

Hamilton Island State School

2007 School Annual Report

School Details

PO Address:	PO Box 192 Hamilton Island QLD 4803
Phone:	4946 8327
Fax:	4946 8265
Email:	the.principal@hamiiclass.eq.edu.au
Website:	www.hamiiclass.eq.edu.au

Principal's Foreword

Introduction

Hamilton Island School Community believes that our role is to prepare children to be life-long learners and active participants in our changing world. To achieve this we need to provide a dynamic and inclusive learning environment that develops and values positive personal attributes as well as academic success. We believe that the school and families share the role of raising and educating our children.

Future Outlook

LEARNING

Ensure strong literacy program is followed including focus on daily writing and phonics programs (THRASS and Reading Freedom)

Promote reading by buddy reading scheme, parents as partners in a home reading program and the purchase of specific materials to meet the needs and interests of students. Promote reading through Bookclub and Bookfair. Have a reading element in each week's homework.

Provide higher order learning experiences to ensure teaching and learning reflect the best teaching practices of productive pedagogies.

SCHOOLS

Plan pro-active commitments for school upkeep and building through HIE.

Continue monitoring the progress of each student on standardised tests at regulated times throughout the year, identifying needs and reporting to parents on this assessment. Seek external assistance where the need is identified.

Meet the distinctive needs of Middle School students by curriculum in school, extra-curricular studies and integration with other schools.

Strengthen partnerships within our small community by enhancing modes of communication and consultation.

Provide opportunities for the students of HISS to travel off island to increase their perspective of lifestyles, culture and the wider community.

WORKFORCE

Build on capabilities of staff in ICT, Literacy, Science skilling through in-school, on-line and outside providers of PD.

Include first aid upgrading for all staff.

Endeavour to retain staff for longer periods of time than has been the norm in 2007.

Involve all staff in planning and monitoring student achievement and behaviour.

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Our school at a glance

School Profile

Total enrolments:	46
Year levels offered:	Prep-Year 7
Structure:	Co-educational

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings and Extra Curricula Activities:

In 2007 we:

- Continued the identification, intervention and support programs for students with special needs and provided learning support using current staff members with the assistance of Advisory Visiting Teachers.
- Extended opportunities for students to achieve at a higher level completing UNSW tests in Science, Maths and English. (Achieved 1 high distinction, 3 distinctions and 7 credits)
- Provided LOTE using on-island personnel and face to face instruction.
- Promoted and rewarded positive behaviour in public venues
- Expanded projects for sustainability eg hydroponics/gardens for students/worm farm/composting
- Continued daily exercise program, which aligns with Smart Moves initiative: Term 1/4 swimming twice per week and Term 2/3 walk/run. In addition to this we use the resort facility at the Sports Club and the oval for Friday afternoon sport in Term2/3.
- Proceeded with the setting up of a sailing program which should begin in Semester 2, 2008. (6 Opti class dinghies provided by Hamilton Island Cruising Yacht Club and Hamilton Island Enterprise)
- Promoted reading by Book Club, Book Fair, Buddy Reading, Premiers Reading Challenge and Book Week celebration.
- Held Christmas concert and mid-year concert in conjunction with island music provider using a venue, lighting and sound provided by HIE
- Continued Interschool sport with mainland schools especially swimming and cross-country.
- Applied for and received federal grant for Chaplaincy in Schools program in 2007 which will begin in 2008providing pastoral care for students and additional support for families.

Parents, in the Opinion Survey, reported a level of satisfaction with the variety of school activities at 62.5%

Students reported their level of satisfaction at 93.8%

How computers are used to assist learning:

- Computers used on a daily basis in the classroom for word processing in daily writing, as a research tool across all learning areas and in maths to reinforce learning and extend understanding. Students practise their keyboard skills using a software program installed on all computers.
- Purchased 6 new computers and had computer desks installed in both classrooms. MOEd in Term 4 but had problems with connectivity into 2008. Wireless now in operation. Tech assistance continued to be problematic Pursuing on-island tech support and ICT licences for 2 staff members in 2008.
- Computers for Teachers initiative allows use of laptops at home for planning, assessing and reporting.

Social climate

Our school community values the health and well-being of our students.

All students are expected to actively participate in a healthy active school program which includes a daily walk/run in Term 2 and 3, swimming twice a week in Term 1 and 4, active skills in conjunction with the island Sport Club in Term 2 and 3 and weekly visits to the oval for all grades. As most students live in home units with little play area and our school grounds are very small, these activities are crucial for the physical and social development of the students.

In 2007 the school community applied for and received a federal government grant for the employment of a school chaplain. A suitable applicant has taken up the position and will give additional support for students and families already provided by school staff. The chaplain will lead a virtues program with the students.

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Our school at a glance

An active and welcoming P&C meets twice per term. In conjunction with the island kindy the P&C members and school staff and students organise a ball which is the major fundraiser for the year. In 2007 this ball raised \$22 000 which was shared with the island kindy. The P&C support off-island trips for students and provide each student with a book gift at the end of the year. The P&C are also active in seeking grants to support the fundraising that they do.

A values program has been purchased and implemented and should improve school playground behaviour as students become more aware of ways of resolving conflicts with respect and consideration. This should improve the satisfaction level of students and parents about the behaviour of students in the school.

All students took part in a visit by Family Planning Association that involved self-protection and knowledge of their bodies. This initiative was financially supported by the P&C.

Although the student satisfaction survey in regards to behaviour seems low the school was flagged above the state mean.

56.2% of students reported satisfaction with the behaviour of students at this school.

66.7% of parents reported satisfaction with the behaviour of students at this school.

Involving parents in their child's education

The majority of our students are dropped off at school by their parents in the golf buggies that everyone on the island drives. Informal meetings between staff and parents take place in the "buggy park". Parents are invited into the classroom to read to students, to run reading programs and to help with daily writing. Parents of students with special needs are given support to implement programs that support classroom learning at home.

Parents attend school assemblies that are led by students every Friday. Students perform, show work and read personal writing, receive awards and give reports. Parents are invited to morning tea with the staff after the assembly.

A Wednesday activity afternoon also involves parents and community members as group leaders. Parents and community members attend a variety of special events at the school, excursions and sport days and are also actively involved in the P&C, the school ball fundraising event and working bees.

The weekly school newsletter is available in hard copy or by email. Newsletter contains hints about helping students as well as an update on activities.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

87% of parents expressed satisfaction that their child is getting a good education at school.

Students reported their level of satisfaction at 93.8%

Parent responses to the Opinion Survey question about this being a good school indicated a level of satisfaction at 91.7%

100% of staff members reported that they were satisfied with the morale in the school.

Value added

100% of students in Year 2 in 2007 met the requirements for reading, writing and number and did not require additional support. This was a marked increase on the result for 2006.

100% of students in Year 3 were above the national benchmarks in reading and numeracy and 80% were above in writing. This was a slight drop on 2006 results when all benchmarks were achieved by 100% of students.

100% of students in Year 5 in 2007 met the benchmarks for writing and numeracy with 80% achieving the reading benchmark. This was above the result for 2006.

In 2007 100% of Year 7 students met the benchmarks in reading and writing. No group data was available for 2006 as there were no Yr 7 students.

Student attendance

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2007 was 92%

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Our Staff Profile

Qualifications of all teachers and school leaders

Highest level of attainment

Percentage of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school

Doctorate

Masters

Bachelor degree

Diploma

Certificate

Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2007 was \$3769

The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

- Mentoring of beginning teachers and induction of staff are continuous as staff turnover is high. A shared philosophy of teaching and learning focussing on Literacy is integral to the success of students.
- Literacy training for P-3 teachers and Teacher Aides.
- Beginning Teachers Conference
- Scientists in School program in conjunction with CSIRO

The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2007 was 100%

Average staff attendance

For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate in 2007 was 99%

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

77% of staff were retained by the school from the end of the 2006 school year for the entire 2007 school year.

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Performance of our students

Please note that as information published in the tables below must maintain the privacy of individual students, data may have been withheld, especially for cohort sizes less than five. In these situations the 'Value Added' section at the beginning of this report provides a narrative in regards to student performance. Similarly, District Special Schools and Outdoor Education Centres may (or will) not have information to publish in these tables.

Key outcomes in the early and middle phases of learning

Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net

Percentage of students not requiring additional support:

Reading:	100
Writing:	100
Number:	100

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 School:	565	601	722	
	Average score for QLD:	527	606	672	
	Percentage of school students above the national benchmark:	2007	100	80	DW
		2006	100	60	
	Writing	Average score for School:	486	562	707
Average score for QLD:		523	600	681	
Percentage of school students above the national benchmark:		2007	80	100	DW
		2006	100	100	
Numeracy		Average score for School:	553	590	651
	Average score for QLD:	521	588	648	
	Percentage of school students above the national benchmark:	2007	100	100	DW
		2006	100	60	