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# San Sisto College

*Women of Integrity Shaping the Future*



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## ANNUAL REPORT 2012

### PRINCIPAL'S FORWARD

**ENROLMENTS: 575**  
All girls Catholic college

#### Distinctive curriculum:

- \* College pedagogy based on Dimensions of Learning and Habits of Mind & Spirit
- \* Japanese and Italian are both offered from Years 8–12
- \* Well developed Vocational Pathways programs articulating into industry
- \* Integrated QCS training and development from Year 8
- \* High academic expectations
- \* Personal Development and Positive Psychology are key foci within our wellbeing program
- \* Children's Services (See our website for full details)

#### STRATEGIES FOR INVOLVING PARENTS

- Active P & F Association
- College Board
- Volunteers at Café Caterina
- Working Bees
- Parent Teacher Student Interviews
- Parent Information Evenings
- Parent voice encouraged through face-to-face discussions, email, phone
- Weekly newsletter (*Verigram*) to parents
- Parent support actively encouraged in sporting program
- Parent coaches
- Parent barbecue
- High level of involvement in Sports carnivals and dances
- Open Day
- Graduation, Awards and Thanksgiving Evenings

2012 was notable for the opening of the college well-being centre, the W.E.L.L. (Wellbeing—Enhanced Life and Learning). The centre was staffed by a centre coordinator, social worker and psychologist, a pastoral worker under the National Schools Chaplaincy Program, indigenous support workers, a massage therapist and a physical enrichment coordinator among others. The concept was incredibly successful and led to its continuation with further enhancements planned in 2013. Students were able to enrol in yoga exercises, meditation, mindfulness and guest presentations amongst its many services.

The year saw significant changes in our pastoral programs. We introduced Psychology for our senior students; we re-wrote our Personal Development Education programs so that they were based on elements of Positive Psychology. During the lunch hours programs were conducted for students on a range of well-being issues such as diet, exercise and helping friends.

Meditative prayer was also introduced in 2012. This has been an incredibly appreciated two minutes of the day—two minutes to quieten the soul, free the mind from the distractions and stresses of the day and to sit in awareness of self and one's creator. APRE Ms Marlene Warnick has created this program for us and we are all most grateful.

Our building program should have been complete by February 2012 but for various reasons (one being the incredibly wet Christmas period) we couldn't move into the spaces fully until 2013. However, now done, they provide us with a state-of-the-art creative arts facility of which we are all proud, a beautifully extended library and a great cafeteria.

Fr Maurice Keating put the finishing touches on the Fra

Angelico Crestive Arts Centre with yet another of his mosaics seen on the photograph below.



The college enrolment has grown further and will reach 595 in 2013.

We are proud of our 2012 students who again brought honour to the college with their very good NAPLAN and OP results. Our music students performed creditably in the Catholic Schools Music Festival and our titration students again took out gold. Japanese students toured Japan practising their language skills, and Sports Aerobics and European handball proved to be two very popular new sports in which our girls performed admirably! LIFE learning management system was introduced with much more work to happen yet!

Our *Habits of Mind and Spirit* program continued to take shape with further resources developed and San Sisto continues to thrive. We have an outstanding student body, wonderful parents, highly competent teachers and an esprit de corps of which we are proud. Margaret Lee MEdLead, B.EdStud, BA, PGDipEd, Cert.in Japanese Principal

### EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

#### Music:

- College Bands and Choir
- Local performances
- Music workshop

#### Sport:

- Wednesday afternoon participation in inter-school sports
- Saturday Tennis (in the Catholic Schools Tennis Association)
- Training followed by breakfast for swimming, athletics, cross country squad
- Training in other sports by staff and volunteers

#### Justice & Community Service

- Justice Breakfast
- Greenies & Justice Groups
- Rosies Street Ministry
- Raising funds for Caritas, Catholic Mission and Dominican ministries
- Bulimba Creek Sustainability Centre
- Salvin Park Aged Care
- Fundraising for St Vincent de Paul

#### Liturgy:

- Preparation for liturgies through song, dance and performance

#### Other:

- Magazine
- Year 8/12 buddy system
- LINC'S Program
- Chemical Analysis—Titration
- House celebrations
- Leading L.I.G.H.T.S. (incl craft)
- Japan/Italy connections
- Japan tour
- East Timor Immersion trip

#### Student Leadership:

- College representation at functions
- Student Representative Council

## STUDENT WELLBEING

In 2012, there were exciting changes in regards to the student well-being at San Sisto College. A new Assistant Principal, Maree Trims, and three new Year Coordinators, Lyne Tilt MacSporran, Leonie Lam and Julianne Harty, joined Judith Jones and Tyron Sahlqvist to oversee pastoral care. They were assisted in their roles by the introduction of our well-being centre.

The W.E.L.L. (Well-being—Enhanced Life and Learning) is an innovative development, which allowed us to further meet the needs of our students. Programs in the W.E.L.L. include meditation, yoga, lunchtime presentations, GALS and Leading L.I.G.H.T.S..

The principles of Positive Psychology were investigated. Two staff visited Geelong Grammar, a leading school in Positive Psychology. This led to a review of our pastoral programs and a name change from our Personal Development Education classes to Positive Development Education (PDE). All staff also participated in an introductory Positive Psychology session in preparation for its implementation in 2013.

In PDE, Year 8 students worked through the Aussie Optimism program, completing individual assessments at the beginning and end of the year. Year 9 students discussed relationships with friends, attitude formation and sexuality. In the Year 10 PDE classes, they began learning about the principals of Positive Psychology. Year 11 and 12 classes were introduced to the subject Psychology. Students learnt about developmental, cognitive and behavioral psychology, allowing them to understand and appreciate the impact of various influences on the brain.

At the end of 2012 we substantially changed our pastoral organization in readiness for the Year 7 cohort of 2015. From 2013 there will be three schools within the one college. Caleruega will include the Year 8 students (and from 2015, the Year 7 students). Caleruega is the birth place of St Dominic. The Year 9 and 10 students will belong to Fanjeaux School. This is the place where Dominic spent his early years and the Year 11 and 12 students will belong to Bologna School. Bologna is the place where Dominic began the General Chapters of the Order and where he later died. The staff and students continued to build positive relationships, allowing students to succeed in the safe and caring environment that is San Sisto College.

— PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT —  
TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

**Expenditure on professional development of staff = \$62,596**

Professional Development was provided during the 7 Pupil-Free Days as well as on numerous days during the year. A balance was sought between teacher attendance and student learning with teacher attendance at PD.

## KEY PROFESSIONAL LEARNING IN 2012:

- Dimensions of Learning and planning units in Dimensions of Learning
- Habits of Mind and Spirit
- Student wellbeing
- Specific professional development relating to subject area needs and professional standards
- Professional Development specific to the area of Religious Education
- Dominican Ethos, Culture and Spirituality
- Attendance at the Dominican Educators' Conference, Habits of Mind workshops
- Regular updates were provided on "The Religious Life of the School"
- First Aid and CPR
- Staff engagement as chairs of committees to oversee reviews of selected Components of the Internal Validation Process.
- Staff attended conferences and workshops relating to areas of interest or need eg QSA, DP/AP/APRE networks and conferences
- Software packages introduced or further developed: Staff Portal, eMinerva, Dynamics, Timetabler, LIFE Learning Management System
- Australian curriculum

## QUALIFICATIONS OF ALL TEACHERS

Highest level of attainment	Percentage of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school — 46
Doctorate	0
Masters	17.5%
Post Graduate Diploma	2.0%
Bachelor Degrees	74.0%
Diploma	6.5%
Certificate	0

## STAFF

Average staff attendance for the school based on unplanned absences of sick and emergent leave for periods of up to 5 days: **96.64%**

## STAFF RETENTION

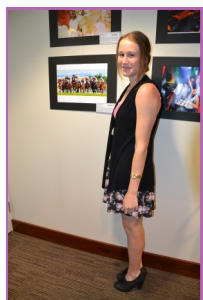
The proportion of paid permanent teaching staff retained from the previous school year: **88%**

## STAFF PROFILE

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-Teaching Staff
Headcounts	46	20
Full-time equivalents	39.9	15.9
Indigenous	0	0

## KEY STUDENT OUTCOMES

Average Student  
Attendance Rate: 92.2%



October Art  
Exhibition



Fair Trade Stall



Rock Band performed at Crackerjack Carnival

- ◆ Year 9 NAPLAN tests were very pleasing
- ◆ Numerous students were selected in representative sporting teams such as athletics, cross country, triathlon, softball, volleyball, touch football, tennis



Lions Youth  
of the Year



'Queensland Catholic Schools' Music Festival

## PARENT, TEACHER & STUDENT SATISFACTION

San Sisto College enjoys a positive reputation and high satisfaction level within its community as noted by:

- Continued rapid growth in enrolments in 2012
- Relative ease with which students are placed in traineeships, work placements, industries and employment
- Good numbers at college functions (Parent Information nights, Awards Night, Curriculum Evenings, Working Bees, Parent –Teacher Interviews), Trivia Night
- Frequently-stated pride in school
- Connectedness amongst and with past pupils, as noted by growing membership of Past Students' Network
- Comments recorded through Renewal surveys and focus groups and end-of-year student satisfaction surveys.

## COLLEGE RENEWAL PLAN

Each year, the Annual Operational Plan and the Strategic Renewal Plan are posted on the college website.

The Brisbane Catholic Education Strategic Renewal Framework informs the development of the college plans.

These plans and strategies are developed in consultation with the college community, the staff, P&F Association and the College Board.

College progress in respect to the Strategic Renewal Plan is monitored and reported upon annually.

Staff annually review 5–7 areas of operation, engaging members of

the wider community in the review process.

An audit of a number of components of college processes, as required for Internal Renewal & Validation, highlighted the successful manner in which the college is conducted and lives its mission and vision.

All reviews have been very successful and demonstrate a high level of strategic operations within the college.

2012 makes the completion of all 32 components of our review process.

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

Information and communication technologies help to provide girls with the skills and critical thinking ability which will assist them to find and utilize information in a media rich world. Through the introduction of the 1:1 laptop program in Years 9–11, staff are able to enhance classroom teaching by integrating technology-based activities and thus engaging students in their learning by utilizing the digital technologies. Staff have also been able to foster a creative approach to learning, allowing students to demonstrate their understanding through media that suit their particular learning styles.

Students benefit from this learning as it will also allow them to contribute positively to the global community they will be entering when they leave school.

In 2013, students from years 9–12 will be a part of the laptop program.



**Attainment and Achievement — Year 12****Apparent retention rates Year 10 to Year 12**

Year 12 student enrolment as a percentage of the Year 10 student cohort.	96%
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**Outcomes for our Year 12 cohort of 110 students for 2012**

Number of students receiving a Senior Statement.	105
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate Individual Achievement.	0
Number of students receiving an Overall Position (OP).	80
Number of students who are completing / continuing a School-based Apprenticeship or Traineeship.	14
Number of students awarded one or more Vocational Educational Training qualifications.	102
Number of students awarded an Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) Certificate II or above.	40
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Education at the end of Year 12.	90
Number of students awarded an International Baccalaureate Diploma (BD)	0
Percentage of OP / IBD eligible students with OP 1 — 15 or an IBD.	74%
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.	99%
Percentage of Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) applicants receiving an offer.	90%

**Overall Position Bands (OP)**

Number of students in each Band for OP 1 — 25

OP 1 — 5	OP 6 — 10	OP 11 — 15	OP 16 — 20	OP 21 — 25
19	14	26	18	3

**Student Achievement—NAPLAN for Year 9**

National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results—our reading writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation and numeracy results for Year 9.

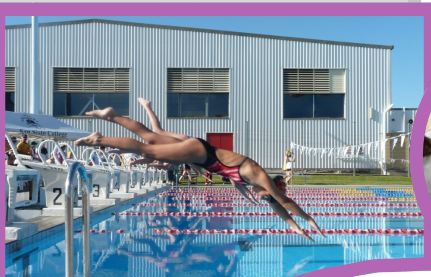
Domain	Measures		Yr 9
Reading	Average score for the school in 2012		595
	Average score for Australia in 2012		575
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2010	97.5%
		2011	99.15%
		2012	98%
Writing	Average score for the school in 2012		594
	Average score for Australia in 2012		554
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2010	98.4%
		2011	98.3%
		2012	97.2%
Spelling	Average for the school in 2012		599
	Average score for Australia in 2012		577
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2010	95.1%
		2011	100%
		2012	97.2%
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school in 2012		609
	Average score for Australia in 2012		573
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2010	99.2%
		2011	99.15%
		2012	98.1%
Numeracy	Average score for the school in 2012		589
	Average score for Australia in 2012		584
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2010	97.5%
		2011	99.15%
		2012	99%



### Vocational Educational Training qualification (VET)

Number of students awarded certificates under the Australian Qualification Framework (AQF)

Certificate I	Certificate II	Certificate III or above
102	12	28



*Swimming Carnival*



*Leading Lights*



*Family Welcome Barbecue*



*Massage therapist in the W.E.L.L.*



*Justice Breakfast*



*College Open Day*



*Commerce Market Day*



*Easter Liturgy*