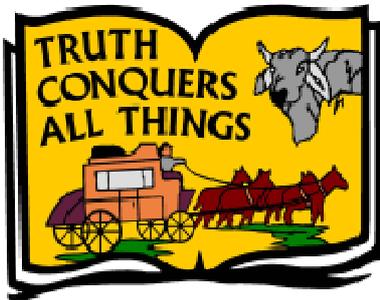


Queensland State School Reporting – 2011

Prairie State School (0488)



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Principal's foreword

Introduction

Prairie State School was opened 14 April 1894. Prairie is situated on the Flinders Highway about 332kms west of Townsville and 44kms east of Hughenden with a population of approximately 50.

Prairie State School provides a learning environment that is fun, safe and reflective of contemporary ideologies of primary education and the uniqueness of the local context. Our students come from the surrounding properties and from within the town and include third generations from our early enrolments. Our school provides for students from Prep till Year 7.

The staff at Prairie SS understand that a close, positive working relationship with parents and the community is essential to the quality of education our school can provide.

Our school is the heart of our local area – our school buildings and grounds are home to many community events and organisations. We have a wonderfully supportive community.

Prairie State School is committed to the Dalrymple Alliance. The Dalrymple Alliance is a cluster of small schools which believes that there are many advantages to being educated in a small rural multi-age schools, we believe in working to produce the best outcomes for the students.

The school works together with its local communities to create and maintain sustainable structures which foster lifelong learners who have developed appropriate academic and social skills.

This report contains an overview of the school's profile and curriculum offerings. Data relating to teacher qualifications and retention of staff are also included.

School progress towards its goals in 2011

Prairie State School has continued to work towards achieving goals set in the 2010-2012 Strategic Plan.

Prairie State School shares and moderates a common curriculum across the Dalrymple Alliance. We moderate both C2C units and other student work.

The school has continued to work towards improving literacy and numeracy standards with all students having individual achievement goals and learning programs. Quality professional development for all school staff has helped students work towards and achieve their goals.

School facilities have continued to improve. The school library has been completed. A new sandpit has been built. Murals have been painted with Arthur Conlon to beautify school areas. The school long jump pit has been moved to a better site. Earth has been spread around the school to try to reduce water lying in low areas for long periods of time.

Community involvement in the school has continued to improve, with higher numbers of community members attending school open days and school events.

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Future outlook

Prairie State School continually engages in reflective processes which influence its teaching and learning practices. This allows the school and its community to generate a sustainable environment which allows its students to maximise their approach to their present business in life, i.e. the acquisition of knowledge, as well as intellectual and social skills which form the basis of future progress. Priority will continue to be given to the areas of literacy and numeracy, learning and development, school-community relationships and the ongoing development of resources to support the students in their endeavours.



Our school at a glance

School Profile

Coeducational or single sex: Coeducational

Year levels offered: Prep - Year 7

Total student enrolments for this school:

Total Enrolment	Girls	Boys	Enrolment Continuity (Feb 2011 – Nov 2011)
9	4	5	100%

Characteristics of the student body:

Prairie State School student population consists of 4 girls in Prep – 3, 1 boy in Prep-3, and 4 boys in Years 4-7.

The Prairie State School student body consists generally of students who live in town throughout the week and travel to family properties on weekends. One student lives only in Prairie. Most students' families own businesses.

Some students are the third generation of students in their families to attend Prairie State School.

Class sizes – Proportion of school classes achieving class size targets in 2011

Phase	Average Class Size
Prep – Year 3	5
Year 4 – Year 10	4
Year 11 – Year 12	0
All Classes	9

School Disciplinary Absences

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

Our school at a glance

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

Dedicated fitness program

Daily 2-hour focused literacy block

Daily 1¼ hour focused numeracy block

Science, SOSE, Health, and the Arts are delivered as part of an Integrated Curriculum and as stand-alone units of work, depending on which method provides the best learning experiences for students.

Curriculum camps with other schools in the Flinders Small Schools Cluster

Quality Athletics and Swimming coaching by qualified coaches

Individual and collective participation in local shows

Extra curricula activities

Flinders Small Schools swimming carnival

Flinders Small Schools athletic carnival

Flinders Small Schools sleep overs

Flinders Small Schools Camp – Townsville

Tour de Prairie bike ride

How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning

With the emergence of a global 'techno-culture', teachers are faced with the challenge of understanding the influence of significant technological trends on teaching, learning and the classroom culture with the aim of using the computer's potential to improve the students' world of encoding and decoding language structures which enhance their understanding of the world around them. In supporting this approach, Prairie State School is able to provide one computer for every two students in the development of student computer-based skills and literacy. This is further complemented by a range of peripheral IT equipment such as a digital camera, digital video camera, teleconferencing facility, colour printer, scanner and data projector. This equipment is utilised across all key learning areas and its value is enhanced by the delivery of focused technology learning episodes.

Social climate

Prairie State School has a proud 118 year history of providing education to the Prairie community. As a result, it has become the cornerstone of the local community throughout changing times. Consequently, it receives positive support from the community and community organisations.

School Opinion survey data has continued to improve. Prairie SS parents have expressed that they are all very satisfied with the school in areas of Pedagogy, School Climate, School Community Relations, Resources and Additional Items. Majority of parents have stated they are very satisfied with Curriculum and the Learning Climate. In all areas of Parent Satisfaction Prairie State School as recorded results above both State mean and Like School mean.

Student opinion survey data has also shown that overall students are very satisfied with the school. The school recorded results above both State mean and Like School mean.

Staff opinion survey data has shown sustained high staff morale in 2011. Again the school results were above both State mean and Like School mean in all areas where data was available.

Prairie State School has a school chaplain who regularly visits and works with students on the "Virtues Program".

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

External surveys of parents and students show a high degree of satisfaction with school performance, in most cases satisfaction was above like school mean. Satisfaction with access to professional development was low this year, investigations are underway to work with other small schools to provide relevant and easy to access professional development in 2012.

Performance measure	Result 2011
Percentage of parents/caregivers satisfied that their child is getting a good education at school	100%
Percentage of students satisfied that they are getting a good education at school	100%
Percentage of parents/caregivers satisfied with their child's school	100%
Percentage of school workforce satisfied with access to professional development opportunities that relate to school and systemic initiatives	25%
Percentage of staff members satisfied with morale in the school	100%

DW – Data withheld

Involving parents in their child's education

The Prairie State School P&C is an active group of stakeholders who meet monthly to discuss their children's education and ways they can better support it. To this end, they regularly engage in activities to support the initiatives of the school. Such activities include catering for local events, supporting the local ANZAC Day ceremony and running a stall at the annual Prairie Races.

Parents are encouraged to attend school community open days and parent-teacher interviews to widen their perspective on their child's progress and activities undertaken by the school. Fortnightly newsletters are distributed to over 50 members of the extended community to keep them informed of school news and events. Prairie State School hosted a number of "Learning to Read" sessions with parents and as a result now has a number of parents volunteering at the school in various capacities.

An annual Community Christmas concert celebrates student achievements during the year and allows parents and community members to share in these successes.

Prairie State School employs an open door policy for all parents and sees this as an important strategy in maintaining its positive school environment.

Reducing the school's environmental footprint

Data is sourced from school's annual utilities return and is reliant on the accuracy of these returns.

In 2010 it was announced that Prairie State School had been successful in its application for a National Solar Schools Grant, it is hoped that the installation of more solar panels will make Prairie State School a carbon neutral school, these solar panels will be installed in 2012. The school has continued to work to minimise the increase in electricity use due to air conditioners installed in 2008.

The school has adjusted its watering program to reduce the amount of water needed for the school grounds.

Environmental footprint indicators, 2010-2011

	Electricity KwH	Water KL
2011	17,102	0
2010	20,266	22
% change 10 - 11	-16%	-100%

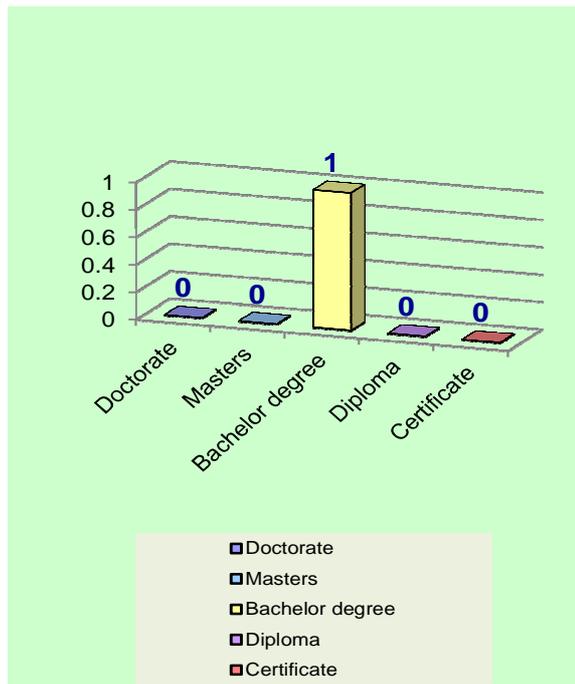
Our staff profile

Staff composition, including Indigenous staff

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-teaching Staff	Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	1	3	0
Full-time equivalents	1	1	0

Qualifications of all teachers

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



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2011 was \$5600.

The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2011 was \$5600.

The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

Principals Business Meetings

OneSchool Finance Training

OneSchool Timetabling Training

Learn to Swim Coach Accreditation

Competitive Swim Strokes Accreditation

Athletics Coach Accreditation – Club level

First Steps in Maths – teacher aide training

SEMP training

Science PD

Mel Philips – Team Management

Risk Management Training

Embedding Indigenous Perspectives

The proportion of the teaching staff involved in professional development activities during 2011 was 100%.

Average staff attendance

For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders, the staff attendance rate was 100% in 2011.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the previous school year, 100% of staff was retained by the school for the entire 2011 school year.

School income broken down by funding source

School income broken down by funding source is available via the My School website at <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>.

To access our income details, click on the *My School* link above. You will then be taken to the *My School* website with the following **'Find a school' text box**.

Our staff profile

Find a school

Search by school name

Search by suburb, town or postcode

Sector Government
 Non-government

Where it says '**Search by school name**', type in the name of the school you wish to view, and select **<GO>**'. Read and follow the instructions on the next screen; you will be asked to accept the **Terms of Use** and Privacy Policy before being given access to the school's My School entry web page.

School financial information is available by selecting '**School finances**' in the menu box in the top left corner of the school's entry web page. If you are unable to access the internet, please contact the school for a paper copy of income by funding source

Performance of our students

Key student outcomes

Student attendance - 2011

The overall attendance rate for the students at this school (shown as a percentage) in 2011 was 91%.

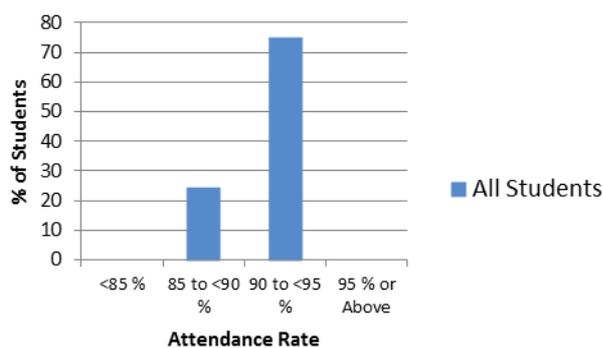
The overall attendance rate for all Queensland state Primary schools over the same period was 92%.

Student attendance rate for each year level

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12
92%	88%	93%	na	93%	88%	na	na	na	na	na	na

Student Attendance Distribution

The proportions of students by attendance range.



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.

Rolls are marked twice a day, in the morning and at the beginning of the afternoon session. Absences are followed up by a phone call to parents. Repeated absences are followed-up by home visits to discuss the impact of the absences with parents. Students who continue to be absent from school for prolonged periods

Performance of our students

are dealt with according to DET policies and guidelines.

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 reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are available via the My School website at <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>.

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Performance of our students

Achievement – Closing the Gap

Prairie State School has no indigenous students.