

Annual Report

The Year of Building

Vijayadev Yogendra's Vision for the School is finally completed



Building 7 under construction.

Stage 2 of the Playground Development Plan saw extensive landscaping, the installation of Climbing Equipment for Junior Primary, a set of swings for Upper Primary, a new Trampoline and a Gazebo right in the middle for outdoor classes and shade.

The Water Project involved the construction of a 10,000 litre

underground tank to harvest water from school buildings for use on the school oval.

The main project was the construction of Building 7 which will house Prep, two middle school classrooms and a Library. This project also completed the School Founder's vision for the teaching spaces of the School.

Perfect Score

In the last few years since Year 12 Scores have been published showing the percentage of students from the School receiving an OP of between OP1 and OP15, The School of Total Education has achieved 100% or a perfect Score!

There is possibly one other school in Queensland that has achieved this so it is an indication that the school's academic program is helping students to reach their potential.

A researcher from QUT who contacted me about this asked "To what do you attribute this amazing achievement?" I explained that I thought it was due to small class sizes and the individual attention this allowed, the dedication of the teaching staff in all subject areas and an ethos of excellence in the School.

Richard Waters, Principal

RETIREMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER GRANT TILBROOK

Grant joined the School in 1986 taking Grade 1 with Lori Ortmann. He was always an enthusiastic teacher.

After 1987, Grant was part of the redundancies that were necessary for the school to survive. He returned in 1992 terminating a promising career in music because of his belief in the school.

Grant was a primary class teacher for several years and eventually took on a



role as full time Physical Education teacher. He developed the Movement for Learning Program, Daily Phys Ed program and also developed the School's Outdoor Education Program with a series of camps from Grade 4 to Year 12.

Grant has decided to retire in order to develop his music. It's been great working with Grant and we thank him for putting his heart and soul into the School.

Distinctive Curriculum

Total Education

The School's curriculum is based on the program of *Total Education*, devised and implemented by School Founder Vijayadev Yogendra. This provides for a balance between Academic, Health & Physical and Character Development.

School Meals

The School provides a hot lunch twice a week. Even on days where lunch is not provided, the teachers and students sit down together and share their meals. This creates a positive family atmosphere in the School.

Parents assist with the running of the kitchen and the preparation of hot meals. Children help with by laying the tables.

Film, Television and New Media

Film and Television is offered at Years 10, 11 and 12. This year, InHee Jeong, who has a long career in the film and television industry, provided the technical expertise while Colin Alley ensured the academic requirements were covered.

This year interested students were trained in Outside Broadcasting techniques where a live event is simultaneously videotaped on several cameras and then vision mixed on the spot. Students worked on the Stanthorpe Dance School Annual Concert, The SOTE primary school musical and the Year 12 Graduation. Murray James of *Envision Media* provided the specialised training and equipment needed for this project.

Quiet Time

Quiet Time is for primary children and emphasises the value of spending time settling and finding a sense of quietude. Stories involving positive values are used to settle the children and are told rather than read. They then spend a few minutes with their eyes closed listening to music or ambient sounds. Principal, Richard Waters takes Quiet Time on Mondays and the Primary teachers take the Thursday session on a roster basis.

Two Hours of Physical Education

All students from Grade 1 to Year 12 participate in a 15-minute Daily Physical Education Program. For students in Grades 1 to 3 this focuses on the

Movement for Learning Program, which includes cross-patterning exercises and co-ordination activities which stimulate brain development.

All students also take a weekly sport class with a duration varying from 45 minutes at junior primary to 90 minutes at secondary level. This means that all students undertake approximately 2 hours of physical education each week.

Interest Groups

Twice each term, primary students have the choice of a number of activities offered by teachers through the Interest Groups Program. Each group runs for four weeks. It is a chance to follow a passion and mix with students from other classes and to connect up with a teacher who shares their interests and talent.

Yoga Classes

Yoga Classes are taken on a voluntary basis for secondary students. There is a good take-up of classes by students in Years 11 and 12. Classes are taken by Debbie Lane at the Centre For Healthy Living adjacent to the School.

Vegetable Garden and Chicken Pen

Students in Year 9 adopted the Vegetable garden this year which produced fresh vegetables for the school kitchen. Year 10 students took responsibility for the care of the chickens whose eggs are collected for use in the school kitchen also.

Time Out Program

The Time Out Program is conducted in the second semester of Year 7 and the first semester of Year 8. Students cover their core academic program on four mornings a week. The afternoons are spent on student directed activities. A weekly excursion gives students a broad-based outdoor experience

Special Day - Chindia Day

The school held Chindia Day on Friday 14th March. This special day aimed to expose the students at every grade level to studies and cultural activities related to China and India. There were many activities organised for the day, including a Primary and Secondary Bollywood dance Performance. The day ended with a shared supper of Chinese and Indian food cooked by our parents and teachers.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Senior Drama Production

This year's Senior production was *As You Like It*, with a futuristic twist. The modern set and costumes brought another dimension to Shakespeare and members of the public made comments about the high standard of acting and direction.



A scene from 'As You Like It'

SOTE Values Forum

At the Combined Parents Meeting on the 18th April, Year 12 students spoke on the topic of "What SOTE's values meant to them".

Students Running the School Day

On Thursday 5th June, the Years 8 & 9 took over the school for the day. The students had a great variety of jobs, ranging from Principal and Secretary to Primary Teachers. The day also gave them an idea about teaching and what it involves.



Amanda Lu with Year 4 students

Work Experience

The Year 10's undertook work experience at a variety of businesses from Monday 2nd June to Friday 6th June. Some of the work places included: Warwick Daily News, local veterinarian, computer stores, Southern Downs Regional.

Athletics Day

Primary students had a lot of fun in their Athletics Day which coincided with the Beijing Olympics. They really extended themselves to achieve their personal bests.

Junior Drama Festival

The years 8, 9 & 10 were involved in the Drama Festival with each grade performing a number of different plays. The performances were held in the School's Auditorium on the 29th & 30th August.

Outdoor Education Centre

This year, the School opened its Outdoor Education Centre (OEC) on the largely natural bush property at Upper Freestone. Each class spent either a morning or an afternoon over four weeks at the OEC. Colin Alley, who has many years of experience with the scouts, designed the program.

Graduates Run the School Day

On Friday 18th July over 25 'old Soteonians' returned to the school to run a day of planned activities for all students. The day offered many different activities including Face Painting, Obstacle Courses, a Cake City and a Japanese Game Show.

Science Display

The Science Display gave a chance for parents to see what the secondary students have been doing in their science classes. Students also took time to show their science projects to parents and younger students.

Primary Musical

This year was the first whole primary school musical, *The Jungle Book* directed by Michael Funder and Bernadine Bradshaw and choreographed by Lisa Notley. Performances were held in the school's auditorium on 16th 17th and 18th October. The result was wonderful, with the children doing an exceptional job.



A scene from 'The Jungle Book'

Art Exhibitions

Both primary and secondary students were represented at the Warwick Regional Art Gallery's School Exhibitions.

Safe Driving Training

Year 11 students spent a day in August at Willowbank Racetrack being shown how to avoid accidents and handle dangerous driving situations such as skids. The best thing was trying it out for themselves.

Extra-curricular activities depend on the support of a teaching staff who are willing to put in many extra hours to make these events a success.

Use of Computers to Enhance Learning

Computer Access

The aim is to provide 1:1 access for secondary students to computers over the next two years. The School successfully applied for a grant under Round Two of the Education Revolution Program with this in mind. Part of this required the development of a strategic plan for the use of computers in the school.

Currently, there are primary and secondary computer labs for general use and a special lab for Film and Television and New Media. This was upgraded this year and is now capable of virtually producing broadcast quality video production.

Computers are also available for specialist areas such as science, music and art.

There is a small lab for Time Out use and there are individual desktop computers in all primary classrooms.

Student Laptop Program

This year, parents are being encouraged to acquire a laptop for their Years 10, 11 and 12 children because they are now an essential part of a student's equipment in the Information Age.

Teacher Laptop Program

Every teacher has an iBook laptop computer. These are used for class preparation, research on the internet and reporting to parents. Teachers have access to data projectors and are also able to use digital video cameras to record oral presentations and edit these on their computer.

Students are quick to pick up on new technology and often it seems they are more comfortable with it than their teachers. However, the teachers bring the important area of the discerning use of technology to the table.

Server Upgrade

This year, the School upgraded its main server and teachers Nigel Sullivan (Curriculum IT) and Matthew Bradshaw (Network IT) worked very hard to have it operating effectively.

All computers are connected to the network either through ethernet or a wireless system. Teachers and students can access the school network from anywhere in the school. This means, for example, teachers can use a data projector to display an internet site live and students can obtain task sheets and hand in work through a drop box system.

The purpose is to train students so that they are not dependent on computers but are able to make use of information technology to assist and enhance their learning.

New Media students in Year 8 and 9 learn word processing, spreadsheet, presentation skills and web page design as well as to use vector based graphic design programs.

Students of **Humanities** subjects such as English, History and Study of Society use computers for word processing, internet research and oral presentations.

Art students access artwork and research artists on the internet. They use Word to write essays and visual diaries. Photoshop is used to manipulate pictures to create artwork.

Drama students use the internet to access information about playwrights and texts in their assignments as well as for poster design.

Primary students work on projects with their teachers through supervised internet access on their classroom computers and the primary lab.



Film & TV students create short films and documentaries using digital video equipment and video editing software with the final products being burnt to DVD.

Mathematics: Spreadsheets are used extensively for statistical and financial analysis including graphical representation of the results.

Science: Internet research is conducted on projects and Word or Power Point are used to present the results. Virtual dissections are conducted on-line for Biology.

Social Climate

Secondary Home Groups

The Home Group system at secondary level means that each year level has at least one teacher who maintains an overview of each student's progress and well-being.

Primary and Secondary teachers assist each other with student welfare.

Teachers Well Being Seminar

A Well Being Seminar was held for teachers at a retreat at Clarkvale Property on Friday 11th July.

Four priorities were identified:

- * Maintaining inspiration and encouragement of personal development.
- * Addressing the intensity of teacher workloads.
- * Support in coming to terms with stress factors.
- * Support for teachers with difficult students.

Student & Music Therapy Counsellor

Nina Gudkov joined the school as a student counsellor and Music Therapist. Although it is envisaged that initially her role will be assisting students, as time goes on parent and teachers may wish to avail themselves of her services.

Parent Involvement

Parents' Program

All parents attend weekly group discussions on parenting issues. Groups are facilitated by parents with longer term experience. Training and support for facilitators is provided through *Group Leaders' Meetings*. In February, Jo Yuille spoke to the Group Leaders on *Dealing with Difficult People* in groups.

Combined Meetings are held at least once each term. The most highly rated presentations this year were: *Keeping and Open Mind* by Principal Richard Waters, the Year 12 students' talk on *SOTE's Values* and *Coping with Family Pressures* by Ros Darton, Peter Pickering and Lisa Notley. Parents also very highly rated a talk by Jan Gudkovs on *Research on the Development of a Person*, and the presentation by Deputy Principal, Judy Currie, and Counsellor Jo Yuille on *Setting and Maintaining Boundaries*.

Grade Meetings

Grade Meetings were held at the start of Term 3 for all levels. Parents meet with the Class or Home Teacher to discuss the group's progress and exchange views on how issues might be tackled jointly between home and school. Special meetings were also called for specific issues e.g. secondary parents heard a talk by police officer, Sarah Ellis in Internet Safety. Teachers are available for individual consultation on request.

Reporting to Parents

At the end of Term 2 and Term 4 parents receive a *Report of Student Progress* which covers academic, character and physical development as

well as subject reports with an A to E grading at secondary level. All primary parents have agreed not to be included in A to E reporting or Relative Achievement reporting. Primary reports include comments on each child's achievement in each Key Learning Area in relation to their grade level.

Prep Reports were issued for the first time using a hybrid of the Education Queensland template and the key areas of development which is the SOTE framework. The inclusion of photographs made these reports very attractive.

Parent Feedback

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Most Enjoyed

Parents rated the Primary Musical, *The Jungle Book* (98%) and *Chindia Day and Shared Meal* (94%) as the School Activities they most enjoyed in 2008. These were closely followed by Secondary Plays.

Fulfilling Our Goals

THE DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHERS, PARENTS AND STUDENTS IS THE MAJOR FOCUS

School Governing Council

The School Governing Council meets bi-monthly and considers important issues of policy and strategy, especially the preservation of the School's core principles and values.

Start of 2008-2011 Planning Cycle

This year marked the beginning of the 2008-2011 Planning Cycle and a planning meeting was held by the Governing Council on November 2nd at the Billywacs Property to set goals for this cycle.

Teacher Well Being

Teacher well being was a particular focus for 2008. The Governing Council sought teacher input at a special seminar in September on the resources and support teachers believed they needed to carry out their responsibilities. It was also decided to study retirement funding.

Development of Parents

There was focus on strengthening the Parents Program through support for group leaders, follow up of non-attending parents and the introduction of a periodic survey to gauge parents satisfaction with the School (see 2007 Annual Report).

Review of Kitchen

Margaret Handley continued to run the school kitchen with dedication and care. Suggestions have been canvassed on the menu and ways to streamline in its functioning given that less parents are able to help in a voluntary capacity.

Succession Planning

Grooming new leadership so that the School is sustainable into the future was an important focus as well the recruitment of new teachers. This was successful with three new teachers being employed for 2009.

Building 7 Project

THE Foundation agreed to fund the gap between the Capital Grant and parent donations and the cost of the Building 7 project. This made it possible to go ahead with construction of this library/classroom building in 2008.

The Institute of Total Education

Richard Waters spent one day each week on the development of the Institute this year.

Richard visited the main teacher training universities to let them know about the school and to get more trainees to do field service at SOTE. He also met the Dean of Education at USQ with a view to working together to offer a tertiary unit on Total Education.

Richard gave presentations at QUT (early childhood) and USQ (secondary) to pre-service teachers which led to a greater awareness of the school and at least one new teacher being recruited by the school.

Richard was interviewed by Alice Brown of USQ for an external audience of trainee teachers on Leadership in Early Childhood. The interview was video taped and was made available through the universities external network.



The Institute of
Total Education



Richard also wrote a *Handbook for Teachers* with information new teachers would need coming into the school. This included the key principles of the School. The handbook was issued to all teachers at the commencement of the year and was used as the basis for a teachers' seminar in January.

Teacher Development

Staff Stability

The School has a high level of staff stability with 96% of the teaching staff being retained from the previous year.

January Retreat at Cherrabah

Teachers and members of the School Governing Council attended a retreat at Cherrabah resort in the January break. There was a mixture of large and small group discussion as well as an individual consultation on each teacher's development plan.

Topics included Life Long Learning, Overcoming Baggage and Working in Harmony. A session on Making Use of Feedback was held over to term time. The opportunity for recreational activity and individual conversations made the program relaxed and very productive.

Curriculum Afternoons

Teachers spend two afternoons each term on curriculum issues. This year the focus was on: The Queensland Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Framework (QCAR) which includes the Essential Learnings. Other curriculum afternoons were held on Chindia Day planning and preparation and SOTE's performance on the Grade 3, 5, 7 Tests.

Professional Development

SOTE Teachers (12) attended a variety of Professional Development Programs (26). These programs are often subsidised by either Independent Schools Queensland (ISQ) or the Queensland Studies Authority (QSA). The amount expended per teacher on professional

development was \$399 p.a. . This excludes cost of teacher replacement which is necessary when a teacher is at professional development activities.

Activities attended by SOTE teachers this year included Syllabus workshops in Senior Chemistry, German, Maths A, B & C, Visual Art. Other workshops attended included: NAPLAN Testing, Biotech, Tactical Teaching, Introduction of the QCE, Teaching Media, Spelling, ICT's and a printmaking workshop.

Principal Richard Waters attended the ISQ Forum, 'Curriculum in Flux' on the transition to a National Curriculum by 2012 and a QCT seminar on the Continuing Professional Development Framework to be introduced in 2010.

SOTE teachers also mentored several pre-service teachers one of whom was offered a position at SOTE in 2009.

Teacher Development

Teacher Development Programs on the principles of Total Education were organised by the School in 2008. These included half-day seminars, held in the school holidays:

- Handling Feedback,
- Creative Discipline,
- Teacher Well being and
- Planning for 2009.

There was special meeting for teachers with Babaji in October where topics included learning with love and the importance of silence.

(List of teachers from June 2008)

Teachers' Qualifications

Leadership

Richard Waters
BA, Dip. Ed., M.Ed (Leadership)

Judy Currie
BSc., Dip. Ed.

Secondary Teachers

Colin Alley
Dip Teach., M.Ed Admin

Matthew Bradshaw
BA, B Ed.

Ronda Mattarollo
BA, BEd (Secondary)

Roy Fox
BSc, Dip Ed

Neil Rasmussen
Dip Fine Arts, TSTC.

Nigel Sullivan
BEng, (Hons), Dip Ed

Primary Teachers

Stephen Clark
Grad. Dip Ed (Early Childhood)

Lua Johnson
BA Drama (Secondary), Dip Ed

Michael Kirby
BA BEd

Michael Funder
B Mus Ed

Karen Leech
Dip Teaching

Lyndal Pitkin
BA Graphic Design, BEd

Cathy Petrasianas
BA, Dip Ed
Grad Dip Hum (French)

Grant Tilbrook
Dip of Tch Prim.

Part-Time Teachers & Aides

Bernadine Bradshaw
BA (Hons), Dip Ed

Judy Funder
MA, Dip Ed

Alan Isaacs
BSc (Hons), D Ed, D Lib (Tchr Lib)

Pam Isaacs
BA (Hons), MA Dip Ed

Patrice Jubb
Dip Teaching Early Childhood

Claire Waters
BA, T.S.T.C.

In Hee Jeong
B.A. Cert. AFTS

Debbie Lane
BSc (Hons)

Required Statistics

System Affiliation

Independent, non-systemic,
non-denominational.

Member, Independent Schools
of Queensland.

Address

2 Freestone Road,
Warwick, Queensland 4370

Telephone: 61 7 4661 2666

Facsimile: 61 7 4661 4894

Email: admin@sote.qld.edu.au

Website: www.sote.qld.edu.au

Enrolments

147 students

80 primary and

67 secondary students

92% Average attendance

Year Levels Offered

Prep to Year 12.

Single stream at each level
except Year 8 (2 streams).

Gender

Co-Educational at all levels.

58 girls and 89 boys.

Retention Rates

100 % Apparent Retention Rate

Staff Statistics

96% Staff Retention from 2006.

91% Staff Attendance Rate.

\$399 Staff Development costs
(per teacher per annum)

12 Teachers attending staff
development activities in 2008.

Teachers and Students

Ratio of 1 teacher to 13 students

School Comment

*These statistics and the adjacent
tables are part of Commonwealth
and State Government requirements
and need to be read with some
caution given the small student
numbers at SOTE. Percentages can
be affected a great deal by one or
two students, for example, falling
below the National Minimum.
children.*

The School of Total Education Grade 3 Test 2008 (9 students)

Test	Numeracy	Spelling	Grammar Punctuation	Reading	Writing
School Mean (average)	392	353	341	382	368
State Mean (average)	368	366	370	372	391
% above National Minimum	100%	67%	78%	100%	89%

The School of Total Education Grade 5 Test 2008 (13 students)

Test	Numeracy	Spelling	Grammar Punctuation	Reading	Writing
School Mean (average)	460	418	472	481	419
State Mean (average)	457	461	477	467	468
% above National Minimum	92%	38%	77%	77%	69%

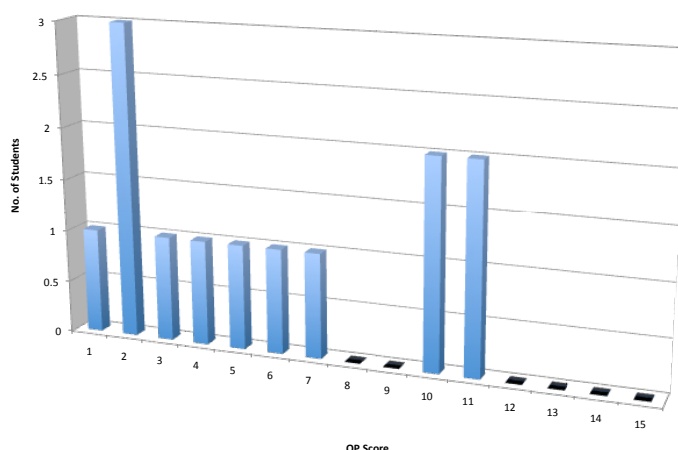
The School of Total Education Grade 7 Test 2008 (11 students)

Test	Numeracy	Spelling	Grammar Punctuation	Reading	Writing
School Mean (average)	561	496	534	548	496
State Mean (average)	540	527	519	529	521
% above National Minimum	82%	45%	64%	82%	73%

The School of Total Education Year 9 Test 2008 (12 students)

Test	Numeracy	Spelling	Grammar Punctuation	Reading	Writing
School Mean (average)	628	611	612	628	604
State Mean (average)	573	568	566	569	553
% above National Minimum	100%	100%	92%	100%	83%

OP Scores 2008



Year 12 Outcomes 2007

Total number of students completing Year 12	13
Senior Certificates awarded	13
Percentage of OP-eligible students with OP 1 to 15	100%
Percentage of students awarded a Senior Certificate and awarded a VET qualification	0%
Percentage of students awarded Senior Certificate with OP-eligibility or a VET qualification	100%
Percentage of QTAC applicants receiving an offer	100%

Queensland Core Skills Test Results 2008

