

BETHANIA LUTHERAN SCHOOL

2018

ANNUAL REPORT



School Details:

School Sector:

Independent Co-educational

School Address

66 Glastonbury Drive, Bethania, Qld, 4205

Total Enrolments

2018 - 287

Year Levels Offered:

Prep to Year 6

Characteristics of the Student Body:

Boys - 155

Girls - 132

Indigenous students - 7

Overview

Bethania Lutheran School has been serving the local community since it was established in 1976. The school was established by the Bethania Lutheran Congregation to provide a quality Christian education to the children of its members and the local community.

Bethania Lutheran School is one of 83 Lutheran Schools across Australia. The school is funded from Commonwealth and State Government grants, school fees and fund-raising. The school is administered by a School Council drawn from members of the Bethania Lutheran Congregation and local Lutheran congregations.

The Mission Statement of the school states:

Bethania Lutheran School is a Christ-centred community supporting the educational journey by providing dynamic, innovative teaching and learning, within a nurturing environment.

The School's Vision Statement states:

Our vision is that through implementation of best practice in curriculum and teaching, the learning needs of students are met so they may realise their full potential. We also seek to support and care for all school community members, ministering to them by reflecting God's love and acceptance for all people.

Strategic Plan Objectives

Developing a Community of Innovative 21st Century Learners

Bethania Lutheran School aims to implement best practice in contemporary teaching and learning, so that students may realise their full potential in an ever-changing world. We aim to actively engage with the future rather than wait for it to happen.

Resourcing our School:

We wish for our school to be properly resourced (people, facilities, grounds and equipment) so that we may achieve the goals of the school. This is underpinned by sound financial and business planning and management.

Promoting our School and Engaging the Community:

We seek to promote our school to, and work together with, the school and broader community.

Distinctive Offerings:

Christian Studies Program

The Christian Studies Curriculum Framework (CSCF) is the Christian Education program used in Lutheran schools throughout Australia. Classes complete units of study in the following strands: Christian Church, Christian Beliefs, Christian Living, and Christianity in the World.

Each unit builds on the previous year's work, so that students gradually increase their knowledge of the Christian faith and deepen their understanding of their relationship with Jesus.

Worship is also an important element of school life at Bethania Lutheran School. A weekly Chapel service brings students together to glorify God. Parents are invited to join the school

for Chapel services. On other days, classes hold a short devotion. Students may assist in worship through participation in Chapel band, Bible readings and prayers, or by leading class devotions.

Service Learning

Serving with hands, head and heart is an important part of life at Bethania Lutheran School. Service learning is looking at a real problem that needs to be solved in the community or globally. It has authentic links to the curriculum; benefits both community partners and students and involves students reflecting on what they have learnt.

Community Values

The School has a Community Values Framework which illustrates the school's approach to values and social-emotional learning. It includes the school's Christian heart; 'Play is the Way'; and the Virtues Program integrated cohesively together in a program.

The values and social emotional skills are explicitly taught in classrooms. They are interwoven into the relationships that are built, and conversations that take place in our school on a daily basis.

Social and Emotional Learning

'Play is the Way' developed by Wilson McCaskill is used across the school to promote team work and support positive behaviour choices.

Digital Technology

Digital technology is an integral part of the learning that happens at Bethania Lutheran School. It is used in every classroom as a tool to aid the learning that occurs.

This includes:

- blended and virtual learning
- coding and robotics
- game-based learning
- accessing digital content
- collaborating locally and globally
- assessment online
- active participation in online class communities
- using technology to connect, collaborate, curate and create.

To allow students to connect with the digital world, students in Years 3 to 6 participate in the 1 to 1 take home iPad program and students in Prep to Year 2 have class sets of iPads for use at school

A class set of laptops is also available for use in class.

Innovation

Our school received a national innovation award from 'The Educator' in recognition of the work we are doing in reshaping our spaces into agile learning zones and changing our pedagogy. We are constantly looking at worldwide best practice in education in order to better meet the needs of our learners both now and into the future. Our school received many visitors, from both national and international educational centres, who were interested in finding out more about our innovative school.

Music Program

All children in the school receive weekly music lessons from our specialist Music Teacher. Many of our students also participate in our vibrant Instrumental Music Program and then participate in bands, choirs or small group ensembles. These students showcase their skills to parents at evening twilight concerts held twice a year. They are also invited to perform at many school functions throughout the year. We acknowledge the musical talents of both students and staff.

Sport Program

Students receive weekly lessons from our PE teacher.

In Term 1 a house swimming carnival was held for Years 3 to 6 which is a competitive and fun filled day. During terms 1 and 2 students are taught cross country running and athletic skills culminating with the school cross country and athletics carnival. All these carnivals are full of house spirit and community support. A swimming, cross country and athletics team from our school also compete against other Lutheran schools in Lutheran carnivals, as well as against other local schools in district and regional competitions.

Students and staff are also welcome to train before school in organised training sessions or to work on their own fitness programs in our state of the art gym.

We are also part of the North Gold Coast Associated Schools (NGCAS) winter and summer season sports competition. Our Year 4, 5 and 6 students compete in a range of sports in both seasons.

Camps

Camps are an integral component of our educational and social/emotional programs. The program gives children a wide cross section of experiences and is designed to provide achievable challenges. Camps begin with a sleep-over in Year 3. Our outdoor education program commences in Year 4 with a camp of three days, a 3 day camp in Year 5 and then a week long experience in which the children in Year 6 visit Sydney, Canberra and the snow.

Pastoral Care

Bethania seeks to have a peaceful school climate where children can be safe and happy. The school code of conduct states that:

Bethania Lutheran School believes that children learn best in a secure, happy and positive environment in which individuals are respected and within which personal responsibility and self-discipline can be developed.

The student 'Code of Conduct' has been developed to assist children in developing a sense of responsibility and an awareness of the need to care for and value themselves and others.

The school has a school chaplain who is funded by the Australian Government under the National School Chaplaincy Program.

Anti-bullying Initiatives

The school's anti-bullying strategies are derived from the school's Values Framework. All students receive instruction through the *Play is the Way* program which helps students particularly with skills and strategies in *Getting Along* and in developing *Resilience*. The school also purposefully teaches students techniques to both avoid bullying and to be

responsible reporters. The school has also embedded *Restorative Justice Principles* to guide teachers and Senior Staff in working through a situation where bullying may have occurred. This is assisted by the perpetrator completing a Reflect, Repair, Reconnect form which is then shared with their parents. A plan, which is monitored, is then developed to assist the students involved in their interactions with each other.

Sharing and solving class problems in circles is also very important in our school, as in a circle everyone is equal and every voice is heard.

Leadership Opportunities

Year 6 students form our Student Council which is led by 2 Student Council Captains. Under the direction of teaching staff, the Student Council is involved in planning and assisting at a number of special days e.g. Grandparents Day and Pyjama Day.

Students in Year 6 are given a number of leadership opportunities. The year 6 team are responsible for organising the Australian Lutheran World Service Awareness Day for the rest of the school.

Year 6 students may also serve as School Captains, House Captains, Music Captains, Student Council Captains and School Leaders.

Parental Involvement

Parental involvement in their child's education is very important.

Parent connection sessions are held at the beginning of the year to introduce parents to their child's teacher and to connect with their new learning space and structure. Parents are always welcome to contact teachers/staff whenever they wish to discuss their child's progress.

Formal progress interviews are held at the end of Term 1 and beginning of Term 3. School reports are issued at the end of term 2 and term 4.

Parents may be involved in the school's Parents and Friends Group through meetings, social activities and fund-raising activities. The students really enjoyed the discos, movie nights and special food days organised by the P&F this year.

Parents also help in the school in a variety of ways: in classrooms, with special performances and excursions, and in providing services for our children. This assists in helping our students while building community within the school.

Staff Attendance

Staff attend school for both programmed student days as well as professional learning days. Out of 205 days when teachers were required to be on duty, the average staff attendance was 200 days or 98%.

Staff Retention

At the end of 2018 there were 20 permanent teachers. 20 of these teachers were retained. Our teaching staff retention rate for 2018 was therefore 100%.

Teacher Qualifications:

Qualifications	Percentage of teachers and school leaders who hold this qualification

Doctorate	0%
Masters	0%
Bachelor	100%
Diploma	0%
Certificate	0%

Staff Professional Learning Priorities

We believe that it is vital for our staff to be provided with high quality professional learning. To this end the school has committed large amounts of time and resources to access experts in their field to guide and mentor our staff. High quality professionals are engaged to conduct workshops and professional learning programs in the school. In 2018 all staff participated in the following professional learning activities:

Whole Staff

Project Based Learning workshops; 6 Traits of Writing;

Individual Staff – on & off site

Restorative Practices; Play is the Way; Emotional Management for Children and Teens with ASD; Diverse Learners Conference; Equip; The Developing Brain;

Teacher Aides Working with Students with Intellectual Disability & Learning Disability;

Teacher Aides Working with Disability & Behavioural Issues;

Teacher Aides Working with Students with Communication Disorders;

Nature Nurture - Pathways to Resilience Confidence;

LEQ California Learning Tour; Pathways;

All staff are encouraged to engage in Professional Learning activities. The total expenditure in the school in 2018 was \$54,299. The average expenditure per teacher on professional learning in 2018 was \$2,675 per teacher.

Student Attendance:

The average attendance rate of our students is 94%

Non-attendance is managed by the school contacting parents and developing strategies to improve attendance.

National Benchmarking Programme Results: <https://www.myschool.edu.au/>

Parent Feedback

A formal parent survey was conducted in 2018 by RADII. The survey showed that 97% of our parents were satisfied overall with the school.

Informal parent feedback is encouraged and facilitated through email, personal meetings or casual conversations.

Further Information

For further information please visit our website www.bethania.qld.edu.au or contact the school on 07 32005363.