

Gabbinbar State School's ideas are truly a vision

AT Gabbinbar State School (an IDEAS school in Toowoomba), the school vision unveils a depth of feeling that the school has carried throughout its history.

The vision reads: Gabbinbar, Creating a Beautiful Place to Belong, Inspire and Grow.

Looking back, it was the IDEAS visioning process that brought together all members of the school community.

The IDEAS visioning process engaged the whole community in a variety of activities, instilling a sense of togetherness that grew in strength throughout the process. As the staff and community explored what made Gabbinbar unique and what it was to be "known for", members of the IDEAS School Management Team (ISMT) were taken aback by the enthusiastic support from all involved, especially the dedication of a number of parents who became integral members of the ISMT.

It was also to become evident

that this process had promoted the development of a unique culture where highly professional educators encouraged and valued the contributions of all members of the community, and where there existed a strong commitment to the practice of professional dialogue.

From the data collated from visioning activities, three main themes seemed to emerge as fundamental to the "heart and soul" of the school – to belong, to inspire and to grow.

"Gabbinbar" is the Aboriginal meaning for "A Beautiful Place" and as such was something the school community became passionately attached to during the visioning process.

With this in mind the staff, students and parents were confronted with the question, "What does a beautiful place mean?" What does it look, sound and feel like? How do we create and articulate such a place?



Gabbinbar State School's vision.

In the words of one of the parent ISMT members:
"To feel like you BELONG some-



where is one of the most important things you can have in life. When you feel that you belong, you feel

valued and accepted, then you feel comfortable and secure enough to learn and grow and to be yourself. This is same for us all; children, parents and teachers.

"At different times people INSPIRE us to do better – teachers inspire students to love learning, teachers inspire each other with great ideas, students inspire each other to achieve more and celebrate their success. People from outside the school are inspired by the positive feel of Gabbinbar and the sense of community we have.

To GROW is to learn new skills, develop confidence and take responsibility for ourselves. Children, teachers and parents have the opportunity to be continually learning and growing at Gabbinbar."

Not only have the Gabbinbar School Community created a Vision, they have also created a new and inspiring way of working together; a way in which they collectively create a future.

**Senior Education Officer
(Standards & Assessment)**

VRN QSA 35/06
Salary Package \$73 551 – \$78 519 pa
(includes employer superannuation contributions and leave loading)

As a Senior Education Officer you will have a key role in implementing a state-wide program of moderated school-based assessment. You will do this by:

- Providing professional advice to schools and review panels to ensure comparable standards of learning and assessment
- Planning and presenting workshops and seminars, and preparing support materials, for review panellists and teachers.

To be successful in this role you will need to have:

- Knowledge of the Queensland system of externally moderated school-based assessment in the senior phase of schooling
- Demonstrated ability in the design and provision of professional development and policy advice to teachers.

Six positions are available across the following subject areas: Science, Mathematics, Industrial Technology and Design, Languages, Health & Physical Education, and Geography. These positions will be filled by temporary appointments or secondments for an initial period of three years from January 2007 to January 2010. Applications close 30 October 2006 at 5.00 pm. A copy of the position description and information on how to apply are available from www.jobs.qld.gov.au or by phoning (07) 3864 0412. Information about the QSA is available from www.qsa.qld.edu.au

Ashgrove is top fundraiser for MS Society

ASHGROVE State School's Year 5 student, Sophia Ball-Stathis, is Queensland's highest fundraising individual for this year's MS Readathon, raising \$7050 for people living with Multiple Sclerosis.

Sophia's mum, Sharon Ball has lived with Multiple Sclerosis for the last 12 years, and one of Sophia's childhood dreams is to find a cure for MS.

Just before Sophia's fifth birthday in 2001, her three birthday wishes were, "A violin, a poodle puppy, but most of all a cure for MS, so that Mummy's legs would work properly again."

She received the violin and recently Millie the puppy, but she is still waiting for the gift of a cure for MS. So, this year she has taken matters into her own hands.

This enterprising 10-year-old with help from her family and friends worked extremely hard gathering sponsors to raise money for her own

MS Readathon. But more importantly, for the last six months she has been encouraging her entire school to support the MS Society of Queensland.

Sophia has been very successful motivating her school mates. Ashgrove State School is Queensland's highest fundraising school for the 2006 MS Readathon.

Together, 134 Ashgrove students raised over \$17,500 for MS research, and students read more than 2500 books.

Wilston State School was named Queensland's best read school with 143 students reading 3017 books. Wilston raised \$11,871.

Nationally, more than 48,000 children read a mind-boggling one million books to raise over an incredible \$4 million for MS Australia, increasing their average donation from \$67.71 in 2005, to an impressive \$78.80 this year.

These outstanding results prove

families are digging deeper than ever before to support the annual event, cementing the MS Readathon as Australia's principal literacy and fundraising program.

It's not too late to return sponsorship money. There are thousands of Reading Rewards waiting to be claimed and the funds will make a huge difference.

Money raised through the MS Readathon funds essential support services for people living with MS and their families and carers, and also funds research projects around the country.

Multiple Sclerosis interferes with the brain's ability to control functions such as seeing, walking and talking and there is no known cause or cure. MS is the most common disease of the central nervous system among young Australians.

For more MS Readathon information, phone 1300 677 323 or visit www.msreadathon.org.au

GODS OF WATER



AUSTRALIA'S GODS OF WATER FIGHT FOR A SHOT TO TAKE ON THE WORLD

SCHOOLS TICKET OFFER

28 PUPILS AND ONE TEACHER FOR \$120, BETWEEN THE 4TH - 6TH DECEMBER 2006.

Bookings end on 18th Feb through QSA Customer Booking Department on 071 3434 8833, Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. Please note "School Ticket Offer" when booking.

TELSTRA AUSTRALIAN SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

CHARLIER AQUATIC CENTRE, BRISBANE
3RD - 18TH DECEMBER 2006





EDUCATION QUEENSLAND

Queensland Academy of Creative Industries (Kelvin Grove)

Queensland Academy of Science, Mathematics and Technology (Toowong)

Exciting opportunities exist for outstanding teachers wishing to teach the state's best and brightest students at the two new Queensland Academies which will open in 2007 for Year 10 and 11 students.

Applicants should have formal, tertiary training and teaching experience in at least one, but preferably two of the following senior curriculum areas.

English, Mathematics, Business and Management, Psychology, German, Spanish, Chinese (Cantonese), Visual Art, Film, Theatre Arts, Music, Chemistry and Physics, French, Design Technology (Design, Make, Appraise), Teacher Librarian

Both Academies will offer a specialised two years enriched secondary education program that is comprised of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program and enrichment experiences gained for collaborative arrangements with university and industry partners.

Applicants with knowledge, training and experience in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program and the education of bright students, will be highly regarded.

Applications should be a Curriculum Vitae (maximum 3 pages in length) listing personal particulars, contact details, relevant skills and experience and the names of two referees and a current supervisor. Please ensure your return email address, phone and fax contacts are clearly recorded.

Applications can be submitted by email to lauren.kuhn@qed.qld.gov.au

Applications close on Friday 20th October 2006.

For further information and full details of the positions available, applicants should refer to Queensland Academies website: <http://www.qed.qld.gov.au/workdept/hr/bulletins/eois-qed-academy.html>