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### Principal's Foreword

Dr Greg Nelson

#### 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 \$70,000 profit at the last Sherwood Fete – that's an enormous community effort for a school of 460 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 an 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. Last year we channelled about \$100,000 into outdoor play areas and grounds improvement. This year we have a computer hardware budget of \$70,000, including the installation of the latest in electronic whiteboards (at least one for each Year level P-7). We are also installing \$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 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 State Parent Survey our parent satisfaction with teaching at Sherwood was 97%.

We are often complimented 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. Recently we 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 three 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 and a range of sports.

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

# Performance of our students

## Future outlook

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

The priorities for the coming years are:

- Continuing to strengthen our social skills program including the development of student leadership and team skills
- Strengthening our provisions for Gifted and Talented Education
- 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

Sherwood has a total enrolment that fluctuates around 460 students from Preparatory Year to Year 7. 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 teachers. Mandarin is the second language taught in Years 5, 6 & 7. Instrumental music is very strong across the school and we employ three 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.

### Curriculum offerings

A strength of Sherwood is our Whole-of-School curriculum design. Our cross-curricula units from each year level are published on our school website <http://www.sherwoodss.eq.edu.au/overview.htm>. 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 teachers use to grade student work. This is a Whole-of-School approach that gives us confidence that our curriculum is strong.

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 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.

As Principal, my personal favourite is La Bella Voci, our audition choir. The 30 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 include:

- Sherwood Sharks Swimming Club
- Sherwood Arrows Jump Rope for Heart demonstration skipping team (longest serving in Australia)
- FONA (Friends of the Nature Area) Club focussing 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 French, Speech and Drama, Ceramics, Drawing, Piano, Tennis, Swimming and other sports and extension activities.

How computers are used to assist learning

There are between three and five computers in each classroom and a mini-lab in the school Resource

## Performance of our students

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. Currently we are installing at least one electronic whiteboards for each year level with the intension that there will be one per room in the year or two ahead. 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 behaviour. It's about actively teaching the kinds of behaviours 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.

## Performance of our students

### Involving parents in their child's education.

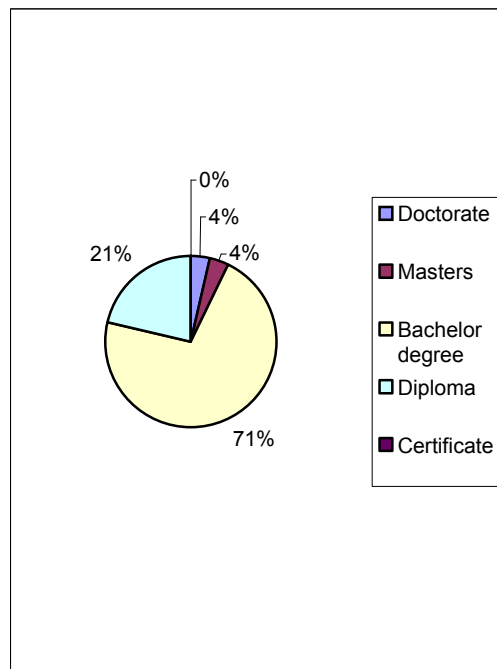
Parents are involved in diverse ways at Sherwood including:

- 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, improved road safety provisions, and
- 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 which is renowned across the Western Suburbs.

### Qualifications of all teachers.

Highest level of Attainment	Percentage of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	1
Masters	1
Bachelor degree	20
Diploma	6
Certificate	0



### Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2007 was \$23,983.

The major professional development initiatives included:

- Gifted and Talented Education

## Performance of our students

- Quality Assessment
- Social Skills and Student Leadership, and
- Preparatory Year and Early Childhood Curriculum

The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2007 was 91 % and 100% for training activities.

### Average staff attendance

For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 95% in 2007.

### Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

From the end of the 2005 school year, 70 % of staff were retained by the school for the entire 2007 school year.

### Student attendance

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2007 was 95 %.

## Key outcomes in the early and middle phases of learning

Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net	
Target Areas	Percentage of students not requiring additional support
Reading	93% (State Average 75.7%)
Writing	96% (State Average 84.8%)
Number	94% (State Average 81.1%)

Our reading, writing and numeracy results for the Queensland Years 3, 5 and 7 Literacy and Numeracy Tests.					
		Yr 3	Yr 5	Yr 7	
Reading	Average score for SHERWOOD		559	628	712
	Average score for Queensland		527	606	672
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	96 %	84 %	96 %
		2006	98 %	92 %	94 %
Writing	Average score for SHERWOOD		542	652	707
	Average score for Queensland		523	600	681
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	100 %	95 %	96 %
		2006	97 %	96 %	92 %

## Performance of our students

Numeracy	Average score for SHERWOOD		561	605	704
	Average score for Queensland		521	588	648
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	98 %	84 %	98 %
		2006	95 %	94 %	96 %

### Other Key Outcomes

#### Value adding within our community

Sherwood State School is a valuable participant in the life of our local community. The school music groups perform at many local venues throughout the year, and our Sherwood Arrows demonstrate amazing skills throughout South East Queensland, going on tour every second year.

The school Fete is a favourite of many people in the Western Suburbs and involves a huge number of local organisations. Each year the theme of our Fete changes, and consequently provides the chance to build associations with new organisations and local people.

The school hall is hired most nights each week and on week ends. Those who hire the hall provide a range of community services including lessons for dance and self defence. A church group also use the hall. The school oval is used by a range of community sports groups after school and on weekends.

#### Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Each year Education Queensland surveys parents, students and staff to determine satisfaction with the quality of services provided by individual schools.

Parents: When surveyed, results indicate that parents of Sherwood are significantly more satisfied when compared with other schools in all of the survey categories. They were especially pleased with the school's curriculum, learning climate and social climate. Parent satisfaction with school resources exceeded the scores of schools in similarly high socio-economic locations across Queensland, and significantly exceeded the State average. More than 90% of the parents surveyed believed that their children were happy at Sherwood and were receiving a 'good education' through the provision of quality learning experiences and the opportunity for students to learn to use computers confidently. 97% of parents who completed the State surveys were either satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of teaching at Sherwood – a fabulous result.

Students: Each year, all students in Year 5 and Year 7 are surveyed by Education Queensland and a report on this feedback is provided to the school. Students indicated that they were satisfied with all aspects of the school covered in the survey. Students indicated a desire to continue improving their computer skills and to have better access to computers (there are currently between 4 and 5 computers in all upper school classrooms that are connected to the Internet). Students indicated that they believed Sherwood was a 'good school' and that they were receiving a 'good education'. Student satisfaction with the learning climate, the interest taken by their teachers, their safety at school and their own willingness to do the best they could, were significantly higher than the State average for all schools.

Staff: Staff satisfaction levels were generally on par with the average of schools across the State. Sherwood has undertaken a program of significant curriculum renewal over the last 5 years and this has meant significant work loads for staff. We are also now in a position of significant strength, with enormous improvements to facilities, excellent student achievements, and very strong parental and community support for our school. We are all proud of what has been achieved.

