

Annual School Reporting for 2007



ST MICHAEL'S
COLLEGE

...a friendly learning community

i Distinctive Information

School

St. Michael's College
Jondique Avenue
MERRIMAC Q 4226

Profile

Years 8 – 12 Coeducational Secondary College
Student Population: approximately 720
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 2007/2008

- ☑ Student Protection
- ☑ Staff & Student resilience
 - Middle Schooling – Philosophy & Pedagogy
- ☑ ETRF Reforms
- ☑ I.T. – increased levels of literacy for staff and students
- ☑ Behaviour Management Review
- ☑ Development of Junior/Middle School Work Programs
- ☑ Spirituality / Catholic Ethos
- ☑ Reporting

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
- ☑ Information Evenings
- ☑ Parenting Programmes

Professional Engagement

Teacher Qualifications

Doctorates	3.8%
Masters Degree	17.3%
Bachelors Degree	73 %
Diploma	5.9%

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
- Senior Schooling Reforms
- Syllabus familiarity and writing of Work Programmes
- Students with special needs
- Behaviour Management
- Pastoral Care – Preparing for a Vertical House Structure.

Average staff Attendance for the School

Average attendance rate of staff – 97%

Proportion of Teaching Staff retained from the previous year

94%

🔑 Key Student Outcomes

Average Student Attendance Rate

93.5%

Apparent Retention Rate

Year 8		Year 12		Year 8-12 Apparent Retention Rate
Year	Enrol	Year	Enrol	
2001	137	2005	121	88.3
2002	123	2006	97	78.9
2003	124	2007	112	90.3

Year 12 Outcomes

1. Total no of Senior Certs awarded - 110
2. Percentage of OP eligible students with OP 1-15 – 63%
3. Percentage of students awarded Senior Certs and awarded VET qualifications – 42%
4. Percentage of students awarded Senior Certificates with OP eligibility or awarded a Vet qualification – 88%
5. Percentage of QTAC applicants receiving an offer – 92%

💰 Value Added

School Progress Towards Its Goals For The Year

2007 has once again been a great year of celebration and achievement for the St Michael's College community. This year has seen us reach our highest ever enrolment of 710 students. Next year with 180 Year Eight students enrolled to date, our numbers are anticipated to be 750 students. This increase in enrolments reflects 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.*

Whilst our core business as a College is to provide quality teaching for quality learning in a Catholic Christian environment, 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. Our Strategic Directions and priorities as always, are in line with those of Brisbane Catholic Education and also reflective of the particular unique local needs of our learning community. I sincerely thank 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 Bloxidge for the on-going support, direction, care and guidance they provide 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 this year. 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 **CARE**, and it is my firm conviction that in adhering to this theme, much has been achieved in a short time. CARE identified four specific areas of concern that we focused on for the year – Community, Attitudes, Relationships and Environment. Significant development and growth in all these areas has been pleasingly noted this year. 2008 looks to be an even more exciting and developmental year as we eagerly anticipate our involvement in and attendance at World Youth Day in Sydney in July, the completion of our Master plan and hopefully the commencement of new buildings and a significant focus on the review of teaching and learning at St Michael's to ensure that we are providing relevant learning and teaching for the 21st Century.

What follows is an outlining of the Strategic Priorities for 2007 and some of the significant achievements and new directions made through commitment to these priorities. This is only a brief snapshot of the year, but certainly as I stated at the outset, it illustrates the fact that the year has been a very successful one and firm foundations have been put in place for an even more successful year in 2008 and beyond. It has been my privilege to have led the College in my third full year as Principal and I delight in the thought of continuing on in this role of serving and leading St Michael's, God willing, for many years to come.

Mission Statement

With Christ at the Centre, our mission is to be a community where holistic learning and teaching occur in a Catholic Christian environment.

Strategic Priorities 2007

- 1. To enhance and resource a holistic curriculum in which teaching and learning at St Michael's leads to improved student learning outcomes.**
- 2. To enhance the effectiveness of the classroom teaching of religion and the spirituality and faith development of staff and students.**
- 3. To further develop the pastoral care and support provided to students and their families.**
- 4. To Enhance the professional support and pastoral care of staff**
- 5. To strengthen partnerships and relationships within and beyond the St Michael's community.**
- 6. To continue to upgrade facilities and resources so as to enhance the learning environment at St Michael's and to integrate information and communication technologies into student and staff learning processes.**

Broad Strategic Goal One - Curriculum

To enhance and resource a holistic curriculum in which teaching and learning at St Michael's leads to improved student learning outcomes.

Achievements for 2007

- Further developed the philosophy of appropriate pedagogy of the middle school
- Benchmark testing in Year 8 continued to be implemented and data used appropriately.
- Success for Boys program developed further to improve academic outcomes
- Committed to raising the academic levels of performance and outcomes for all students
- Committed to the implementation of a Middle School Philosophy in Years 8 and 9
- Continued integration of IC< across the curriculum. Core IT was introduced in Year 8 to allow all students upon entry to reach a satisfactory level of competence in IT skills.
- Continued promotion of French in response to declining numbers in the Japanese subject. Numbers have increased significantly and there is a strong desire to reintroduce Japanese in Year 8 2008
- Continued engagement with the BCE Learning Framework as the blueprint for curriculum planning and direction.
- Middle Schooling Coordinator continued to build professional learning networks with the feeder primary schools.
- Continued professional development in outcomes, planning and reporting for all staff
- Reporting in the Senior School was successfully reviewed and changes implemented
- Continued Implementation of the ETRF agenda by informing staff, parents and students of the requirements especially of the SEP process and requirements of the new QCE.
- Continued engagement in trial syllabi in Chemistry, Physics, Tourism, and stand alone VET units in Early Childhood, Hospitality and Business. Social and Community Studies was introduced as a new Senior Subject
- Continued development and promotion of a culture of reflection and review of pedagogy and professional management so as to enhance quality of teaching and learning
- Continued investigation of the most effective means of providing sporting and fitness experiences to students – eg: interschool sport vs day carnival, core PE for all students
- Data has been used to more effectively inform curriculum planning and delivery
- Planning is in place for a rigorous and hopefully productive Review of Teaching and Learning in the College in 2008. A short list of consultants has been compiled. BCE most supportive of review
- Continued Implementation of a Careers Education Framework for Students in Year 8 – 12
- Student participation in the Australian Mathematics, Science, English, Information Technology and Financial Literacy Competitions
- Continued encouragement of senior student involvement in the GUEST Program provided by Griffith University and Bond University Programmes allowing students to undertake University study while still at school
- Continued encouragement and success in the TAFE Direct Entry Scheme for senior students

- Intensive preparation of senior students for the Queensland Core Skills Test using the expertise of "Mighty Minds" and staff members
- Continued growth of Performing Arts with a successful implementation of Music as a subject in the Senior School
- Continued planning for Year 10 to be part of the Senior Phase of Learning and Engagements in discussion about the new Senior Syllabuses
- Continued development of programs and activities for gifted and talented students
- Continued development of new initiatives in the Learning Support Centre
- Involvement in the QSA QCAR Trials
- Continued provision of On-Line Tutoring facility for all students in the College

Broad Strategic Goal Two - Religion

To enhance the effectiveness of the classroom teaching of religion and the spirituality and faith development of staff and students.

Achievements for 2007

- Continued adherence to our community's mission and ethos in all activities in the day to day life of the College
- Continuation and refinement of camp/retreat experiences for Years 12, 10 and 8 students
- The provision of Social Justice and Leadership immersion days for Years 9 and 10
- The continuing formation and promotion of a staff retreat team to support retreats at all year levels
- The strategic professional development of staff in Religious Education curriculum and in Faith and Mission
- The continued celebration of weekly Eucharist in the College Chapel with ever increasing numbers
- The continued establishment of the concept of Sacred Space and Holy Ground at St Michael's
- Year 12 Graduation ceremonies to continue to be a week of meaningful rituals and Rite of passage for senior students
- Continuation and development further of House Liturgies to build House identity and foster positive relationships between families and the faith life of the school
- Continued promotion of a social justice program (CARITAS) that has as its outcome a social justice experience for every member of the community
- Celebration of a most successful staff retreat led by Father Chris Gleeson
- Continues calling upon the expertise of the Indigenous Education Officer within the Religious Education Curriculum
- Appointment of a new Campus Minister has been most successful
- Continued promotion of Catholic mission and outreach agencies as our primary focus for social justice engagement. Strong commitment to active involvement on the part of staff and students to Rosies has been most pleasing
- Re-visioning of the consistency of teacher judgement process to enhance teaching and learning in Religious Education
- Provision of Professional Learning spirituality days that engage staff in meaningful reflection on personal and spiritual lives, and full engagement with the Prayer Fire Framework

- Through community prayer, Newsletters and assemblies the linking of the Seasons and the special celebrations of the Church with the daily life of the College has been promoted
- Increasing level of responsibility has been given to the Campus Minister for organisation of liturgy in partnership with the APRE
- Continued positive fostering of our strong relationship with the Sacred Heart Parish and our College Chaplain, Fr Paul Taubmann
- Fostering our interaction with the Archdiocese with continued dialogue and most welcomed visitation of Bishop Oudeman
- Continued encouragement of students to participate in the Parish's Sacramental and RCIA Program with much success again this year
- Intense engagement in the preparations for and promotion of World Youth Day 2008. Highly successful involvement in the ceremony for the reception of the WYD Cross and Icon
- Engagement of staff with the BCE Spiritual Development Framework and the Prayer Fire resource
- Continued promotion of the school song encapsulating our mission and values
- Increased engagement with global issues and their impact on our world and environment

Broad Strategic Goal Three – Pastoral Care

To further develop the pastoral care and support provided to staff, students and their families.

Achievements for 2007

- Continued development of the highly successful and innovative Student Support Services Centre as a means of providing centralised support and with a view to moving to full service community based schooling
- Continued engagement of staff and parents in “Round Table” conversations lead by the Support Services Team to continue to assist students in need
- Successful Review of Pastoral Care and Personal Development programs in line with the document, “Living Life to the Full” and with a focus on local needs of the school community
- Successful and highly pleasing introduction of a Vertical Pastoral Structure and House Coordinator structure of management
- Continued enhancement of the staff work environment through the continued refurbishment of the staff work area
- Successful introduction of a new Student Leadership structure to work in with the changed House structure in 2007
- Successful promotion of the changed functions of the Student Council as an advisory body and encouragement of regular meetings assisted by the Leadership Team and middle managers
- Continued provision of lap tops and professional learning to all staff to allow for enhancement of their IT skills and to be used as a major communication tool
- Continuation of the Peer Support committee to assist in peer mediation to combat Bullying committee
- Continued promotion of the Responsible Behaviour Room and the successful appointment of a new qualified staff member to run this
- The continued Development of a Safety Policy in line with the NSSF

- Successful functioning of the School Board to assist with policy formation, implementation and review
- Arrangement of timetable, daily program and pastoral room location in line with the new vertical structure
- Continued promotion of sun safety and compulsory wearing of hats or caps by all students
- Successful promotion in the Middle School of the wearing of a new uniform which is more conducive to comfort in the Gold Coast climate
- Introduction of a compulsory hat for Years 8 and 9 in line with Sun Safe Policy – all other students encouraged to be Sun Safe when playing sport
- Successful conduct once again of a six week “Parenting of Adolescents” Program conducted by the College Counsellor
- Successful conduct of a Second Parent Forum to engage in conversation with parents regarding future directions for the College
- Successful conduct of the “Asteros” Success for Boys Wilderness Camp for students at risk from St Michael’s, Aquinas and Marymount Colleges and planning in place for a Girls programme to be implemented
- Continued fostering of links with Bond and Griffith University for the provision of support with courses and counselling
- Successful Student Leaders Conference held at the beginning of the year at Greenmount allowing for priority setting for the year
- Weekly support meetings held with the Principal and Year 12 Student Leaders
- Through our school based Indigenous Liaison Officer for the Nerang Consortium of Schools “Gaurema”, the establishment of networks and links with the Indigenous communities in neighbouring schools continues to be fostered

Broad Strategic Goal Four - Partnerships

To strengthen existing and develop new partnerships and relationships within and beyond the St Michael’s community.

Achievements for 2007

- Co Curricular activities promoted in the pursuit of holistic education
- Continued fostering excellent relationships with Catholic primary and Secondary schools in our cluster
- Campus Minister continues to establish links with the Catholic primary schools in our cluster
- The social justice CARITAS program established links with mission agencies within our local area (Caritas, St. Vincent de Paul, Rosies, etc)
- Successful promotion of the Student Council as a means of engaging the wider community in the mission of the school
- Continued links with international communities continued through the Japanese Hakata exchange program and planning is in place for cultural immersion and exchange with communities and schools in Thailand, Noumea and Hong Kong in 2008 and beyond
- Strengthening of relationships with Parents and Friends association by means of pursuing a mission in line with the strategic directions of the College and rewriting of the Constitution
- Continue to foster a climate of cooperation with staff in the spirit of EB5 agreements
- Continued positive response to the BCE call to be a “community of communities”

- Links with other independent and state secondary schools through professional networks have been encouraged and continued
- Continue to foster positive links with tertiary providers – particularly with Griffith and Bond Universities
- Continued positive conversations and visits with and by the Federal and State local members
- Continued development of positive relationships with the Sacred Heart Parish
- Continued fostering of student involvement in the 232 Australian Air Force Cadet Squadron based at the College
- With a move towards full service schooling – setting up partnerships with a view to inviting community groups into our community
- Continued structuring of the Year 12 Rite of Passage activities to provide avenues to connect with groups that can support our seniors in their development in their future lives as they exist school
- A parent forum to discuss issues topical and relevant to adults and adolescents was a great success
- To continue to establish partnerships with employing groups so as to be able to offer apprenticeships and traineeship opportunities to students. Strengthening of positive relationships with SCISCO has continued
- Continued to foster positive relationships with Ashmore Rotary by means of dinners at the College and support for the Interact movement
- Continued presence of guest speakers from various community organisations to address students at College assemblies
- Work continued with the Cancer Foundation and the State Government in developing a Sun Smart School Policy
- Continued support for the Neighbourhood Watch Group which meets at the College

Broad Strategic Goal Five - Facilities

To continue to upgrade facilities and resources so as to enhance the learning and recreational environment at St Michael's and to integrate information and communication technologies into student and staff learning processes.

Achievements for 2007

- Continued establishment of a College Master Plan and engagement of architects Fairweather Proberts for future building projects in consultation with BCE Planning and Building Services
- Successful appointment of a Facilities Manager to co-ordinate maintenance and minor projects in the College
- Development of a new Maintenance Plan and schedule for the College
- Continued upgrading of facilities in classrooms
- Continued review of the schedules of the Grounds and Cleaning Staff
- Continued upgrading and landscaping of the grounds and gardens of St. Michael's to create a sun safe, friendly welcoming environment. Successful opening of the Oxenham Garden and promotion of all Houses to share responsibility for a garden in the future
- Continued to increase the amount of shaded areas in light of the commitment to being a Sun Safe School through the provision of large umbrellas
- Continued upgrading of the staff working and recreational areas

- Provision of rain water tanks and sprinkling systems gained through successful Water Grant applications
- Installation of a Federal Govt funded flagpole at the front of the school
- Promotion of greater use of the Multi Cam machine in the Industrial Arts area to provide income to the College community
- Harmony Court promoted as a welcoming gathering space, adjacent to Student Support Services Centre
- The successful installation of Lockers in House colours for all students in the College
- The successful implementation of the Academy computerised attendance tracking facility and enhanced digital communication with parents
- The development of two cricket nets on the College oval
- The construction of a dedicated shed for the use by the 232 Australian Air Force Cadet Squadron
- Continued planning for an upgrade of the tuckshop facility
- Continued investigation of alternate configurations for staff parking and student drop off areas
- Reviewed student parking within the College
- Continued planning for the building of the multi purpose facility in conjunction with the master planning facility
- Continued investigations of most appropriate means of upgrading electricity supply to the College in light of increased demands due to increasing numbers and need for building
- School officers and other ancillary staff encouraged to wear the College provided uniforms
- Provision of extra data projectors in classrooms
- Continued provision of lap tops for all full time staff with support and training
- Continued upgrade of the College Web page and intranet
- Installation of closed circuit television security system
- Continued growth of the musical life of the College through the purchase of new musical equipment
- Promotion and support of the changed role of the Business Manager in the College
- Welcomed support of the Board and Parents and Friends Association input and involvement in discerning the needs of the College

Embracing the Future 2008

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 Renewal Validation Process engaged in this year certainly was a time of celebration and affirmation of significant growth and renewal at St Michael's over the last five years of the renewal cycle. Next year we continue the new *Strategic Renewal Cycle 2007- 2011* and our developing priorities will be very much in line with the Brisbane Catholic Education School Renewal Priorities. Our strategic priorities providing a professional and spiritual direction for our community in 2008 and beyond are identified as

- *The Religious and Evangelising Mission of Schools*
- *Student Learning Outcomes*
- *Student Support*

- *Staff Support*
- *Partnerships and Relationships*
- *Information, Communication and Learning Technologies*
- *Resourcing Catholic Schooling*
- *Renewal and Quality Assurance*

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.

The Strategic Renewal Validation Process and Report presented in early 2007 provides data to support this degree of satisfaction.

Surveys of parents and students conducted as part of the Internal 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.