Introduction

When looking back at a year that has passed, it is exciting to see the journey that we have taken as a community. There have been a lot of changes in procedures, policies and with the Australian Curriculum, which has been taught. Fortunately, we have retained the staff from the previous year and have been able to continue to build a teamwork approach with all staff members.

There are five things that stand out with the school’s development to a small school with a “big school” professional attitude:

1. All staff are committed to their Christian faith, and are keen to grow and develop their skills and work in partnership with families.
2. There has been much work on policies and then developing procedures that mean we are fulfilling the requirements of the Federal and State Governments.
3. The school is committed to building up staff so they have the skills required to teach most effectively, to have good knowledge of the curriculum and an understanding of how to teach from a Biblical perspective.
4. A purposeful build-up of quality resources to assist teachers to instruct most effectively.
5. Extra staff have been employed to complete the tasks required to run the school. The workload has been spread over a greater number of people who have become specialized in their areas.

When interviewing families it is good to hear that parents find the concept of partnership between home and school something they value. When what is said at school and home is consistent, or when there are challenges and parents and teachers work together, there is a huge ability for positive change to happen.

As we believe all students can learn, we have worked hard to provide assistance to students who are struggling academically. This is done both on an individual and group level. The most important thing is that each student is able to work at their potential and is continuing to grow.
**Future outlook**

During 2011 the school continued to steadily grow in numbers. A lot of work has been spent planning for a Kindy at the school which will be opening in the second half of 2012. This will provide an entry point for students and families and help prepare children for their first year at school in a Christian environment.

At the end of the year the school was granted money to improve teaching skills and in particular the area of literacy for 2012. We are planning to use this as a springboard to a long term professional development plan for the school. Teachers are keen to be continually enhancing their practice so they are improving the outcomes of all students.

In 2012 we plan to have our first single stream class. The aim is to have a single stream school from Kindy to Year 9, and then later to Year 12. With the increase in enrolments in the lower end of the school, this will be a likely event in a few years.

In 2011 the school participated in a Cows Create Careers project run by Dairy Australia. This project helped us see the value of developing a more “hands on” approach to teaching for the older students. This program will continue to be developed to teach the Australian Science Curriculum with a real context. We are looking at how we can develop this agriculture project in the future.

We are developing our teaching using the Australian Curriculum, planning using a Biblical framework which is exciting. The teachers are working to understand and teach from the Australian Curriculum and as a school we are committed to resourcing teachers with the best resources so they teach most effectively.
Our school at a glance

School Profile

Total student enrolments for this school: 66
Year levels offered: Prep to Yr 7
Coeducational or single sex: Coeducational

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings:

The school uses the Queensland Curriculum, but approaches it from a Biblical World View. The school is working at developing units of work using the Australian Curriculum with a three phase approach. Firstly we look at how God created the world and how it was perfect. Then we look at the effect of sin and why things are not working as they were designed. Finally we encourage students to look at the world and think about how they can in some way redeem or make things right.

For spelling the students use a program known as LEM (Light Educational Ministries). It is a phonics based program that teaches students the rules of the English language and provides scaffolding for both their spelling and reading. The school has worked to identify students with learning needs and set aside time for students who are below where they are expected to be.

Teachers are working at developing their IT skills and how to integrate technology into their daily teaching. We have an interactive whiteboard in all classrooms and a bank of 4 computers in each room. We have a computer lab of 20 computers. Our HPE program looks at developing a student’s skills from Prep to Year 7. We have an athletics carnival, cross country carnival, swimming program and have been having an hour sports rotation once a week where students are encouraged to focus on particular skills.

Our senior students are involved in an agricultural program. Every second year students participate in a “Cows Create Careers” program which is run by Dairy Australia. This has students raise dairy calves and work through activities related to farming.

Extra curricula activities:

The school believes students need to not only read about things but experience them first hand. We have our own school bus that is used for short trips, but for longer trips a bus is hired. Students participate in the following extra activities:

- Swimming – Students will be working on the Swim and Survive program from Royal Lifesaving at the Glennie Pool. Students work through levels and develop their swimming skills. The children celebrate their learning through a swimming carnival at the end of this program.
- Athletics – having a small number of students allows us to provide an athletics
program where children are able to compete to improve their performance. We focus on every child doing their best. The athletics carnival is run over two days. Day one has students running short and long distances and running relays. Day two has students competing in activities including long jump, shot put, javelin, basketball shooting, long throw and long kick. Activities are set up so students are encouraged to compete to beat their own scores.

- Cross Country – Students are acknowledged for their individual efforts and compete for house and age champion points.
- Excursions for all classes
- Senior Primary School Camp – This is run by Edmund Park. Students attend different campsites on a rotational basis.

Social climate

The school has continued to work hard to develop positive working relationships between parents and teachers, and with this partnership we have been able to develop a relaxed and friendly community. We have quickly dealt with issues when they have arisen before they have become big. We have seen an acceptance of students with differing ability levels and temperaments. We are aware that different students require different approaches, but as a school we have a clear procedure for behaviour management so we are consistent in all classrooms and in the playground.

It is good to walk around the school during teaching time and hear the quiet way that teachers and students work in the classrooms.

Involving parents in their child’s education.

When students are enrolled at the school parents are encouraged to develop a relationship with the teachers, to talk to teachers if they have any questions or concerns and come in and see what is happening in the classroom. There are a number of mothers that come in and help at the school in different ways which is appreciated. The school has set parent / teacher interviews but parents can come in at any time to work with the teachers.
Qualifications of all teachers.

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Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

- The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2011 was $2990. The major professional development initiatives are as follows: Curriculum development, teaching from a Christian Perspective (through NICE),
- The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2011 was 84%.

Average staff attendance

- For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 97% in 2011.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

- From the end of the 2011 school year, 100% of staff was retained by the school for the entire 2011 school year.
  - One teacher went on maternity leave and was replaced by a new teacher.
Performance of our students

Student attendance

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2011 was 94%.

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.

Our NAPLAN results can be accessed by following the link below:

NAPLAN Results 2011

Value added

All text books, consumables including pens, pencils, erasures and rulers, student work books and art supplies are included in the fees. Most activities are included in the school fees. Activities include swimming lessons, athletics at a local oval, one excursion a term and the Years 5-7 participate in an overnight camp. For an extra cost students can have weekly piano or flute lessons. We have a teacher who takes the students for weekly music, drama and art lessons.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Feedback from parents through talking and writing letters to staff and the board indicate a high level of satisfaction with the school. We have a majority of enrolments come from other parents recommending the school.