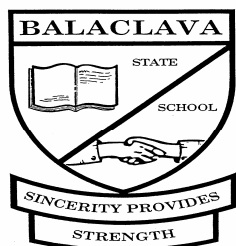


# Balaclava State School



PO address	PO Box 266M, Manunda, Cairns Qld 4870
Phone	07 40815333
Fax	07 40815300
Email	the.principal@balaclavss.eq.edu.au
Website or Contact Person	<a href="http://www.balaclavss.eq.edu.au">www.balaclavss.eq.edu.au</a> Contact : Chris Rigden

## Principal's foreword

### Introduction

Welcome to our Annual School Report for 2008. This report gives an overview of our achievements during the year. 2008 saw a major focus on Literacy, Numeracy, Behaviour Management and Information Technology

Highlights of the year include :

Sports Day

Harmony Day – a cultural day where community members share an aspect of their culture including dance, cooking, craft, and singing

Further Choir success

P & C Cent Auction fundraiser

NAIDOC Week

This report profiles our school achievements of 2008 and looks ahead to 2009. In 2008 we made significant progress in improving literacy and numeracy outcomes for our students and reducing behaviour management incidents

### Future outlook

Our key focus areas for 2009 are to improve reading and number results across the school as evidenced by results in the National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). We will also continue our focus on behaviour management and developing engagement with ICTs.

## Our school at a glance

### School Profile

Total student enrolments for this school : 301 in August 2008

Year levels offered: Prep – Year 7

Balaclava State School is coeducational with a diverse, multi cultural student enrolment. Approximately 58% of students are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and 8% Cook Islander. A significant proportion of our students speak English as a second language.

### Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings include:

- Outcomes based learning in English, Maths, Science, Studies of Society and Environments, Health and Physical Education and The Arts ( including Art and Music)
- LOTE – Japanese in years 6 & 7
- Rock and Water is a program that we have run to boost self esteem and counter bullying. It was run with approximately 150 students in the program per week. The program is taught across all year levels and students during the year.
- Our Upper Primary Literacy program supported year 6 and 7 students who did not achieve benchmarks in the Year 5 tests. A teacher is employed specifically for this programme.
- Our Year 2 net support program targets students who are “caught” at below required literacy and numeracy levels.
- Our RIS program supported indigenous students who have moved to Cairns from Cape and Torres communities.
- Education Support funding for children in care of the State facilitated our program of additional, focused teacher aide help for these students.

Special Education programmes were delivered for verified students with hearing, visual, speech language and intellectual impairments.

#### Extra curricula activities

- Rugby League
- Choir
- School Band
- School Rock Band
- Instrumental music tuition
- Chess
- End of term school discos
- School camps for years 5, 6, and 7 students.

#### How computers are used to assist learning

As well as the school's computer lab three suites of laptops were deployed for in class use. They are linked to the network through our school wide wireless system and complement the standard 3 computers per classroom which are hardwired to the network. Also, each teacher has their own department provided laptop computer. We have two electronic whiteboards, one in the library and another which is mobile. We also have robotics equipment.

## Our school at a glance

### Social climate

Our school strives to provide an open and welcoming environment to students, parents and carers. Input from parents and carers is always welcome and they are encouraged to contact teachers and/or visit classrooms. Our behaviour management program is built around our three core values of **Respect, Responsibility and Relationships** that were arrived at after wide consultation. Key components of our pastoral care and student support are listed below:

Guidance Officer

Visiting Behaviour Management teacher

Religious Instruction program

Adopt a Cop Police liaison

Community relations outreach staff

Values Education program

Student Council

Hungry lunches

Breathe Blow Cough hearing screening and associated programs

Lunch time organised activities

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

Our school places great importance on parental support. We have a small but committed parent group who maintain the P&C and ensure daily operation of a tuckshop. The latter is particularly important in our school as nutrition is an issue for some children. We also have outreach workers who make home visits. Teachers and administration staff place great importance on parental contacts and invest a great deal of time in them.

Parents and care givers are encouraged to be partners in their child's education, be it through class participation, excursion assistance or attendance at functions such as Sports Day or Harmony Day.

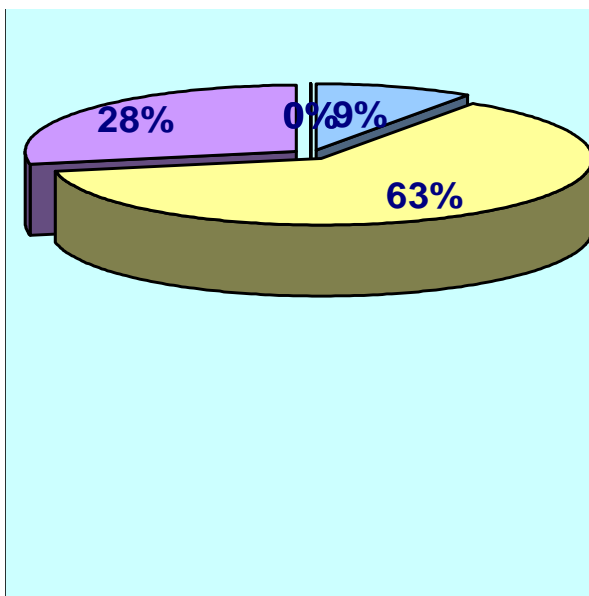
Parent information is conveyed via the website and regular newsletters.

Teachers send home class newsletters at the beginning of each term outlining upcoming activities and end each term with an open classroom learning celebration.

## Our staff profile

### Qualifications of all teachers

Doctorate	0
Masters	3
Bachelor degree	20
Diploma	9
Certificate	0



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

- The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was \$10 510.
- The major professional development initiatives are as follows:
  - Oral Band Scaling
  - ESL PD Workshops
  - Cross Cultural Understanding
  - Indigenous Cultural Awareness Program
  - Smart Moves
  - Closing the Gap
- The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2008 was 96 %.

### 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, 92 % 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 85 %.

### 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	250	349	475
	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 51 %	32 %	80 %
Writing	Average score for the school	343	391	477
	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 %	63 %	72 %
Spelling	Average score for the school	287	413	488
	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 61 %	72 %	80 %
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school	303	370	447
	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 67 %	53 %	61 %
Numeracy	Average score for the school	287	373	487
	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 69 %	53 %	89 %

Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net	Percentage of students not requiring additional support
Reading	26 %
Writing	36 %
Number	36 %

## Performance of our students

### Value added

Balaclava State School staff display high levels of professionalism and have constantly strived to improve the educational opportunities of our students.

Our school adds a great deal of value in moving students forward in basic literacy and numeracy, often from a very low start point. We operate a significant number of intervention programs, as detailed elsewhere in this report, to assist students to overcome disadvantage.

Our nutrition provision through the tuckshop and "hungry lunches" has been important in enabling students to engage with learning.

### Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Evidence of parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school is indicated by information drawn from the 2008 School Opinion Survey.

#### Students

69.3% of students were satisfied that they are getting a good education from school.

#### Parents

70.0% of parents/care givers were satisfied that the school is a good school

#### Staff

60.0% of staff members were satisfied with morale in the school