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Principal's foreword

Introduction

Sherwood is a wonderful community school. As the Principal, I especially enjoy the way that people work together to do the best for our students. I feel privileged to work with such a dedicated and caring staff, not only our teachers but also our aides, the people in the Office, those who clean the buildings and look after the grounds. Parents raised almost \$76,000 profit at the last Sherwood Fete – that's an enormous community effort for a school of 540 children.

In this report you will see that we are very strong academically, very much ahead of the State average. You'll also see that we have exceptional choral and instrumental music programs and excel in many sports. The diverse learning programs at Sherwood are engaging for students, comprehensive and thorough.

We are building wonderful facilities and in recent years have air-conditioned every classroom, heated and upgraded the pool, and extended and refurbished the library. Recently we channeled about \$100,000 into outdoor play areas and grounds improvement. In 2008 and 2009 the Parents and Citizens Association paid for the installation of fantastic electronic whiteboards (large touch screen computers) in all of our classrooms. We also installed \$90,000 of water infrastructure resources, including huge water tanks for our gardens and grounds and clever irrigation. We are helping build a sustainable world. In 2009 our facilities improvements included refurbishment to our Music Room, further improvements in our Library, and a new Computer Laboratory and Classroom Teaching Resources Centre.

In recent times we were granted a Federal Government award for Excellence in Teaching. Sherwood was one of only 12 schools in Australia to receive this recognition, and received a \$20,000 prize for the Literacy Enrichment Program we have pioneered and implemented for students in Year 1, 2 and 3. In the 2007 and 2008 the State Parent Survey result for Sherwood was 100% satisfaction with the quality of teaching in classrooms – this is an awesome result. Parents continue to work closely with our teachers to ensure the very best opportunities for our students.

We are often complemented on our friendly and well-behaved students, but now seek to build on their strengths. Currently our greatest efforts are centred on social skills and student leadership. We have implemented the *You Can Do It!* program across all year levels. We will continue to support

this major initiative over the coming years. We are building the future success of our students through their *Habits of Mind*, their strong understanding of themselves and how they interact with others.

The Gifted and Talented Program is also a major priority. We have two staff trained as Gifted Education Mentors who work closely with colleagues providing opportunities for our most able students in all classrooms and through many other dimension of our daily school life. This extends to before and after school programs for Speech and Drama, Fine Arts, music and a range of sports.

Please feel very welcome to contact us if you would like to know more about our school.

School progress towards its goals in 2009

In 2009 priority areas for improvement in Teaching and Learning included:

- Developing a more rigorous Prep to Year 3 Literacy and Numeracy Framework
- Stretching the abilities of our most able readers in Years 4 to 7 and
- Implementing a new and more comprehensive Spelling Program across all year levels.

We are making strong progress in each of these target areas.

Future outlook

Sherwood is futures orientated. We also have clear directions for future improvement.

The priorities for the coming years are:

- Building our quality teaching of information communication technologies using computers
- Continuing to strengthen our social skills program including the development of student leadership and team skills
- Strengthening our provisions for Gifted and Talented Education, and
- Continually reviewing and building our Whole-of-School curriculum to achieve the best student potential in academic, artistic, sports and social outcomes.

Sherwood's focus is the current and future success of our students – creative, happy, optimistic life long learners.

School Profile

Coeducational or single sex: Co-educational

Year levels offered: Prep to Year 7

Total student enrolments for this school:

Total Enrolment	Girls	Boys	Enrolment Continuity (Feb 2009 – Nov 2009)
492	237	255	90%

Sherwood has a total enrolment that fluctuates around 500 students from Preparatory Year to Year 7 (growing to 550 in 2010). We are a coeducational school that seeks to draw on the strengths of diversity. We want our students to be creative, happy learners who enjoy meeting and working with people from many different backgrounds and circumstances. This is building capacities for their future success.

Supporting the work of classroom teachers, are full time library, music and physical education specialist teachers. Mandarin is the second language taught in Years 5, 6 & 7. Instrumental music is very strong across the school and we employ two excellent instrumental music teachers.

Support personnel include a Speech Therapist and Guidance Officer who attend the school regularly. For three days each week, we also employ a teacher to help students with learning difficulties and to coordinate a school-wide, and nationally recognised, Literacy Enrichment Program in the early years.

Heritage buildings characterise the school, and when there are new building projects, as happened recently with the Prep classrooms, community spirit and careful planning help to keep our identity in tact. School facilities include:

- Wonderful community Hall
- Extended Media Centre and Library
- Heated swimming pool
- Nature area
- Cricket oval
- Netball and tennis courts
- Basketball courts
- Handball courts
- Athletics tracks,
- Adventure playgrounds, and
- Extensive shaded play areas.

Characteristics of the student body:

There are almost even numbers of boys and girls enrolled at Sherwood with a slight weighting towards males. Students are often from families where one or more of the parents work in professional fields. Increasingly there are both parents working. The student population is generally stable with low mobility. Enrolments are predominantly Caucasian although there are students from many countries including Japan, Korea, China and Indonesia. In recent years there are increasing numbers of students for whom English is a second language. Numbers of these children fluctuate but there are about 30 including a refugee family.

Class sizes – Proportion of school classes achieving class size targets in 2009

Phase	Average Class Size	Percentage of classes in the school			
		On or under target	Under Target	On Target	Over Target
Prep – Year 3	23	100%	100%	0%	0%
Year 4 – Year 10	26	78%	67%	11%	22%
Year 11 – Year 12					
All Classes	25	90%	85%	5%	10%

School Disciplinary Absences

Disciplinary Absences	Count of Incidents
Short Suspensions - 1 to 5 days	<5
Long Suspensions - 6 to 20 days	0
Exclusions	0
Cancellations of Enrolment	0

Curriculum offerings

A strength of Sherwood is our Whole-of-School curriculum design. The units have a common format, are planned collaboratively by classroom teachers at each level and have been reviewed by external experts to ensure rigor, links and sequencing across the various year levels. We are now progressively publishing the assessment tasks that children undertake and the marking sheets that teachers use to grade student work. This is a Whole-of-School approach that gives us confidence that our curriculum is strong. In 2010 we begin the process of using OneSchool, the State wide Departmental software that integrates many related functions that support student learning, including the syllabi we use, Year Level curriculum planning, student assessment data, and school activity timetabling.

We support the implementation of our curriculum with a comprehensive and very generous professional learning program for all of our staff. Quality teaching is a key to our success. In recent years we have had professors of mathematics working regularly alongside teachers in our classrooms looking at better ways of teaching mathematical thinking. We also regularly employ artists and scientists to work in classrooms to help both teachers and students achieve the best we can be. Sherwood has a partnership with specialist professional development provider in computer studies. This is a major focus of our professional learning over the coming years.

The Student Leadership Program is comprehensive. The Student Council comprises two representatives from each the Year 4 to 6 classes, two Year 7 UNICEF representatives and the Executive filled by the School Captains and Vice-Captains. The Student Council meets regularly to learn how to run meetings, plan activities and devote funds to school projects including an annual public art project. They also meet with local leaders in our community and undertake activities to develop their knowledge and capacities for leadership. In addition, there are 18 other student leadership positions in Year 7 with many opportunities for these students to demonstrate their commitment and service to our school community.

The school has an outstanding instrumental music program and is fortunate to have many instruments for students to use that are not usually found in primary schools. These include double bass, timpani, French horns, bass clarinet and tenor sax. The school band was awarded a Gold Medal at the recent Brisbane Fanfare Music Festival.

Association coaches work with teachers to help students learn a range of team sports including cricket, netball, softball and soccer.

The Sherwood Arrows, our skipping team, is the longest serving Jump Rope for Heart demonstration team in Australia. These students amaze audiences with their energy and many tricks including triple unders, the Can Can and Double Dutch.

There are school camps in Years 5, 6 and 7. The Year 7 students spend a week on Moreton Island which is a great highlight of their year packed with lifelong memories.

As Principal, my personal favourite is La Bella Voci, our audition choir. The 60 voices combine beautifully and are building a great reputation for stunning performances. Choral music is strong across the year levels, as is music generally. Our full-time music teacher is a choral specialist.

Extra curricula activities:

- Sherwood Sharks Swimming Club
- Sherwood Arrows Jump Rope for Heart demonstration skipping team (longest serving in Australia)
- FONA (Friends of the Nature Area) Club focusing on natural history and ecology, and
- Audition choir, and a range of award winning instrumental bands and ensembles.

Out-of-School Care is available each school morning from 7 am and each afternoon until 6 pm. Out-of-School Care organise a great variety of sports, arts and craft activities for those who attend. School vacation programs are also provided.

Before and after school we hire our facilities to tutors who offer students lessons in Speech and Drama, Ceramics, Visual Arts, Piano, Tennis, Swimming and other sports and extension activities.

How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning:

There are between three and five computers in each classroom and a computer lab in the school Library Resource Centre. All computers are networked internally and connected to the Internet. The computers are used as tools for everyday learning. Students also learn how to use all of the common forms of software including word processing, spreadsheets, and PowerPoint. They use the computers for recording, analysis, research and to present their work. Computer based activities and student capacities are outlined in each child's academic report. In Year 6 students are introduced to Robotics. Large electronic whiteboards are installed in each classroom and other learning spaces across the school. These are outstanding devices for connecting students with the world beyond our classrooms – the most up-to-date technology in schools provided by our wonderful Parents and Citizens Association.

Social climate

The school motto is *Aim Higher*. Students *Aim Higher* by achieving their *Sherwood Best*. These are five qualities we encourage at all times by everyone:

- Care for yourself and others
- Be a helper
- Listen well and speak kindly to others
- Be ready to learn
- Keep trying your best

A major initiative is the recent introduction of the *You Can Do It!* program. This program is designed to develop a range of Habits of Mind that will lead students to success. The Parents and Citizens Association has contributed \$9,000 so that all teachers and classes are equipped across the school to successfully implement this program of pro-social behaviors. It's about actively teaching the kinds of behaviors we want everyone to demonstrate. We also employ a staff member for a half day each week to help teachers, parents and students learn about the program and help ensure it's the way we do things here! The *You Can Do It!* program is operating in all classrooms.

Sherwood also works hard to develop student leadership capacities. All students in Years 4 to 7 in Term 3 receive a report detailing their progress against our Sherwood Student Leadership Framework:

- Care and Empathy for others
- Service and initiative
- Effective communication
- Personal organisation; and
- Being a responsible role model.

One area both students and parents are very satisfied with at Sherwood according to the State annual surveys is that this is a safe school. Parent satisfaction in this area is much higher than the State average for all schools.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

The feedback from our Parents and Students is very positive. Parents are especially positive that Sherwood is a good school. Teaching is a very demanding profession and at Sherwood the expectations are high for ongoing improvement. In many ways it is great place to work with many opportunities, and this is acknowledged by our staff. It is also a place where we have high expectations for deep professional commitment and continually challenging expectations. Each year we set our priorities and work hard to achieve these to further strengthen already remarkable achievements of many of our students. Our motto is *Aim Higher* and it is important that as professionals we are reflecting on our performance to celebrate our strengths and seek to do better where we can.

Performance measure	Result 2009
Percentage of parents/caregivers satisfied that their child is getting a good education at school	87%
Percentage of students satisfied that they are getting a good education at school	83%
Percentage of parents/caregivers satisfied with their child's school	93%
Percentage of school workforce satisfied with access to professional development opportunities that relate to school and systemic initiatives	79%
Percentage of staff members satisfied with morale in the school	78%

Involving parents in their child's education.

Parents are involved in diverse ways at Sherwood including:

- Advisory Council reps
- Parents and Citizens Association and various sub-committees (Fete, Swimming Club, Tuckshop, Uniform Shop, Out of School Care)
- Classroom Volunteers
- Support Personnel for various programs eg. Parents reps have led successful sub-committees to develop funding applications for air conditioning, playground equipment, top dressing our oval, and improved road safety provisions.
- Volunteers in the Tuckshop and on special occasions such as the Swimming Carnivals.

Parents also have an enormous input to ensure success at our Fete.

Sherwood State School

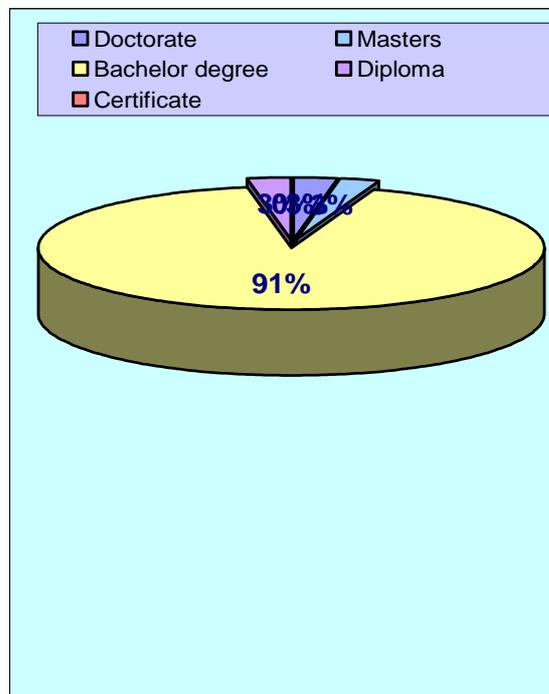
Annual Report 2009

Staff composition, including Indigenous Staff

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-teaching Staff	Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	37	22	0
Full-time equivalents	32	12	0

Qualifications of all teachers.

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	1
Masters	1
Bachelor degree	34
Diploma	1
Certificate	0



Sherwood State School

Annual Report 2009

Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2009 was \$17, 821. In addition, there was \$29,811 in teacher wages devoted to supporting staff to attend professional learning activities including cooperative planning, working with coaches, and mentoring activities, as well as attending out-of-school professional learning activities.

The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

- Senior First Aid – ALL teaching staff
- Mentoring of Beginning Teachers
- Foundations for implementation of new comprehensive Spelling Program
- Targeted coaching to support teachers of students with disabilities
- Artist-in-Residence working with P-3 teachers to improve quality of Visual Arts activities
- Cooperative planning of curriculum units across the school

The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2009 was 85%.

Average staff attendance

For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders, the staff attendance rate was 96% in 2009.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

From the end of the 2009 school year, 86% of staff were retained by the school for the entire 2009 school year.

Performance of our students

Key student outcomes

In the Achievement Table below you will see outstanding results for our students. In 2009 very few students did not achieve the National Benchmarks for Literacy and Numeracy, and each of these students are receiving individual support to continue improving. Also, there are remarkable numbers of students who achieved in the top two Bands in the National Assessment Program. Particular strengths of our school are Mathematics and Writing. All other areas are strong. However, there are still targeted and comprehensive programs in place to continue improving in these areas. This includes high quality professional learning opportunities for our teachers and our teacher aides. There is an ethos on ongoing improvement across the school resonating.

Attendance

Student attendance - 2009 overall 95%						
Student attendance for each year level						
Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
93%	96%	95%	95%	96%	96%	96%

Description of how non-attendance is managed by the school

Non-attendance is managed in state schools in line with the DET policies, SMS-PR-029: Managing Student Absences and SMS-PR-036: Roll Marking in State Schools, which outline processes for managing and recording student attendance and absenteeism.

There are very low instances of students not attending school when they should be. Where there are three consecutive days of unexplained student absence or a pattern of absenteeism then a member of the Administration Team contact the student's home. A meeting may be arranged to discuss support options with the parent(s) if necessary. Rolls are marked by classroom teachers in the morning at 9:30am and in the afternoon at 2:30pm. Rolls are collected at the Office each Friday afternoon and the data checked for accuracy before being entered into SMS.

Students arriving late or leaving early are signed in or out by their parents at the Office.

Achievement – Years 3, 5, 7, and 9

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 in 2009	435	528	562	
	Average score for Australia in 2009	410.8	493.9	541.1	
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	94%	90%	98%
		2009	99%	100%	98%

Performance of our students

Domain	Measures		Yr 3	Yr 5	Yr 7
	For the school the percentage of students in the upper two bands	2008	56%	32%	32%
		2009	49%	47%	35%
Writing	Average score for the school in 2009		440	530	571
	Average score for Australia in 2009		414.5	484.7	532.4
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	99%	95%	98%
		2009	96%	96%	96%
	For the school the percentage of students in the upper two bands	2008	60%	25%	48%
		2009	67%	53%	50%
Spelling	Average score for the school in 2009		410	505	552
	Average score for Australia in 2009		404.8	487.2	540.0
	For the school the percentage of Students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	97%	95%	96%
		2009	99%	98%	98%
	For the school the percentage of students in the upper two bands	2008	31%	30%	28%
		2009	41%	38%	37%
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school in 2009		432	538	573
	Average score for Australia in 2009		419.7	499.7	539.5
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	94%	98%	98%
		2009	96%	98%	96%
	For the school the percentage of students in the upper two bands	2008	34%	33%	40%
		2009	56%	49%	38%
Numeracy	Average score for the school in 2009		422	500	595
	Average score for Australia in 2009		393.9	486.8	543.6
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	97%	95%	98%
		2009	97%	98%	98%
	For the school the percentage of students in the upper two bands	2008	43%	33%	52%
		2009	51%	38%	58%

Performance of our students

Our Sherwood State School community works together to provide the best opportunities for the success of our students now and into the future.

Aim Higher

Creative, happy, life-long learners