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Total Enrolments: 1,927

Co-educational Year Levels Offered: 8 - 12



Principal's Foreword

Introduction



This Report presents comprehensive information on the activities of Helensvale State High School during the 2008 school year. Curriculum offerings, student learning outcomes, comments on key sections of the Annual Operational Plan and budget along with various other data are outlined.

Key goals for 2008 included:

- An evaluation of and reflection upon the school's curriculum and learning pathways.
- A focus on pedagogy with an on-going review and refinement of the *Professional Practice at Helensvale High* program to align with the "Professional Standards For Teachers" and the school wide pedagogy developed by the IDEAS project.
- A focus on literacy to examine our current practices, identify strategies for ensuring consistency across the school for literacy development, identify strategies for upskilling staff to ensure that every teacher acknowledges their role as a teacher of literacy and is confident in their skills to deliver this.
- A focus on the Middle School with an ongoing refinement of curriculum, pedagogy and organisation of the Middle School.
- A focus on extending and improving academic performance, including the Science "Exscite" program and partnerships with Griffith University.
- A focus on student attendance to identify and implement improved strategies for tracking attendance and managing absenteeism more effectively.
- Continued focus on support for students at risk.
- Appropriate implementation of QCARF policies, especially the Essential Learnings.
- The development and implementation of policies and procedures to effectively introduce International Student Programs as per EQI guidelines and policies, and to prepare the school for ISP accreditation.

Ed Manley
Principal





Future Outlook

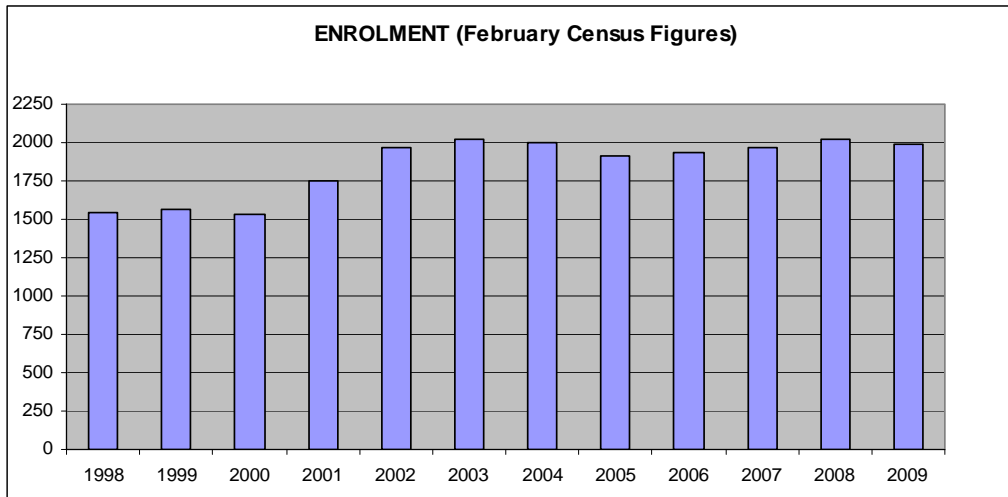
The combined focus on literacy, numeracy & school wide pedagogy will see an improvement in academic outcomes in years 8-12, and NAPLAN test results.

The continued focus on improved student learning outcomes in the Senior School will result in better pathways for students transitioning from school to work and or further study.

The introduction of the International Student program will provide an improved student awareness of the world beyond Helensvale and Queensland.

Total Enrolments

Enrolment trends and current enrolments are listed in the table below.



<i>Enrolment Year</i>	<i>Year 8</i>	<i>Year 9</i>	<i>Year 10</i>	<i>Year 11</i>	<i>Year 12</i>	<i>Ungraded</i>	<i>Total Enrolments</i>
1998	337	324	312	314	236	16	1539
1999	325	341	334	271	274	15	1560
2000	299	362	338	272	240	18	1529
2001	389	340	396	340	265	17	1747
2002	440	431	397	380	301	22	1971
2003	399	450	443	376	326	27	2021
2004	410	403	458	389	312	23	1995
2005	378	428	408	372	330	2	1918
2006	376	393	452	372	337		1930
2007	409	382	426	437	314	1	1969
2008	493	418	380	376	354		2021
2009	408	486	419	347	325		1985



Our School at a Glance

School Profile

Helensvale State High School is a co-educational high school offering Years 8 to 12.

In January 2008, the total number of students enrolled was 2,021*

The school was opened in 1990 and has grown to its maximum size. Facilities are excellent and the school is well resourced and maintained.

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

Helensvale State High School has a strong and distinctive curriculum which offers individualised pathways for achievement in a range of areas:

- Distinctive curriculum offerings:
 - Excellence programs in Academic Excellence, Science Excellence (Year 8/9), Dance, Art, Music, Sports, (specialising in Track and field, AFL, Rugby League, Rugby Union, Soccer, Basketball and Netball)
 - Innovative Middle School curriculum made up of integrated units, co-operative and team teaching/planning/assessing, cross-curricular units and projects/tasks.
 - Broad Senior School curriculum with several QSA subjects and QSA-Registered subjects. Vocational Educational and Training courses are significant features with a number of TAFE certificates on offer in the areas of construction, hospitality, business and computing. The school is also a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) and employs a full-time Industry Liaison Officer for work placement and school-based apprenticeships and traineeships.
 - Innovative year 10 curriculum program providing opportunities for consolidation, extension, commencement of a real Senior Curriculum, formal planning for Senior Studies and beyond.
 - Strong links with local industry including the Riviera Group, Couran Cove, Warner Theme Parks and others providing significant career opportunities for students.



* 2008 Census data



Extra Curricula Activities:

A wide variety of activities in:

- Academic areas including debating, public speaking, Science and other academic competitions etc
- Sport and recreation
- Performing Arts
- Visual Arts
- Cultural
- Information and Communication Technologies
- Work Experience, work placement and mentoring



How Computers Are Used to Assist Learning

- Wide range of computer skills development embedded across the curriculum
- Computer to student ratio of 1:4
- Broad range of software, all of industry standard, across key areas – e.g. CAD, Multimedia, Design, Science etc
- Majority of computers fully networked (including internet access) and relatively new (written warranty period of 4 years)
- Many laptops accessible for student use during the day & overnight booking – enabling students to use software that they may not have on their home PC or extending computer access to those students with no computers in the home
- School developed intranet for students to easily access the breadth of on-line resources
- Wireless connectivity for staff areas
- CAT laptops for all teaching staff displayed as a preparation, teaching and learning tool and complimented by increased numbers of media projectors in classrooms
- A range of computer-focused courses up to Certificate III in Multimedia
- Specialised courses in Design, Graphics, Film and Television, Business and I.T.
- Administrative resources for research, data management and organisation
- Memberships to online educational data bases
- 76.2% of parents are satisfied with access to computer technology for their child at school
- 75% of students are satisfied with the opportunities to use computer technology for learning at the school





Social Climate

Helensvale State High School is very proud of its happy and positive environment which focuses on student success.

In the 2008 School Opinion Survey, students responded to the question of “Are you happy to go to this school?” with 72% of students being either satisfied or very satisfied. This result was above “like” schools and above the “State mean”. 80% of parents were satisfied or very satisfied that their students were happy to go to our school. This is an excellent result.



The school has a very strong focus on maintaining a safe, supportive, happy and positive environment for students. In the same survey, 12% of students stated they did not feel “safe” at our school and again, these results were comparable to the state mean. 70% of parents stated that their students were satisfied with the safe environment.

High standards of behaviour are maintained, school uniform is a priority and a whole-school focus on a “learning culture” helps to develop every student’s work ethic.

Helensvale High has a strong and well developed support services network. These services include: a full time School-Based Youth Health Nurse, two Guidance Officers, Youth Services/Transition Officer, Youth Pathways Officer, Indigenous Support Officer, learning support staff, two School Chaplains, Industry Liaison Officer, ESL. In addition to these specialist staff, students are supported by teaching staff in the roles of Dean of Students, “PEP” (Personal Enrichment Program) or “care” teachers and four Deputy Principals. The school purchases many extra hours of administration time to ensure teachers can focus on student learning.



A comprehensive Personal Enrichment Program complements curriculum work and helps to promote students’ personal development.



Involving Parents in their Child's Education

Parents can become involved in the education of their children in a variety of ways. These range from essential participation in parent-teacher interviews to some parents offering their time in school operations e.g. volunteer work in the school library and canteen.

As a collective parent body, our Parents' and Citizens' Association is extremely supportive and very active. The school canteen is our primary fundraiser across the year and, from all funds earned by the P&C, the average donation to the school's "Enhancement Budget" is around \$80k. This vital financial boost provides for the purchase of special equipment/resources that otherwise would not be possible in the school budget. In 2008 the P&C contributed to the building of a facility to house the uniform shop and finance department.

Parents also provide invaluable help through support for school functions and events, participation in information gathering strategies and the annual completion of the School Opinion Survey.

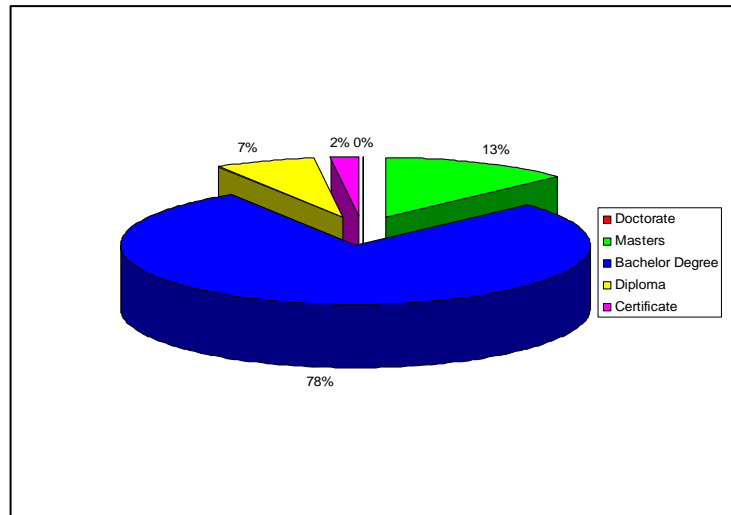
Helensvale High enjoys solid support from parents. The 2008 School Opinion Survey showed 84% of parents are supportive of the school.



Our staff profile

Qualifications of all teachers

Highest Level of Attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	19
Bachelor Degree	115
Diploma	10
Certificate	3



Expenditure on and Teacher Participation in Professional Development

- The total funds expended in Teacher PD in 2008 was \$52,881
- The major professional development initiatives are as follows:
 - NAPLAN
 - Subject specific professional development – Mathematics, English, Science
 - Several individual conferences, workshops, network meetings etc
 - Significant participation in QSA subject area workshops
 - Participation in QSA District Review Panels and other forums
 - QCAR
 - Various whole and part staff workshops on essential skills
 - Leadership & Management PD
 - Upskilling in VET competencies for staff
 - Behaviour Management
 - International Schooling
- The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2008 was 90%

Average Staff Attendance

- For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 95% in 2008

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



Performance of our students

Student Attendance

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2008 was 89%.

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 9
Reading	Average score for the school	554
	Average score for Queensland	568.2
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 89%
Writing	Average score for the school	551
	Average score for Queensland	555.3
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 87 %
Spelling	Average score for the school	565
	Average score for Queensland	567.8
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 89 %
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school	554
	Average score for Queensland	563.2
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 86 %
Numeracy	Average score for the school	558
	Average score for Queensland	570.7
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 93 %



Apparent Retention Rates Year 8 to Year 12

Year 12 student enrolment as a percentage of the Year 8 student cohort (in 2004)	77%
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Outcomes for our Year 12 Cohort of 2007

Number of students awarded a Senior Statement	326
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate Individual Achievement (QCIA).	2
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) at the end of Year 12.	259
Number of students awarded an International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBD).	
Number of students awarded one or more Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications.	287
Number of students who are completing or completed a School-based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SAT).	64
Number of students receiving an Overall Position (OP).	152
Percentage of OP/ IBD eligible students with OP 1-15 or an IBD.	73%
Percentage of Year 12 students who are completing or completed a SAT or were awarded one or more of the following: QCE, IBD, VET qualification.	95%
Percentage of Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) applicants receiving a tertiary offer.	96%

Post-School Destination Information

At the time of publishing this School Annual Report, the results of the 2008 Year 12 post-school destinations survey, Next Step – Student Destination Report for the school were not available. Information about these post-school destinations of our students will be posted to our website in late September.



Other Key Outcomes

Value Added

Helensvale State High School has a learning environment that creates a culture of inspiration and achievement. The school offers innovative education programs and a curriculum designed to equip students for a successful future.

Programs of excellence include 'EXSCITE', the Arts, Sports Performance and Japanese. These excellence programs are designed to extend students in their areas of expertise and passion.

EXSCITE (**EX**cellence in **SC**ience & **IT** Education) is designed for students who have demonstrated a strong interest and ability in science, and provide a pathway into careers in the sciences and medical sciences. To enhance learning experiences, a partnership between Helensvale State High School and Griffith University has been established. This program takes students through Years 8 and 9 allowing them in Years 11 and 12 to study GriffChem, GriffPhys and GriffBio, which are first year university subjects. They may then apply for direct entry into university

The Arts Excellence Program incorporates Music, Dance, Drama and Visual Arts, whereby specialised classes cater for students' creativity, talent and passion for their area. Helensvale High's Sports Excellence Programme is extensive, covering disciplines from AFL, Rugby Union, Track and Field to Basketball and Netball. The Japanese Excellence engages young learners in intercultural appreciation and helps them to communicate with people around the globe and extend career options in the future. Many extension opportunities are provided including cultural experiences like sister school and Japanese study tour visits, and the annual school trip to Japan.

Helensvale State High School's breadth of experiences enables students to look confidently to their future. Students with University aspirations can select from a wide variety of academic subjects. Helensvale High also has a highly successful Vocational Educational program that has one of the highest participation and completion rates in the State.

The extra-curricular opportunities at Helensvale High are extensive. Students value their contributions to school success in winning Griffith University Middle School Science competitions, Brisbane Lions AFL Cup, Music Eisteddfods, Drama Festivals, Cheerleading and the Australian Culinary Federation Secondary Schools Challenge amongst a myriad of accomplishments.



Parent, Student and Teacher Satisfaction With the School

Student response in the School Opinion Survey to overall satisfaction with the school (“How satisfied are you that this is a good school?”) was higher than the State average. The parent satisfaction that was expressed through the same question was similar to “like” schools.

Staff responded to many questions relating to their satisfaction with a range of aspects of the school. These included staff morale, work roles, resources etc. In almost all cases, their responses were the same as those of staff in “like” schools. In the staff morale section regarding staff enthusiasm about their work, our response was well above “like” schools data. Team Helensvale is alive and thriving!

As a large organisation, Helensvale High is very successful in meeting the diverse needs of the community it serves. We have a strong service delivery orientation and work continuously towards the delivery of improved educational outcomes for all students.