

	PO address	Goombungee Road, KINGSTHORPE. Q. 4400
	Phone	07 - 4699 2333
	Fax	07 - 4699 2300
	Email	admin@kingsthoss.eq.edu.au
	Principal	Mr Craig Barron
	Website or Contact Person	http://www.kingsthoss.eq.edu.au or contact our School Administration Officer on 4699 2333

Principal's foreword

Introduction

Kingsthorpe State School exists to develop, support and nurture the developmental needs and aspirations of primary school aged children within and beyond our local community. We aim to provide a learning climate that is responsive and forward looking through the development of learning programs that well equip our children for the demands and rigours of a changing world.

The 2009 School Annual Report provides a snapshot view of our school's priorities, its achievements and challenges, and is but one way of communicating to the broader community the pride we share with our students for their endeavour and commitment.

We are pleased to report that sound progress has been made towards a number of the goals described within our School's 2008-09 Annual Operation Plan. Of significance amongst these has been:

- ◆ A consolidation of our school community's Code of Behaviour & whole of school framework for developing responsible behaviours amongst students
- ◆ Continued renewal and redevelopment of our school's Curriculum Framework
- ◆ The continued development of public confidence in the school as an effective and dynamic learning organisation

Future outlook

Our initiatives in 2007 & 8 have established a sound platform from which to further develop effective teaching & learning programs into 2008-2009. Through the forthcoming period we aim to improve upon the assessment & reporting of student progress, further develop and enhance school ICT infrastructure, increase teacher/student engagement with learning technologies, and broadly improve academic achievement across the school by re-focusing on proven and effective pedagogies.

*Kingsthorpe State School - Creating opportunity through
Safety, Effort, Respect & Self-Responsibility*

School Profile

Kingsthorpe State School is a co-educational primary school offering a range of learning programs supportive of students enrolled from the Preparatory Year to Year 7. We are located in the Education Queensland Toowoomba District, the township being 20 km west of Toowoomba, 2km north of the Warrego Highway. Whilst projected enrolments over the next few years are expected to remain stable, the 2008 school year concluded with an enrolment of approximately 163 students. Our school enjoys an attractive garden setting on a gentle slope, which affords pleasant views of the rural valley below. The area is a mixture of rural and residential properties. In more recent years local rural industry has declined, with an increasing number of parents travelling to Toowoomba to work. The rural aspect and affordable land has encouraged the recent building of quality homes in addition to attracting families seeking lower cost housing. Unemployment levels are moderate.

Our school offers a KLA based curriculum and has invested heavily in literacy and computer technology in recent years. Teaching practices are innovative and inclusive, with a range of intervention and support initiatives in place. We have maintained an active choir involving boys & girls, predominantly of Years 5-7, whilst 2008-9 has seen continuing enthusiasm for the Instrumental Music Program. Our LOTE program offered German to Year 6 & 7 students.

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

Our teaching staff is committed to developing a learning environment characterised by diversity, academic challenge and social responsibility. As a consequence, a range of opportunities continue to be explored and developed to create a distinctive learning context. Such initiatives include:

- ♦ mentoring & leadership opportunities whereby senior students have participated in activities aimed at nurturing social consciousness, leadership capacity & personal responsibility. Our senior students are maturing as peer tutors to children across the school;
- ♦ A program encouraging responsible behaviour continues to progress throughout the school, where all students learn how to develop a better understanding of their own behaviours, how their actions impact upon others, and how to develop positive relationships with both peers and adults; the four pillars of SAFETY, EFFORT, RESPECT and SELF-RESPONSIBILITY are significantly emphasised;
- ♦ the development of enhanced Information & Communication Technology skills through the provision of specialist lessons in the use of interactive learning software and application of diverse technological tools.
- ♦ an active relationship with the teaching staff of the Wilsonton Campus of Toowoomba SHS, whereby students of the middle phase of learning participate in both academic and personal development initiatives through a series of visitations to the High School.

Extra curricula activities

At Kingsthorpe SS we recognise that significant learning occurs well beyond the confines of the traditional classroom or school setting. Consequently we seek to enrich our students' knowledge, understanding and experiences through participation in activities complementary to, and beyond those experiences developed on site. Enriching or extra-curricular activities enjoyed and/or developed over the period have included:

- ♦ student participation in the district 'SING OUT' Festival in Toowoomba
- ♦ student participation in both local Readers Cup events
- ♦ attendance at & participation in activities co-ordinated by Community & charitable organisations such the RSL, QCWA, Wildlife Preservation Society, Toowoomba Base Hospital Childrens' Ward, and more.
- ♦ participation in the school's educational excursions program to locations across Queensland's south east corner which deepen knowledge & understanding of the world beyond the local area. By way of example environmental studies for children from Prep – Year 7 through the Amaroo Environmental Education Centre, are periodically offered to children across a number of our classes.

Our school at a glance

- ♦ public performances of the instrumental music students and school choir both within and beyond our immediate community
- ♦ participation in fundraising activities for a variety of charitable organisations throughout the year
- ♦ Sporting exchanges with neighbouring rural schools to develop a greater sense of school pride & teamwork, and to broaden associations with children of like-schools.

How computers are used to assist learning

Our school recognises the importance of computers in learning, and as such has invested significantly over the past 2-3 years to renew ageing resources and renew infrastructure. An ICT teacher has been employed on a part-time basis throughout 2008 to assist both the professional knowledge of teachers and to provide direct teaching and skills lessons to children of all Year 1-7 classes. A lab of 26 computers has been renewed and provides a significant resource for whole class and individualised learning. Teachers regularly seek to integrate ICT's into units of study for students and provide ready access to both the established lab and classroom computers to enhance research and improve the visual impact of projects and designs. All students currently enjoy supervised access to the internet and in Year 4-7 classes are entrusted with the responsibility of utilising a monitored email account.

Social climate

Kingsthorpe State School maintains a positive climate of mutual support amongst teachers, students and the wider parent community. The school staff, with the encouragement of a committed parent group, is co-operatively developing strategies to manage and support student behaviour and enhance learning opportunity. A re-affirmation of desired and expected conduct, teamed with the consistent application of appropriate consequences for demonstrated behaviours, is contributing to the establishment of a safe and supportive learning environment for all.

Interschool and team sports, a strong instrumental and arts program, specialist teaching in technology, language, health & physical education, teamed with an emphasis upon the basics and essential foundations for life-long learning, combine at Kingsthorpe SS to create an atmosphere of mutual trust and support for all children. Leadership development, educational excursions & enrichment programs feature, whereby children are nurtured through their formative years by a dedicated staff, keen to support all children in developing as capable and socially responsible citizens for the future. A welcoming atmosphere of collegial and student trust has matured, where parents/carers and students continue to gain in confidence regarding the ways in which concerns and needs are addressed at school level.

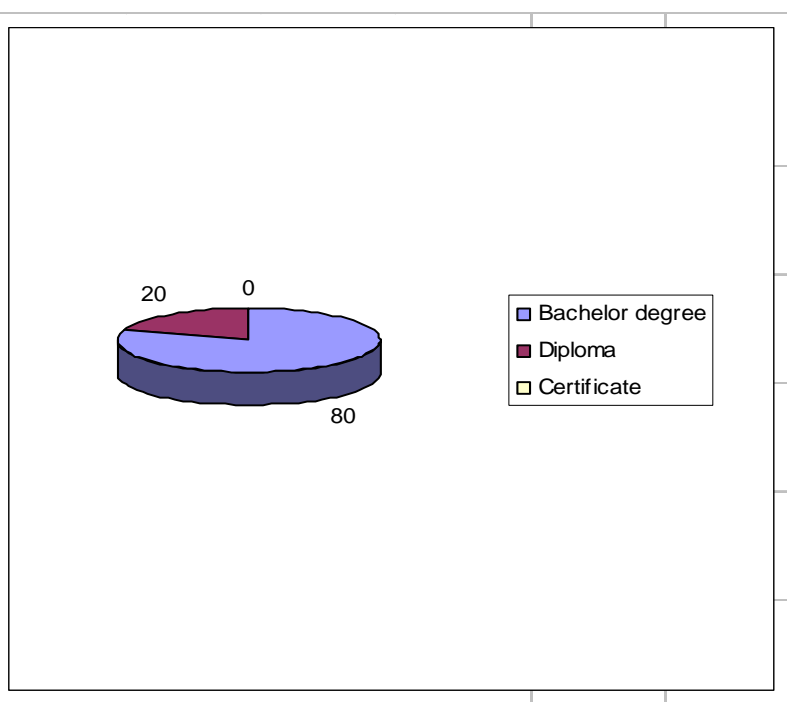
Involving parents in their child's education.

Continued & sustained parental attendance, an involvement and commitment to school initiatives has been noted over the past 12 months. Our parent community maintains a willing participation in the growth of the school through participation in P&C Association meetings, transport assistance for off-campus gatherings, fundraising support for school resourcing, in-class learning assistance, and through attendance at information sessions. We keenly encourage further parental involvement at school through invitations to join class groups for presentations and public celebrations of student effort and achievement.

Distinctive partnerships are being formed both within and beyond the local educational cluster. An alliance of small-medium sized schools has developed around sporting, academic, cultural and professional pursuits whilst strong linkages around aspects of the Middle Phase of Learning are being developed with the Wilsonton Campus of Toowoomba State High School. Such associations are viewed by our community as extremely positive in terms of providing Kingsthorpe students with opportunities to acquire new learnings beyond the local context.

Qualifications of all teachers.

Highest level of Attainment	Percentage of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Bachelor degree	80
Diploma	20
Certificate	0



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

- ◆ The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was \$11 198 .
- ◆ Significant professional development initiatives were as follows:
- ◆ Participation in the *'Literacy - Key to Learning'* teacher training program; *'One-School'* Reporting; Child Protection Training; Qld Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Framework training; Coaching & Mentoring workshops; *'Non-violent Crisis Intervention'* training (SE teachers).
- ◆ The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2008 was 100 %.

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 2007 school year, 82 % of staff were retained by the school for the entire 2008 school year.

Performance of our students

Student attendance

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2008 was 93 %.

Key outcomes

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results - our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Domain	Measures	Yr 3	Yr 5	Yr 7
Reading	Average score for the school	353	480	524
	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 86 %	100 %	96 %
Writing	Average score for the school	389	476	528
	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 100 %	100 %	100 %
Spelling	Average score for the school	374	495	505
	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 100 %	96 %	83 %
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school	358	468	515
	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 95 %	96 %	88 %
Numeracy	Average score for the school	367	472	544
	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 95 %	100 %	96 %

Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net	
	Percentage of students not requiring additional support
Reading	81
Writing	86
Number	76

Performance of our students

Value added

Substantial progress has been made towards a number of the goals described within our School's 2006 & 2007 Annual Operation Plans. Of significance amongst these has been:

- ◆ Continued review & development of the whole school Curriculum Framework
- ◆ Renewal of student progress reporting to parents
- ◆ Student profiling whereby significant data around student achievement, support & intervention programming has been collated for ready retrieval to assist teacher planning / progress reporting.
- ◆ The development & enhancement of school ICT infrastructure and increased teacher/student engagement with learning technologies
- ◆ Positive maintenance of our school community's Code of Behaviour & the continuation of an effective framework for developing responsible behaviours amongst students
- ◆ The development of a co-operative, mutually beneficial working relationship with local High School campuses to enhance learning opportunities for children in the middle phase of learning and support their eventual transition to secondary schooling.
- ◆ The enhancement of the school's profile within and beyond the local community as a result of active participation in community activities and district events.
- ◆ Building of public confidence in the school as an effective and dynamic learning organisation

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Percentage of students satisfied that they are getting a good education from school	74
Percentage of parents & caregivers satisfied that they are getting a good education from school	67
Percentage of parents & caregivers satisfied that the school is a good school	73
Percentage of school workforce satisfied with access to learning opportunities that relate to school & systemic priorities	74
Percentage of staff members satisfied with morale in the school	89