


## Our school at a glance

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### Principal's foreword

#### Introduction

In 2007 we took a number of significant forward steps:

- We created a new academic excellence strategy that provides exceptional opportunities for students through the PACE programme and individual acceleration opportunities
- We almost achieved our goal of every student leaving the school with either an OP or a VET qualification (96% did achieve this).
- We introduced the "200 leader" program to provide strong motivation for our best students.
- Planning was completed for the 2.7 million dollar "Enterprise Centre" which will begin construction in 2008. The Enterprise Centre will combine Hospitality with Business and offer great opportunities in community focused entrepreneurial education.
- We finalised a uniquely Southport teaching and learning model which captures the very best pedagogy available.
- Our new film and media centre was completely refurbished with superb production and editing technology installed.
- Other new infrastructure completed during the year included a fabrication and automotive facility, and a new food processing unit for the farm.
- Construction of 250,000 litres of water storage has enhanced cultivation and irrigation in the school and is projected to save 2.3 million litres of water each year.

## Our school at a glance

### Our School Profile

Southport State High is a co-educational school with a little under 900 students in year 8 to 12

The school stands in spacious grounds with a hilltop location. Our facilities are outstanding and include a Farm, Marine Centre, 25 meter Swimming Pool, Sports Centre and Gym. We have a large Drama Hall and practice rooms, a newly refurbished Media Centre, 6 Computer laboratories, an exceptionally resourced Library, an innovative Industrial Arts Centre and a specialised Dance Studio.

A new Enterprise centre for Hospitality and Business is about to be constructed in mid 2008.

### Future outlook

- ❑ The 7 elements of the Leadership and Personal Mastery Program will create a positive and motivational peer environment that will encourage high aspirations and independent thinking in over 200 students.
- ❑ Our PACE and Spectrum of Learning initiatives will drive even higher standards of academic performance.
- ❑ We will radically expand the numbers of students in industry placement (apprenticeships, traineeships and work placements) and continue to extend the number and quality of our certificate programs.
- ❑ The Enterprise centre will near completion and we will have a number of industry related and enterprise projects ready to begin.

### Curriculum offerings

#### Our distinctive curriculum offerings include:

- PACE classes and the Spectrum of Learning approach.
- Automotive and Manufacturing certificate programs in a purpose-built facility.
- A varied and celebrated Arts program that includes exceptional programs in Dance Film and new Media, Drama, Music and Art.
- A full range of Academic options in Mathematics and the Sciences.
- Agriculture (we have a school farm) and Marine Science (from our Marine Centre with direct access to water).
- An innovative Health and PE program which includes sports specialisation options in Basketball, Volleyball and Touch Football.
- Robotics

#### Among our many extra curricula activities are:

- The Leadership and Personal Mastery program.
- Griffith University connections in Science and Engineering.
- Excursions to Opera and live theatre, concerts, museums and art galleries.
- A full sports program.
- An annual Musical, Drama Festival performances, Dance Showcases, Art expo and Film awards evening.
- Our annual fun run.
- Opportunities to attend programs with motivational speakers and enjoy interaction with business and community leaders.
- Visits to law courts, parliament and business and industry locations.
- Marine studies and geography excursions to Heron Island, Stradbroke Island and many coastal locations.
- Duke of Edinburgh award scheme.
- We are the home of the "Trix Circus School" and an "Acceleration Australia" fitness centre.
- Agriculture (show) competitions and small animal expos.
- Participation in i-track or the SCISCO mentoring program.

## Our school at a glance

### How computers are used to assist learning

- Electronic white-boards and access to data projection technology in many areas.
- 6 specialised computer learning laboratories.
- All teachers have their own PC in order to plan and design learning experiences.
- Refurbished media centre provides access to the latest production and editing technology.
- Robotics lab introduces students to programming technology.
- Extensive use of use of graphics calculators in Mathematics and Science.
- Innovative research options promoted through our Library.
- Through the use of computer aided design in the Industrial Arts area.
- Through the use of E-mail and web-based connections for learning circles, teacher - student contact and the i-Track mentor program.

### Social climate and Support Programs

We are proud of our pro-active approach to creating a positive tone and positive peer support through our Leadership and Personal Mastery Program. The 7 elements of the program are:

- Experiential workshops
- Community participation
- Motivational speakers and facilitators.
- Immersion experiences
- Reflective Practices
- An on-line program
- A wide range of action options.

Participants in the program are able to learn together the secrets of leading a successful life, both now and in the future, and the skills and strategies needed to be the best they can be!

Our school places a huge emphasis on programs to support each child, and we have great structures and processes in place to contribute to their welfare.

- Every student is supported by a Head of Year who will usually enrol them on entry, support them through their 5 years of secondary education and be the proud surrogate parent who laughs and cries with them on their graduation. These Heads of Year work closely with each student's Pastoral care teacher, who meets with them every day.
- Our Guidance Officer leads a welfare and intervention team that includes:
  - o A Youth Support Coordinator
  - o A full-time Youth Pathways Officer
  - o A School Nurse

## Our school at a glance

- An indigenous support worker
  - A Director of Placements who oversees all enrolments and ensures appropriate placements across the spectrum of learning.
  - Our Chaplain
  - The Director of the Responsible Thinking Centre
  - Liaison with the Smith Family "Education for Life" personnel based at our school.
- With other school staff, and a number of outside agencies, the support and welfare team deliver a wide range of programs that include:
- Individual and group counselling
  - Case management of students encountering difficulty.
  - Peer and Adult mentor programs
  - Program Achieve for all year 8 and 9 students.
  - The i-Track program (on-line mentoring)
  - Leadership opportunities in every year level.
  - Group intervention programs such as WAY and PLAN for at-risk students.
  - Luchtime activities run by a local youth group.
  - A breakfast program.

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

We encourage conversation with your child's teachers, by phone or E-mail, on a regular basis. Sharing E-mail addresses with your child's teachers to encourage easy communication.

Meetings of the Parents and Citizen's Association are held on the first Wednesday of every month (these are short, informal, not focussed on fund raising and you don't have to volunteer for a job!)

The school holds regular discussion nights, forums and information sessions throughout the year. Whether it is the popular "Parents' Guide to the Teenage Brain" evenings, or sessions which invite you to meet and chat with teachers about how to make the school even better, you are always welcome.

Parent teacher conferences are held twice each year, and you can request your own conferences with teachers whenever you need to.

Our on-line newsletter is published every fortnight.

Parents are urged to attend the many celebratory events such as awards, performances and leadership ceremonies, which are held each year.

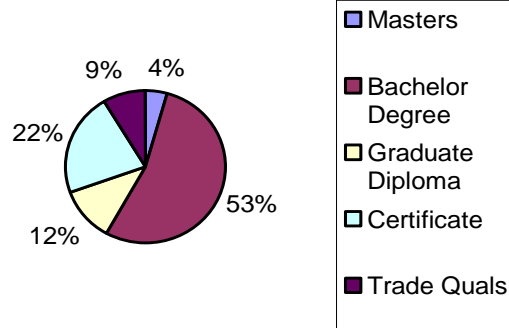
You can get in touch with the Principal at any time through [theprincipal@southportshs.eq.edu.au](mailto:theprincipal@southportshs.eq.edu.au) or by calling for an appointment.

And of course, we always welcome volunteers to work in the Canteen, the Library or assist with Reading Programs.

## Our staff profile

### Qualifications of all teachers.

Masters	3
Bachelor Degree	37
Graduate Diploma	8
Certificate	15
Trade Quals	6



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

Because we believe that it is important that our teachers stay on the cutting edge of the profession, each year we support a high level of teacher participation in professional development.

**The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2007 were \$34,079.**

**100% of the teaching staff participated in professional development activities during 2007**

The major professional development initiatives were :

- Curriculum workshops in which teachers extended their specialist expertise.
- Program workshops in which teachers wrote innovative new programs.
- Assessment workshops to help improve the alignment between teaching and assessment.
- Various workshops to assist staff with dimensions of the school's support and welfare work.
- Training to enhance teachers vocational education qualifications
- First Aid Training

## Our staff profile

### Average staff attendance

For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 97% in 2007.

### Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

From the end of the 2006 school year, 92 % of staff was retained by the school for the entire 2007 school year.

## Performance of our students

### Student attendance

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2007 was 88%.

This is higher than the average for other secondary schools of the same size.

### Key outcomes in the senior phase of learning

#### Apparent retention rates Year 8 to Year 12.

Year 12 student enrolment as a percentage of the Year 8 student cohort.

80.2% This result is an improvement on the retention rate in the previous two years and is significantly better than the retention rate in other urban secondary schools.

#### Outcomes for our Year 12 cohort of 2007

Total number of Senior Certificates awarded	167
Percentage of students who applied for University Entrance through the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) and received an offer of a place in a University course.	94 %
Percentage of students awarded either a Senior Certificates with OP-eligibility or awarded a VET qualification.	96 %
Percentage of Overall Position (OP) -eligible students with OP 1-15	53 %
Percentage of students awarded Senior Certificates and awarded a Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualification	63 %

### Post-school destination information

At the time of publishing this School Annual Report, the results of the 2008 Year 12 post-school destinations survey, Next Step - Student Destination Report for the school were not available. Information about these post-school destinations of our students will be posted to our website by early September.

# Performance of our students

## Other Key Outcomes

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

Parents once again expressed great satisfaction with the school, with their satisfaction levels, in all the dimensions measured by the School Opinion Survey, registering as higher than in other similar secondary schools.

For teaching staff, the highest levels of satisfaction measured were in the relationships with colleagues and students, the way the school operates and staff morale.

The parent surveys showed that our very high levels of student satisfaction slipped slightly this year, but it was pleasing to see that students were particularly pleased with the variety of curriculum choice available to them, and the opportunities they have to make decisions about their own learning.

Students also expressed the view that teachers explain clearly what is required of them and are always ready to help them in their work. These features of student satisfaction were repeated in supplementary surveys conducted by the school.