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Principal's foreword

Introduction

In 2008:

- Our Senior School Academic data showed further improvement with 70% of our eligible students scoring an OP of 15 or better.
- Our academic excellence strategy, the PACE program, is producing exceptional results, and is enabling students to work with significant enrichment, or be accelerated up to two academic years.
- Our leaders program is thriving. As well as providing significant developmental experiences for the 200 leaders in the program, two students received wider recognition for their outstanding leadership:
 - Paulyn Wame - Order of Australia Youth Citizenship Award;
 - Emi Nishiguchi - International Women's Day Youth Leadership Award Winner.
- Construction of the 2.78 million dollar "Enterprise Centre" was commenced, with the centre opened in 2009.
- Our new film and media centre was completely refurbished with superb production and editing technology installed.
- A new food processing unit for farm produce was added to our agriculture infrastructure.
- The Southport Academy of Performing Arts was launched.
- We completed the development of a uniquely Southport teaching and learning model which captures the very best practice in teaching and planning.

School Profile

- Southport State High is a co-educational school.
- In 2008 our enrolment was a little under 900 students in years 8 to 12
- The school stands in spacious grounds with a hilltop location.
- Our facilities are outstanding and include a Farm, Marine Centre, 25 metre Swimming Pool, Sports Centre and Gym.
- In early 2009, a new "Enterprise Centre", which combines industry standard hospitality facilities with a medium-sized conference and training venue, was completed.
- Our superb facilities for the Creative Arts including a large Drama Hall and practice rooms, a newly refurbished Media Centre, a specialised Dance Studio and spacious Art and Music facilities.
- Multiple computer laboratories, a robotics centre and a student/computer ratio of 2:1 enable our students to use technology to enhance their education through personalized study options.
- We have an exceptionally resourced Library, and an innovative Industrial Arts Centre which includes a fabrication and automotive facility.

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, delivered through the Southport Academy of Performing Arts, that includes exceptional programs in Dance, Film and Television, 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;
- The Trix Circus school which introduces every year 8 student to Circus;
- Robotics

Among our many extra curricula activities are:

- "FutureShape Leaders" - our outstanding 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;
- Opportunities to attend programs with motivational speakers and enjoy interaction with business and community leaders;
- Visits to law courts, parliament, business and industry locations;
- Marine studies and geography excursions to Heron Island, Stradbroke Island and many coastal locations;
- The 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.

How computers are used to assist learning

- Electronic white-boards and access to data projection technology in many areas;
- Access to 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 mentoring and the i-Track mentor program.

Social climate

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 6 elements of the program are:

- o Experiential workshops;
- o Mentoring by past students;
- o Motivational speakers and facilitators;
- o Reflective Practices;
- o An on-line program;
- o A wide range of leadership 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;
- o An indigenous support worker and pan Pacific student counselor;
- o A Director of Placements who oversees all enrolments and ensures appropriate placements across the spectrum of learning;
- o Our Chaplain;
- o The Director of the Responsible Thinking Centre;
- o 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:

- o Individual and group counseling;
- o Case management of students encountering difficulty;
- o Peer and Adult mentor programs;
- o Program Achieve for all year 8 and 9 students;
- o The i-Track program (on-line mentoring);
- o Leadership opportunities in every year level;
- o Group intervention programs such as anger Management (BAM) and a girls development group for at-risk students;
- o Lunchtime activities.

Involving parents in their child's education.

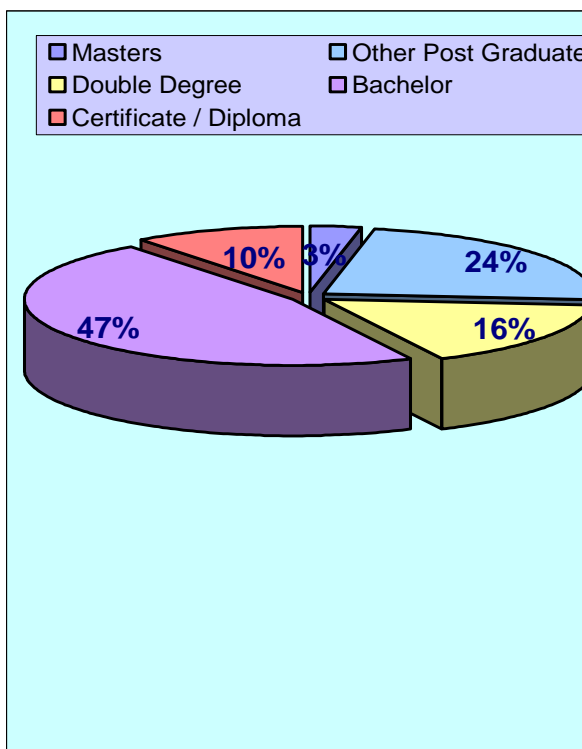
We encourage conversation with your child's teachers, by phone or E-mail, on a regular basis.

- 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 focused 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 the.principal@southportshs.eq.edu.au or by calling for an appointment.
- And of course, we always encourage regular communication through our Heads of Year.

Our staff profile

Qualifications of all teachers

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Masters	2
Other Post Graduate	16
Double Degree	11
Bachelor	32
Certificate / Diploma	7



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

- The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was \$29,500
- The major professional development initiatives are as follows:
 - Teaching and learning Practice;
 - New Curriculum Initiatives;
 - Individual Staff development;
 - Staff Team development.
- The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2008 was 100 %.

Average staff attendance

- For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 96% in 2008.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

- From the end of the 2007 school year, 89% of staff was 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 90%.

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 9
Reading	Average score for the school	546
	Average score for Queensland	568.2
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 88%
Writing	Average score for the school	535
	Average score for Queensland	555.3
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 83%
Spelling	Average score for the school	550
	Average score for Queensland	567.8
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 80%
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school	546
	Average score for Queensland	563.2
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 80%
Numeracy	Average score for the school	550
	Average score for Queensland	570.7
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 89%

Apparent retention rates Year 10 to Year 12.

(Significantly better than the state average)

Year 8 to Year 12 student retention as a percentage of the Year 8 student cohort.	85%
Year 10 to Year 12 student retention as a percentage of the Year 10 student cohort.	91%

Performance of our students

Outcomes for our Year 12 cohort of 2008

Number of students awarded a Senior Statement.	117
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate Individual Achievement (QCIA).	7
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) at the end of Year 12.	70
Number of students awarded one or more Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications.	110
Number of students who are completing or completed a School-based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SAT).	16
Number of students receiving an Overall Position (OP).	56
Percentage of OP/ IBD eligible students with OP 1-15 or an IBD.	70%
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.	95%
Percentage of Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) applicants receiving a tertiary offer.	95%

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 incorporated into this Report in September.

Value added

The school is passionate about adding value to every student's experience through our own commitment to continuous improvement.

Some indicators of success are:

- The improvement in the number of OP eligible students achieving an OP of 15 or better, from 47 % in 2006 to 70% in 2008. During this time we have maintained an unusually high %age of OP eligible students.
- The success of our exiting year 12's in achieving at least one vocational qualification as well as their academic qualifications.
- The growing percentage of student involved in school leadership activities - in 2008 almost 200 students, from year 8 to 12, were involved in the program which has had a very positive impact on student confidence and morale.

Performance of our students

- Our unique student placement process, with thoughtful individual placements across the spectrum of learning, help our school to educate for individual difference.

Parent and student satisfaction with the school

This year 29 parents responded to the annual school opinion survey.

They rated the school **better** than the state and like school's mean on 27 of the 40 categories on the survey, and equivalent to the state mean on most others.

Parents rated our school **well above** the average of other schools on the following dimensions:

- How welcome they felt at the school;
- How approachable staff are at our school;
- With opportunities they have to talk with staff about what their children are taught
- With the interest teachers show in their children

And perhaps most important

- How happy their children are at the school;
- That this is a good school.

Students were even more positive than their parent, rating the school **above the state norms** on all except 4 categories.

Of the 18 dimensions in which they rated the school **well above** the state average, most significant were:

- Their opportunities to make decisions about their own learning;
- The variety of curriculum and activities available to them;
- Their access to computer technology;
- The way that teachers explain things clearly to them;
- The degree to which teachers help them to do better;
- The behaviour of students in the school;
- The way they are treated fairly;

And again, for us two very pleasing dimensions:

- That they are happy to go to this school;
- That Southport High is a good school.

Performance of our students

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