

# Annual School Reporting for 2008



## **i** Distinctive Information

### School

St. Michael's College  
Jondique Avenue  
MERRIMAC Q 4226

### Profile

Years 8 – 12 Coeducational Secondary College  
Student Population: approximately 756  
Established 1985

### Curriculum Offerings

- Years 8/9 – Middle Schooling
- Year 10 preparation for Senior Schooling
- Extensive range of Academic and Vocational Education Subjects leading to OP, further training, apprenticeships, traineeships and employment
- Years 11-12
  - OP (Authority Subjects) include:
    - Accounting
    - Ancient History
    - Art
    - Biology
    - Business Communication & Technologies
    - Chemistry
    - Drama
    - English
    - Graphics
    - Home Economics
    - Legal Studies
    - Mathematics A, B and C
    - Music
    - Physical Education
    - Physics
    - Study of Religion
    - Technology Studies

VET or Vocational Education and Training Subjects (Authority Registered and Certificate courses) include:

Business – Clerical  
Creative Arts – Multimedia  
Early Childhood Studies  
English Communication  
Hospitality Practices  
Industrial Skills  
Multimedia – QANTM (fees Payable)  
Pre-Vocational Mathematics  
Recreation Pursuits  
Religion and Ethics  
Social & Community Studies  
Tourism

## Co - Curricular Activities

St. Michael's College offers a range of out-of-classroom activities designed to enrich the curriculum and to extend the students' mental, physical, spiritual and emotional development.

These activities could include such things as Social Justice Groups (Interact, Amnesty International, St. Vincent de Paul, Rosies), Social Activities, Pastoral Days, and Cultural Activities including Choir, Band, String Ensemble, Tournament of Minds, Tropicarnival, Public Speaking, Inter-School Debating, Science, Mathematics and English competitions. St. Michael's College Air Cadet Squadron 232 assembles each Wednesday at 5pm for parade. Activities include service knowledge, aviation, field craft, drill and ceremony.

The College offers a wide range of Sporting Activities. As many sports as possible are offered to the students. Teams are formed if there is enough student interest and adequate adult supervision is available. Competitive inter-school sport teams that have operated include swimming, athletics, cross-country, rugby union, rugby league, touch football, hockey, netball and basketball. Some of these also operate as Inter-House competitions.

Those students skilled in these and other sports are given the opportunity to try for selection in District, Regional, State and National teams. At times during the year students will be given the option to select from a range of recreational and sporting pursuits.

## Staff Development Priorities 2008/2009

- Student Protection
- Staff & Student resilience  
Middle Schooling – Philosophy & Pedagogy
- I.T. – increased levels of literacy for staff and students/Digital Funding Directions
- Behaviour Management Review
- Development of Junior/Middle School Work Programs
- Spirituality / Catholic Ethos/Guidelines for Religious Life of the School
- Reporting Review

## School Climate/Support Services/Pastoral Care Programs

- Warm, welcoming, friendly community
- Distinctive Pastoral Care Programmes
- Retreats and Reflection Days
- Qualified, full-time counselling staff
- Campus Minister offers on-going support
- Support from Griffith University
- "Wrap around" process for students with special needs or 'at risk'
- "Well-being for girls" Program
- "Asteros" wilderness Program for boys at Risk

- ☑ Learning Support
- ☑ Responsible Behaviour Room
- ☑ Career and Pathways Advisor

## Strategies for Engaging Parents

- ☑ P&F Meetings
- ☑ Welcoming BBQs
- ☑ Communal Masses
- ☑ Parent Teacher Interviews
- ☑ Grandparents Day
- ☑ Weekly Newsletter
- ☑ Tuckshop
- ☑ Information Evenings
- ☑ Working Bees
- ☑ Parent Forums
- ☑ School Board
- ☑ Social Gatherings e.g. Race Day, Trivia Night, Sports Days
- ☑ Information Evenings
- ☑ Parenting Programmes
- ☑ Orientation Evening

## Professional Engagement

### Teacher Qualifications

Doctorates	4.8%
Masters Degree	24.3%
Bachelors Degree	70 %
Diploma	4.8%

### Expenditure on Teacher Participation and Professional Learning

The total Budget for Staff Professional Learning this year was \$20,000. This was from funding provided by Brisbane Catholic Education and the school's internal Budget.

Key priorities for Professional Learning were:

- Competency in assessment and Reporting in light of Govt. requirements
- Consistency of Teacher Judgement
- Spiritual and Theological Formation
- Leadership Succession
- Use of Data
- Syllabus familiarity and writing of Work Programmes
- Students with special needs
- Behaviour Management
- Pastoral Care – Mind Matters.
- National Curriculum

### Average staff Attendance for the School

Average attendance rate of staff – 98.32%

### Proportion of Teaching Staff retained from the previous year

87.5%

## Key Student Outcomes

### Average Student Attendance Rate

90.9%

### Apparent Retention Rate

Year 10		Year 12		Year 8-12 Apparent Retention Rate
<i>Year</i>	<i>Enrol</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Enrol</i>	
2004	118	2006	97	82.2
2005	124	2007	112	90.3
2006	137	2008	123	89.8

### Year 12 Outcomes

1. Number of students awarded a Senior Statement – 123
2. Number of students awarded a QCE at the end of Year 12 – 100
3. Number of students awarded one or more VET qualifications – 77
4. Number of students who are completing or completed a SAT – 12
5. Number of students who received an OP – 65
6. Number of students who did not receive one or more of the following: OP, QCE, QCIA, IBD, VET qualification - 9
7. Percentage of OP eligible students with OP 1-15 – 60%
8. Percentage of Year 12 students who are completing or completed a SAT or were awarded one or more of the following: QCE, IBD, VET qualification - 90
9. Percentage of QTAC applicants receiving a tertiary offer – 95%

## Value Added

2008 has once again been a great year of celebration, achievement and continued growth for the St Michael's College community. This year has seen us reach our highest ever enrolment of 720 students. Next year with 180 Year Eight students enrolled to date, our numbers are anticipated to be just under 800 students. This increase in enrolment continued to reflect the general trend of increasing population particularly in the Central and Northern Gold Coast regions, the desire for Catholic education on the part of many Catholic parents and students and most importantly, the ever increasing good reputation of our College in the wider Gold Coast community. However, as the College does grow in numbers, we seek to retain those special elements which have made St Michael's a genuine place of learning and friendship, and as we named it in 2005, our Twentieth Anniversary year, in our new slogan enhancing our logo.....*a friendly learning community.*

Our core business as a College is to provide quality teaching for quality learning in a Catholic Christian environment. Hence we have a very strong commitment to providing holistic education at St Michael's. This is very much in keeping with the Mission and Vision of St Michael's and also that of Brisbane Catholic Education of which our school community is proudly a part. This year we launched, after much community discussion and input, a new Mission Statement viz ***Our Mission is to nurture life long learners in a Caring, Catholic, Christian community.*** This is what I firmly believe we strive to do on a daily basis at St Michael's. Our Strategic Directions and priorities as always are in line with those of Brisbane Catholic Education and are also reflective of the particular, unique, local needs of our learning community. I sincerely thank the numerous B.C.E. Personnel for supporting us in achieving

our initiatives and priorities. In particular, I thank our Executive Director Mr David Hutton for his inspirational and authentic leadership and Area Supervisor Mr Neil Bloxside for the on - going support , direction, care and guidance he provides to me in my role as Principal and to the entire College community. St Michael's proudly takes strength, courage and identity for the future in belonging to the very special B.C.E. "community of communities."

Once again, as in previous years, the entire College community of students, staff, clergy, parents and friends is to be thanked and congratulated most sincerely for their wonderful support, efforts and achievements in 2008. Without such incredible commitment and striving for excellence, the year would certainly not have been the successful and enjoyable one it has been for all at St Michael's. We took as our theme this year *Lift the Spirit – Light the Flame*, inspired by the year of the Olympic Games and the much anticipated World Youth Day event in Sydney in July. On reflecting upon the year, it is my firm conviction that in adhering to this theme, much has been achieved in a short time. This theme focused on the need to continually be enlivened in our school community by the outstanding achievements and efforts of so many in the pursuit of excellence or at least personal best. Just as last year's theme of CARE focused on Community, Attitudes, Relationships and Environment, this year's theme also continued to focus on these areas of concern and more. The Spirit and enthusiasm of World Youth Day certainly provided a spiritual focus for those who had the privilege of attending the event and more importantly for those who were able to *Receive the Power* at St Michael's. Significant development and growth in all key strategic areas has been pleasingly noted this year. 2009 looks to be an even more exciting and developmental year as we eagerly anticipate, the commencement of new buildings with the Master plan now complete, a continued significant focus on the enhancement of learning and teaching at St Michaels to ensure that we are providing is relevant for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century in the light of so much uncertainty and change in the State, National and Global educational arenas.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission is to Nurture Life Long Learners in a Friendly, Harmonious, Catholic, Christian Community

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREAS FOR 2008

- Religion, Spirituality and Evangelisation
- Student Learning Outcomes
- Student Support and Pastoral Care
- Staff Support
- Partnerships and Relationships
- Resourcing and Facilities
- Information, Communication and Learning Technologies
- Renewal and quality Assurance

## **BROAD STRATEGIC GOAL** *Religion, Spirituality and Evangelisation*

### **Significant Achievements for 2008**

- ✓ **Revision and rewriting of the College Mission Statement**
- ✓ **Successful appointment of Margaret Petherbridge as new APRE in 2008**
- ✓ **Continuation of Weekly Mass in the College Chapel**
- ✓ **Staff engagement in BCE *Prayer Fire* Programme**
- ✓ **Student participation in Retreats, RE Reflection Days, and Social Immersion Days**
- ✓ **House participation in the support of Catholic agencies – Caritas, Catholic Missions**
- ✓ **Student and staff involvement in practically supporting *Rosies***
- ✓ **Clergy, staff and student attendance at WYD SYD**
- ✓ **Hosting of WYD pilgrims from many countries**
- ✓ **Construction of a Labyrinth for prayer**
- ✓ **Professional development of staff in theology and methodology in RE curriculum**
- ✓ **Participation in Parish activities**
- ✓ **Promotion of the BCE *Religious Life of the School Framework***
- ✓ **Encouragement of students to participate in the RCIA Programme**
- ✓ **Development of Liturgical Singing particularly for boys**
- ✓ **Continued support for the work of the Campus Minister**
- ✓ **Application for the appointment of a College Pastoral Worker with National Chaplaincy Funding Grant**

## **BROAD STRATEGIC GOAL** *Student Learning Outcomes*

### **Significant Achievements for 2008**

- ✓ **Significant Review of Learning and Teaching conducted in the College**
- ✓ **Continued support for engaging students in the Middle Years**
- ✓ **Seamless Transition Programme for students in Years 7/ 8**
- ✓ **Engagement with the BCE learning Framework**
- ✓ **Engagement by staff and students with QCAR and QCAT**
- ✓ **Attendance by staff at the QCAR, Senior Schooling and QCEC curriculum Conferences**
- ✓ **Increased use of data to inform curriculum planning and decisions and to track student progress**
- ✓ **Successful results for Year 9 in the NAPLAN testing – above state average**
- ✓ **Ensuring the successful outcome for Year 12 students in the issuing of the inaugural Certificate of Education**
- ✓ **Participation by students in the annual English, Mathematics, Science, Information Technology and Financial Literacy Competitions**
- ✓ **Refinement of the Reporting and Parent Teacher Interview Processes**
- ✓ **Re- introduction of Marine Studies to the Science curriculum in Year 10**
- ✓ **Continued sharing of best practice and data with the primary feeder schools**
- ✓ **Working with Mighty Minds to support Year 12 students in the preparation for the QCS test**

- ✓ **Rewriting of Middle School Programmes to incorporate the Essential Learning framework**
- ✓ **Successful trips to Noumea in September for French Immersion and to Thailand for a cultural Asian immersion**
- ✓ **Successful delivery of the instrumental music and performance programme by *Creative Kidz***

#### **BROAD STRATEGIC GOAL *Student Support and Pastoral Care***

##### **Significant Achievements for 2008**

- ✓ **Continuation and refinement of the successful Vertical House structure**
- ✓ **Support of student leadership in the College**
- ✓ **Successful Student Leadership Conference conducted**
- ✓ **Continued weekly meetings of the Principal and College captains**
- ✓ **Monthly Student Leadership Breakfasts held**
- ✓ **Student Council promoted and listened to as an advisory council**
- ✓ **Growth in the effectiveness of Student Support Services in supporting all students**
- ✓ **Successful *Parenting Your Adolescent* Programme conducted**
- ✓ ***Asteros* programme for boys at risk conducted across a number of local Catholic Schools**
- ✓ **Study tour in Term 4 by College Counsellor Dr Jeff Kemp to explore wilderness therapy and programmes for students at risk in the US**
- ✓ **Promotion of the sun safety policy by having a compulsory school sports hat**
- ✓ **Continued Development of a Personal Development Programme which is age appropriate for the different year levels**
- ✓ **Focus on issues in Personal Development in relation to Cyber Safety**
- ✓ **Promotion of sport and physical activity for enhanced well being of students**
- ✓ **Co-operative networks established with outside agencies e.g. Griffith University to support students**
- ✓ **Ski trip to New Zealand very well supported and highly successful**
- ✓ **Promotion of activities for Gifted and Talented students and the provision of other extension activities e.g. *Optiminds* Challenge**

#### **BROAD STRATEGIC GOAL *Staff Support***

##### **Significant Achievements for 2008**

- ✓ **Encouragement of a variety of professional learning opportunities for staff**
- ✓ **Continued enhancement of work spaces and working environments**
- ✓ **Provision of staff uniforms**
- ✓ **Provision of opportunities for staff social interaction**
- ✓ **World Teachers Day celebrated – teachers awarded 20 and 30 Year service awards**
- ✓ **Increased access for staff to Information Technology facilities**
- ✓ **WHS procedures updated and enacted**
- ✓ **Induction programme implemented for new staff**

- ✓ Robyn Gibson awarded an ACE Award for contribution to teaching

## **BROAD STRATEGIC GOAL** *Partnerships and Relationships*

### **Significant Achievements for 2008**

- ✓ Continued strong relationships fostered with the Surfers Paradise Parish
- ✓ Fostering of strong relationships with other local Catholic Secondary and Primary schools and Colleges and State schools
- ✓ Successful Year 6 Visitation Programme
- ✓ Successful Orientation Programme for new students in Year 7/8
- ✓ Very strong links with Griffith and Bond Universities
- ✓ Students engaged in Griffith GUEST Programme
- ✓ Principal involved in Griffith Leadership Circle
- ✓ Positive and supportive relationships with Local, State and Federal members
- ✓ Close working relationship with the Parents and Friends Association
- ✓ Positive relationships with the Catholic Parents and Friends Federation
- ✓ Further development of and College support provided to the 232 Air Force Cadet Squadron based at the College
- ✓ Successful College Board in operation
- ✓ Successful involvement with SCISCO – Principal on Management Committee
- ✓ Enhanced relationships with community providers of traineeships and apprenticeships to students
- ✓ Positive relationships with service clubs e.g. Mudgeeraba RSL and Ashmore Rotary
- ✓ Support of local St VDP Chapter by way of Christmas hampers donated by Pastoral Classes

## **BROAD STRATEGIC GOAL** *Resourcing and Facilities*

### **Significant Achievements for 2008**

- ✓ Completion of Master Plan and building applications for 2009 submitted – Upgrade of Piazza and refurbishment of Canteen. New Clothing shop to be built in the retail precinct. Computer server room to be re-located
- ✓ Installation of water tanks
- ✓ Investigation of Solar Panel installation
- ✓ Energy Audit to be conducted
- ✓ Strong basis formed for becoming a much more sustainable school community in terms of policies, practices and procedures
- ✓ Environmental committee to be formed in 2009
- ✓ Welcome support of the Board and P and F Association input in discerning the needs of the College
- ✓ P and F Association's generous contributions to major purchases in the College
- ✓ Provision of 1000 chairs for seating in the Piazza
- ✓ Increased outdoor seating and shade facilities provided
- ✓ Development of a sand dune and rain forest eco structure for Marine Studies

- ✓ Improvements to landscaping and gardens in the College

**BROAD STRATEGIC GOAL** *Information Communication and Learning Technologies*

**Significant Achievements for 2008**

- ✓ Continued embedding of IC and LT in the Learning and Teaching Process
- ✓ Installation of data projectors
- ✓ Preparation for the provision of a roll out of interactive whiteboards in 2009 and beyond
- ✓ Training in the use of interactive whiteboards
- ✓ Professional development provided to staff to further develop IT skills in the classroom especially
- ✓ Laptops for all staff upgraded
- ✓ Improved wireless connectivity planned for
- ✓ Significant developments in the IC and LT Strategic Plan
- ✓ Development of a new Website to be launched in 2009
- ✓ National Digital Funding Grant application lodged for the provision of approximately 90 extra laptops to be positioned on movable trolleys
- ✓ On line tutoring continues in the College
- ✓ On line attendance system has been most successful
- ✓

**BROAD STRATEGIC GOAL** *Renewal and Quality Assurance*

**Significant Achievements for 2008**

- ✓ Internal Review of 7 components of the SRF successfully engaged in
- ✓ Internal Review Recommendations to be enacted in 2009 and beyond
- ✓ Data has been used more to report to the wider community on school performance
- ✓ Engagement of *Michael Hogan and Associates* as consultants and coaches to develop greater leadership capacity
- ✓ All stakeholders engaged in the SRF goal setting and Review for 2008
- ✓ Review of AST positions in the College to provide feedback on annual performance
- ✓ APA engaged in a successful 5 yearly review and was successful in gaining re-appointment
- ✓ Review of School Officer positions being implemented for completion in 2009

## EMBRACING THE FUTURE 2009

As outlined in the pages of this report, certainly much has been achieved at St Michael's this year. Once again, I sincerely thank Brisbane Catholic Education, all staff, clergy, students, parents and members of the wider community for their contributions in many and varied ways to our highly successful year. To name names would be impossible here and certainly there has been a time for this in other public arenas. Every contribution has been significant and every contributor a valued and unique member or friend of our special community. Our Internal Review Process engaged in this year, certainly was a time of affirmation of significant growth and renewal at St Michael's. Pleasingly, it also indicated areas for new development and growth. Next year we continue the Strategic *Renewal Cycle 2007- 2011* and our agreed upon priority areas, just as they were this year, are very much aligned with the Brisbane Catholic Education School Renewal Priorities. Our Internal School Review will see a particular focus on and review of the following components:

- Prayer and Worship
- Curriculum
- Students Well Being and Pastoral Care
- Gifted and Talented
- Professional Practice
- Budgeting and Finance

### Parent Teacher and Student Satisfaction with the School

Indications from the Parents and Friends Association and the College Board suggest that there is a high degree of satisfaction with the College. This is reflected in reports to the community and at monthly meetings.

Surveys of parents and students conducted as part of the Internal Cyclical Review Process indicate a high degree of satisfaction with all aspects of College life.

A Review of Curriculum and the Mission Statement has included parent and student feedback that has been most affirming.

Parents at interviews state that they feel very welcomed and valued in this community as do their children.