



*St Columba College*

Established jointly by the  
Anglican & Catholic Churches

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## St Columba College School Performance Report 2009



### Introduction

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to present to you our Annual School Performance Report.

Over the past few years, the Australian Government has begun to articulate specific areas of school life that must be reported to the school community. With this legislation in mind, and with a commitment to provide you with information about important College statistics, I hope that you will find the contained information interesting and informative.

It is important to remember that no 'one' report ever captures the entirety of all the 'highs' and 'lows' that occur across any particular year. Thus this document is best understood when read in conjunction with College Newsletters, our Year Book, school reports and the various other communication that come from the College. With all of this in mind I think it is fair to say that we are proud of our achievements in 2008 and continue to strive for excellence in all that we do at St Columba.

This report is also available on our web site: [www.stcolumba.com.au](http://www.stcolumba.com.au)

## Section One: Professional Engagement

### 1. Staff Attendance

During the 2008 school year the College employed a total of 152 people. Teaching and Senior Leadership across the R-12 nature of the College accounted for 99 of these staff, 49 held responsibilities as Educational Support Staff and 4 staff members operated the College's Out of School Hours Care facility.

During the 2008 school year, staff members accessed a variety of short term Personal Leave entitlements, including Sick, Carers, Parenting, Bereavement and Family Leave.



Staff access to these short term leave entitlements (i.e. not including staff on Maternity Leave or Long Service Leave) totaled 2.46% of the total school year.

The dedication of our College staff and their commitment to undertake an outstanding job is reflected in their attendance at the College for 97.54% of the entire school year

## 2. Staff Retention

Staff who resigned or accessed leave in 2008:

### Resignations:

ESO:	4
Teachers R-6:	1
Teachers 7-12:	8

### On Leave:

ESO:	0
Teachers R-6:	2
Teachers 7-12:	3

ESO and Teaching staff returning in 2009 after leave: 4

While the College is still experiencing enrolment growth in the Senior Years, most new staff joined the College as a result of a vacancy either permanent or replacing a staff member on leave. The following numbers indicate staff that joined the College community during the second half of 2008 or at the beginning of 2009:

ESO:	7
R-6:	3
7-12:	9

## 3. Staff Qualifications

We are fortunate to have people on staff who are extremely well qualified in undertaking their teaching, administrative and leadership roles. Many of our teachers have two or more formal qualifications in particular areas:

Masters Degree:	8
Bachelor Degree:	98
Post Graduate Diploma:	3
Adv Dip & Diploma:	36

In addition to this, we have a number of staff who are undertaking post graduate studies in the following:

Doctorate Studies in Education

Masters Studies in Education; Leadership

Graduate Studies in Religious Education and Social Science

## 4. Expenditure and Teacher Participation in Professional Learning

All members of the College staff are encouraged to undertake Professional Learning in their specific area of work. Teaching staff continue to be involved in a wide range of professional learning activities including personal professional development, working in pastoral and year level teams, working within their curriculum areas or faculty groups, as well as attending whole staff professional development.

Professional development and consultancy services provided by Catholic Education SA were again well supported by the teaching staff during 2008. Considerable emphasis continues to be placed by teachers on Literacy and Numeracy research and development projects.

With the introduction of the new SACE planned for Year 10 students in 2009 a significant number of information and consultancy opportunities were offered by the SACE Board, the State Government body established to develop the new SACE and coordinate its implementation by schools. A number of teaching staff attended a wide range of such opportunities to ensure the College is well prepared for the new SACE.

All College staff attended the Annual Staff Retreat in September whose theme was 'Creation Theology' as well as undertaking ongoing training in Occupational Health Safety and Welfare.

College staff members continue to undertake professional learning in Religious Education completing formal courses in the Graduate Certificate in Religious Education as well as participating in a variety of Religious Education thematic modules facilitated by the Catholic Education Office.

The overall expenditure on staff training in 2008 was \$47,348. A significant proportion of College expenditure for staff professional development in 2008 was subsidised by contributions from the Catholic Education Office and the State Government.



## Section Two: Key Student Outcomes

### 1. Student Attendance - 2008

YEAR LEVEL	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3	TERM 4
Reception	87.8	92.6	92.8	93.1
Year 1	94.1	94.5	91.7	92.5
Year 2	94.0	94.7	91.5	94.2
Year 3	95.8	94.0	93.4	94.5
Year 4	94.2	94.0	90.8	92.6
Year 5	93.6	93.0	92.8	93.6
Year 6	96.0	94.2	92.2	94.2
Year 7	93.2	88.1	89.7	94.2
Year 8	89.1	91.2	89.6	89.2
Year 9	94.9	93.2	89	87.5
Year 10	90	90	86.4	89
Year 11	89	89	88.5	84.9
Year 12	95	86	94	93

**Reading Rocketeers:** In 2008, 34 students were selected to participate in the program (21 boys, 13 girls) from Reception to Year 3, compared to 27 students on the program in 2007 (14 boys, 13 girls). Students cease the program once they reach their year level benchmark and new students are added.

**Rainbow Reading:** In 2008, 43 students participated in the program, with 18 successfully completing the program and consequently discontinuing. This is in comparison to the 46 students on the program in 2007, of which 18 students successfully completed the program.



## NAPLAN (Literacy and Numeracy testing) overview

National testing was conducted in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9 for the first time. The tests continue to provide students, parents and the college teaching community with a comparative 'snapshot' of student achievement. In the Primary School, 2008 NAPLAN testing demonstrated an overall improvement in Literacy and Numeracy results for all Year 3, 5, & 7 cohorts. The results were especially pleasing in Year 3. State wide, the national tests indicated that aspects of grammar learning need to be addressed more explicitly. St Columba already has teacher Professional Development and curriculum review strategies in place.

All students maintained or improved their levels of achievement. We are especially pleased with the improvement of the Year 9 cohort in the Reading component of the Literacy testing.

Proficiency Bands across the Year Levels identify the results of the students testing and enable comparison to be made from one testing year to the next. The information that follows includes:

- The number of student who sat the various testing components.
- The percentage of students who are at or above the expected Proficiency Band for their year level.
- An indication of individual student progress from one testing year to the next. (Years 5, 7 & 9)

*Number of students who sat the various testing*

	Year 3	Year 5	Year 7	Year 9
Language Conventions	82	78	82	146
Writing	82	72	83	147
Reading	83	77	82	151
Numeracy Calculator not allowed	82	77	82	148
Numeracy Calculator allowed	NA	NA	82	148

*The percentage of students who are at or above the expected Proficiency Band for the year Level*

Year	Spelling		Grammar and Punctuation		Writing		Reading		Numeracy	
	% at Band	% above Band	% at Band	% above Band	% at Band	% above Band	% at Band	% above Band	% at Band	% above Band
3	11	87	13	78	4	93	12	82	5	87
5	10	78	15	77	6	87	15	75	22	66
7	15	77	22	65	22	70	26	67	34	60
9	14	79	22	63	22	70	15	79	24	69

*Indication of individual student progress from one testing year to the next*

Year	Reading			Numeracy		
	First 25 %	Medium 50%	Highest 25%	First 25 %	Medium 50%	Highest 25%
5	17	25	18	22	54	24
7	31	50	19	30	54	16
9	9	48	43	29	56	15

## Average Standardized Assessment Results for Year 9 Students

School means for all students as a proficiency level

Spelling	Grammar and Punctuation	Writing	Reading	Numeracy
7.8	7.4	7.8	7.7	7.5

National State and College Mean Scores

	National	State	College
Spelling	576	575	572
Grammar and Punctuation	569	564	552
Writing	569	571	573
Reading	578	579	566
Numeracy	582	571	556

## 2. Value Added

During 2008, a number of programs were offered to students to support their learning opportunities.

**In the R-6 Section the following took place:**

- Student leadership structures via the Student Representative Council and House Captains
- Significant Special Education and Adaptive Education support for students through Special Programs
- Literacy Intervention Programs - Rainbow Reading, Reading Recovery, Reading Rocketeers.
- Friendly Schools and Families; a bullying intervention program, was introduced and is taught alongside Program Achieve providing a basis for a student 'well being' focus.
- Interschool Athletics, Cross Country, SAPSSA, School Sports Day, House activities and other sporting opportunities were available to students.
- An instrumental music program was offered to students, as was choir.
- A healthy eating program was promoted.
- Students attended liturgies and/or masses in both the Anglican and Catholic traditions.
- A part-time school Counsellor was made available to students and parents.
- Seasons for Growth; a grief and loss program for young people experiencing change, loss and grief.

**In the 7-9 Section the following took place:**

- Transition program for students joining the College at year 8
- Special Education and Adaptive Education support for students with special needs
- Year 9 Camp that addresses leadership and student relationships
- Counselling support made available to all students
- A variety of musical opportunities available to students, including individual music tuition, ensembles and choir work
- Students attended a variety of liturgical gatherings, including both Anglican and Catholic masses
- Students were given the opportunity to undertake a variety of sporting activities; interschool competition, Sports Day, House activities
- Systematic student leadership structure
- Year level retreat program for all year levels
- Year level Quiz Nights involving parents, families and students
- Community Evening

### **In the 10-12 Section the following took place:**

- Special Education and Adaptive Education support for students with special needs
- A Retreat Program which involves all students with Year 12 students enjoying a three day live in program
- Counselling support is made available to all students
- A variety of musical opportunities were available to students including individual music tuition, ensembles and choir work
- Students attended a variety of liturgical gatherings including both Anglican and Catholic masses
- All students in Year 10 undertook Work Experience
- Students were given the opportunity to undertake a variety of sporting activities: interschool competition, sports day and house activities
- After school and lunch time assistance was offered in a range of subjects including English, History, Mathematics and Science
- Year 12 students attended holiday revision sessions in all subjects
- Tournament of Minds
- Senior students were involved in Drama productions presented to parents, students and staff
- Senior students had the opportunity to participate in University Programs designed to give them an introduction to Tertiary Study
- Student leadership structures are in place through the Prefect and House systems

### **3. Senior Secondary Outcomes**

In 2008, 61 students completed Stage 2 at St Columba, studying from a range of SACE Board of South Australia school based subject (plus 10 individually mentored Community Studies contracts) or successfully completing a Vocational Course

- 59 completed a course of four or five SACE Board of South Australia school based subjects
- 2 undertook a combination of school based subjects and a Vocational Course in partnership with TAFE and Industry providers.

#### **SACE completion**

In 2008, 50 students successfully completed the SACE, satisfying the curriculum and grade requirements established by SACE Board of South Australia. All students who wanted access to tertiary study met entrance requirements. St Columba supported a small number of students with significant health issues, to successfully complete their SACE and pursue successful tertiary pathways.

11 students did not complete their SACE in 2008

- 3 students withdrew during the year
  - 2 to apprenticeships
  - 1 to full time work in the Construction Industry.
- 1 student is an accelerated student, who will complete their SACE in 2009.
- 3 students are part-time and plan to complete their SACE in 2009.
- 4 students did not meet SACE requirements. These students received significant academic and pastoral support from the teaching and support staff, and the wider school community.
- All students were supported and given every opportunity to achieve their SACE.

The achievement of academic excellence was once again evident in our results and continues to develop as our student cohort expands and becomes increasingly diverse.

- A total 19 'A' band grades of 17/20 or 85% or better was achieved by 14 students across 12 of 29 subjects offered
- 5 students achieved two or more 'A' grades in their final results
- The St Columba College school community is very proud of a '20' awarded to a student studying Modern History
- '17' and '18' grades were awarded to students studying in a range of subjects including: Business Documents, Desk Top Publishing, English Studies, English Communications, Geography, Music: Solo and Ensemble Performance, Music Individual Study, Physical Education, Modern History, and Vocational Studies, This subject list indicates that the 2008 Year 12 cohort achieved an 'A' in a wide range of subject areas. This is a great strength. Such achievement, in a diverse range of subjects, better enables the College to strive for academic excellence and the personal success of all students.

In summary

- 23% of the students in Year 12 achieved an 'A' grade for their effort
- 3 students achieved a Tertiary Education Ranking of greater than 70, 7 students achieved greater than 75 and 3 students achieved greater than 85
- The College Dux achieved a TER of 94.05 out of a maximum score of 99.5

The St Columba teaching and support staff are very proud of our students' academic and further study/pathway achievement. This is a sound achievement for our school community in its sixth year of Year 12 study. A high proportion of our overall student population continues to present with significant specific learning needs and social challenges.

Of the 50 students who gained their SACE, 43 elected to receive a TER or TAFE entrance score and be considered for University or TAFE study as a post-school option. Of these students:

- 88% of students gained a TER or TAFE entrance score that gave them access to a course in the first round
- 49% were first preferences choices

Students have been offered position at the following SA institutions:

- 13 received placements for study at TAFE
- 3 at Adelaide University
- 8 at Flinders University
- 11 at the University of South Australia

Melissa Sherman, St Columba College's Career Counsellor is involved in a Future SACE pilot post-secondary study research program. She has tracked the progress of all 2008 Year 12 students.

Other pathways followed by our 2008 Year 12 cohort include:

- 3 students - Defence Force Gap Year
- 1 student Apprenticeship
- 2 students pursuing Industry based training programs
- 2 continuing employment in position held whilst a student at St Columba
- 1 student has returned to St Columba to repeat Year 12 with the desire to improve their TER and study education in 2010

## Satisfaction

### Parent Satisfaction – Year One and Year Nine Survey

At the beginning of 2009 we invited parents of Year 1 and Year 9 students to complete a survey which sought to gain their comments about their satisfaction with the College.

The results of the surveys highlighted many positive aspects of the College. There was a clear indication that parents believed that the students at St Columba were well cared for and that the College was indeed a place that strived for excellence.

Survey responses for Year 1 parents were as follows: (75 sent out with 25 responses returned)

Question	Yes	No	No Comment	No Response
Has your child settled in well at the College?	100%			
Have you been happy with the overall education package offered at the College?	86%	14%		
Have you been happy with your child's educational progress?	82%	9%		9%
Have you found the teaching staff approachable?	92%	4%		4%
Have you found the administrative staff approachable?	86%	10%		4%
Has the communication from the College been adequate?	68%	12%	4%	12%

Survey responses from Year 9 parents were as follows: (184 sent out with 41 responses returned):

Question	Yes	No	No Comment	No Response
Has your child settled in well at the College?	96%	4%		
Have you been happy with the overall education package offered at the College?	91%	5%	2%	2%
Have you been happy with your child's educational progress?	91%	6%		3%
Have you found the teaching staff approachable?	87%	8.5%	2.5%	2%
Have you found the administrative staff approachable?	90%	7%	3%	
Has the communication from the College been adequate?	86.5%	8.5%		5%

Deep Peace



**Madeleine Brennan**  
Principal

