II in Agriculture (SQIT Charleville Campus)

## Extra curricula activities

### Early Phase

- Under 8's Day activity
- 100 Days At School
- Farm Excursions
- "Paint the town Red"
- Bike Safety-Prep
- Gardening Opening
- Mini Olympics

### Middle Phase

- Year 9 Work Experience Block
- Year 10 School Holiday Work Experience
- USQ PCAP Enrichment Camp – Year 8
- Brisbane and Sunshine Coast Careers Camp
- Youth Pathways Program
- "Safe Sistas" - Indigenous mental and emotional health girls' group
- DUST 'Grease of the Outback' Highschool Musical (2009 Australia Day Cultural Event of the Year Award)
- Careers Expo Brisbane Excursion – Year 9 and 10
- Participation in Australian Schools Competitions – English and Maths
- Tallebudgera Years 6/7
- Junior Nalingu
- Student Council
- Numinbah PCYC Boys 'Boot' Camp- Years 7, 8, 9 selected 'at risk' boys
- Girls in ICT – Online workshop through USQ for Secondary girls
- Vicki Wilson Netball Competition
- Various sporting trials for South West Team – Netball, Touch, Rugby League, Cricket, Basketball, Cross Country, Swimming, Athletics, Tennis
- South West Maths Challenge
- Mock Rock
- Kenniff Country Quilters Association

### All Students

- Mitchell Show
- Aboriginal Cultural Day
- "Back to Yumba" reunion
- Mitchell Enviro Bag Launch (2009 Australia Day Community Event of the Year Award)
- 100 days at School Celebration
- "School's Out" - Boys mental health program
- Arts Councils
- Booringa Shire National Youth Week Community Triathlon
- Anzac Day Parade
- World Vision Sponsorship
- Jump Rope for Heart
- Mitchell SS Celebration Night

## How computers are used to assist learning

At Mitchell State School, computers are an integral part of all aspects of learning. All teachers and teacher aides are encouraged to continue to develop their skills and to embed Information Communication Technologies into all aspects of the curriculum. Mitchell State School, through Investing in Our Schools" funds, has developed a "Business Education Centre" (an ICT lab) based in the Secondary Department. All primary teachers have access to a small bank of computers in their class. Apart from the ICT lab, a mini lab is also established in the library. Both the ICT lab and the mini lab in the computer have interactive whiteboards. The staff boasts two ICT Pedagogical Licence holders.

Individually teachers use computers with students in a number of different ways, including

- Enabling students to achieve Certificate 1 in Information Technology
- Enhancing learning through the use of online communication tools and devices
- Using a variety of ICTs, including Ipods, MP3 players, digital video and still cameras, voice recorders, Smart Board etc
- Producing assignments
- Calculating nutritional information for recipes
- Reinforcing the recognition of Japanese script
- Checking the weather forecasts and the rural industry markets
- Reading (or making) Living Books
- Engaging students in WebQuests

Teachers access the Learning Place and teach the use of Word, Email, Internet Searches, PowerPoint, Excel, Moviemaker, Photo Story 3, Paint or Publisher to students.

## Social climate

Here at Mitchell State School, we believe that

*Kids don't care how much you know until they know how much you care!*

All staff are encouraged to provide support to students. The mentoring programs that were established in 2006, providing social and emotional support for students, continued in 2008. A Scripture Union Chaplain provided weekly support to our students.

Results of the School Opinion Survey showed that Parents and Students were:

- Very satisfied that students are safe at this school
- Very satisfied that students are treated fairly at this school
- Satisfied about the behaviour of students at this school
- Satisfied with student discipline at this school
- Very satisfied that children are happy to go to this school (parents only)

## Involving parents in their child's education.

At Mitchell State School, all staff value and encourage parental involvement within the school and classroom. This involvement takes many different forms, including classroom help, assistance with fund-raising, participation at special days and attendance at classroom showcase activities. We also work closely with parents in cases where students may need additional help, either because of special needs or behavioural difficulties.

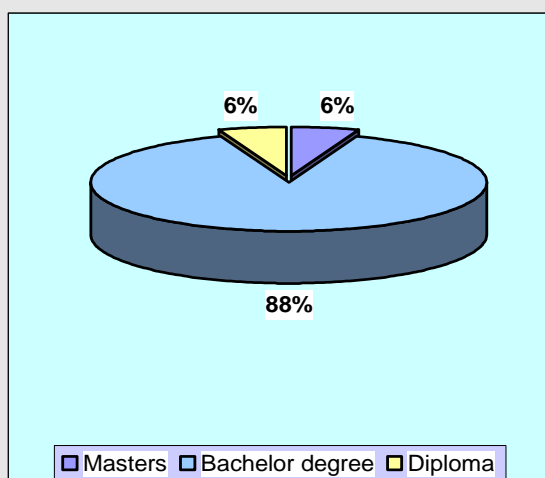
At Mitchell State School, we believe that a student's education is much more effective when students, parents and teachers all work together.

In 2008, the P&C were active in undertaking a range of fund raising activities, including: 'Ladies Night' and 'Market Day'. P&C representatives were also active in the development of the Mitchell State School Dress Code and design of the new school uniform.

## Our staff profile

### Qualifications of all teachers

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Masters	1
Bachelor degree	16
Diploma	1



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

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was \$5 460. The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities was 100% during 2008. The major professional development initiatives were as follows:

#### Curriculum

- Years 1-3 Regional Literacy training
- Primary Connections (Science)
- Alignment Planning (Curriculum, Pedagogy, Assessment)
- Development of a Curriculum Framework including Auditing of Essential Learnings
- Social Moderation Process
- "Teaching Literacy when you don't teach English"
- BEAQ State Conference (Business Educators)
- P – 12 Curriculum Framework
- First Steps in Maths (Number). Numeracy Framework.
- Linking School Data to classroom Outcomes

#### Student Services

- Inclusive Education: "On The Same Page"
- ESCM: Essential Skills Classroom Management. Peter Miles Behaviour Management
- Special Education Program – IEPs, EAP, Validation, Transport Assistance & Disability Services, Makaton
- Assistive Technologies
- Prior to Prep

#### Staff

- Code of Conduct and Student Protection
- First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

#### Smart Classrooms

- QSITE State Conference
- Mentoring the ICT School Mentors
- Blackboard Course – Advanced
- Accredited Facilitator Training
- District ICT Certificate Moderation
- OneSchool Training

### Average staff attendance

For permanent/temporary staff and school leaders, the staff attendance rate was 97% in 2008.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

From the end of the 2007 school year, 80% of staff was 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 89%.

## 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	Yr 9
Reading	Average score for the school	339	379	461	525
	Average score for Queensland	371.1	466.1	528.1	568.2
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	73%	55%	63%
Writing	Average score for the school	382	413	466	531
	Average score for Queensland	391.8	468.9	522.7	555.3
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	64%	55 %	88 %
Spelling	Average score for the school	326	400	470	532
	Average score for Queensland	366.7	462.0	528.0	567.8
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	73 %	58 %	63 %
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school	366	391	438	518
	Average score for Queensland	370.4	476.6	518.0	563.2
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	82 %	58 %	63 %
Numeracy	Average score for the school	400	421	458	534
	Average score for Queensland	367.9	458.2	539.0	570.7
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	73 %	75 %	78 %

Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net	Percentage of students not requiring additional support
Reading	65%
Writing	88%
Number	71%

## Value added

### NAPLAN

On average, 70% of students in Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 achieved at or above the national minimum standards in Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar & Punctuation, and, Numeracy. The greatest success was 100% of our Year 9 cohort achieving above the national minimum standards in Numeracy.

Mitchell State School, through DEEWR funding, implemented a project in 2008 called "Kids at school: Attendance + Engagement in Learning = Success". This project focussed on increasing the attendance rate of students and the explicit teaching of Literacy and Numeracy with targeted students. Two tutors were also employed through "Even Start" which assisted in raising student standards in particular cohorts.

## Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Our results on the 2008 School Surveys were very positive across all sectors.

### Staff

Staff indicated they were very satisfied with what was happening in the school. On the overall rating, our school mean was above the state average when responding to questions based on physical work environment, relationships, staff morale and school operations.

86% of staff members are satisfied with the morale in the school.

### Students

73% of students are satisfied that they are getting a good education at our school.

This satisfaction rating is up significantly from 2006 and 2007.

### Parents

82% of parents/caregivers are satisfied that the school is good school. This result is up significantly from the 2006 and 2007 data.

75% of parents/caregivers are satisfied that their child is getting a good education at school.