


Performance of our students

	PO address	Ogg Road Murrumba Downs
	Phone	34809111
	Fax	34809100
	Email	the.principal@undurbass.eq.edu.au
	Website or Contact Person	www.undurbass.eq.edu.au The Principal

Principal's foreword

Introduction

"Aim for the Best"

Undurba State School is an amazing school with a strong value base designed to provide the best outcomes for all children who attend. The school also has a strong family base with many siblings spending their whole primary career with us, as well as a significant number of second penetration enrolments.

Our espoused values are: Excellence in Endeavour, Respect for People, Integrity in Service, Professionalism in Performance, Unity of Purpose, Environmental Sustainability, Openness and encouragement in Relationships, and Commitment to Create a Sense of Belonging and Fun.

During 2008 we have continued our strong focus on literacy and numeracy which has enabled our students to achieve results that are comparable to, or above, state averages in NAPLAN testing. Notable areas of achievement are in Year 3 and Year 7 with reading, writing, spelling and numeracy, and in Year 5 with Writing, Numeracy, Spelling and, Grammar and Punctuation. Our teachers and teacher aides have completed significant professional development over the past 12 months in order to increase their knowledge, skills and understanding of the diverse learning needs of our students and how to cater for these needs in our classrooms.

A major focus has been Literacy training for all teachers which continues to enhance NAPLAN results. Our Early Years' program continues to build a strong foundation of effective literacy skills for our students in Years 1 and 2 addressing their development needs in their early learning. The effective literacy strategies employed are reflected in students Testing results for Year 3 and the Middle Phase of Learning.

Laptops for Teachers program has provided teachers with opportunities to enhance their ICT skills with a third of teachers working towards ICT certificates or ICT Licences.

A focus on Indigenous Culture is enjoyed by our Indigenous students and other members of Undurba State School as they take the opportunity to learn about, and appreciate Indigenous Culture. Noteworthy have been the Art Workshops led by a community based leader and our Learning Support teacher. Other planned activities include a dance group from a local High School performing for our students

The Student Council plays a major role in Fundraising for Charity and for our school as well as representing the school in their leadership roles.

The support staff members at the school ensure our school is run effectively and presents the physical environment in the best possible manner.

The school's Parents and Citizens Association is led by a passionate group of parents who are committed to supporting the school. These parents work tirelessly to ensure the school is able to provide services to the children as well as additional funding for school projects.

The Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) facility was completed in October 2008. The venue is now affectionately known as Fundurba. This is a remarkable asset to the school which is lead by two passionate and dedicated staff members.

The School Hall was commenced in 2008 and is due for completion by late 2009.

Mark Hunter – Principal.

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Future outlook

Strategic planning for 2009 and beyond will be influenced by the 2009 Triennial School Review. This Review will identify systemic and school based needs for the following three years. This process includes the following aspects:

- The listing of Elements within this area which will be used as a measure of the school's growth
- The development of Descriptors for a five point scale
- The identification of the Current Reality for the school
- The development of Actions to move the school forward in each of the identified elements.

The Triennial School Review will inform the school's development through the Annual Operation Plan.

The areas that have been identified for continued strategic development include: Literacy, Numeracy, Science, Early Phase of Learning, Middle Phase of Learning, Learning Enhancement Activities for Years 4 – 7, catering for a diverse range of students and a diverse range of interests and the teaching of mathematics. Education Plans and delivery of support will continue to be reviewed and enhanced with the school catering for difference including Non-English Speaking Background, Indigenous children, children in care, children with a disability, those with learning support needs, and those who have been identified as gifted and talented. The 'You Can Do It' program will continue to be enhanced and embedded through the Supportive School Environment. Ongoing skilling continues for all staff including Ancillary Staff, Office Management, Resource Centre Management, Teaching Staff, Teacher Aides and Leadership Team members through Coaching and other Professional development opportunities.

We will continue the implementation of the Queensland Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Framework (QCARF) particularly the Essential Learnings and Standards components.

Consolidation of the One School suite as our platform for reporting students' achievements to parents will continue. Staff Mastery of One School student database.

New and renovated buildings include the refurbishment of Block 1; renovations of Block 7 as a viable Prep Unit, the completion of the Hall and the building of a new Resource and Technology Centre. We look forward to building productive relationships with the Faith Lutheran Primary School and the Pine Rivers Neighbourhood Centre. We have built a partnership with these two organisations under the Federal *Local Schools Working Together* initiative

School Profile

Undurba State School is a coeducational state school located in Murrumba Downs. We currently have 774 students in Prep to Year 7.

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

At Undurba State School, we have a strong focus on literacy, numeracy, science and ICTs. All classes engage in a 2 hour literacy block on a daily basis.

Each semester the school's Learning Enhancement Activities provide opportunities for children to discover new interests and to expand on their talents and knowledge. Activities include:- chess, art, digital photography, designing web page, claymations, ball skills, robotics and craft.

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Extra curricula activities

Interschool sports (Years 5 -7)

Students in Year 3 and 4 are invited to participate in our Smart Strings Program

Our Instrumental music program offers students the opportunity to learn strings, percussion and woodwind. We currently have a school band that performs at a variety of school and community functions and compete in competitions including

Music Fanfare which is held every two years. In 2008 Undurba State School won a Platinum Award in the Strings section and a Gold Award in the School Band section.

This year the school will present a musical as part of the Q150 celebrations

A Junior and Senior choir also perform at school events.

Students are able to participate in a number of regional and national competitions including the District Maths Tournament and ICAS Science, English, Writing, Spelling, Maths and computer competitions. Our children are regular winners in the Cluster's Maths competition. As part of the cluster school's More Able program we also offer Public Speaking, Art Challenges and Science Challenges.

Gifted children are invited to attend writing camps.

Student School Leaders participate in the local Cluster Schools Leadership meetings.

Our Active After School Program operates two afternoons a week and encourages students to participate in a variety of sports such as golf, soccer, dance, gymnastics and ball games.

How computers are used to assist learning

Our school currently has 1 class size computer lab and 2 half size labs. Each class also has a small number of computers in their room.

ICT skills are integrated in units of work where children have the opportunity to create word documents, PowerPoint presentations and web pages to display what they have learnt. During the Integrated Studies, children use Learning Objects and Web Quests to find information and consolidate their learning. Students have access to digital cameras, video cameras and a variety of multimedia software packages to enhance learning and present assessment items.

Software programs including Lexile and Lexia are used to enhance children literacy skills. LEO an online program assisting children who are disengaging from literacy learning. These programs have substantially lifted children's engagement in the classroom and their learning results.

We employ a System Administrator who supports both staff and students in achieving efficient access to information and communication technologies.

Through the Computers for Teachers laptop program, all teachers have received a personal laptop, and associated professional development, to enhance their planning, assessing and reporting.

Social climate

Undurba State School has a highly supportive community with particular emphasis on student learning and achievement. The culture of the school reflects the school motto "Aim for the Best". One artefact that is indicative of the positive climate within our school is the school song. This is sung at each parade and recognises the commitment to 'always do our best'.

Our school's Responsible Behaviour Plan for students, based on the Code of School Behaviour was

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developed and implemented during 2006. The plan clearly outlines our school's high expectations for student behaviour and the support provided for all students to help achieve these standards.

"The You Can Do It" program is implemented across all Year levels and is designed to help all students achieve their potential by teaching students strategies to improve their confidence, persistence, organisational skills, resilience and their ability to get along with others.

We are also privileged to have a chaplain based at our school who is able to provide significant support to our children. Along with the chaplain, the teaching staff members have agreed to a workplace reform which enables a staff member to be released from class to provide social support to both children and their families. This teacher works on the basis of positive planning to address positive behavioural development.

Involving parents in their child's education.

At Undurba, we believe parents play a key role in the education process. The education of any child is a partnership between home and school. Parents are encouraged to take an active role in our school in a number of ways including volunteering in classrooms, and/or attending Learning Celebrations at the end of term.

Professional development is provided for parents by our Learning Support staff to help them engage effectively with students during our 2-hour literacy block. Support a Reader and Support a Writer sessions are readily available for all of our volunteers.

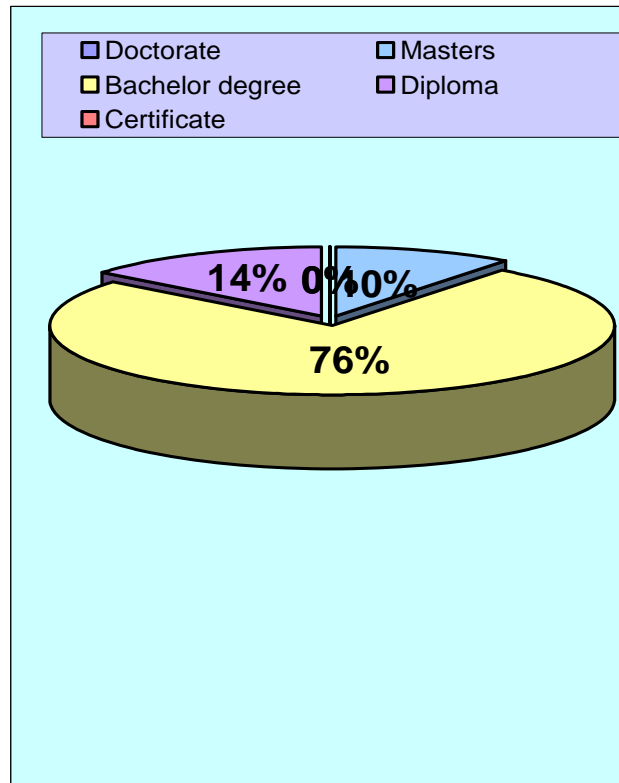
Parents can play an active role in the decision making process of our school by attending monthly P&C meetings and/or committee meetings. Regular communication between parents and teachers is always encouraged. Formal parent teacher interviews are conducted twice a year to inform parents of their child's progress. However, staff members welcome parents to discuss concerns about their child at the earliest opportunity. Parents are kept informed of school activities and events via the school newsletter that is distributed once a fortnight.

The school has an effective Parent Representative group whose role it is to support school based initiatives, and liaise with parents from each class. This group links to the Parents and Citizens' Association and meets once a month to discuss classroom issues and upcoming school events

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Qualifications of all teachers

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	5
Bachelor degree	37
Diploma	7
Certificate	0



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was \$15 911.00

The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

- Literacy Training – 5 day programme
- Maths Program – implementation of maths investigations
- ICTs
- Early Years Guidelines
- Middle Phase learners
- Coaching

The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2008 was 92

Average staff attendance

For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 96% in 2008.

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Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

From the end of the 2007 school year, 95 % 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 96 %.

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
Reading	Average score for the school		374	477	532
	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	93	85	96
Writing	Average score for the school		407	469	528
	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	93	88	90
Spelling	Average score for the school		372	456	529
	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	87	84	87
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school		365	478	518
	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	91	90	91
Numeracy	Average score for the school		374	462	536
	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	94	88	94

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Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net

	Percentage of students not requiring additional support
Reading	78
Writing	88
Number	86

Value added

“Aim for the Best”

Our Year 2 net data continues to address solidly the needs of the developing child within the context of individual learning needs. This is due to the explicit teaching of literacy and numeracy skills as a key component of our school program. Our teachers are well supported in classrooms by our learning support staff and many parent volunteers who have been trained to support the school's innovative early intervention P.A.W.S program.

Our data across Years 3, 5 and 7 have continued to improve and have remained, in the main, equal to or above state averages. We have spent significant time on professional development to improve teachers' understanding of the latest curriculum initiatives, and skills in the use of highly effective teaching and learning strategies.

The role of our Head of Curriculum (HOC) continues to have a significant impact on our school's performance. Our HOC: (i) supports teachers in the classroom by modelling lessons and assisting with planning; (ii) is instrumental in the development of school wide programs that ensure our students are provided with a seamless transition between the Early Phase and Middle Years of Schooling; and ensures all essential learnings and skills are addressed in school based planning documents.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Parents, students and staff are very supportive and satisfied with the programs provided for our students.

The school opinion survey indicates:

- That approximately 80% of students are satisfied or very satisfied with: doing the best that they can in their school work; how well they are learning and that they are getting a good education at Undurba State School.
- That approximately 80% of parents are satisfied or very satisfied with:- how their child is learning; about the usefulness of what their child is learning; that their child is safe; that school staff are approachable when they want to talk about their child. Parents are very satisfied with the care of the school grounds.
- That approximately 95% of staff members feel that Undurba State School is a safe place in which to work; that they have good working relationships with other staff; that they are treated with respect; happy working at this school; confident of being able to do what is expected of them and believe that their work efforts are worthwhile.

Undurba State School is a school of which the community can be justly proud.