



HUNTINGTOWER

Annual Report

April 2009

HUNTINGTOWER ANNUAL REPORT April 2009

This is the Annual Report for 2008. Much of it is prepared as a report to the government on the activities of Huntingtower and therefore this overview of the 2008 academic year will include the following aspects:

Staff attendance

Staff retention

Expenditure and participation in teacher professional learning

Student attendance

Proportions of students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 meeting national reading, writing and numeracy benchmarks

Value added – other than academic - (Co-curricular and other activities)

Senior Secondary outcomes (2008)

Retention rate from Years 9 to 12 and Prep to Year 6

Post-school destinations (2007 – 2008)

Results of parental satisfaction survey distributed at the end of 2008

Teacher qualifications

Staff Retention and Attendance

In 2008, Huntingtower had 44 full and part time Secondary teachers, 12 full and part time Primary teachers and 9 support staff.

The staff retention rate was excellent. At the end of 2008, we had three staff members leaving; two from the Senior School and one from the Junior School. Two are going to other schools and the other is retiring and will do replacement work for a few years. This gives an overall staff retention rate of 96.4%.

The staff attendance was also exceptional with the average sick, bereavement and carer's leave taken per teacher being 3.5 days. This equates to a staff attendance rate of approximately 97.3%.

Student Attendance

The student attendance rate for 2008 was excellent being 97.7% in the Junior School and 97.9 in the Senior School.

Staff Professional Development

It is a requirement of the school that each teacher attend a minimum of two professional development activities every year. Additional to this is school initiated professional development. The school invites experts to address the entire staff on issues from resilience to managing classroom behaviour and teaching strategies. The current school thrust is the Harvard University based "Teaching for Understanding" framework and around 75% of teachers have now undertaken this advanced training. A number of our teachers have undertaken level two training and are running professional development courses and workshops for other teachers.

Total expenditure on staff Professional development in 2008 was in the order of \$65 300.

Value Added

Huntingtower provides opportunities for its students in many areas from music and sport, to debating and drama. It has a strong focus on values and character development.

Values

Huntingtower's values are based on the Christian Science religion in which we emphasise the spiritual nature of God and man. Man is made in the image and likeness of God and is thus an unlimited expression of all that God is. We therefore have very high expectations of all of our students and encourage them to throw off the shackles of limited thought. We emphasise "The Golden Rule" as a part of our student Welfare Policy and expect students to support and

care for one another. The expectation of good manners, politeness, good behaviour and supporting every student on their own learning journey pervades the school. Respect for all cultures and religions is emphasised.

Community and Social Service

Our community and social service program is extensive. Students in all levels of the school are involved in fund-raising activities which support groups including the Salvation Army, the Red Cross, the RSPCA, Wesley Central Mission, World Vision and numerous others. We have our own outreach program which includes sending groups of students and adults to South Africa to support struggling urban and rural communities. The Simunye Project is one which changes the lives of our students and those whom we assist. Students and adults collect many thousands of dollars and then travel to South Africa to help build, refurbish and support schools and welfare institutions in Johannesburg and rural communities. From cuddling aids orphans to teaching classes of disadvantaged primary school children, painting buildings and providing desks and chairs, our students "Make A Difference".

Music

In the Junior School, about 75% and in the Senior School, about 50% of the students learn a classical instrument such as violin, piano, cello, flute etc.

In 2008 our musical groups performed in numerous eisteddfods winning first, second and third places for the Senior and Junior Orchestras, String Orchestras and various ensembles.

Eisteddfod Results 2008

DANDENONG EISTEDDFOD

12 years and under Instrumental Ensemble

1st prize – Huntingtower Junior String Ensemble

Honourable Mention – Huntingtower "Terzetto" Trio

18 years and under Instrumental Ensemble

1st prize – Huntingtower Quintet

2nd prize – Huntingtower String Orchestra

25 years and under Glen Prior Memorial Chamber Music Award

3rd prize – Huntingtower Clarinet Trio

Honourable Mention – Huntingtower Piano Trio

BOROONDARA EISTEDDFOD

Primary School Chamber Group

1st prize – Huntingtower "Terzetto" Trio

Primary School Small Ensemble

1st prize – Huntingtower Junior Ensemble

Primary School String Orchestra

1st prize – Huntingtower Junior String Orchestra

Murray Sharp Memorial Open Chamber Music Award

1st prize – Huntingtower Octet

18 years and under Chamber Ensemble

1st prize – Huntingtower Piano Quintet

MORDIALLOC EISTEDDFOD

Secondary School Choirs

1st prize – Huntingtower Senior Chamber Choir

2nd prize – Huntingtower Middle School Chamber Choir

WAVERLEY EISTEDDFOD

14 years and under Large Ensemble

1st prize – Huntingtower Middle School Orchestra

2nd prize – Huntingtower Junior Orchestra

15 years and under Small Ensemble

2nd prize – Huntingtower Middle School Ensemble

18 years and under Large Ensemble

1st prize – Huntingtower String Orchestra

21 years and under Small Ensemble

2nd prize – Huntingtower Clarinet Trio

Each year level has its own music concert to accommodate the musical talents of its many performers. In these concerts students play instruments such as violin, trumpet, trombone, piano, voice and classical guitar. Small and large ensemble concerts are also held. My

grateful thanks to the Music department for all their work in preparing the students, organising these events and encouraging the performers.

The Senior School undertook the musical production of "Anything Goes". Our Music Department consists of Mrs Lynley Bramble (Director of Music), Mrs Lisa Sutton (Director of Choral Music), Mrs Anne Wilson (Junior School Music) and Myfanwy Bramble (Music Assistant). The Director of the show was Mr Daniel Borbely.

The House Music competition develops leadership in the school by having student leaders train, guide and encourage the members of the houses to sing in the House choirs, perform in House Orchestras, ensembles and in solo events. Congratulations to the Music Department, House Music Captains and Heads of House for the outstanding performances we heard.

Inter-school Debating 2008

Our debating program is coordinated by Mrs Shan Christensen whose enthusiasm and organisation has resulted in outstanding results this year.

The competition is open to students from years 9 to 12. This year 30 students were involved (one team each from Yr 9, 10 & 11, and two teams from Year 12).

There were 5 debates between March and August and topics ranged from "Celebrities have too much influence over teenagers" to "The west should invade Zimbabwe".

Results

Year 9 won 3 debates

Year 10 won 1 debate

Year 11 won 4 debates (this meant they tied for 2nd place)

Year 12 Team 1 won 3 debates

Year 12 Team 2 won all 5 debates. They won their section and advanced to the State finals and reached the Octo-finals, thereby placing them in the top 16 teams in the state. This is a remarkable effort as there were around 300 teams in the competition.

Best Speaker Awards

A number of debaters achieved Best Speaker Awards this season. The following people won this **multiple times**: Khali Joyce, Shannon Bowen, Vincent Noutso, Pradyot Ganapathy, Angeline Thiagarajah, KJ Tsanaktsidis and Madeleine Calleja.

The following people won **one** Best Speaker Award: Benjamin Loveland, Claire Higgins, Matthew Fonti, Christopher Costabile, Ineke Kavanagh, and David Swan

Swannie Award

The Swannie Award is presented at the end of the season to the highest scoring speaker in each region. Angeline Thiagarajah won the Swannie for the Glen Iris region this year, distinguishing her as one of the best debaters in the state.

Debating Captains

A special thank you to our Debating Captains Angeline Thiagarajah and KJ Tsanaktsidis

Debating Coaches

Mrs Clarke (Yr 9)

Mrs Gordon (Yr 10)

Mrs Christensen (Yr11)

Miss Beal (Yr 12)

Additional help from Mr Clifford and Ms Greiveson

Sport

The school maintains an excellent record in its sporting pursuits. We came fifth in the **First Division** of the EISM Athletics competition, came Second in the **First division** of the Swimming Competition and **won** the Central division of the Cross Country competition (for the 10th consecutive year). These competitions involve 21 schools which are broken up into three divisions in both swimming and athletics and two in Cross Country. The school also has compulsory weekly sport for students up to and including Year 12 as students are encouraged to get as rounded an education as they can. Team sport takes place during the week and six of these teams won their pennants.

The Sport Department is headed by Mrs Jan Savage and Mr Peter Rees in the Senior School and Mrs Joanna Clapp in the Junior School. The Years 5 and 6 classes play interschool sport in the JSSA.

A summary of weekly sport activities follows:

EISM Sport Results - 2008

Central Division – Southern Conference

SENIOR SPORT

Summer

(Southern
Conference)

Boys

Cricket – 2nd
Volleyball A – 2nd
Volleyball B – 4th
Tennis – 2nd
Hockey – 1st

Girls

Softball – 1st
Volleyball A – 3rd
Volleyball B – 2nd
Tennis – 1st
Soccer – 1st

Winter

Boys

Football – 6th
Basketball – 6th
Soccer – 1st
Table Tennis – 1st

Girls

Hockey – 6th
Basketball – 1st
Netball – 1st
Table Tennis – 1st

YEAR 8/9 SPORT

Winter

Boys

Football – 7th
Basketball – 3rd
Soccer – 2nd
Table Tennis – 2nd

Girls

Hockey – 9th
Basketball – 1st
Netball – 5th
Table Tennis – 1st

Summer

(Southern
Conference)

Boys

Cricket – 4th
Volleyball A – 4th
Volleyball B – 6th
Tennis – 2nd
Hockey – 2nd

Girls

Softball – 5th
Volleyball A – 1st
Volleyball B – 4th
Tennis – 5th
Soccer – 1st

EISM Best Player Award in Finals - 2008

SENIOR SPORT

Summer

Girls Softball: Elyssa Wright
Girls Tennis: Jessica Brien
Girls Soccer: Jessica Clarke
Boys Hockey: Adam Jahnke

Winter

Girls Netball: Samantha Lean
Girls Table Tennis: Emma Wilson
Boys Table Tennis: Alan Nguyen

YEAR 8/9 SPORT

Winter

Girls Basketball: Meg Lyon
Girls Table Tennis: Ying Xing Niu

Summer

Girls Soccer: Catherine Debicki
Girls Volleyball "A": Ying Xing Niu

Junior School Sport

Summer Sport Round Robin

Cricket – 2nd Softball – 4th Tee Ball – 1st Rounders – 4th Danish Rounders – 6th
District Runners up: Tee Ball

Swimming – 5 individual students in the District team; 4 relays

District Athletics – 4th

Zone Athletics – 4 individuals in the District team

District Cross Country – 2nd

Zone Cross Country – 6 individual students in the District team

Soccer Round Robin – 2nd

Winter Sport

Football – 2nd Netball – 6th Mixed Netball – 4th Soccer Rounders – 1st

Basketball Round Robin

Boys – 1st Girls – 4th

District runners up – Boys Basketball

Other activities

The Senior School put on a major musical production of "Anything Goes" this year which involved about 100 students. The large team of staff and students put on a wonderful show entertaining over 1200 people during the drama season.

The Aerobics groups, are lead and trained by Miss Phan in the Senior School and Mrs Clapp in the Junior School. The senior group went on to reach the State finals this year. Other activities included Art Club (Miss Tenne), Book Club (Mrs Hamzi), Debating (Mrs Christenson), Public Speaking (Mrs Clarke), Dance (Mrs Dry), Drama (Mr Borbely), Choirs (Mrs Sutton and Mrs Wilson), Orchestras (Mrs Bramble), String Orchestras (Mrs Bramble), Concert Band (Mrs Bramble), Hockey Sticks (Ms Savage), The Camerata Concert (Mrs Bramble), Huntingtower Heat Basketball (Parent Committee), Early Morning Swimming (Mrs Kan and Staff members), Athletics (Mr Rees and Staff Members) and Cross Country training (Mr Rees and Staff members), House Music and House Debating, Footy, Cricket, Tennis, Soccer, Softball, Netball, Table Tennis, Volleyball, Hockey, Basketball, Aerobics, Science Talent Search (Ms Dove in the Senior School and Dr Tawia in the Junior School), Hosting Japanese Exchange students, Art exhibitions (Mrs Tenne), trips to South Africa (Miss Beal). The Duke of Edinburgh program (Mr Reid) had over 75 students involved. Students have now completed Bronze, Silver and Gold levels of the Duke of Edinburgh program. The students involved have completed numerous expeditions led by Mr Reid and accompanied by a number of other staff members. We are grateful to them all for the extra time and commitment this activity involves.

Character education

A strong focus on character and values development sees every Senior School student sign a pledge that they will not smoke, drink alcohol or take illegal drugs at any time while they are a student of the school. This applies 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The school's Wellbeing Policy which was developed by a team consisting of both staff and students ensures the safety of all students and has contributed to the creation of a caring, supportive environment where students feel safe to be who they really are and to express their God-given abilities. In assemblies and Mentor groups, the school's values are discussed and developed. Groups will talk about reliability, support, service, helpfulness, thoughtfulness and many other virtues such as kindness, justice and determination. At Huntingtower our focus on "personal best" results in students always striving to achieve in all their activities.

This year the Reach Foundation ran a number of sessions with the students. Many topics are discussed including sexuality, drugs, alcohol etc. The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teenagers is studied as part of the Year 9 program.

Positive character and attitudes are developed throughout the Junior School, through assemblies and interaction with teachers.

Academic Outcomes

At the outset it is important to remember that Huntingtower is a non-selective school. Other than a few academic and music scholarships, awarded in Years 7, 10 and 11, students are accepted if they choose to contribute to the particular values environment that we uphold and that we believe results in the outcomes our students achieve.

AIM Tests

In 2008, 98.5% of students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 exceeded the national benchmarks in the NAPLAN tests. This assessment includes reading, writing, spelling and numeracy. The school median in all cases was well above the state median; usually 1 to 2 levels above.

VCE Results and School Ranking

Once again we have a very good set of results. We achieved a median study score of 35 and had 27% of our results over 40. The median study grade was "A". ***This placed us 19th out of all 485 schools in Victoria and 4th or 6th out of coeducational schools.*** Subjects that performed particularly well included Food Technology which had an average study score over 42. Out of a class of 8, 6 achieved results over 40. The English results were particularly

pleasing with 14 students scoring over 40 and a median study score in English of 36. Four students achieved perfect scores; one in each of Food Technology, Maths Methods, Further Maths and Music Solo.

Once again this year we had a 100% pass rate and a 100% tertiary acceptance rate.

Further Maths – Alan Nguyen
Maths Methods – Alan Nguyen
Food Technology – Claire Maier
Music Solo – Anne-Marie Johnson

ENTER Scores

41% above 90
74% above 80
88% above 70
91.5% above 60
96.5% above 50

All students received tertiary offers, with 92% of these being to University and 8% to TAFE and other institutions (including the military).

The Tertiary breakdown is as follows:

Monash University	46%
Deakin University	10%
The University of Melbourne	12%
RMIT University	7%
Swinburn University	3%
LaTrobe, Ballarat, Victoria, ANU	5%
Military & private organisations	3%
Australian Catholic University	5%
TAFE	8%

Retention Rate

The retention rate from Year 9 to 12 was 97%. There were 48 students enrolled in Year 9 in 2005 and of these, 47 were present in the Year 12 graduating class. (The one missing student returned with his family to the USA)

The retention rate from Year Prep to Year 6 was 56%.

Health and the Environment

It will be of interest for the community to know that all Huntingtower staff have completed an EPI-pen training course and also a St Johns First Aid course. These are updated regularly. On the environmental front, we have now installed rain water tanks to collect up to 470 000 litres of water. Water coming off the new AstroTurf is directed to one of our new tanks and water from the rest of the school ends up in the South Western corner of the school in another enormous tank. We are also recycling paper and cardboard and plan to expand this into many other areas in 2009.

Annual Parental Survey

A parent survey was distributed to all families with the school reports and we had a 26% response rate.

The parent survey results were as follows:

The results (summarised below) showed that what people most appreciate about the Huntingtower experience is the inculcation of a very strong set of values, the high quality music program and the schools reputation in the community. Only 3 statements received scores below 3.8 and 75% were at 4.0 or above. Much has been done this year to address the issue of sex and drug education which was the lowest rated item. The total percentage of responses which were in the "agree or strongly agree" category was over 80%. Over 90% of our families would recommend the school to others.

We continue to do our best to provide the best quality education for our community.

Sholto Bowen

Principal

Results of Parental Survey 2008 (Responses received Feb 2009)		Percentages				
		agree	agree	N/A or ambivalent	disagree	strong disagree
1	The teachers have high expectations of their students	40	53	6	1	0
2	The school has appropriate class sizes	42	44	7	5	2
3	The school provides a high standard of feedback	18	54	22	6	0
4	The school responds quickly to any concerns	28	44	26	1	1
5	The sports program meets my expectations	30	54	6	9	1
6	The teachers are approachable	48	44	9	0	0
7	The school demands high standards of behaviour	53	41	2	4	0
8	Huntingtower has a good reputation in the community	66	28	7	0	0
9	Huntingtower has a high quality music program	77	17	3	1	1
10	The school's administration staff are helpful and caring	51	41	7	1	0
11	Each student is treated as an individual	38	45	15	0	1
12	Huntingtower has an effective student welfare policy and approach	22	44	28	4	2
13	The school helps develop a student's self confidence	40	43	11	5	1
14	The school provides students with adequate information with respect to drugs and sexuality	13	26	49	10	3
15	Huntingtower teaches computer and information technology efficiently	21	49	24	6	0
16	The uniform standards are appropriate	31	47	10	10	1
17	Teachers use effective teaching strategies	19	62	13	6	0
18	I would recommend Huntingtower to others	59	38	4	0	0
19	My expectations of a very good school have been met	45	45	6	4	0
20	The school communicates well with parents	31	42	20	7	0
21	Subject advice to students meets my expectations	19	38	38	4	1
22	Career advice to students meets my expectations (only Senior School (Y9 to Y12) get careers advice)	7	33	49	10	1
23	Huntingtower provides a good value for money education	36	50	11	2	1
24	Extracurricular activities provided meet my expectations	23	53	19	5	0
25	Huntingtower has high quality grounds and facilities	36	51	10	3	0
26	Huntingtower emphasises and develops a positive set of values	58	37	3	1	0
27	Huntingtower provides a good grounding for my children	49	47	3	0	0
28	Huntingtower provides a diverse and well-rounded curriculum	32	48	16	3	0

Positive Responses = 80.4%

Negative Responses = 4.5%

Huntingtower's Academic Staff 2008

Principal

Mr S Bowen *BA(SocSc) TTHD MACE MACEL FAIM*

Vice Principal/Head of Middle School

Mr P Dry *MA HDE*

School Executive

Mr S Bowen (Principal) *BA(SocSc) TTHD MACE MACEL FAIM*

Mr P Dry (Vice Principal) *MA HDE*

Mrs T Cruttenden (Junior School Headmistress) *MEd BEd DipT MACE*

Miss D Greiveson (Director of Studies/Dean of Senior Students) *BA DipEd*

Mr R Kitchingman (Business Manager) *BA(Econ) MBA*

Senior School Staff

Mr P Amos *MEd GradDip InstDesign*

Mrs T Ardiyanti *BA*

Ms J Barker *BA DipEd*

Ms M Beal (Head of House) *BA DipEd*

Mr D Borbely *BA BEd*

Mrs L Bramble *BMus(HonsPerf) AMusA LMusA*

Mrs S Braybrook *BSc DipTeaching*

Miss S Bush *BA hons DipEd*

Mrs J Canny *MEd GradDipArts TITC*

Mrs C Cassidy *BEd*

Mrs S Christensen *BA(Hons) DipEd*

Mrs M Ciavarella *BSocSc (Librarianship)*

Mrs R Clarke *BA BEd*

Mr R Clifford *BCom TSTC*

Miss C Craik *BA BSocSc Hons PGCE*

Mr G Daniels *BCom BEd*

Mr N Davies (VCE Co-ordinator) *BSc DipEd GDME*

Mrs J Dickson *BEd*

Ms P Dove *BSc(cum laude) GradDipEd*

Ms S Dry *MEd*

Mr D Fletcher *BFA(Crafts) DipIndArtsEd GradDipTechEd*

Miss B Fletcher-McGookin *BA Ed*

Mrs J Goddard *HDipEd*

Miss D Greiveson (Director of Studies/Dean of Senior Students) *BA DipEd*

Mrs F Hamzi *HDipT(Sec)(Librarianship)*

Mr A Hill *MAppSc DipEd*

Mrs J Irving *BEd*

Ms L Jonas – (Head of House) *BA DipEd*

Miss M Lawson (Middle School Co-ordinator) *MEd BEd SecPE GradDip Student Welfare*

Mrs H Lim *BA Dip Ed BLit GradCertLOTE*

Mr P Marks *BSc(Hons) PostGradCertEd GradCertEdAdmin*

Mrs M Myers *BSc(Hons) DipEd*

Mr L Parsons *BA DipEd*

Miss T Phan *BCom BT*

Mr P Rees (Head of House) *BEd GDT DipT GradDipCareers AACC MACE*

Mr G Reid *BEd DipEd MEdStud*

Ms J Savage *BEd(EnvStud) GradCertEducation&Training DipCompEd*

Ms M Stevens *BSc DipEd Grad DipEd (Int. Studs)*
Mrs L Sutton *BMus(Ed)(Hons)*
Ms Y Tenne *BA(Vis Arts) BEd(Hons)*
Miss S Tieperman *BA BSc Dip Ed*
Mrs J Tyquin *MEdStud*
Mr S Walkerden *BAgrSc MEdStud DipTertEd DipEd*
Mrs K Wiley *Dip T (Maths, Science), Grad dip Computer Studies, Cert Theology*

Junior School Staff

Mrs T Cruttenden (Headmistress) *MEd BEd DipT MACE*
Mrs M Jones (Assistant Head) *BA DipEd*

Ms T Ardiyanti *BA*
Mrs G Biggins *DipT(Prim) GradDipEd(SpecialEd)*
Mrs J Clapp *DipT(Prim) GradCertEarlyChildhood*
Mrs M Cole *BEd*
Mrs G Cutler *BA DipEd EC*
Mrs M Darling *BA DipEd MEd(Hons) DipEd(Psych)*
Mrs J Deubel *BA Dip Ed (Prim)*
Mrs A Kuhne *BA BTeach*
Mrs K Rickard *BA BEd*
Mrs T Rudd *BEd MEdStud*
Mrs S Swan (Junior School Curriculum Coordinator) *BEd MEdStud*
Dr S Tawia *PhD BSc(Hons) DipEd*
Mrs M Warner *Cert. III Children's Services*

Huntingtower Playhouse

Mrs J Grimm *Dip Children's Services*
Mrs M Swallow *Dip Children's Services*
Simone Downey
Manuela Maislinger