

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY



2017

**ST MONICA'S SCHOOL
FOOTSCRAY**

REGISTERED SCHOOL NUMBER: 0477

**ST. MONICA'S
SCHOOL**



FOOTSCRAY

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Minimum Standards Attestation

I, Karen Colla, attest that St Monica's School is compliant with:

- All of the requirements for the minimum standards and other requirements for the registration of schools as specified in the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic) and the Education and Training Reform Regulations 2007 (Vic), except where the school has been granted an exemption from any of these requirements by the VRQA
- Australian Government accountability requirements related to the 2017 school year under the Australian Education Act 2013 (Cth) and the Australian Education Regulations 2013 (Cth)

4 May 2018

Our School Vision

*The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
For He has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor,
To proclaim liberty to captives and to set the down trodden free
To proclaim the year of God's favour
Luke 4:18-19*

St Monica's Catholic School is a learning community that exists to make a difference in the lives of our children by:

- Embracing and modelling a Christian Catholic tradition
- Celebrating, respecting and valuing our diversity.
- Valuing and acknowledging our students' development through education
- Promoting life-long learning to allow our students to thrive actively in an ever- changing global community.
- Upholding a strong a view of social justice that builds trusting relationships

School Overview

St Monica's Parish and School have a long history in Footscray, tracing their beginnings to before 1852 when the first land grant was made for the building of a Roman Catholic Church. St Monica's is a small and intimate school with an enrolment of 131 students, organised into six, classes. The curriculum is rich in experiences and challenges, with a wide range of resources, both human and material.

Just over eighty per cent of our children come from language backgrounds other than English and from 20 cultural and ethnic backgrounds. This diversity is source of inspiration and pride to St Monica's. It engenders an environment of welcome, acceptance and cooperation. The parents, students, clergy and staff respect each other and the important role each has in educating our children and developing our community. From the first Irish settlers through to the present community, with its wide spectrum of nationalities and cultures, we are drawn together by our faith and desire to make a difference for our families, community and country.

The school benefits from its hardworking, supportive and engaged parent body. Parents work closely with teachers in the development of their children. Building and maintaining positive relationships between all community members has a high priority at St Monica's.

St Monica's students are engaged learners. From Prep to Year Six our students make the most of every learning opportunity. As a group they are supportive of each other. The senior students display excellent leadership behaviours. We are incredibly proud of them.

The school has 20 staff members: 17 teachers and three administration staff. They are actively supported in their roles by the Parish Priest and School Manager, Fr Philip Le.

The school sits on a hill overlooking the Maribyrnong River. Its three buildings span over 100 years of education in Footscray. The 1908 (North Building), 1937 (South Building) and 1996 (Administration and Hall) were totally renovated in 2011 and now compliment the contemporary learning practices in the school.

In 2017 the school entered Year Three as part of the regular, four-year, School Improvement Cycle. The major development and improvement foci in 2017 were Student Wellbeing and Community Engagement in Learning.



Principal's Report

2017 was a year of rich experiences for St Monica's School Community. Some memorable highlights include:

Community Engagements

Across the year we had the opportunity to meet, celebrate and converse with our families and community through a raft of events including shared lunches, sacrament evenings, gardening group, transition to Secondary School sessions, Kindergarten visits, Learning Walks, Reading sessions, Father's Day and Mother's Day breakfasts and Learning Conversations.

Australian Ballet

The year began with a creative bent. Students from all levels engaged in six sessions with the Australian Ballet Education team, learning how to move to express emotion, link with story and musical stimuli. This learning culminated in a 'showcase' performance for the whole school community.

Writers' Festival

The partnerships in the teaching of writing with 100 Story Building and expert mentoring through the Melbourne Writers' Festival were showcased at the Literary Evening in August. Each child presented a piece of writing to an audience of parents, community members and peers.

Family Partnership Cluster

The school membership of the Inner West Family Partnership Cluster gathered momentum this year with shared activities including a series of Parent Education sessions on Transition into Secondary School.

Open Day

Our Open Day was an opportunity to welcome the wider community into the school. We had a host of parents and students running activities for our visitors. Over 200 attended the event.

Sporting Engagement

Through the support of the Federal Government's Sporting Schools initiative and the school's existing relationships with local sporting groups our students were able to engage in a range of coaching sessions that included

National History Challenge

Year Six students entered the National History Challenge. This competition is held Australia wide from Years Five to Twelve. Seven students received State Awards for their entries.

Education in Faith

Goals & Intended Outcomes

To develop a greater understanding of 'Catholic Identity' and what it looks like in St Monica's community

- That the school community's understanding and appreciation of Catholic faith-based values will be deepened to make connections with real life.

Achievements

- Over the course of the year St Monica's has worked to make visible Catholic Faith based values through Social Justice Action, Professional Learning and Liturgical engagement across the community.
- During the year both Senior students and Middle students took part in the Sacrament program. Our Middle School came together to celebrate the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist while our Senior students received the sacrament of Confirmation. This was a time of great learning and community building.
- The school community met regularly at Assembly Liturgies to celebrate significant liturgical events, including Holy Week, Advent and Solemn Days, as well as to celebrate the everyday joys of school life.

VALUE ADDED

Activity that supported achievement of our goals in this sphere include:

- *Opening and Graduation Masses*
- *Level Masses*
- *Family Sacramental Program*
- *Shared art afternoons around faith based themes*
- *Regular Assembly Liturgies*
- *Social Justice Action – Refugee Support, Asylum Seeker Centre collection drive*

Learning & Teaching

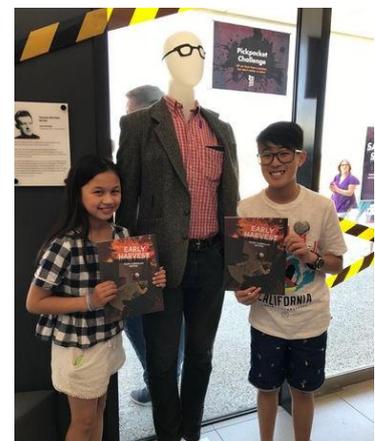
Goals & Intended Outcomes

To continue to enhance the learning environment that challenges and supports all learners and caters for individual needs.

- Develop a rich and rigorous curriculum based on contemporary learning to address individual needs and guide purposeful teaching.
- Improve student literacy outcomes through increased teacher knowledge and skills in EAL methodology.
- Improve student outcomes in mathematics by Increasing teacher knowledge and skills in numeracy, in particular the effective pre and post assessment language demands of Mathematics, the development of Maths concepts and working mathematically.
- Expand the students' understanding of how the world works by providing contemporary learning opportunities that are relevant, rigorous and engaging.
- Further develop teachers' understanding and use of data to inform planning and curriculum design

Achievements

- Deepening and extension of 'Leveled Literacy' as the preferred Guided Reading and Intervention resource across the middle and senior departments has provided structured, sequential support for students as they move from decoding to interrogation of texts.
- Continuing participation in the three year 'Visible Learning' Project. Through this project we are seeking to ensure learning is supported using clear success criteria and targeted feedback at both student and staff level.
- Working with the 100 Story Building provided stimulus to students and professional learning opportunities for teachers to improve their understanding and skill in the teaching of narrative texts. We were proud to have two senior students' work included in the 'Early Harvest Magazine.'



- Collaborative Planning continues to support the implementation of effective learning activities across levels. The focus on assessment based planning ensures that classroom activity matches the needs and strengths of our students. Peer coaching has also been a support to teachers seeking to improve and refine their practice.



- Curriculum Leaders engaged in the Learning and Teaching Network Professional Learning Program.
- History continued to enthuse and excite the senior students. All Year Six students entered The National History Challenge. With two students winning State Awards.

PROPORTION OF STUDENTS MEETING THE MINIMUM STANDARDS					
NAPLAN TESTS	2015 %	2016 %	2015 - 2016 Changes %	2017 %	2016 - 2017 Changes %
YR 03 Grammar & Punctuation	90.9	100.0	9.1	89.5	-10.5
YR 03 Numeracy	100.0	95.8	-4.2	100.0	4.2
YR 03 Reading	100.0	100.0	0.0	94.7	-5.3
YR 03 Spelling	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
YR 03 Writing	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
YR 05 Grammar & Punctuation	100.0	94.7	-5.3	80.0	-14.7
YR 05 Numeracy	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
YR 05 Reading	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
YR 05 Spelling	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
YR 05 Writing	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0



St Monica's continues to support all students in achieving their best through responsive teaching foci based on student needs.

VALUE ADDED

100 Story Building

The Senior School worked with 100 Story Building, developing skill in writing narrative texts in the 'Detective,' genre.

Camp Program

Students from Years Five and Six travelled to Canberra and furthered their studies on Australia's social, economic and political history. Year Four students explored the City of Melbourne. Year Two and Three Students spent a day exploring the Mornington Peninsula. The Juniors spent their camp day exploring 'The Venny' playground in Kensington.

Australian Ballet Workshops

All classes participated in workshops run by the Australian Ballet Education arm. These sessions on body awareness and movement education were a huge success.

Book Week

Book Week is always a much loved highlight of the year. In 2017 the whole school travelled to the Docklands Precinct. There we let our imaginations free at Art Vo and the Lego Centre.

Early Harvest Magazine

Two senior students were successful in their nominations to be on the editorial panel for 100 Story Building's 'Early Harvest Magazine.' In addition, two students from the school were successful in having their short stories included in the 2017 edition.

National History Challenge

All our year Six students entered the National History Challenge. Two students won State Awards and nine were awarded Certificates of Excellence. The standard of entries reflected the in-depth research skills used by our senior students.

School Choir

The School Choir continues to go from strength to strength. As well as supporting Level Masses they sing with other local schools and visit community groups. This year we were treated to a 'Flash Mob' performance at a school assembly.

Oz Opera

The students were enthralled and delighted in the performance of Mozart's 'The Magic Flute.'

Sporting Engagement

Students took part in a variety of clinics run by Sporting bodies; including basketball, netball, hockey, badminton, AFL and cricket as part of the Physical Education curriculum. This was supported by the resources made available through the Sporting Schools program.

St Monica's Writers Festival

Inspired and informed by collaborations with 100 Story Building, visiting Author Davina Bell and the speakers at the Melbourne Writers' Festival Schools Program, all students shared their writing at our fifth St Monica's Writers' Festival. The event was attended by students, their families, staff and members of the wider community.

A Star is Born Musical

The year finished on an artistic high with our musical finale that included every student in the school. The songs, choreography, scenery and costumes were nearly as good as the performers.

Student Wellbeing

Goals & Intended Outcomes

To develop socially skilled and empathic learners who display responsibility and resilience and maintain positive relationships others.

- That all students feel valued and confident in their day-to-day interactions with peers, staff and the community at large.
 - Develop socially skilled and empathic learners who display responsibility and resilience and maintain positive relationships
 - Build a skill set of social and emotional behaviours that allows students to work effectively with others.
 - Continue to move the students from compliance to empowerment through engagement in real life problems within the school and the wider community.

Achievements

Student Wellbeing

Two staff members completed the spaced professional learning program at the Berry Street organization. In Term Four all staff began the Berry Street four-day spaced professional learning program.



Senior Student Leadership / SRC

Two student groups provide feedback and direct action across the school. The senior Leadership group meet regularly to share concerns and plan action to enhance the student experience at St Monica's. Students from all classes and levels met as the Student Representative Council to act on issues affecting student life. Actions for this year included the purchase of additional digital resources, upgrade of the playground, three fundraising activities and two shared activity afternoons.

Positive School Behaviours

Across the year students, staff and families worked to roll out and embed our three school expectations:

- We are Safe
- We are Respectful
- We are engaged in All Learning

These expectations apply to all levels and across all learning areas.



Transition Programs

Both Pre-school to Prep and Year Six to Year Seven transition programs were run across the year. Prospective Preps were invited to drop in for up to eight sessions across the last term to help

them and their families transition into primary school. Teachers from the Junior team visited our prospective Prep students' kindergartens to support transitions into school.

Senior students had the opportunity to meet with other Year Six students and hear speakers from a number of the local secondary colleges during our Cluster transition activities.

Senior Student Conversations

All Senior Students met with the principal in a number of forums across the year to discuss current issues and the feedback from the School Improvement Surveys as part of our planning for 2018.

In partnership with other schools in the Inner West Cluster a Transition evening was held to introduce families to Secondary School options for their children's next stage of formal education.



AVERAGE STUDENT ATTENDANCE RATE BY YEAR LEVEL	%
Y1	93.40
Y2	93.50
Y3	91.87
Y4	94.31
Y5	87.25
Y6	93.42
Overall average attendance	92.29

Student attendance is monitored daily. Students who are absent without reason and notification are contacted before the end of the morning session by school staff. All children are expected to be present for their learning sessions daily.

VALUE ADDED

Assemblies

Student run assemblies give an authentic vehicle for leadership development and an opportunity for classes to showcase their learning.

Senior Student Leadership / SRC

The Student Representative Council organized a survey to determine what issues were most prevalent for the student body from Foundation to Year Six. As well as Shared Afternoons a number of fundraising events were held to support Caritas, Joseph's Corner and the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre.

Senior Teams

All Senior level students are members of an interest group. Each group has scope to develop / run activities that engage the community in both social justice and entertainment type events.

Open Day

Students ran activities and were guides on the 'School Tours' during our Open Day. This provided a Student voice and perspective to those who visited.

STUDENT SATISFACTION

- Students continue to see their teachers as being engaged in and supportive of themselves personally as well as supportive in their learning.
- Students continue to be well connected to the school.

Child Safe Standards

Goals and Intended Outcomes

St Monica's Vision outlines the desire for our children to thrive in a community of trusting relationships. The newly legislated Child Safe expectations reflected our goals in

- Making the safety of all children an explicit feature of our school
- Making explicit the expectation that each person who joins or works with our school community will do so in a way that ensures the safety of our children is maintained.

Achievements

The development of policies and commitments

- Child Safe policies and procedures were reviewed to support safe practice.

Training and awareness raising strategies

- All contractors and school visitors sign the school Code of Conduct as a mandated pre-entry condition
- All Contractors with a continued relationship with the school have completed a company Code of Conduct process.
- Staff have regular updates and 'refreshers' on Child Safety matters.
- Volunteer training sessions for parents and community members are run regularly across each term

Consultation with the community

- Regular communications with our community occurs through conversations, email publications and school newsletters.

New Human Resources practices

- New staff were employed using the process with Child Safe additions developed by CEM
- Additional staff member has been employed to support Child Safety awareness.

Leadership & Management

Goals & Intended Outcomes

- Build a sustainable culture of shared ownership across the school community
- Facilitate shared understandings through the implementation of key communication methods
- Build the capacity of the School Leadership team to realise the goals set out in the School Improvement Plan and the Annual Action Plan.

Achievements

Online communications continue to be utilised to support the sharing communication and sharing of information across all staff.

The **SeeSaw** app was trialed in the Juniors and will be rolled out to all levels in 2018.

Collaborative planning in teams is in place to support teachers in achieving maximum outcomes for their students.

Professional Learning Conversations that focus on developing good practice – all administrative matters dealt with via online and whiteboard notices.

Leadership team engaged in Professional Learning focused on the Visible Learning Project with particular emphasis on coaching, learning Intentions and success criteria.

Whole of Staff engaged in the initial day of Berry Street Model.

EXPENDITURE AND TEACHER PARTICIPATION IN PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

DESCRIPTION OF PL UNDERTAKEN IN 2017

- Collaborative Impact Program - Visible Learning Project – Coaches Training
- Collaborative Impact Program - Visible Learning Project – Leadership Days
- Numeracy Leader Clusters
- Reading Recovery
- Teaching Children with Autism – Spaced Program
- Nationally Consistent Collection of Data
- Learning & Teaching Network
- Debbie Pushor – Family and School Partnerships
- STEM – ScienceWorks
- Reading Recovery
- Teaching Children with Varied Learning Needs
- Workplace Safety
- Finance Clusters
- Credentialed / sponsored study – TESOL
- Student Wellbeing Clusters
- Berry Street Program – Positive School Behaviours

- Graduate teacher Program
- ARACY Conference
- First Aid training
- Anaphylaxis Awareness Training
- First Aid

NUMBER OF TEACHERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN PL	14
AVERAGE EXPENDITURE PER TEACHER FOR PL	\$ 4,540

TEACHER SATISFACTION

St Monica's Staff continue to work together to make a difference in the lives of our students.

Staff Satisfaction Surveys indicate teachers have a strong connectedness to the school. Teamwork, Engagement and Learning & Teaching all display high positive responses in the top 25% of all Australian Primary Schools.

School Community

Goals & Intended Outcomes

To improve parent connectedness to their child's learning through promoting a common purpose and shared understandings.

- That there is a stronger sense of partnership between parents and teachers in the education of their child/children.

Achievements

One of the greatest assets St Monica's has is its supportive and engaged family community. Much of the success of the school can be attributed to the positive and proactive manner our families display.



Community Conversations

Parents continue to join teachers and students to speak about the school and look for ways to celebrate the excellent work done and set the direction for future growth. In 2017 the community explored Homework – benefits and drawbacks.

The Gardening Group

Parents, aunties, Grandparents and children helped us ready, plant, tend and harvest this year. We feasted and sold the surplus to support the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre.



Sunday Masses

Our Level masses on Sunday are a great way to stay connected to the wider community. As well as helping with readings and prayers each level shares its learning about the theme of the mass.

Transition Forum

Along with parents from our FEL Cluster Schools, families shared in the Transition evening organized by the cluster. This was an opportunity to learn about the local Secondary Schools and share



Government House Reception

St Monica's School was invited to send a representative to a reception at Government House celebrating 'Excellence in the West.'

St Monica's Writer's Festival

St Monica's students continue to amaze with the quality of their writing and their willingness to share it with the wider community. This is becoming a community strength.

Events

Shared Afternoons, Curriculum Nights, Mother's Day Breakfast, Father's Day Breakfast, Literacy and Parent Nights, Class Excursions and school assemblies all provide opportunities for members of the wider school community to connect. This year students have worked with '100 Story Building,' Footscray Historical Society, The Australian Ballet, The Asylum Seeker Resource Centre and member schools of the Footscray Cluster.



PARENT SATISFACTION

- Parents believe that opportunities for *Parent Input* have increased.
- Parents find the range of learning activities engaging and appropriate.
- Teachers continue to be seen as providing a relevant and stimulating learning environment and maintaining high morale.
- School staff members are seen as approachable. There is a strong sense of partnership between teachers and families. The afternoon practice of dismissing children from the school hall is an excellent way for parents and staff to meet regularly and share information and achievements.
- Parents believe that the behaviour and motivation of the students is good and getting better.

School Data

E1047 St Monica's School, Footscray
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TEACHING STAFF ATTENDANCE RATE	
Teaching Staff Attendance Rate	87.65%

STAFF RETENTION RATE	
Staff Retention Rate	85.71%

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS	
Doctorate	0.00%
Masters	27.27%
Graduate	36.36%
Certificate Graduate	0.00%
Degree Bachelor	54.55%
Diploma Advanced	63.64%
No Qualifications Listed	0.00%

STAFF COMPOSITION	
Principal Class	1
Teaching Staff (Head Count)	17
FTE Teaching Staff	11.100
Non-Teaching Staff (Head Count)	6
FTE Non-Teaching Staff	2.766
Indigenous Teaching Staff	0

NOTE:

The School's financial performance information has been provided to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and will be available for the community to access from their website at www.acnc.gov.au