

# Morningside State School

## School Annual Report 2008

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### Principal's foreword

#### Introduction

Morningside State School is a creative and vibrant learning organisation with a focus on Primary Education. Our school caters for a diverse community from Prep to Year 7. We offer an inclusive curriculum and environment for all students including those with special needs in a range of areas.

Young people are prepared for the future as active, responsible citizens who embrace learning as a lifelong process. Morningside students engage confidently in school and Gateway Learning Community decision making processes, which will provide them with the skills to be competently able to participate in the broadest spectrum of community life both locally and globally.

This report contains valuable information about our school's progress towards national and state agendas and well as local and school based initiatives. As you read you will gain a knowledge of the following aspects in our school:

- The curriculum we offer to all students.
- Extra-curricular activities also offered to our students to enhance academic, creative, social and sporting achievements.
- Use of information and communication technologies that enhance educational opportunities.
- Participation by the staff in on-going, relevant, contextual professional learning.
- Student achievement in systemic testing.
- Relationships between students, staff, parents and the wider community.
- Parents are valuable and respected partners in the education of their children.
- Satisfaction rates of students, parents and staff as outlined in the School Opinion Survey.

#### Future outlook

From 2009 and into the future we will continue to focus on literacy and numeracy as our core business. It is our intention to develop a skilled and confident workforce who will meet the needs of our 21<sup>st</sup> century learners.

## Our school at a glance

### School Profile

Total student enrolments for this school - 460

Morningside State School experienced fluctuation in enrolment numbers during 2008 due significantly to the impact of the change in the housing market from single family dwellings to unit style accommodation. The student enrolments, however, remained in the mid 400s.

Currently 28 students with disabilities are supported by the Special Education Unit which is an integral part of the school community. Morningside State School prides itself on the inclusive practices which it offers for these students.

Year levels offered - Prep to Year 7

Morningside is a co-educational school

### Curriculum offerings

#### Our distinctive curriculum offerings

During 2008 Morningside State School offered a large range of distinctive curriculum offerings that enhanced the Key Learning Areas. These included:

An arts program which focused on Dance, Drama, Visual Arts and Media.

A camping program for years 5, 6 and 7.

A range of excursions and visitors to the school linked to integrated units of work.

An inaugural trip to Japan to enhance the Japanese Program of cultural events.

Participation in the ICAS Competitions (Years Three to Seven) in the areas of English, Mathematics, Science and Technology.

Beginning in 2009 a specialist Science teacher will commence a program for students from Prep to Year 5.

A Swimming program for all students as part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum.

#### Extra curricula activities

There were a number of engaging activities in which the students were encouraged to participate during 2008.

As a member of the Gateway Learning Community we offered students opportunities to learn in a wider community setting. Students from our school participated collaboratively with students from neighbouring schools in various gateway projects. These included:

Cultures of Thinking Project – a program designed to teach children valuable thinking skills and strategies.

Under 8s Big Day Out – a day of fun activities designed to enhance students' fine and gross motor, creativity and social skills.

The GLC Combined Bands – students from Years 5 to 7 come together with other school students to experience big bands ensembles and performances.

On our campus the students were also offered extra-curricular activities to enhance their academic, social, creative and cultural selves. Such as:

## Our school at a glance

Student Buddy Program for reading and art where Year 6 and 7 students joined with a Year 1 and 2 class to form relationships amongst students using art and reading as a medium.

Science and Art Programs which allowed for teacher sharing in areas of expertise.

Peer support Program- a social skills program across years 1 to 6 led by year 7 students

Indoor Games Program for lunchtimes- we call this our Milperra Room Activities.

ATSI Performance group – an indigenous Dance Troupe called “More Than Deadly”.

Instrumental Music Program- band camps for Years 5 to 7.

### How computers are used to assist learning

The inclusion of ICT as an integral part of each unit of learning planned by teachers from Prep to Year 7 ensures that students become familiar with a computer and skilled in their use. They learned how to use them effectively for research, consolidation of learning, problem solving and presentation of work.

The school has a computer lab in the Resource Centre. It is used for research activities and various online activities such as chat rooms and book raps.

### Social climate

At Morningside we believe that students have the right to learn and to be safe and happy in a socially just and supportive environment. To enable this to be achieved the school has established a comprehensive Responsible Behaviour Plan as well as proactive programs such as Buddy Programs and Peer Support Programs. Provision is also made to acknowledge those students who make responsible behaviour choices whilst at school through our active citizenship awards.

Review of the data of the School Opinion Survey indicated Parents satisfaction with the school in the following areas:

#### Parents

that your child feels safe at this school 83.4%

that your child is treated fairly at this school 79.2%

The climate we strive to create is one where the rights of all members are preserved at the same time there is an expectation that responsibilities are met. Our approach is directed towards self discipline, shared responsibility, co-operation, mutual respect, equity and social justice.

The decision has been made to introduce the You Can Do It! Program as a proactive program to support our approach to developing a positive school climate.

### Involving parents in their child's education.

We believe families are an important and integral part of the Morningside State School community.

Parents and caregivers are involved in all aspects of their child's education including:

Supporting teachers in the classroom by assisting small group and individual students with their daily learning.

Supporting teachers by changing home readers.

Assisting their children to contribute to all extra curricular activities – Qld Day activities, cooking competition, multicultural day, talent show, peg and line show.

Supporting students and teachers at athletics and swimming carnivals and other whole school events.

## Our school at a glance

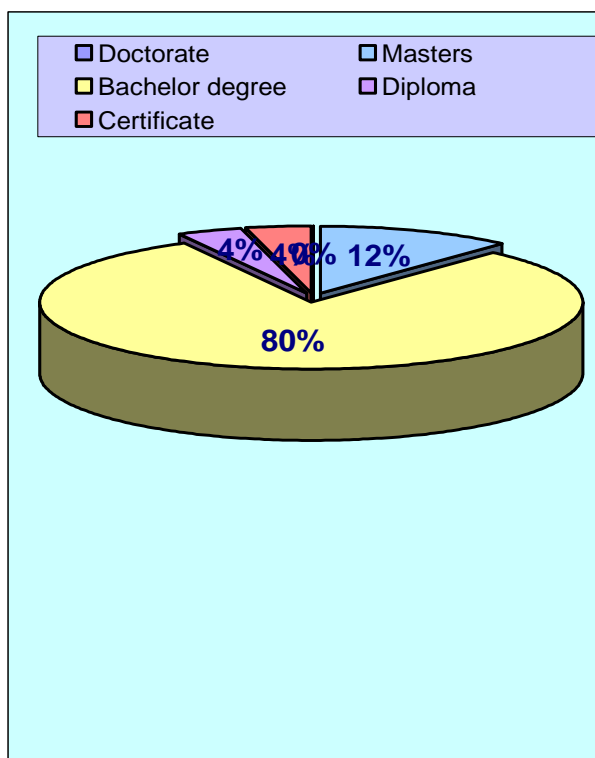
Supporting the Gateway learning community at events such as the Big Night Out.

Our P&C is an extremely important part of our school community. A group of parents provide support in fundraising initiatives which directly support all students within our school. They are proactive and provide assistance with facilities management and development of school based procedures and processes. In addition our P&C executive successfully oversees the sub-committees of Outside School Hours Care, Tuckshop and Morningside Flyers Swim Club.

## Our staff profile

### Qualifications of all teachers

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	3
Bachelor degree	21
Diploma	1
Certificate	1



### Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 were \$11179.58.

The major professional development initiatives are as follows: The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2008 was 100%.

The major professional development initiatives are as follows -

Learning: QCAR Framework; Curriculum: Writing (incl Spelling and Grammar) and Reading; 5 day Literacy Inservice for Teachers Yrs1-3; Science (Primary Connections)

Schools: Responsible Behaviour Plan for students; Inclusive Practices; Crossing Cultures

Workforce: Teacher Aide training – literacy; Pool Maintenance ( Janitor-Groundsman)

### 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, 87% 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 94%.

### 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	379	487	530
	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%	82%	83%
Writing	Average score for the school	385	479	496
	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 81%	87%	77%
Spelling	Average score for the school	359	465	535
	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 82%	84%	94%
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school	368	478	534
	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 78%	87%	94%
Numeracy	Average score for the school	374	447	530
	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 89 %	87 %	93 %

## Performance of our students

### Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net

	Percentage of students not requiring additional support
Reading	75%
Writing	82%
Number	80%

### Value added

#### Learning

Morningside State School provides learning opportunities which have been particularly effective in reaching targeted expectations in the majority of cases.

Initiatives which have supported these outcomes include:

Facilitated planning sessions at year levels which review curriculum goals for that term and plan new units of learning for each term focusing on Essential Learnings, Ways of Working and associated Assessment Tasks.

Extensive professional development related to Spelling and Grammar which resulted in a Morningside percentage that was above both State and National figures.

Spelling 93.5 - above state % of 90.1 and National % of 92.4

Grammar 93.5 – above state % of 90 and National % of 90.6

Rigorous internal monitoring and analysis of literacy and numeracy to inform teaching

#### Schools

A review of the Behaviour Plan has reinforced the processes and procedures throughout the school and assisted in establishing a more productive learning environment for students

A supportive P&C has conducted working bees to improve the outdoor environment which has established a more flexible range of learning environments

#### Workforce

Professional development for all staff in targeted area. Core genre and elements such as structure of text, spelling and grammar.

## Performance of our students

### Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

#### Parent Satisfaction

Percentage of parents and caregivers, satisfied their child works well at this school is 70%

#### Student satisfaction

Percentage of students, satisfied that they are getting a good education from at this school 73%

Percentage of students that are satisfied about how well they are learning at this school 74.8%

#### Staff Satisfaction

Percentage of workforce engaged in professional development opportunities is 100%

Percentage of staff that are satisfied that this is a good place to work is 78.1%