

*Thank you for enquiring about Toowong State School. We hope that this booklet will answer all your questions.*

### ***Mission Statement***

*The holistic development of each individual learner by providing comprehensive, balanced and equitable educational services to the satisfaction of our community*

## *Small School – Big Results*

- \* *Daily Fitness Program in line with Smart Moves*
- \* *Instrumental Program*
- \* *School Bands*
- \* *Bilingual-bicultural Program*
- \* *Auslan signing classes for students and parents*
- \* *Language other than English*
- \* *Early Years Gross Motor Program*
- \* *Early Years Buddy Program*
- \* *Early Intervention Program*
- \* *Specialist Staff*
- \* *English as a Second Language Program*
- \* *Junior and Senior Choir*
- \* *Year 7 Leadership Program*
- \* *Availability of voluntary ICAS tests for Years 4 to 7*
- \* *Optiminds and Robocup Programs*
- \* *Interschool Sport*
- \* *An active and vibrant P&C*

# *Principal's Welcome*

*Welcome to Toowong State School and our learning community. The school, established in 1880, celebrates its heritage, when the school "Strives to Progress" the individual needs of students in an innovative, inclusive and nurturing environment. One of our special features is that we are a small school where everybody knows everyone else by name and takes a special interest in who they are and their welfare.*

*I am confident that your association with our school will be a happy and productive one for you and your child. The primary years of schooling have a special place in the educational experience of our children. These years are crucial in a child's development and provide the foundation for future success as lifelong learners. We believe that such a foundation is built in a safe, happy and supportive environment where students remain enthusiastic learners. This is facilitated through positive relationships between staff and students, using programs that are responsive to the needs of the learners, and using teaching strategies and learning experiences that motivate students to learn. We look forward to working with you as your child grows and learns throughout their primary years of schooling.*

*Regards*

*Brendon Madden  
Principal*

## *Values*

*We believe that this school has a vital social role to play in the education of our children. We place a strong emphasis on the following values:*

- a respect for others*
- tolerance and understanding*
- respect and care for the environment*
- good manners and courtesy*
- self respect*
- fairness*
- a healthy lifestyle*
- respect and care of property*
- pride in achievements*
- sportsmanship*
- honesty*
- loyalty*
- leadership*
- initiative*

*For these values to be accepted by the children they must be emphasised at the school and in the local community. Parents and community members have the major role in this area and their efforts should be strongly supported by the school.*

## ***School Tone***

*The school tone is set primarily through the relationships which exist between the teachers, students and parents. Positive relationships will inevitably lead to a positive school tone. This school is fortunate to have a supportive community and children who have a very positive attitude towards school. The teachers provide a caring enthusiastic approach. The general perception of the school is one of high achievement, quality education and inclusiveness. Diversity is acknowledged, welcomed and celebrated at Toowong State School.*

## ***School Environment***

*Toowong is a beautiful historic school tucked away on a quiet suburban hill. It commands views of the city yet is a place where the process of education can be carried on without many of the distractions of larger city schools. Constant care, upgrading and maintenance of the school gardens and grounds gives a neat, welcoming and relaxed appearance. The school grounds are comfortable and contain a netball court, tennis courts and playing fields. We have two adventure playgrounds and an environmental area with native trees and bushes.*

## ***Our Staff***

*Our school has a professional and capable team of teachers and support staff. Our teachers provide quality educational activities through well planned programs inclusive of all the needs of students. Teachers realize the importance of providing timely advice about significant events in your child's school day and keeping you informed about your child's progress. They welcome both formal and informal opportunities to do so. All classes are supported by teacher aides or language assistants.*

*The classroom environment is stimulating, current and should provide an optimum situation for learning. The teacher will provide direct focussed instruction, encourage child activity and develop child independence. The school staff behave in an ethical, professional and caring way and are mindful of the Education Act which governs their responsibilities.*

## ***Catchment Area***

*Your child is guaranteed of enrolment here if you live within our catchment area as detailed in the map inside the back cover. If you live outside our catchment area, enrolment will depend on whether we have a vacancy in the appropriate class.*

## ***Student Body***

*Our school population reflects a rich cultural diversity that is celebrated at all levels of our school operations. There are approximately 220 students at the school from many different cultural backgrounds. Many overseas families visit Queensland for work or to study at the University. We currently have nine classes ranging from Prep to Year 7. All students at our school are encouraged to use the skills of cooperation, problem solving and consideration for others. Students are actively encouraged to participate in decision-making and to raise issues through the student leaders program and through class meetings.*

## ***School in the Broader Community***

*The school plays a major role in the local community. Many members of the community attended Toowong in the past and it still has a special place in their lives. To promote this further we have an informal and friendly Parents and Citizens Committee to encourage community attendance and more involvement in school affairs. This is an integral component of the school decision-making process. As far as practicable, school resources are made available to the community. Parents are encouraged to borrow from the library and to use the sporting fields and tennis courts. Community organisations access school resources regularly. We love to involve the community in children's learning. Our school welcomes volunteers, artists in residence and specialist visitors, and incorporates the skills of our parent population.*

## ***Resources and Facilities***

*Toowong State School was founded in 1880 and has retained much of its original character. All classrooms are single spaces and have different physical attributes, which are designed to enhance teaching and learning. Of particular value is the prevalence of wide, adaptable and cool verandahs that provide the connectedness of all the school buildings.*

*Toowong State School operates a successful Outside School Hours Care program as well as a popular Vacation Care Program. These cater to the needs of many families in the community. Our grounds feature three grassed play areas, a play area covered with kindy grass, a soft fall area outside the prep rooms, three tennis courts, a basketball court, two adventure playgrounds, cricket practice nets and a cricket pitch.*

*The play facilities and areas of the school have been enhanced with the aim to provide safe, interesting, child-friendly opportunities which assist children to develop physically, socially and emotionally.*

# *Curriculum*

*The fundamental goal of teaching is to develop independent, self-directed, lifelong learners. Learners should then possess and utilise:*

- \* a wide knowledge and creativity*
- \* deep understandings and higher-order thinking*
- \* good articulation and communication skills*
- \* reflective and self-directed learning*
- \* active investigation and problem-solving skills*
- \* an ability to work cooperatively in our interdependent world*

*It should enable children to:*

- \* adapt to changing conditions*
- \* seek and process information*
- \* communicate effectively*
- \* be willing to accept responsibility*
- \* be aware of the benefits of good health*
- \* show intrinsic motivation and positive learning attitudes*
- \* develop an inquiring mind*
- \* have a smooth transition into further education.*

*Children learn best in an atmosphere of care and concern where they are able to experience success. They must be confident to express themselves and participate in the education process. Teachers prepare stimulating and exciting programs where children can experience concepts in a relevant way. Teachers continuously evaluate the progress of individual students and maintain a classroom environment which is highly motivating. Parents are encouraged to have an input into the process and be supportive of the school and teachers. A positive partnership with parents is valued in our school.*

***Bilingual/Bicultural:*** *Bilingual/bicultural education is about learning in two languages and cultures. In our program these languages are English and Auslan. Cultures of both deaf and hearing communities are valued and form an important part of the school program. Children enrolled in a bilingual/bicultural class have the most exposure to the two languages and cultures however all students are involved in some way, for example, school assemblies are always interpreted and all children sign the national anthem. Auslan is taught to all children in the school and there is opportunity for all to join the signing choir. Toowong State School is the only primary program in Queensland that has a bilingual/bicultural co-enrolment program using Auslan and English. Free classes are also available for parents and carers from time to time.*

- Buddy Program:** *The Preps team up with a buddy in Year 7. Buddies can help smooth over the change to school, develop friendships and help provide confidence in our new Prep children, as well as promoting leadership skills in our upper school*
- Leadership Program:** *The Toowong Supportive Leaders Program is an integrated program targeting the Year 7 students of our school. They attend a 2 day training program at an offsite location at the beginning of each year. We aim to prepare students for a proactive leadership role within the school community by developing their interpersonal communication, conflict resolution and leadership skills within a supportive school environment. It is supported by the development and implementation of school curriculum initiatives. This is put into practice by the following:*
- *Year 1 Buddy Program*
  - *School Captains*
  - *Sports House Captains*
  - *Student Council*
- Excursions and Camps:** *Our teachers strive to enhance their teaching programs with a variety of excursions and camps. Students are involved in a wide range of exciting extra-curricula activities. Many of the learning activities developed through these excursions and camps are not available through the classroom based programs. Special visitors are also often invited to speak to the children.*
- Religious Instruction:** *Representatives from several denominations visit the school on an ecumenical basis. These classes are optional. Permission forms are distributed at the beginning of each year for parents to sign.*
- Parent Help:** *Educational success with any child requires supportive and interested parents. Many teachers will ask for assistance with activities in the classroom or to help with supervision on excursions. Other assistance is sometimes needed in the library. If you would like to help in any way you can discuss this with your child's teacher.*
- Library:** *Our well-equipped school library is seen as a community resource and members from the community, as well as our students, are encouraged to borrow books. Books may be borrowed for up to two weeks. If a book is lost or damaged, the cost of a replacement copy will be requested. Library bags are required to protect books as they are taken to and from school.*

- Human Relationships:*** *We have developed an excellent human relationships education program which looks at such vital areas as interpersonal communication, personal health, body awareness, growth and development, friendships, self esteem and drug education. These topics are integrated into our general school curriculum.*
- Class Music:*** *The school has a complete Music Program that spans all grade levels. It is derived from the new outcomes-based P-10 Art Syllabus, which incorporates Kodaly, Dalcroze and other internationally acknowledged methodologies, aiming at excellence in student participation and fostering a lifelong enjoyment of music. We have senior and junior choirs as well as a signing choir. Our attention to music is one of the priorities of this school.*
- Instrumental Music:*** *Children in the upper school are able to learn either woodwind, brass or percussion instruments and are then able to join one of our bands. Year 5 students commence participation in the instrumental music program after testing. Musical instruments and tuition are provided free of charge for this year level. In Years 6 and 7, students who wish to continue with instrumental music can either purchase an instrument or hire one from the school.*
- Sport and Phys Ed:*** *Toowong State School offers many sporting activities. Interschool sport, including soccer, netball, softball or cricket, is played most Fridays for the upper grades. Swimming classes are held at U.Q. swimming pool during Terms 1 and 2 for all year levels. Each class has a weekly Physical Education session taken by a specialist teacher. Professional tennis coaching is available at our tennis courts outside of school hours. Teachers are encouraged to add some physical activity in the daily class routine in line with Smart Moves.*
- Evaluation:*** *Written reports are issued by the school each semester and indicate the current level of achievement and development your child has attained. Results are based on a variety of assessment techniques which are carried out over the whole semester. The progress of students from Prep to Year 3 is assessed using a continuum often referred to as the Year 2 Net. The continuum is used to record each child's individual progress and is consistent across every Prep to Year 3 class state-wide. Year 2 students are assessed through the processes which are moderated at a district and state level. Children in Years 3 to 7 may participate in the University of NSW competitions, however these are not compulsory. External national assessments occur for Years 3, 5 & 7. Although academic results are vital, areas of personal and social growth are also important so it is necessary to view these results in perspective. Teachers maintain specific and careful records on your child's progress and are able to give you accurate and timely information on any areas of your child's education. Teachers will offer meeting times with parents throughout the year.*

# Toowong State School



## *Code of Conduct*

*All members of the school community are expected to conduct themselves in a manner which is:*

safe  
respectful  
responsible  
and  
lawful

# Organisation

**Preparing for School:** *You can assist your child to have an easier start to their school life by providing them with opportunities to be independent such as:*

- *practising to tie their own shoe laces*
- *giving them plenty of practice at handling pencils/crayons etc*
- *reading to them as often as possible*
- *making sure that every item the child brings to school is named*
- *keeping toys at home so they won't be broken or lost*

**Arrival and Departure:** *The school bell sounds at 8:55 am so that classes can commence at 9:00am. If children arrive prior to 8:30am they will be seated outside the library until a teacher arrives for duty at this time. After entering the school grounds in the morning, the children are not allowed out of the grounds without first being signed out at the office by the parents collecting them. Teachers do not supervise children after 3:15pm so they need to wait quietly in the office if you are going to be late. Parents may not drive into the school grounds to drop off or collect children.*

**Enrolments:** *Children must be 5 years old by the 30 June to be eligible to enrol in Prep at a state school. Enrolment forms are available at the office. Proof of age may be required. If you have recently arrived in Australia you will also require your passport and visa. Some international students are required to pay fees.*

**Booklists:** *For Prep to Year 3 students pay a levy of \$120 per year that covers all their equipment for the school year. Years 4 to 7 have a specific booklist which includes textbooks and stationery. The school operates a book order system that is managed by Pellegrini's, a local bookshop in Milton. Booklists are sent home with the children at the end of the school year and are also available from the office at any time. If you don't wish to use the school's book order scheme with Pellegrini's, items can be purchased elsewhere. It should be noted that the booklists often specify a particular brand so that uniformity in the class is maintained. The tuckshop does not sell books or stationery.*

**Term Invoices:** *Each term, costs for excursions, camps, swimming and other extracurricular activities for each class are listed on individual statements. Statements are sent home in the first few weeks of term. Payment can be made by cash, cheque, debit card or credit card. Payment envelopes provided should be returned to the teacher or office, or if you wish to pay using EFTPOS you will need to have this processed at the front desk. Receipts will be issued and sent home with your child. While basic education is free, in order to provide children with a wide variety of experiences, extra activities are offered to parents on a user-pays basis.*

**Daily Timetable:**

<i>8:55am</i>	<i>School bell</i>
<i>10:30 - 11:00am</i>	<i>Morning Tea</i>
<i>12:45 - 1:30pm</i>	<i>Lunch Break</i>
<i>3:00pm</i>	<i>School concludes</i>

- Food:** *Each child should have a sturdy lunch box (the ones which also have a drink bottle are ideal). Water bottles and cooling bags are encouraged. All of these items must be named. There are two meal breaks each day. During morning tea children need a small snack such as a piece of fruit, or muesli bar, and a drink. For their lunch, sandwiches, a roll, a salad or a rice dish would be suitable. Please endeavour to provide healthy snacks for your children – packets of chips and lollies and other party food should be avoided. The school tuckshop operates on Mondays and Thursdays. A list is included in this booklet and updated lists are sent home from time to time. Ordering procedure is explained further in this booklet.*
- Uniforms:** *Toowong State School has a uniform policy which is supported and encouraged by the P&C. All uniform requirements are available through the school tuckshop. Please check for details further in this booklet.*
- Attendance:** *The safety of your child is our main priority. You should advise the school if your child will be absent either by a note or phone call. If a child needs to leave the school before the end of the day, they must be signed out at the office by the parent or carer. Rolls are marked twice daily.*
- Accidents and Illness:** *Parents are notified if their child is involved in an accident at school. Although basic first aid is available at school, parents are usually requested to take their child to the doctor for anything of a serious nature. In the event that a parent cannot be contacted the school will take appropriate action in the best interests of the child. In severe cases this may mean the calling of an ambulance. Children who feel unwell are attended to in the sick bay and parents are notified if necessary. It is important that parent contact details are up to date.*
- Medication:** *All medication is managed through the office and not by class teachers. For the office to be able to administer medication during school hours, a parent must first sign a medication form when providing the medication. Emergency medication such as asthma puffers and EpiPens can be stored at school along with the completed medication form. If your child develops any medical or physical conditions, please notify the office.*
- Road Safety:** *Children who walk to school should only cross roads at designated crossings. A crossing supervisor is on duty at the Sylvan Rd/Kate St zebra crossing every morning and afternoon. Bicycles, skate boards and scooters should be ‘walked’ across the roads, and not ridden down any of the streets leading away from the school as these are far too steep. They are not to be ridden in the school grounds.*

# *Parents and Citizens' Association*

## **Meetings:**

*Our Parents & Citizens Association meets on the second Monday of each month at 7:00pm in the library. This association is of vital importance to our school, not only for their fund-raising activities but also to assist and guide with school decision making. Occasionally sub-committees with various responsibilities may be formed, for example for the holding of a fete. All parents are encouraged to become registered members of the school P&C and this can be done simply by attending two consecutive P&C meetings.*

## **School Donations:**

*On your first invoice of the year you will receive notice asking for a voluntary contribution of \$50 per child. This money helps the P&C to provide equipment and resources for the school. Generous response to this in the past has assisted Toowong to be a well-equipped school.*

## **Tennis Courts:**

*Our tennis courts are run by the P&C Association and help to raise funds for the school. School families can use the courts with their children free of charge after school. The courts are also available for hire. The current rates are \$10 per hour during the day and \$14 per hour during the evening. For further details and bookings phone our court manager Andrew Grocott on 0419 648 126.*

## **Tuckshop:**

*The tuckshop is organised by Bonnie Brown on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Both morning tea and lunch are available. Helpers are volunteers from our parents and the community who are asked to help on one day per month or whenever possible. All parents and carers are encouraged to help out - the children love to have someone they know on tuckshop. A menu is included within this booklet. The tuckshop also operates as the uniform shop on the same days. A price list is on the following page.*

# ***Uniforms***

***Girls Day Uniform:*** School dress, or polo shirt with navy blue knit shorts.

***Boys Day Uniform:*** Polo shirt with navy blue knit shorts.

***Hat:*** This must be sun safe e.g. broad brimmed or Legionnaire (navy blue)

***Sports Uniform:*** House t-shirt. ***Note:*** There may be some special requirements such as whites for cricket or girl's netball skirts.

***Winter:*** School sweat shirt and navy blue track pants.

***Performance Groups:*** Choir and band will need black shoes and white socks as well as their formal day uniform.

## ***Available from Uniform Shop***

Toowong State School uniforms are available from the tuckshop each Tuesday and Thursday between 8.00 and 2.00 pm during term. Special times are also advertised for the beginning of the new school year. If you are unable to come to the school on the allocated days, alternative times can be arranged. Please leave your name and phone number at the office or phone the uniform coordinator.

### ***Price List 2009***

<i>Dresses</i>	<i>Size 5</i>	<i>\$36</i>
	<i>Size 6-8</i>	<i>\$38</i>
	<i>Size 10-14</i>	<i>\$40</i>
	<i>Size 16-18</i>	<i>\$42</i>
<i>Polo Shirt</i>		<i>\$25</i>
<i>Knit Shorts</i>		<i>\$20</i>
<i>Zip Jacket</i>		<i>\$20</i>
<i>House T-shirt</i>		<i>\$15</i>
<i>Full Brim Hat</i>		<i>\$10</i>
<i>Legionnaire Cap</i>		<i>\$5</i>
<i>School Back Pack</i>		<i>\$35</i>
<i>Library Bags</i>		<i>\$8</i>

A range of reasonably priced second-hand uniforms is also available. Other school uniform items are not available new at the uniform shop. As they have no special school features they are best purchased from local shops such as K-Mart.

Bonnie Brown  
Tuckshop and Uniform Co-ordinator

3366 2010 (home)

0405 616 893 (mobile)

# ***Bag Order System***

*The tuckshop is open on **Tuesdays and Thursdays**. Please order as follows:*

*You will need: A brown paper bag (no envelopes please). Separate bags are required for little lunch and big lunch. Paper bags are available at the tuckshop for 5c.*

*How it works: Orders are to be placed in tuckshop boxes outside the classroom door by 9am ready for collection. Please avoid using sticky tape or staples. Pop in correct money wherever possible.*

*On your bag: Child's name  
Teacher's name and grade  
Morning Tea or Big Lunch  
Lunch order and amounts  
Total amount enclosed*

*Please note: Change will be taped to the outside of the bag, however to avoid losses please send the correct amount or as near as possible.*

*Spillable items: To pick up noodles, milk drinks and ice blocks, the children need to bring their bag to the tuckshop for collection.*

*Example:*

<b><i>Joe Smith</i></b>	
<b><i>Mr King 2K</i></b>	
<b><i>Big Lunch</i></b>	
<b><i>1 sausage roll</i></b>	<b><i>\$2.00</i></b>
<b><i>1 tropical popper</i></b>	<b><i>\$1.10</i></b>
	<hr/>
	<b><i>\$3.10</i></b>

# *A brief history of Toowong State School*

*The district of Toowong had attracted many settlers by 1861, and after the Brisbane-Ipswich railway line was constructed in 1874, rapid expansion occurred. Following the growth in population came the demand for education and a school was opened by a Mrs Williams and her daughter.*

*The Minister for Public Instruction in the government of that time decided that the area would be better served by a state school and so a new school was built on a site in Aston Street. It opened on 22 January 1880 and only nine years later the school had an enrolment of 350 pupils. Many of the pupils came from great distances such as Indooroopilly, Milton and even from West End, across the river. Because of the increase in population in different areas of the suburb the suggestion was made to move the school to what was fast becoming the centre of the district. It was decided to move the school to its present location. This move occurred during September 1910. The original school buildings still in use are rooms 9, 10 and 11. The enrolment at the time of the move was just under 300. The school population continued to grow and reached a peak of 895 in 1927. This is an amazing number of students and many of the verandas would have been used as classrooms. In the early 1930s extensive work was done levelling the grounds. The post-war period has seen quite a lot of upgrading and modernizing of classrooms and facilities.*

*The school participated in the festivities in connection with the Coronation of the King in June 1911, and, again in August 1920 on the occasion of the visit of the Prince of Wales. On this occasion it was found impossible to make any arrangements for the transit of the scholars to the city either by tram, train or steamer so there was nothing left but to march the scholars to and from the city, headed by a bugle band, but the school was fortunate in being allotted one the best positions on the ground, which compensated to some extent.*

*During the Great War, three teachers went to the front, two winning distinctions. No less than 148 old scholars were known to have served their King and country, 28 of whom paid the supreme sacrifice, and three gaining military honours. A striking circumstance was the fact that this total included in two cases five brothers in arms, the Patterson and Darlington families, while in several other families, four and three brothers enlisted together. Our library houses the cedar honour board from this time.*

*Today diversity and inclusion are obvious strengths of the school. The school population includes many international families and a small group of deaf children. The international families contribute a richness of culture to our school community. The school has established a bilingual/bicultural program to meet the needs of our deaf children.*

*Currently there are 9 classes established in the school including 4 bilingual/bicultural classes. We have many dedicated class teachers and support staff ..... and most importantly..... approximately 200 families all aiming to provide the best education for our children. The school celebrated 125 wonderful years in 2005!*

## *Catchment Area*

## *Contact Details*

*Address:*            *37 St Osyth Street  
Toowong 4066  
Brisbane Qld*

*Phone:*             *(07) 3870 7075*

*Fax:*                *(07) 3371 7357*

*Email:*             *info@toowongss.eq.edu.au*

*Web:*                *www.toowongss.eq.edu.au*

*P&C:*                *pandcmail@toowongss.eq.edu.au*

*TOSHC:*            *3870 9126*