Measures of Value added to our educational outcomes through programs, co-curricular activities and overarching ethos of the College in 2008:

The spirit of our tradition is captured in our Catholic ethos, faith development and spirituality.

World Youth Day preparations and celebrations dominated the first half of the year which proved to be a very moving spiritual and religious event. The group consisted of 14 students, 3 staff and one parent who made up the OLC contingent. The group kept in close contact with families and other members of our community through their blog which included information and images of their travels together with messages from home.

On behalf of the group, our Campus Minister, Ms Jo Murphy presented a beautiful oil painting of Mary MacKillop in appreciation of the college support given to the group. This painting can be seen in the college foyer and it will continue to hold a special place in the college.

Ms Murphy, appointed this year, has been involved with a number of projects around the college inspiring students to live out Christian values and be more in touch with their own spirituality.

And as always we continue to celebrate our Catholic Christian ethos through liturgies, masses and feast day celebrations.

The spirit of excellence – as evidenced through enhanced teaching and learning.

Our Week of Excellence strives to develop a passion for life and learning – by igniting that spirit within. Students were offered numerous activities, taking what they were interested in and then building on the strengths, talents and gifts that they all have through involvement in hands on and experiential classes or workshops.

Students were encouraged to strive for quality and excellence no matter what activities they undertook. Some of the highlights of the week were: responsible behaviours and social awareness (by far the most appreciated activity by students and their parents); developing a kitchen garden; visit from a children’s author; music and dance workshops, rock climbing; lots of cooking; health and sporting activities; excursions to museums, theatre, courts, safe driver training and other artistic pursuits.

Data analysis provided substantial evidence that the week was a huge success. The girls really appreciated being able to choose their activities; that they had fun and enjoyed their selections. The results showed that WOE made them interested in learning (88%), and that they actually learnt new skills or information during the week (93%).

Another achievement in the enhancement of teaching and learning has been the cross-curricular perspective on Literacy and Numeracy. This year saw the introduction of National Literacy and numeracy testing; our results showed that we were above the state means for all the Literacy components of: Grammar and Punctuation, Reading, Spelling and Writing; and that we were also above the state mean for the numeracy tests.

Senior results from 2007 also indicate that 92% of all senior students received senior certificate and were either OP eligible or had one VET Qualification; 17% OP eligible students achieved in the OP1 – 5 range; Our OP1 student was awarded the QUT Vice Chancellor’s Scholarship and recently won the Qld Library Association Short Story competition.

This year we handed out 109 Diligence Awards and 9 Medals to year 12 students for Outstanding Diligence over 5 yrs, this is the highest number of girls receiving these awards in the College History – a testament to hard work.
We congratulate a group of year 10 students who have proved that they are best in the state, winning the Literature and Language section of the Optiminds Challenge. Initially competing against 800 other schools in the regional trials, they won their division competing in the State finals against 115 other schools.

**Spirit of Community - Developing Relationships and Partnerships**

We are proud of the fact that we are a fully inclusive and a culturally diverse community. Community Day is an opportunity for our girls to experience a sense of belonging to our inclusive and supportive community. It highlighted International Day of Peace celebrations. Girls engaged in activities to help raise awareness of the Peace Movement in an effort to put an end to torture in war torn countries and countries with corrupt governments.

Every 2 years the college undertakes an overseas trip. This year the trip was to Vietnam. A small group of girls supervised by Ms Brett and Mrs Melloy had a spectacular personal and educational experience. It is one thing learning about another country, their customs and culture, it is certainly more meaningful learning if you can experience this first hand.

Other ways that we endeavour to enhance our community links are through such events as New Parent's BBQ; Visitors’ Day and Grandparent’s Day;

This year we are very lucky to have been able to appoint for the first time a full time Guidance Counsellor. Mrs Millar's office is now situated in the House for easy and private access by the students.

**Spirit of Community - Caring for our environment as stewards of the future**

There has been a whirlwind of activity around the college this year in the maintenance, refurbishment and painting of areas since the appointment of our new Business Manager, Mr McDonald. Library facilities have been upgraded, new carpet, painting, shelving, tables and chairs and ( thanks to P&F) a circulation desk and computer server.

We have had a move to more environmentally sustainable practices with the aid of govt green voucher funding scheme. We have set up four water tanks around the college; installed dual flush toilets in all areas; created a kitchen garden with compost, added more recycling bins and will go electronic with newsletter from next month.

A Year 8 learning Centre has been created, allowing for middle schooling pedagogies and what will be increased access to computers, internet connections and data presentations.

Something else we are very proud of is the creation of our new marketing materials including letterhead, pamphlets, prospectus, newsletter; perhaps you may have seen one of the many advertisements we have out for OLC enrolments.

I am very proud to formally announce to the college community the purchase of 25,27 and 29 Chester Rd. Negotiations began in September last year and settlement on the properties will be finalised in Feb next year. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the great friendship and ongoing support from our neighbours of over 40 years, the McKnuoltys’. It is only through their consideration to our community that we are now able to plan for future buildings and curriculum expansion

I acknowledge and thank the P&F Association who continue to commit financial support to the repayments of D Block and other projects around the college. I would also like to acknowledge the significant achievements of the College Pastoral Board and publicly thank all members of our community who have been involved in assisting with their pursuits.

In all, we are thrilled with our achievements, we are thankful to our dedicated staff, we are appreciative of our parents’ support and that of others in the community; but most of all we are proud of the fine young women who continually strive to do their best, upholding the priorities of tradition, excellence and community.
And in the words of Blessed Mary MacKillop… God won’t ask you how others do the work committed to them but will ask you how you have done yours and in what spirit (12.12.1890)