




## Every Boy is Important! - A Boy Friendly School






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## Ipswich Grammar School



- The state of Queensland is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Ipswich Grammar is celebrating its 146<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- Approx 50kms west of Brisbane in the city of Ipswich.
- The oldest Grammar, Secondary and Boarding school in Queensland.
- Established in 1863.

- In 2006, Middle Schooling commenced to cater for the needs of adolescent boys.
- By 2009, 4 classes of Year 7  
6 classes of Year 8  
6 classes of Year 9
- In 2008, A Boys' Education Project was conducted to evaluate our programs.
- Middle Schooling model at Ipswich Grammar School is based on the 10 indicators of a boy friendly school – courtesy of Boys in Schools Program, University of Newcastle.

**Middle Schooling**  
*Every boy is important*

- These programs are designed to build positive relationships and help boys connect and engage to their schooling.


## Father and Son Program

**Issues:**  
**"The Missing Father Syndrome"**  
 US study, children of absent fathers account for :  
 71% of high school dropouts  
 65% of youth suicides  
 90% of homeless kids ©2008 2009

**"Under fathering in Australian homes, Dads are a walking ATM"** ©Clarke - O'Leary 2008  
**"I have never met a boy in court who had a good relationship with his father"** ©Clarke 2008

**IGS program:**

- Father and Son Functions (Yr 7).
- Father and Son Bonding Nights (Yr 7-9).
- Male Staff role models (behaviour, teaching practices, grooming).
- Information nights.
- Visiting specialists.



*Letter Between Son and Dad*

*Dear Dad,*  
*School is really great. I am making lots of friends and Studing very hard. With all my Staff, I Simply can't think of anything I need, so if you would like, you can just send me a card, as I would love to hear from you.*  
*Love, Your Son*

*The Reply*

*Dear Son,*  
*I AM so that extraNOthy, andNOmics, andNOography are eNOugh to keep even an hoNOur student busy. Do NOt forget that the pursuit of eNOledge is NOble task, and you can never study eNOugh.*  
*Dad*

## Boys' Education Project 2008

**Question:**  
If it was possible I would like to invite the following people to visit my school for a day.

Person	Percentage
Dad	33.0%
Mum	30.0%
Uncle	15.0%
Grandma	20.0%
Grandma	10.0%
Neighbour	5.0%

■ Series1

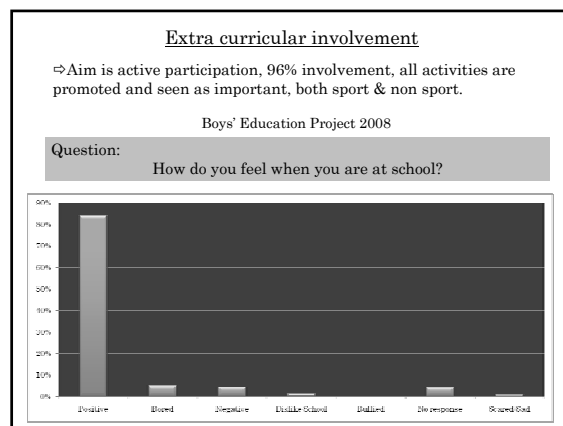
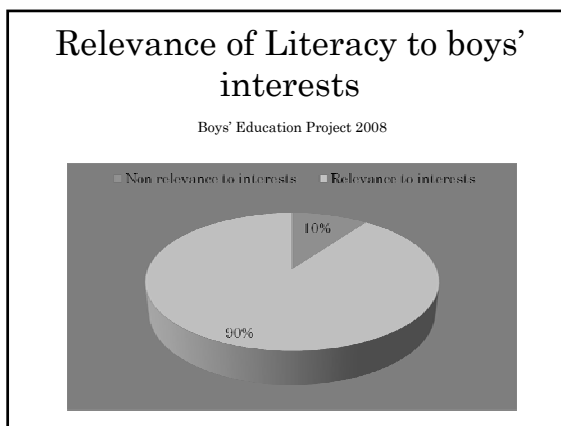
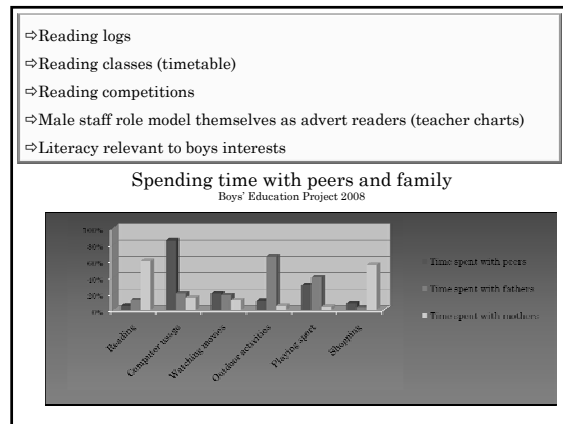
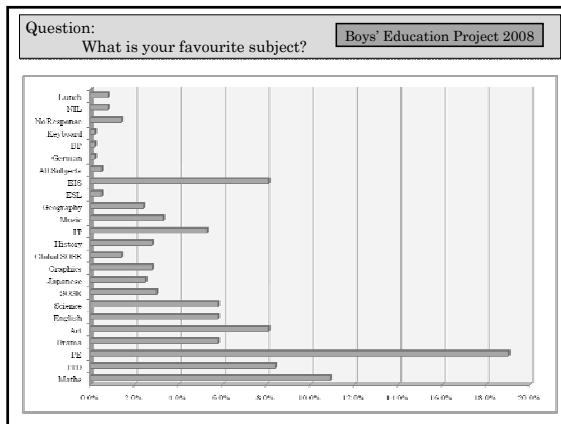
## Boys' Monitoring Programs

**Issues:**  
 "Too often teachers don't ask, don't listen and don't care about boys"  
(OECD research, 2004)

Over the last 30 years  
 "throughout the western world, boys have dropped their motivation levels in schools"  
(Sax, 2008)

**IGS program:**  
 Monitor all aspects of their schooling

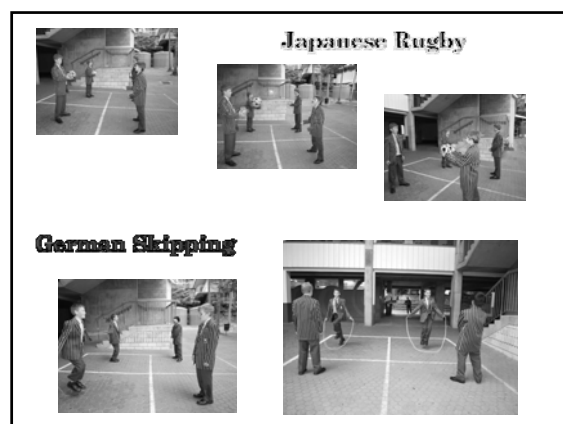
- Academics
  - ⇒ Before commence Middle School
  - ⇒ Favourite subjects/reasons.
  - ⇒ Changes in results-early intervention (Learning support)
- Literacy
  - Boys are reluctant readers on average. Low levels of Literacy attainment are linked to boys' disengagement to school. (Lillis, 2000; Rowe, 2000; Fletcher, 2000)



**Boys' Learning Styles Program**

**HCS program:**

- ⇒ To enhance boys engagement to school, the Middle Schooling Department focuses on Howard Gardner's (1983) and Sternberg's (1986) theories of Multiple Intelligence and Learning Styles.
- ⇒ Productive pedagogies and enrichment programs.
- ⇒ All middle school boys are tested in Year 5 to determine their preferred learning style. Results are given to all departments to implement into their curriculum.
- ⇒ LMF<sup>®</sup> (Learning strategies)
- ⇒ Integrated curriculum with transporting Multiple Intelligence / Learning Styles include units on Africa, Mummies, in Year 7, Ancient Egypt in Year 8 and a Year 9 Drama/History unit on revolutions.
- ⇒ Visiting specialists.
- ⇒ Examples
  - Japanese alphabet rugby
  - German skipping
  - German swimming relays.

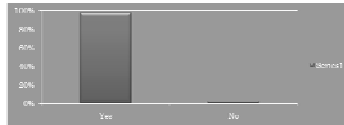


### Assessment Strategies

Assessment Item	Learning Style / Multiple Intelligence preference	Learning Goals (relevance, interest, preferred style of learning)
Short Answer / Multiple Choice / Extended Response	Executive, Hierarchical, Judicial, Legislative	✓
Model building (Gina Platons)	Visual / Spatial	✓
Drama Skit	Musical / Rhythmic	✓
Power Point Presentation	Mathematical / Logical, Interpersonal	✓
Mummified body	Body / Kinesthetic	✓
Newspaper column in homophobias about an important issue	Verbal / Linguistic, Naturalistic, Intrapersonal	✓

#### Boys' Education Project 2008 Year 7 Survey - Mummies

Question: Did you enjoy the unit on Mummies?



Question:

Why did you or did not enjoy the unit on Mummies?

#### Common Responses

- ⇒ Fun
- ⇒ Different to what we usually do
- ⇒ I can use the skills I am good at
- ⇒ Group work

### Behaviour and Relationships Program

"Boys are wayward, uncivilised and very much in need of discipline" (Aristotle).

"Aggressive boys who are confronted at home instead of negotiation to resolve conflicts are being educated that only aggression resolves problems" (Pollack, 2005).

#### IGS program:

- Firm but fair discipline (Issue based never personal).
- William Glassers (10 step discipline plan).
- Bill Rogers (Intrusive steps to maintain discipline).
- Zero – tolerance to bullying.
- 14 point anti-bullying program (Anti-bullying policy, confidential surveys, active and passive supervision).
- D.O.B policy (Don't Qbey Bullies).
- Taking responsibility for your actions policy (To avoid the Wussification syndrome – blame game – cloak them in cotton wool, outsource their development to lawyers) (Carr – Gregg, 2008).

### Life Skills Topics

- Bullying – Why? What? Where? Who?
- Making friends (Positive relationships)
- Rock & Water



#### Boys' Education Project 2008

Question: How do you feel when you are at school?



### Rewarding Boys' Programs

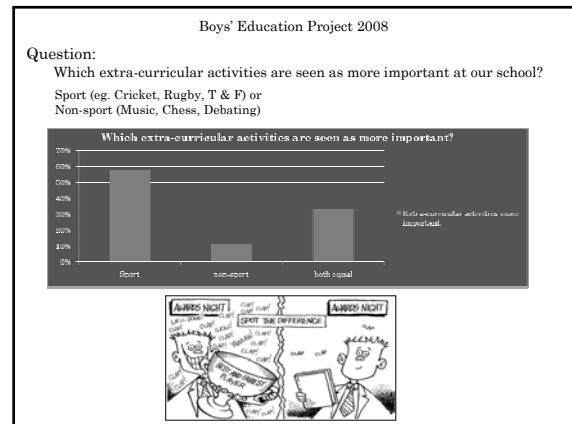
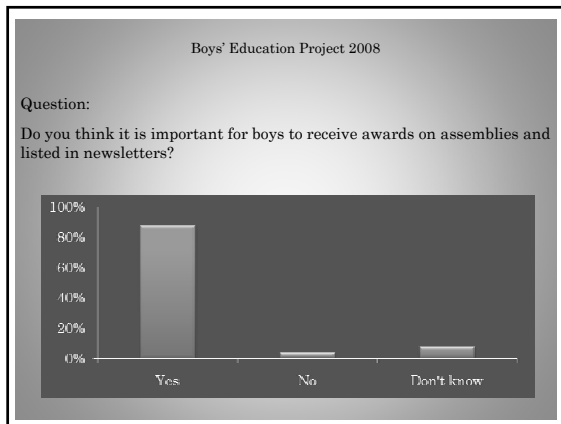
#### Issues:

- Praising boys form an integral part of a boys' education" (Lillieo, 2006).
- A lot of boys believe only athleticism in Australia is admired over academic success" (Gross 1993).
- The Arts/Drama subjects are seen as 'girl subjects'. Boys who study these subjects are seen as 'gay', 'sissy's', 'unmasculine' (Boy code-in Australian schools). (Pollack, 1990, Lillieo, 2006, West, 2002)

#### IGS Program

- Middle Schooling Assembly
- Headmasters' Assembly
- Newsletter
- Middle Schooling Honour Roll
- Inter-form competitions
- Year 8's in sport and non sporting activities
- Year 7 Transition Cup
- Boys of sport, non-sport and academic abilities are acknowledged for their successes.
- Cool to be an academic" rather than "Cool to be a fool".
- The Arts are promoted to break the homophobia tag in Australian Schools.





**School Structure Programs**



**Issues:**

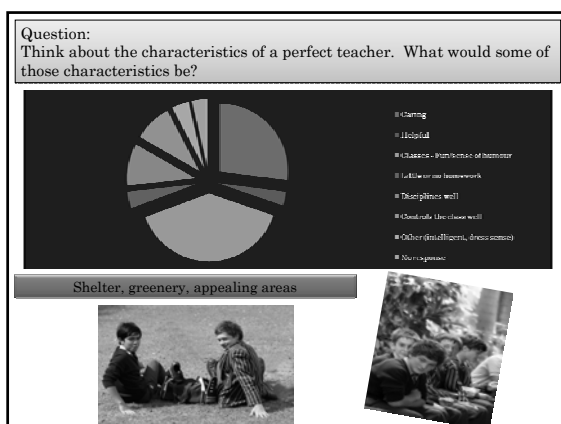
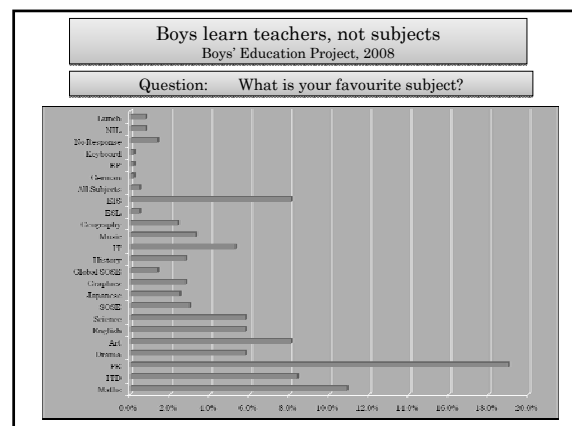
- "Schoolyards are a medieval remnant – often sterile and foreboding; causing rough and violent interactions between students – particularly boys" (Lillico, 2000).
- "Boys fear the playground as a formidable, dangerous place" (Biddulph, 2005).
- "Boys learn teachers, not subjects" (Biddulph, 2006).
- "Boys succeed in classes where they have fewer teachers" (Lillico, 2000).
- "Boys need their territory to feel connected to school" (Lillico, 2006).

Territory

*IGS Program*

Fewer Teachers





**Empowering Boys' Program**

**Issues:**

- "Boys need empowerment in schools. They need a say in school / classroom rules to break the perception that teachers don't care or listen to boys" (West, 2004).
- "Student empowerment improves boys' learning and helps with the transition to new curriculum outcomes" (Lillico, 2006).
- "Empowerment helps boys connect to their peers and their schooling" (Bennedick, 2004).

**IGS program**

- Leadership Positions
- Middle School Council

### IGS program

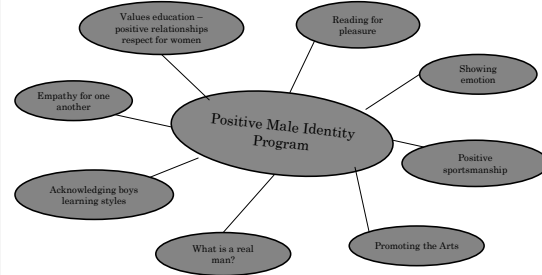
- School buddy program Yr12 – Yr 7's & 8's



• Literacy program where boys are encouraged to read what they want to read. Empowering boys with their Literacy is an important criteria for success in the future (Clay & Hartman, 2005).

### **Positive Male Identity Program**

(Breaking the Boy Code!  
- William Pollack)

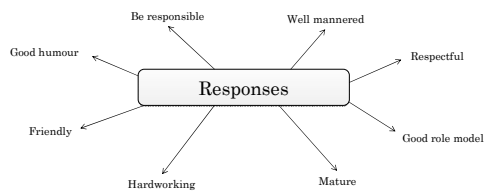


### Boys' Education Project, 2008

Describe how you think an adult male/female should act and behave.

Boys' generalisations

#### Top responses



### **Male Mentor Programs**

#### Issues:

Lack of positive male role models portrayed in the media.



#### IGS Program:

- Life Skills Programs – "What is a real man?"
- Sporting celebrities (new) to role model reading.
- Visiting specialists.
- Senior Management in-servicing.

### Boys' Education Project, 2008

### **Stereotyping of Gender**

Boys' views on what it means to be a male.

List the things you think would show that a male/female adult is successful.

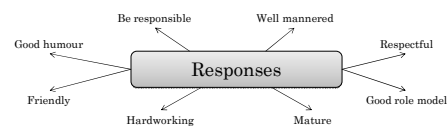
#### Top responses



\* For female adult (replace wife for husband; however, a good looking husband was never indicated).

Describe how you think an adult male/female should act and behave.

Boys' generalisations



### **Staff Development Program**

#### Issue:

Are staff up to date with boys' educational policies.

#### IGS Program:

- Members in IBSC and MYSA
- University of Newcastle
- Boys' education projects
- In-servicing on best practices in teaching boys.

## The End Result

Boys' Education Project, 2008

Question:

Are you enjoying your schooling at Ipswich Grammar School?

