

	Postal Address	Gaven State School Universal Street , GAVEN QLD 4211
	Phone	(07) 5573 7933
	Fax	(07) 5573 7292
	Email	admin@gavenss.eq.edu.au
	Website	www.gavenss.eq.edu.au

Principal's foreword

Introduction

2007 was a particularly busy year for our school community. The following list represents some of the major activities undertaken.

- Camps for Year 4 - Numinbah Valley, Year 5 - Jacobs Well, Year 6 – Gunundie and Year 7 - Mebbin
- Fete
- Extravaganza
- Continuation of Blue Zone during first recess
- Introduction of Robotics
- Enhancement of the teaching of Science
- Implementation of the Preparatory Year

Future outlook

During 2007 there was refinement of teacher planning processes and teaching and learning practices with a focus on strategies to optimize the engagement of children in learning. The introduction of Robotics and the use of interactive whiteboards were used to further engage and extend children. The building of another new primary school in the local area will again have an impact on Gaven State School. Our community looks forward to the opportunities and challenges that change will present.

Our school at a glance

School Profile

Gaven State School is a co-educational school catering for students from preschool to Year 7. New enrolments arrive regularly with the majority coming from New Zealand and eastern Australian States. The expansion of the Pacific Pines community continues to have a significant impact on enrolments at Gaven State School as access to other schools has improved with the completion of connecting roads. The commencement of Park Lake State School in 2008 has impacted on enrolments at Gaven State School. The construction of another state primary school in the area for the commencement of 2009 may further impact on future enrolments. A small number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are represented in the school community.

The 2007 school year commenced with an enrolment of 644 including 58 Preparatory Year students. While the predicted number of prep year students was not realized, the number of enrolments in year 1 surpassed expectations. Planning a number of multiage classes across the school provided capacity to accommodate the changes in enrolment without having to reorganise classes. The result was a smooth start to the year with no classes oversize and the capacity to accommodate additional students in any year level.

By June 2007 the enrolment had risen to 668 including 60 Preparatory Year students. Nine of the 26 classes were above the maximum class size and a further five classes were at the maximum class size. An application resulted in an additional teacher, which resulted in a considerable re-organisation of classes. A great deal of sensitivity was exercised and patience displayed in managing a successful change.

The 2007 school year concluded with an enrolment of 690 students in 27 classes.

It was expected that the opening of the Park Lake State School in the local area would have a significant impact on enrolments at Gaven State School from the beginning of 2008.

Curriculum offerings

Gaven State School is committed to Outcomes-Based Education. Teachers from every grade level create fully integrated outcomes based units incorporating the eight Key Learning Areas. The integrated units run parallel to Core Learning which includes a Whole School, Grouped, and Skills Based Literacy Program. Every unit is created using technology software and includes: student outcomes, assessment, resources, activities, global outcomes, a technology focus, a community focus, a thinking focus and culmination activity.

Culmination Days occur 4 times per year, at the end of each unit of work. Parents and friends are encouraged to come to the school to participate in a showcase of the achievements of children during the term. This is an ideal opportunity for parents to monitor the effectiveness of our outcomes approach to education and the extent to which students have been engaged.

Gaven State School has a fully functional Computer Lab where classes work on their computer skills. This Lab is networked to most of the school and students can access their work from the computers in their classrooms. All students are required to have an Internet Agreement signed by themselves and their parents to enable access to the World Wide Web.

Gaven State School recognises the value of sport and encourages all students to participation in the range of physical activities available to students. The fostering of sporting activity has contributed significantly to the successes in 2007 of team events and individual achievements.

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Social climate

A comprehensive Behaviour Management Policy is in place and is reviewed and updated by staff and parents on an annual basis. The behaviour management team implemented a "Blue Zone" within the school in 2005 for students to be actively involved in clubs and /or to pursue hobbies and interests.

The Student Council is a pro-active group highly involved in environmental issues and student welfare. Programs focusing on the development of student leadership and responsibility for self continued to be delivered in 2007 across the student population.

Involving parents in their child's education

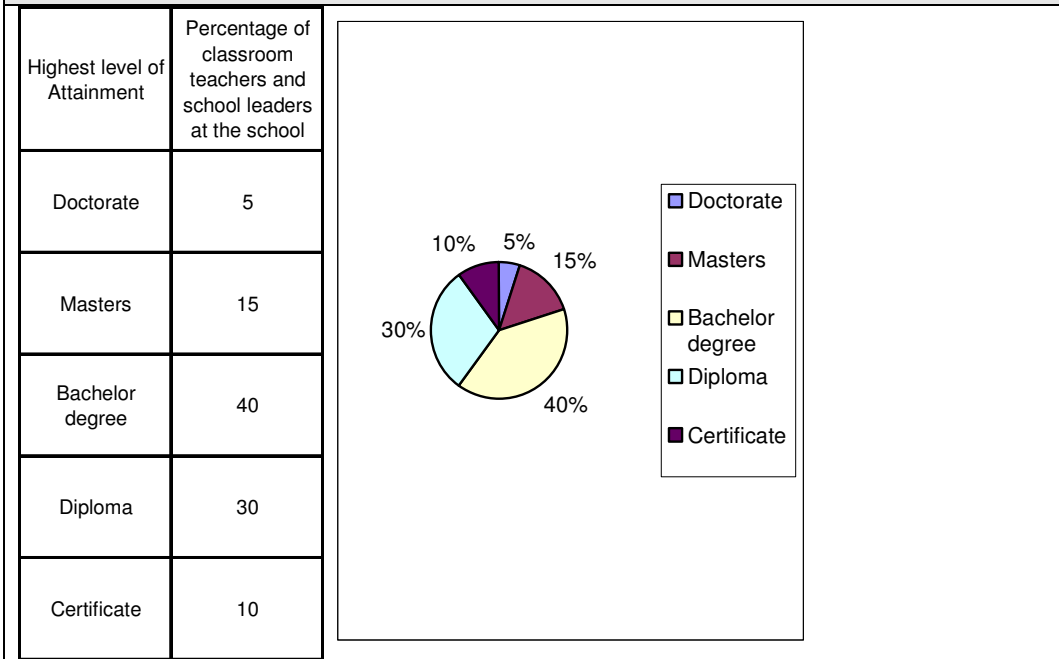
Gaven State School reports formally two times each year to the parent community taking the form of written reports. Culmination days are held at the end of terms 1,2 and 4. Interviews are arranged at the convenience of parents and teachers.

Partnerships between home and school are encouraged through:

- Fortnightly Parent Newsletter
- P & C contribution to the newsletter
- Community Advertising
- Community Notice board
- Parent-Teacher evenings early in the school year
- Formal written reports at the end of each semester
- Presentations at School Assemblies
- Sports Days, Music Night of Excellence

Our staff profile

Qualifications of all teachers.



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

- The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2007 was \$12,214 or 15.8% of core grants.
- The major professional development initiatives are as follows: Interactive whiteboard Training, Robotics, supporting aspiring leaders, emergency care training.
- The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2007 was 93%.

Average staff attendance

- For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 95% in 2007.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

- From the end of the 2006 school year, 87% of staff were retained by the school for the entire 2007 school year.

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Performance of our students

Student Attendance

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2007 was 94.3%.

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	85%
Writing	86%
Number	84%

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 the school	500	583	664	
	Average score for Queensland	527	606	672	
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	88%	61%	80%
		2006	94%	77%	84%
Writing	Average score for the school	521	560	652	
	Average score for Queensland	523	600	681	
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	86%	91%	91%
		2006	94%	95%	98%
Numeracy	Average score for the school	501	558	635	
	Average score for Queensland	521	588	648	
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	87 %	65%	68%
		2006	86%	88%	75%

Other Key Outcomes

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Queensland
Government
Education Queensland

Value added

- **Values Education** was implemented at Gaven State School in 2007. Our school was one of five in a cluster initiative and focused on two of the nine values in 2007 - *Respect* and *Understanding*. The Australian Government provided \$7500 to assist our school with this important work. Values Forums for parents were conducted to present information to parents about the school's direction in implementing Values Education. The information included the results of surveys of parents, students and staff .
- Gaven State School hosted a visit by **20 Korean students** aged 10 to 14 from July 23 to August 12. The participants spent some time on most days in classes and had English lessons as part of their program. The value for our students was the greater insight they gained about the world, other cultures and our own culture.
- A review of **LOTE** (Languages Other Than English) one of the eight key learning areas was conducted by Queensland Education. Japanese is the language studied by year six and seven students at Gaven State School for 90 minutes each week. The review included consultation with students, parents and staff.
- **Reading Recovery**, an intensive program to assist students in Year 2 who have not attained an expected standard in reading, has operated in Queensland schools for many years, but concluded at the end of 2007 at Gaven State School. In 2007 Gaven State School had three reading Recovery teachers. A departmental review of Reading Recovery resulted in the decision to move from Reading Recovery to an expanded program to provide support for all students.
- 72 students from Years 3 to 7 participated in the annual **University of New South Wales Mathematics competition**. 2 high distinction, 6 distinction, 18 credit and 46 participant certificates were awarded. On average Year 3 and 4 students scored a little less than the average for Queensland across all five skill areas tested, while students in Years 5, 6 and 7 scored on average a little higher than the average for Queensland. In Year 5 students performed higher than the state in *Algebra and Patterns*. Year 6 students were superior in *Number and Arithmetic, Measures and Units and Chance and Data*. Year 7 students performed particularly well in *Number and Arithmetic, Measures and Units and Space and Geometry*.
- 2007 marked the final year of our school's Partnership Agreement 2005-2007. Our school's second **Triennial School Review** (TSR), was conducted. The information gathered during the review process forms the basis of our 2008-2010 School Planning Overview/ Partnership Agreement.
- Three teachers and several students participated in a workshop to assist teachers and students from across the district with their knowledge and skills associated with **Robotics**. Gaven State School has invested several thousand dollars in this area over the past two years. Feedback from visitors from Education Queensland and Griffith University, partners in the venture, suggested that excellent progress had been made.
- The annual **Art Show** was the culmination of the Artist in Residence program for 2007 was held in June. The event was very successful and culminated in a display of a selection of the art at Westfield Shopping Centre, Helensvale.
- The **Life Education Program** provided valuable information to 494 students. Participants who attended the Parents Information Session asked many relevant questions and indicated that the need for the program was high.
- Gaven State School's **athletics team** competed strongly at the annual District Carnival finishing third by one-half a point of 16 schools in our division. In September five Gaven SS students represented Gold Coast North at the Regional athletics championships.
- The annual **Great Debate** between Pacific Pines State School and Gaven State School was held in June. The research and preparation of all teams exceeded expectations resulting in a very high standard of debating. Gaven students were thrilled with the result; Gaven retains the trophy won in 2006.
- The **Surf Safely program** was delivered to our senior students in a face-to-face presentation. The program aims to provide children with information about internet safety and things they can do to minimize the risks to themselves. The participants at the parents' session were advised about children's use of the internet as a communication medium and the risks they could be exposed to.
- The annual **interhouse swimming carnival** was conducted in November. The event was attended by many parents and the level of participation by students was high. For the third year running the winning house was Amaroo.
- \$53500 from the **School Community Development Fund** resulted in a number of worthwhile projects being completed by June. These were: a cricket practice wicket, fencing to the oval, library courtyard enhancement, additional library storage and drinking fountains on the oval.
- The school was successful in attracting \$135000 in **Investing in Schools funding**, which enabled 45 computers to be replaced and 22 interactive whiteboards installed in classrooms. A replacement schedule was established to ensure the regular upgrading of computers.
- Stockland provided a **concrete path** from their development at the rear of the school into our school grounds. The additional thoroughfare eased some of the traffic congestion experienced every afternoon as some families chose to collect children from the streets in the new development.

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- The South Coast Region established a **training venue in House 3** at Gaven State School to be used to train teacher aides and teachers in aspect of Literacy. Gaven's P-3 teachers engaged in 5 days each of literacy training in June.
- Gold Coast City Council completed the **connection of the two parts of Universal Street**, which made access to the school much easier for many families and assisted with the traffic flow around the front of the school.
- In 2007 the Gaven State **School Council** was dissolved following a formal consultative process.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Parents' Opinion Survey

Satisfaction with **school buildings** and **grounds** was measurably **higher** than State and Like Schools means. All other aspects surveyed were **not measurably different** to the State and Like Schools means.

Students' Opinion Survey

The only aspect surveyed where a 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' mean was not achieved was **behaviour of students at this school** (mean 2.22) where the satisfaction range was neutral and not measurably different to the State mean of 2.18. For all other aspects surveyed there was no **measurable difference** to the State and Like Schools means.

Staff Opinion Survey – Workplace Dimensions

Satisfaction with the following aspects surveyed was measurably higher than State and Like Schools.

- Satisfaction with the working conditions at the school
- That the facilities are well maintained
- The school has good workplace health and safety practices
- Satisfaction with the facilities at the school
- Being treated respectfully
- Satisfaction with the way staff and students respect each other
- Satisfaction about having a say in decisions about their work in the school
- Satisfaction with the team spirit amongst staff
- Satisfaction about access to resources to do their job
- Access to appropriate ICTs to do their job

For all other aspects surveyed there was no **measurable difference** to the State and Like Schools means.

Staff Opinion Survey – Workforce

Satisfaction with **opportunities to engage in network activities** was measurably higher than State, while satisfaction with **opportunities to develop skills in the integration of ICTs into the curriculum** was measurably higher than the State and Like Schools.

For all other aspects surveyed there was no **measurable difference** to the State and Like Schools means.