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Principal's foreword

Introduction

All Queensland schools are to report to our school communities. The purpose of this report is to recognise the highlights and wonderful achievements of Toowong State School.

2008 was a successful year for Toowong State School with many of the following achievements:

LEARNING

- ✓ Student achievement on the ICAS international again were excellent with many students receiving High Distinctions and Distinctions.
- ✓ Implemented Early Years Curriculum and Preparatory Year of Schooling
- ✓ Implement QCAR and developed school programs.
- ✓ School Band – Gold performance Brisbane Schools Band Competition.
- ✓ Showcased student art abilities in Toowong Art Show and display at DETA office.
- ✓ Continued the development of a quality ESL program to support International student learning.
- ✓ Students participated in a Bright Sparks program and competed in Optiminds.
- ✓ Auslan Signing Choir performed in the Creative Generations – State Schools On Stage

SCHOOLS

- ✓ Wireless infrastructure was fitted and class set of laptops for upper primary classes
- ✓ Increased internet access in all classrooms and purchase of new computer workstations
- ✓ New tennis court, and practice cricket wicket
- ✓ TOSCH Toowong Outside Hours Care relocated to building on Sylvan Road
- ✓ An environmental solution to water use for our school. Water harvested across the school will be stored in a tank and used to supply the toilets and irrigate the school oval.

WORKFORCE

- ✓ Implemented – Developing Performance Framework alongside Professional Standards for teachers
- ✓ Teachers developed professional learning agreements
- ✓ Teacher Aide and Auslan Language assistants– timetabled weekly meetings to provide professional learning





Future outlook

Toowong State School Strategic Plan was developed in consultation with the school community in 2008. The following actions align to the nine key strategies detailed in our Strategic Plan.

- ✓ We will be implementing and refining a whole school curriculum based on the Queensland Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting (QCAR) Framework based on Essential Learnings and Standards.
- ✓ Embedding differentiated practices into planning and teaching practices, which cater for: student interests; Gifted and Talented students; students with disabilities; deaf students; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives; and computer, Internet and multi-media skills.
- ✓ Continuing multi-age teaching and teaching of the Deaf practices.
- ✓ Implementing the You Can Do It program and embedding it into the School Behaviour Plan.
- ✓ Teachers will be provided with laptop computers under the Computers for Teachers Initiative. The National School Pride program will be used to fund the painting and modernising of all existing classrooms. All classrooms will also be fitted with interactive whiteboards and media technologies. Teachers will be participating in a range of ICT and Gifted and Talented training to maximise the use of these resources and to improve teaching and learning.
- ✓ There will be many facilities projects happening in the future. The Building the Education Revolution – Primary Schools for the 21st Century program will enhance our school with a new multi-purpose hall for school and community activities. Our school will be improving our school communication through a new IP telephone system. Another key project will be to improve safety equipment such as flashing alarms for bells and warning systems across the school and updating school lockdown and evacuation procedures.
- ✓ The P & C will complete their water harvesting plan by using stored water to irrigate the oval. They also plan to turf the oval to improve the playing surface.





School Profile

Total student enrolments for your school : 220 Students

Year levels offered : Prep – Year 7

Coeducational or single sex : Coeducational

Toowong State School was first opened on the 22nd January 1880 on a site in Aston Street. It was moved to its current location during September 1910.

Toowong is a beautiful historic school tucked away on a quiet suburban hill. It is a small supportive school that successfully provides an accepting, caring and tolerant learning environment.

The school grounds are comfortably large and contain a netball court and playing fields. We have two adventure playgrounds and an environmental area with native trees and bushes.

There are approximately 220 students attending Toowong State School. Most of these students live within the Toowong catchment. Our student population is culturally rich and diverse with 20% of students receiving ESL support.

Toowong State School offers a world class Bilingual Bicultural program which supports learning for deaf students and enhances learning for hearing students. The program began in 2001 with one deaf student and now has many more students and also has significant interest and support from the Deaf community because of its unique and successful approach.

ICT learning by students has progressed rapidly in the last three years due to significant improvements in infrastructure, resources and teacher professional learning. The school boasts a well resourced computer lab and resource centre, data point and wireless infrastructure across the school and laptop resources. Students across all year levels have been engaged through the innovative use of ICT.

Toowong State School has a multi – age philosophy which allows teachers to support student learning and extend student talents. Our classes are structured across year levels to enable this philosophy. Teachers' knowledge, skills and understandings of curriculum balanced with a negotiated curriculum approach have created learning environments where student engagement and motivation is high.





Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings include

- ✓ An effective Early Years program which caters for the diverse needs of our young learners.
- ✓ Classroom organising and learning using a multi – age philosophy
- ✓ Bilingual Bicultural program– Auslan
- ✓ Drama program
- ✓ Instrumental Music program
- ✓ Smart Moves – Daily Physical Education program
- ✓ Interschool Sports
- ✓ Language other than English (LOTE) Chinese
- ✓ Outdoor Camping Program
- ✓ Bright Sparks program

Extra curricula activities

- ✓ Leadership Program for Years 6 and 7 students
- ✓ Family Planning sessions
- ✓ Running Club
- ✓ Book Club
- ✓ Student Council
- ✓ Buddy Program – Year 7 students buddy to support Prep students in our school
- ✓ Library Monitors
- ✓ Choral Program
- ✓ Junior Rotary program
- ✓ Chess Club

How computers are used to assist learning

Students are assisted to learn about computers, the Internet and multi-media through a number of key activities:

Classrooms

- Each classroom has an average of 5 computers to allow students to:
- Find, locate and research information on the Internet
- Drill and practise to learn basic maths and literacy facts
- Present and shape documents
- Learn multi- media applications through the use of digital and video cameras





Our state of the art computer lab allows:

- Teachers to teach specific computer, Internet and multi – media skills
- Students to access a variety of on-line learning programs which are fun, engaging and technical

Laptop Program

- Students in Years 6 & 7 have access to a class set of laptops. This allows students to integrate computers, the internet and ICTs into their everyday learning.

Social climate

Toowong State School is a small school which fosters a caring and nurturing environment where staff and students develop, trusting, supportive, personal and encouraging relationships.

Toowong is also a multi-cultural school of approximately 27 cultures being represented.

Our dedicated and hard working staff provide an environment where students are encouraged and supported to reach their full potential.

Involving parents in their child's education.

Parents at Toowong State School have an active role in the learning of their child. Parents can support their child through active participation in the Toowong State School Parents and Citizen's Association (P and C). The P and C have initiated and supported programs that have improved school facilities, student engagement and learning.

Parents can be involved in classroom learning through class reading program, swimming lessons, art sessions and professional guest speakers.

During the year the school, P and C and community groups provided a variety of social activities:

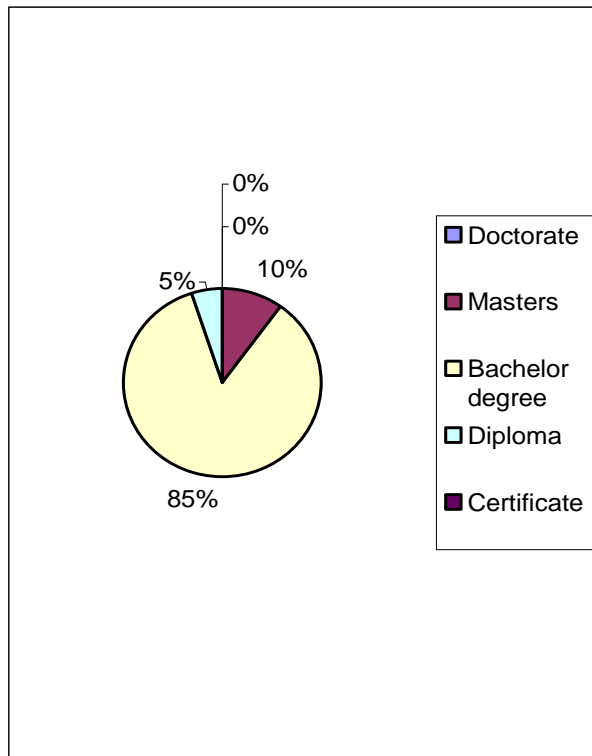
- ✓ Friday assembly
- ✓ Movie Night
- ✓ Mother's Day stall
- ✓ Sports and Athletics days
- ✓ School and class performances
- ✓ Art Show
- ✓ Talent Quest
- ✓ Parent Workshops
- ✓ Parent Café





Qualifications of all teachers.

Highest level of attainment	Percentage of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	2
Bachelor degree	17
Diploma	1
Certificate	0



Average staff attendance

- ✓ For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 95 % in 2008.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

- ✓ From the end of the 2006 school year, 94 % of staff were retained by the school for the entire 2008 school year.





Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

- ✓ The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2008 was 88%.
- ✓ The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was \$ 30 000. The major professional development initiatives are as follows:
 - QCAR
 - Literacy Training
 - Social Skills Program (You Can Do It)
 - Bilingual Bicultural – Classifiers
 - Sign – Bilingualism
 - Autism Focus
 - Primary Connections
 - Teaching the Deaf – Ron Morris Presentation
 - Digital pedagogy
 - ELF training
 - Primary Art Network
 - Spelling Choices
 - Student protection
 - School Leadership





Student attendance

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2008 was 95 %.

Key outcomes in the early and middle phases of learning

<i>Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net</i>	
	Percentage of students not requiring additional support
Reading	92 %
Writing	88 %
Number	63 %

<i>Our reading, writing and numeracy results for the Queensland Years 3, 5 and 7 Literacy and Numeracy Tests.</i>					
			Yr 3	Yr 5	Yr 7
Reading	Average score for the school		386	504	579
	Average score for Queensland		371.1	466.1	528.1
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard	2008	69 %	83 %	100 %
Writing	Average score for the school		387	511	589
	Average score for Queensland		391.8	468.9	522.7
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard	2008	75%	89%	100%
Spelling	Average score for the school		365	493	560
	Average score for Queensland		366.7	462.0	528.0
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard	2008	69%	86%	96%
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school		387	514	565
	Average score for Queensland		370.4	476.6	518.0
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard	2008	72%	82%	100%
Numeracy	Average score for the school		385	507	580
	Average score for Queensland		367.9	458.2	539.0
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard	2008	90%	93%	100%





Other Key Outcomes

Value added

Toowong State School's motto is VITAL – Valuing Individual Talents and Learning

A range of curriculum and extra-curricula activities support our VITAL strategies for the diverse range of student needs at Toowong State School.

Our results on National testing and ICAS testing reflect the quality academic programs provided for our students

Children are supported and engaged through a multi-age philosophy and pedagogical approach

Our Early Years program has introduced our prep students to formal learning while allowing them to develop their social skills, fine and gross motor skills, reading, writing and numeracy

Our Middle Phase classes have adopted an approach to negotiation of curriculum and learning. This caters for student interests, preferred learning styles and abilities. E-learning is integrated into our classes and provides students with learning to prepare them for high school.

The *You Can Do It* program builds on students' social, emotional and motivational capacity to develop their confidence, resilience and organisational skills.

Value added





The following data reinforces Toowong State School's success with inclusive practices and being able to cater for all our high achieving students. The table below compares the Toowong State School means with that of the state and the nation in the top achievement bands. Our school percentages are all above State means. Our results in Years 5 and 7 are significantly above National means.

		Year 3	Year 5	Year 7
Top Band		6>	8>	9>
Reading 2008	School	15.6	27.6	25.0
	State	8.8	7.1	5.4
	National	17.7	9.3	7.7
Writing 2008	School	12.5	10.7	29.2
	State	11.7	5.5	6.0
	National	17.2	8.3	8.8
Spelling 2008	School	6.3	7.1	12.5
	State	5.6	3.3	4.5
	National	15.6	7.6	8.1
Grammar and Punctuation	School	18.8	25.0	16.7
	State	10.4	8.7	4.9
	National	19.2	13.4	7.0
Numeracy 2008	School	9.7	13.8	16.7
	State	5.6	3.0	8.1
	National	12.4	6.6	11.7





Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Parent satisfaction with the school

- Parent satisfaction has improved in all areas from 2007
- Parent satisfaction is above state means in the following areas; learning climate, school climate and school community relations.
- 96 % of parents are satisfied that your child is happy to go to school
- 78 % of parents are satisfied about the behaviour of students at this school
- 75 % of parents are satisfied with student discipline in the school
- 96 % of parents are satisfied that your child is safe at school
- 89 % of parents are satisfied that this is a good school

Student satisfaction with the school

- Student satisfaction is similar in all areas to 2007
- 81 % of students are satisfied that they are happy to go to this school
- 67 % of students are satisfied with what they are learning at this school
- 82 % of students are satisfied that this is a good school
- 80 % of students are satisfied that this is a safe school

Staff satisfaction with the school

- Staff satisfaction is above state means in the following areas; relationships, staff morale, work value and recognition, and overall rating for all questions.
- 96 % of staff were satisfied that this is a good place to work
- 96 % of staff were satisfied that they are happy working in this school

