

TEACHING AND LEARNING AUDIT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – BROADWATER SS

DATE OF AUDIT: 8 NOVEMBER 2012



Background:

Broadwater SS is a Prep - Year 7 school situated six kilometres from Stanthorpe. It is a small, country school catering for the learning needs of 35 students from the surrounding farms. The school first commenced in 1905. Current Acting Principal, Mrs Shannon Armbruster has been in the role since Term 3, 2012.

Commendations:

- Since the previous Teaching and Learning Audit in 2010 the school has made improvement in the domain of Differentiated Classroom Learning. The Principal and staff members place a high priority on the identification of individual student learning needs and then address the identified needs through an adjusted teaching and learning program that supports or extends the learning for each individual student.
- There is a particular focus on improved teaching methods in reading, writing, mathematics and science. Students in Prep - Year 2 have a clear understanding of word attack skills to support them with their reading and students speak positively about the school's science program.
- The tone of the school reflects a school wide commitment to purposeful, successful learning. Respectful and caring relationships are reflected in the ways in which staff members, students and parents interact. There is a warm, friendly atmosphere amongst students and staff members as they interact with each other in the classroom and in the playground. Parents are extremely positive and appreciative of the Principal's progressive leadership.
- The Principal ensures that the enacted curriculum remains a focus for discussion among, and collaboration between teachers.

Affirmations:

- The school has begun implementing the Broadwater expectations which are focused on improving attitude for behaviour, sport and bookwork.
- The Principal has made a concerted and sustained effort to improve attendance.
- Teachers are successfully implementing Curriculum into the Classroom (C2C) units.
- The school has been working on building technology skills of the students. This has resulted in the school winning the Champion School for the Granite Belt Multi-Media Competition.

Recommendations:

- Develop and align the explicit improvement agenda with the Annual Implementation Plan, Professional Learning Plan, Developing Performance Plan and budget to demonstrate a clear line of site for the school's improvement agenda. Ensure that there are clear targets and timelines for this agenda. Communicate this clearly, through staff meetings, newsletters and the school website, to teachers, parents and the wider community.
- Establish processes where feedback and goal setting are key elements of the school's culture for staff and students. Focus on implementing the developing performance framework to support the whole school approach to professional learning and growth of staff. Enhance staff development further by ensuring mentoring and coaching is an integral part of improving teaching.
- Develop teachers' skills in the routine use of data so that they become self-reflective of their efforts in improving their teaching and in meeting school wide targets.
- Document the pedagogical practices expected for teaching and learning across the whole school for all key learning areas (KLAs), and particularly for reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation and numeracy.
- Maximise student learning through the effective use of physical spaces and research best practice in web-based and online learning to enhance the use of technology throughout the school.

