



The St Pius X
Catholic Primary
School magazine



PARISH PRIEST REPORT

The year has gone so quickly and we are at that time when we reflect on the school outcomes – the children, their parents, staff and other stakeholders. It is a time to look back at what has been achieved and the challenges ahead.

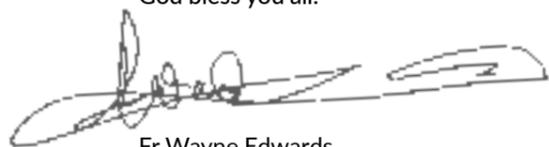
It is a time to say goodbye to Grade 6ers and staff who are moving on – teachers Amelia (grade 1/2) and Laura (grade 3/4) are moving and Cathy (Italian teacher) is retiring. They have made significant contributions to the education of our children and to the parents and their co-workers. We wish them well and our prayers go with them. As the Grade 6ers complete their primary education we wish them and their parents the best as they move into secondary schooling. Our prayers go with them. We hope that they will feel they have a home at St Pius X and will always be welcome to visit and participate in the life of the community. Thank you for your contribution.

Farewells can be often difficult but the life of any community must continue to grow and move forward. In the new year we will be welcoming first time school children – along with their parents and families – and some new staff. Mrs Barbara Gomez (principal); teachers and staff will be there to greet them along with children and parents returning.

I want to express my deep gratitude and pride to all members of our school community. We are a small community but one that is committed to excellence and is visionary in practice, maintaining our Catholic Identity while engaging with other local communities and the wider world. The school has been recognised by many people for their teaching, learning and engagement endeavours and strategies.

In October we experienced the talents of the school community through the Community Concert; the STEM Showcase by the Grade 5/6ers (they won a prize for Social Entrepreneurship from Monash University) – just to name a couple of examples. The school staff and community, under the leadership of Mrs Barbara Gomez, are looking at new and innovative ways at making St Pius X Catholic Primary School continue its rightful and important place within the education, religious and social spheres within the local environs and beyond.

God bless you all.



Fr Wayne Edwards



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

2019 has been a year to celebrate as our children grow from strength to strength in their abilities to learn and lead.

And Yes! The Power of Community is the magic we all need to discover our true best self and what allows us all to shine! Our recent Community Performance 'Always Look on the Bright Side of Life' exploring the question

'How do you find the bright side?' involved many of our community partners including our Parish Priest, Fr Wayne, singing, dancing, smiling and laughing together with our children, families and staff. These experiences not only build stronger connections as a community but showcases the vital role a strong community plays in the growth, development, wellbeing and learning of children. And we all had loads of fun together!

Throughout 2019, students showcased their abilities to lead, teach and collaborate through the Sustainability Inquiry and a number of various community projects and annual events such as Student Leadership in Sustainability – Kids Teaching Kids at Edendale Farm Eltham, STEM Making a Difference (MAD) showcasing as well as working in partnership with Banyule City Council and Banyule Community Health. A number of Learning Showcases have been conducted by the children as they proudly present their Inquiry work to their parents and family members. Our senior children have been exceptional in their teaching of the younger children by leading school wide initiatives advocating for the environment such as Waste Free Wednesday, and the importance of compliments and courtesy through Friendly Fridays to further build positive relationships and wellbeing.

St Pius X strongly advocates Student Voice for children to feel valued, respected contributors to their community. The students have played a key role in co-designing the curriculum with their teachers and connecting with community partners to ensure a strong social, ethical and moral purpose to learning that makes a difference. The students will continue to deepen this process to be autonomous in their learning directions, leading and taking responsibility to make decisions and confidently take action in 2020.

Our Koorie students also continue to develop their leadership role in the community by attending the recent Young and Deadly Youth Forum supported by Banyule Community Health – Aboriginal Health Team to build bridges with the local youth and listen to their voice in making community stronger and learning meaningful.

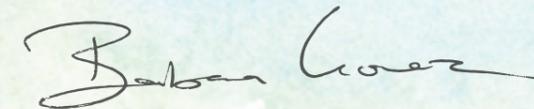
Our Montessori community is rapidly growing in numbers of young families attending the playgroup sessions. In 2020, we look forward to the introduction of a Montessori Prep class. Our families have been excitedly working together throughout 2019 to establish the Montessori stream. They are also looking to further expand the existing programs to include Bush School – taking the learning into natural environments by accessing the numerous green spaces in the local area.

Our Community Garden also offers great opportunities for the children to explore, learn and connect with the community. We have achieved further developments to stage-two of the Community Garden Project. The café has been moved to a permanent spot allowing for the pathways to be constructed thus joining stage-one and allowing for a flow through of the space. Veggie boxes will also be put in place awaiting planting by the children through the FoodWeb education program. Thank you to the Parade College students for skillfully making the veggie boxes. We look forward to Government Schools Hub funding to complete the Eduhut and construct the pergola, herb beds and BBQ area. Stage-two will provide a wonderful environmental classroom for all the school children and playgroups to enjoy. We look forward to furthering our partnership with the local Aged Care Facilities, namely Estia Health, RSL Vasey Care and Blue Cross to involve the innovative and creative programs for the children and elderly to enjoy learning and building relationships together.

In 2019 St Pius X was successful in receiving a Supplementary Fund from the Melbourne Archdiocese which will allow for improvements to the senior building and the projection of a five to 10-year master plan for future improvements to the school facilities, learning spaces and playgrounds. The building renovations will commence in January 2020.

Thank you to our parents, staff, parish and local community for the ongoing dedication, care and support for the wellbeing and learning of our children. Together we continue to grow strong young people who have a positive and hopeful attitude to life and future endeavours.

Together we shine!



Barbara Gomez
Principal, St Pius X Catholic Primary School

SUSTAINABILITY

Catholic Education Melbourne MAD STEM Showcase 2019

St Pius X walked away from STEM MAD Showcase 2019 on Thursday, 10 October with the Monash University Prize for Social Entrepreneurship in recognition of their two projects – a simple water filter and a portable solar battery charger – which could benefit communities that do not have access to the resources that we, in the first world, take for granted.

Dark Waters' simple filter used recycled materials to produce clean water from dirty water. In their research, they found out that less than 1% of the available water in

the world is drinkable. Solar Wings Group's portable solar battery charger re-purposed a solar garden light, car charger and cable to charge a battery that had powered a mobile phone. They reasoned that individual battery chargers could be used to charge simple devices using the power of the sun.

We were very proud of how these students represented the St Pius X community.



ENGINEERING DESIGN PROCESS

The engineering design process is the process engineers use to create a solution to a real-world problem.

It is one of a number of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education methodologies.

The Engineering Design Process starts with **identifying a challenge** or **defining the problem** and then moves to the 'Research' phase. The 'Imagine' and 'Planning' phases involve brainstorming ideas, evaluating them and choosing the most appropriate solution to your problem. In the 'Create' phase, prototypes are developed and a test cycle begins to refine the solution. Assessment is a key phase leading to **improvement** of the final product. At the 'Share' phase, results and the solution are communicated and success is celebrated. In this dynamic process, at any phase, you may be required to go back one or two cogs to solve a difficulty or unforeseen problem, or even begin the process again.

We take this opportunity to thank our many partners who assisted in many and varied ways: Shelley Waldon (CEM Project Officer: Science & Innovation), Daniel Avano (CEM Learning Consultant, eLearning), Anthony Houlihan (ICT curriculum consultant for SPX), Bella Harper and Sofia Sabbagh (Foodweb Gardening teachers at SPX), the SPX staff, Barbara Gomez and of course, the students of St Pius X whose interest and commitment to making a better world, lay at the heart and soul of the inquiry project.



YEARS 3 TO 6



SPX Showcase Friday, 25 October

At the end of term 3, the Senior School students came up with the idea to showcase their learning with an **SPX Showcase**, based on their own experiences with the CEM STEM MAD Showcase.

The students invited their parents, the Junior School students, staff members (both present and past) and members of our local community for a celebration of their learning. Each group pitched their idea to the visitors and invited them to try out their apps, websites and games. In the spirit of our 2019 Inquiry project, it was important to the students that the event be zero waste. They provided afternoon tea for the visitors producing minimal waste. Each group sought feedback for their projects. It was a wonderful salute to all their hard work!



Kids Teaching Kids

On Friday 13 September, the Year 3/4 students attended the Kids Teaching Kids Conference at Edendale Farm with 120 other students from schools around the Banyule and Nillumbik areas.

The students took part in a variety of activities such as bottle filling, a scavenger hunt, making bags out of recycled materials, the water pollution story and collecting animal cards from Roberto the train conductor. The students also planned a presentation for other schools about the work we had been doing in our Inquiry STEM learning this year.



Kids Teaching Kids: thoughts on the day

"The best thing was seeing other schools showing their work and being able to give respectful feedback. The activities with other schools were really fun."

CIDNEE

"I think that the Kids Teaching Kids Conference was good because everyone had a turn of saying stuff from their STEM Group. I did the MC'ing and I liked that!"

MARCUS

"It was a good day because it was fun and we got to hear about other kids learning at different schools."

KYRAN

"I think it was really good and they did a great job. I had a good experience. I think I want to learn more about recycling and helping the earth."

MIKAYLA

"I was really scared to share at first, but then I figured out it wasn't actually that bad and it was really fun."

TILLIE

"I felt pretty nervous, but the more I was up there I felt more confident. I learned a lot of things from Kids Teaching Kids, like if you litter there are consequences."

JOHN

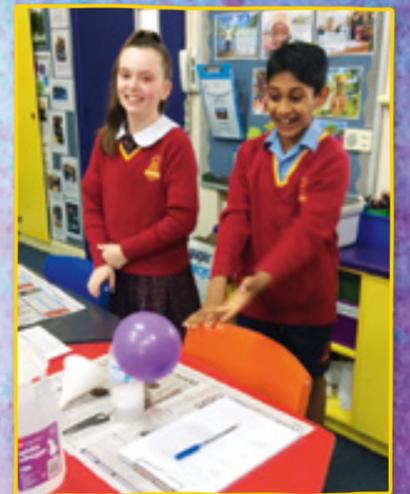


Science

Science in the Senior School has seen Years 3/4 and 5/6 investigate their own class topics including metals & magnets, endangered species, forces, water cycle, light & matter to name a few. There were also times this year when they joined together to enhance their science learning and these sessions provided opportunities to extend and challenge students.

They also shared their learning about the water cycle with the Junior students, guiding them through an experimental investigation.

As part of a new initiative, St Pius X, in conjunction with our partner school Parade College, celebrated National Science Week 2019. It is always a delight to be able to work closely with our partners. Thank you to Anna Tran, Science Convener at Parade College and visiting 'scientists' – Dominic, Anthony, Matthew, Matt, Aaron and Michael for making this possible.



YEARS Prep TO 2



Bug houses



In 2019, the Grade 1/2s have been learning about how to care for the environment and ways in which we can be more sustainable. One of our essential driving questions was "How do we create a healthy environment for living things?"

The students explored who they share their environment with, how mini-beasts affect the environment and what a healthy environment looks like. We went into the garden to observe and discover the different mini-beasts that live in St Pius X and how they contribute to our garden. The students learned about the different parts of an insect, what makes insects unique to other bugs and how healthy and unhealthy environments affect our creepy crawlies.

The Prep-Year 2s were very lucky to have an incursion presented by the Rethink Centre and Jim Meade came out to the school. The students got the opportunity to get up close and personal with water bugs and various other insects.

To bring together everything they had learned, the students created a diorama out of recycled materials and also created a video. The video included students filming, speaking and using apps to explain and bring awareness to mini-beasts and how much they contribute to the environment.

The students were extremely proud to showcase their learning to their families and peers and have worked very hard over the course of the year.





“THE POWER OF COMMUNITY” PERFORMANCE

October 23, Nallejerring Centre, Our Lady of Mercy College, Heidelberg

Always look on the bright side of life





PREP SUPER BUGS!

The prep students studied the life of mini beasts. In the art room, the prep students made mini beast houses from cardboard boxes. They also made bug capes from fabric and decorative textile materials.



PREP / YEAR 5-6 BUDDIES



The Buddies Program is an opportunity to develop relationships between students beginning school in prep and our senior students.

Regular shared activities throughout the school year have enabled the students to get to know each other and has enabled the younger children to feel safe and cared for while older children feel valued and respected. The students interact with each other across a variety of activities, in class, on the playground and they sit together during Mass.



YEAR 6 REFLECTIONS

Photos from Year 6 Italian excursion to Lygon Street, Carlton



What have you enjoyed and are thankful for in your time here at St Pius X?

Christopher: "I have really enjoyed all the teachers here and the great learning activities. I am thankful for all the nice teachers and kids here at St Pius X. It's something that I will remember."

Erin: "I am thankful for all of the support and love from the teachers and all of my friends. They have helped me through all of the bad times and the good times I will miss you all so much"

Jared: "Learning and playing together with friends. I particularly liked the good science lessons with Mrs M, especially learning about light and its properties. I have enjoyed my last year of school and doing projects in class with Ms Michelle, such as Macquarie Island. I enjoyed going on excursions and camps also. I also had fun helping at the school concert. Above all I liked learning about God and Jesus and what he does for us."



What memories will you take away from your time at St Pius X?

Remus: "Watching the LEGO Batman movie!"

Noor: "I have lots of memories from when I was younger. One very clear memory is from prep, Ms Michelle was our teacher and she taught us lots of great stuff, one of the best things she taught us though was that sometimes we had to "C.O.P.E, cope". That is one thing I will definitely need to remember in High school!"

Simon: "All my friends with who I got to connect more with."

Nikayla: "The memories I will take away from St Pius X are my first day, school camps, and graduation."

Alexander: "Science and ICT app making."

Jared: "Watching movies, free time, camps, friends, teachers. Car Racing with Mrs M, creating an E-Bus for STEM that I would like to make real one day."

Aaliyah: "When I met all the important people in my life here."

Patrick: "One memory I have was when it was hailing really heavily and we all had a hail fight."

Ritesh: "The school camps, all my friends and our teachers."

Erin: "All of them good and bad ever day at school was a memory that I will cherish forever and ever."

Christopher: "All the excursions and camps that we went to. I will remember bike ed, soccer and all the sport activities."



What do you want to say to us (kids & staff) as you head off to secondary college?

Ritesh: "For the kids, follow your dream no matter what it takes. I thank our teachers for my education."

Simon: "Thanks St Pius X for always being there for me."

Patrick: "I just want to say thank you for all the good times and learning experiences and how everyone of us is different but all of us care for one another when one of us is sad or unhappy."

Noor: "There is one thing I would like to say to the staff and students at St Pius X - THANKYOU!!!"

Nikayla: "Thank you for being so kind to me all the way from grades 4-6, I hope to visit again."

Jared: "Enjoy your years at primary school and remember why you are at school. Have fun, keep learning and looking after each other."

If you could give us (St Pius X) one piece of advice, what would it be?

Patrick: "Just to keep doing what you're doing and being you."

Noor: "Take risks and opportunities, because some of them will never come back."

Alexander: "Keep the school the way it is!"



How do you think you have made a difference at school, to others and the community?

Simon: "Coming up with ideas that just might work."

Nikayla: "I brought kindness and joy to others."

Erin: "By always helping people that need help in school and in the community."

Christopher: "Making devices to help other people in other countries, such as a solar battery charger."

How would you like us to remember you?

Ritesh: "Just a normal person."

Patrick: "I want to be remembered for trying to push everyone of us to the best of our abilities."

Noor: "I would like to be remembered as a valued member of the St Pius X community. That is how I will remember everyone else!"

Jared: "I would like to be remembered as a Tech Wizard/Guru, and that I liked to help people."



CLASS OF 2019
 FRONT ROW: Alexander Pousderky, Noor Abraham, Aaliyah Schwalger, Nikayla Carter, Erin Allen, Ritesh Saravanan.
 SECOND ROW: Patrick Stone, Remus Murphy, Simon Abebe, Jared Nazir, Christopher Krikas. STAFF: Ms Michelle Wans, Mrs Barbara Gomez (Principal)

“Education is a natural process carried out by the child; it is not acquired by listening to words but by experiences in the environment.”

MARIA MONTESSORI

MONTESSORI PROGRAMS



The Montessori programs at St Pius X have continued to expand with more and more families coming to discover the richness of the Montessori Philosophy of Education.

Montessori education is a means of fostering and supporting the natural process of human development. The child's great work is to create the person he will become. In order to do this, he needs to have the freedom to respond to his natural impulses to move, explore, and discover.

The exciting development in 2020 will see St Pius X open up its program to add a Montessori Stream to the already wonderful and holistic educational opportunities that exist at St Pius X. We will have a Prep enrollment with new families being a part of our school community.

Our Montessori spaces have been built up with additional materials for our indoor space as well as work being done in our outdoor area. We look forward to enjoying them together.





Cathy Zappone celebrates her 50th year of teaching passata making. **Grazie Signora Zappone!**



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Jim Miles
Acting Executive Director

EASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE
CATHOLIC EDUCATION
MELBOURNE

Marwin Austerberry
Regional General Manager

HELEN CHRISTENSEN
& LEILA GURRUWIWI
*Aboriginal Education Officers
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders
Catholic Education Melbourne*



MICK GEARY
Chief Executive Officer



2020 EMPOWERMENT THROUGH VOICE

St Pius X empowers student voice by providing a school environment where everyone belongs with opportunities for all to be heard.

Students become self motivated learners who as leaders can make purposeful decisions, take responsibility for their choices and confidently take action to reach set goals. St Pius X encourages fun and exciting ways to learn through curiosity, creativity and a sense of adventure integrating STEAM approaches. Students have the ability to actively learn and access specific information for multiple sources and opinions.

They can demonstrate independent thoughts and verbalise their findings and conclusions. Explicit teaching strategies develop students' higher order thinking skills and provide the inspiring and challenging environment needed for innovative and creative inquiry learning.



**CELEBRATING
BOOK WEEK
IN 2019**

