

Shine

2018



The St Pius X Catholic Primary School magazine

ST PIUS X
TOGETHER WE
SHINE



Parish Priest report

FR WAYNE EDWARDS

Principal's report 2018

STRIVE TO THRIVE!



We must be doing something right. How prophetic the words of our Principal, Mrs Barbara Gomez. Our school community has much to celebrate and much to be proud of.

I too am proud of all within our school community, our Principal, Mrs Barbara Gomez, teachers and staff, our volunteers, parents and especially the children. We welcome new teachers this year – Amelia, Irene, Belinda, Adele. Also with us for a number of years now – Anthony, computer tutor, Isobel (Bella) and Kylie, our garden gurus. All of them partner each other in educating and nurturing our children in preparing and equipping them facing a world of change and great opportunity.

I see the unfolding vision for the School as one that takes a holistic approach to education of the child, ie. the whole child. I think St Pius X does that very well. Teaching and learning is very important but the days when the three Rs – reading, writing and arithmetic – are sufficient, they are not enough. Our children are taught to be self-learners and enquirers. There is much more to learn – social skills where they develop the tools to communicate with others and to develop empathy for the other, to relate well and get on with people. They are given responsibility, eg. caring for the chickens, feeding, giving them water, collecting the eggs, allowing them to roam outside the coops and then locking them away at the end of the day. Many of the children have given the chickens names. Also recording the progress of the newer chickens and entering them in The Royal Melbourne Show. Our chickens won! Also activities in social justice and supporting missions of various kinds.

One project children participated in was the creation of a mural depicting the Indigenous people who fought side by side with the Australian soldier throughout the theaters of war during this and the last century. The mural commissioned by Repatriation Hospital and Returned Service people. With Simon, the resident artist at the Repatriation Hospital, who designed the mural enlisted the help of our children to filling in the design with mosaic tiles. This was undertaken at the school.

Our children learned some practical skills but also the period of history when indigenous people had few rights, one being citizenship. It shows that our school community has a collective conscience where we look at people, community and world and seeing how things are – the good and not so good things – and how they can be.

We are a Catholic school and I believe we see Catholic Identity not as a concept but as a reality that is lived out by the school community. There are certainly challenges for us as a school community given our numbers but we are committed

to our core activity of education, teaching and learning bound by our Catholic ethos. The challenges facing us must be tackled by all stakeholders – children, parents, teachers, staff and parishioners. The last couple of years we have been exploring Early Learning, eg. Montessori and play groups.

In order to continue the fine work and attract more families need help in marketing ourselves. That is the responsibility of all of us. Please tell others about our wonderful school and the programs it offers. I am, as is Mrs Gomez, teachers and School Board, interested in any ideas you might have in helping us to move from strength to strength. Our school is catholic unreservedly so in tradition and practice. As priest of this community – school, parish, Heidelberg West I am dedicated to your wellbeing. I would like to see more of our families be involved not just in school activity but parish and church also. Christmas and Easter are times when worshiping activity is at its peak. I would encourage all to make an effort to join in our worshiping activity more regularly during the year. Bring yourselves and your children to our weekend church celebrations. I always found growing up that going to church made me appreciate other people, a sense of the other and something bigger than all of us. Grownups and children all need a sense of the divine as well as the human.

We also need your support in practical ways. One way is to help us look after the grounds of the school and parish. We have had working bees in the past. We need to have them more regularly to Garden – weeding, mowing, planting, pruning. We have a lovely property, but it is too much for a few to look after. Please help.

With Mrs Barbara Gomez, and our accountant, we continue to raise issues with the Catholic Education Office, Melbourne, concerning the future of the school. We are an important and vital presence within the wider community. We are dedicated to the ongoing care, safety and education of our children, and with your ongoing help and participation we will continue to do so.

Thank you for your trust and your hard work over the past 12 months and to our future together. With every blessing.

2018 has certainly been a year of deep engagement in learning together. I am extremely proud of our amazing students who continue to strive to be the best they can be.

Throughout 2018 we set a rigorous learning environment, challenging the capabilities of our students to go deep into the learning pit with grit and determination, applying effort and hard work, demonstrating persistence and perseverance in all aspects of their learning.

How did we go? Our students are leading the way in the school community and within the wider community. They are confident, capable and resilient learners who clearly understand the importance of setting goals and monitoring progress to achieve success.

St Pius X is a strong Professional Learning Community. Teachers constantly monitor the progress of individual students, employing high-impact teaching strategies to maximise achievement. Parents are encouraged and supported to actively engage in the learning with their child in the classroom and at home through frequent learning conversations and communication through an easily accessible digital learning platform. Ongoing learning conversations give students the opportunity to further develop their strengths and deepen their understanding of the areas for improvement. St Pius X provides a nurturing, safe and respectful learning environment that supports and challenges students, empowering them to strive to thrive. Student-led Learning conversations each term see a team of teachers, alongside parents listening and questioning students as the curriculum is unpacked, success criteria identified using developmental continuums and learning goals set with clear progress measurements in place. Reflective feedback on the learning process allows for a collective evaluation and assessment of the skills and knowledge learned and further building the capabilities of the learner.

Throughout 2018 students have showcased their abilities to lead, teach and collaborate through a number of various community projects and annual events such as Student



Leadership in Sustainability – Kids Teaching Kids at Edendale Farm in Eltham, Tournament of Minds at La Trobe University, STEM, Making a Difference (MAD) showcasing Inquiry Learning and Finding Common Ground Project working in partnership with Banyule City Council meeting with Councilors in the process to adopting the Victorian Child Friendly Cities and Communities Charter and strategic directions of the municipality.

We are also very proud of our students leadership in Social Justice. They have actively supported the Winter Appeal, St Vinnies Soup Vans and 3081 Angels.

They have worked in partnership with Secondary Colleges and Primary Schools for Reconciliation promoting and facilitating respect, trust and positive relationships between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. They have raised awareness of the Human Rights issues of Children in Detention – Kids off Nauru, and participated in the Walk of Witness supporting the 2018 – 2019 Australian Catholic Bishops Social Justice Statement 'A Place to Call Home' on Homelessness and Housing Affordability.

In 2019 we look forward to further developing our holistic philosophy at St Pius X with plans to extend our Montessori Program. Embracing the power of community working together, we will continue to provide a positive happy environment for everyone to have the freedom to enjoy all life and learning have to offer.

The Power of Community is the magic we all need to discover our true best self and what makes us shine!

THANK YOU AND FAREWELL

Thank you to Pat Lenders and Jessica Milesi for their many years of hard work and dedication to the children and families of St Pius X Parish School community. We wish Pat all the best in the next chapter of her life in retirement with her husband Ross and congratulations to Jessica in securing a new position as Literacy Leader at St Joseph the Worker Reservoir.

Yours in Christ

Barbara Gomez
Principal, St Pius X Catholic Primary School

FUN AND PARTICIPATION IS KEY AT ST PIUS X!

SHINE 2018



Throughout the year the whole community has enjoyed events together. Working together, sharing experiences, and having fun builds strong trusting relationships and we learn a lot as well.

Fun and Participation is our motto, with everyone invited to participate thus bringing life, laughter and joy to our community.

2018 BANYULE KIDS ARTY FARTY PARADE

The Arty Farty Festival is sponsored by the Heidelberg Traders. The Grand Parade is a family-friendly affair and welcomes entries from community organisations, schools, sporting clubs, businesses and any group in Banyule keen to embrace the spirit of community connectedness and creative imagination.

The theme for 2018 was Cultural Stories and Characters. Congratulations to St Pius X winning the CREATIVITY award for our banner and giving recognition to our Indigenous and raising social awareness for Reconciliation.

2018 BOITE SCHOOLS CHORUS Mission Songs Project – Jessie Lloyd

24 children from Years 1 to 6 sang at the Melbourne Town Hall in August. This was an amazingly exciting night for the children and their families as well as learning so much about the early life on the Missions for our Aboriginal First Nation people. Thank you to Belinda Nechwatal, our Performing Arts teacher, for her dedication and hard work coordinating and preparing the children.

ANZAC GALLIPOLI TREE

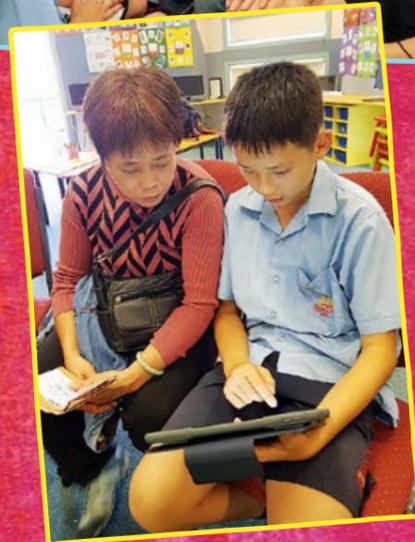
St Pius X was given a Gallipoli Oak Tree as a gift from the Australian Government, in commemoration of the 100 year celebrations of the Great War. Thank you to Alma Pettiona a valued member of our community for leading the tree planting commemorative service with the children. Alma, a wife of a returned soldier, is herself a life-member of Legacy and as a 93-year-old, she continues to generously give her time to supporting young people and families.



LEARNING TOGETHER BRINGS SUCCESS FOR ALL

We strive to provide stimulating learning for our students with the core purpose of stretching thinking, family engagement, and social action.

Our staff continually challenge the children through questioning and problem solving. This builds stamina as a learner, growth mindset and pride in striving to do your best. Our students lead learning conversations as the teachers form partnerships with parents to ensure every child succeeds.



PREP

The Foundation-Prep year is always one of delight!

The children grow and learn so much in their first year of schooling. Our small school community at St Pius X provides a gentle, caring environment focused on nurturing each child to deepen their understanding of themselves and others, develop their capabilities to self-regulate and to fully engage in all learning experiences.

We are very proud of our 2018 Prep children who have achieved so much. They are confident, happy and blossoming. Thank you to Miss Adele and Miss Belinda for the exceptional effort in teaching the children throughout the year. Well done!

BUDDIES

The Madeline and Alannah Foundation Better Buddies Program is a support to both the younger children and the older children by building strong, meaningful relationships with one another.

Our Year 5 and 6 children form close friendships with the Prep children and have the responsibility of caring and supporting their buddy through the first year of school to help them feel safe, valued and connected. The Prep children have so much to navigate in the school environment as do the parents and families, so the Year 5/6 Buddy has a very important role to play. Thank you to the Year 5/6 Buddies for your love, care and concern for your Prep Buddy. You have taught the little ones so much but they have also taught you responsibility, respect, patience and empathy.

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT?

- “to write”
- “to read”
- “words”
- “to colour-in neatly”
- “Lower-case and upper-case letters”
- “to draw shapes”

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT SCHOOL?

- “learning”
- “choosing and changing my readers”
- “chickens and Miss Laura’s pigs”
- “sport”
- “Drawing”
- “playing on the monkey bars”
- “I like the teachers”

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SAY TO YOUR BUDDIES?

- “thank you for helping me”
- “goodbye and I love you”
- “good luck for high school”
- “BIG HUG – and I hope to see you again one day!”



YEAR 6



CONFIRMATION

Congratulations to our students who were Confirmed on 27 May. Below are some of their reflections of their preparation and reception of the Sacrament.

Kalel and Neve: *This year’s Confirmation really was an amazing experience! Everything we learned changed our point of view of basically everything. And everything we learned was fun.*

The best part, in my opinion, was the excursion, especially the calippo (ice cream).

Did I mention that we wore free dress on the Confirmation retreat? It wasn’t just the way we learned that was fun, it was us bonding in the bus and when we had a break. Anyway we got to go to the Mary Glowrey Museum, which I think everyone enjoyed.

On the excursion we went to visit the nuns and learned what they did. We got to see their soup kitchen, the outside, supply room and dining room! That’s where we got our ice-cream, other than food they told us a story on how they became nuns and soon after gave us a cross symbol.

Back in the church we got to make letters sealed with wax. What was best is that we did all of it ourselves. In our letter we wrote the gifts of the Holy Spirit then sealed the letter with wax and a seal. I chose the dove seal!

Erin: *My favourite thing about Confirmation was having my family and friends there with me, it was sort of fun “being Baptised again”. It felt like I was an adult and I had done the biggest job ever.*

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION EXCURSION TO THE MARY GLOWREY MUSEUM

Mary Glowrey was a Victorian woman born in the late 1800s. She lived a life dedicated to God and is considered to be in the running as Australia’s next saint. A temporary Museum has an exhibit of her life which we visited as part of our Confirmation retreat.

Find out about her at maryglowreymuseum.info

This is what our students had to say about it:

“The museum was very inspiring because we heard about all the different aspects of Mary’s life; when she was younger and older. We could see old photos and letters which were interesting and cool.”

“I liked how the museum was on top of a university. I also liked how she wanted to help people and spent the rest of her life helping the people of India.”

“It was interesting to learn about Mary and how she moved to India and stayed there until she died. She had to learn two different languages.”

“I really loved the Mary Glowrey Museum, it wasn’t just like a normal museum. It had cool pictures, there was a place where we could sit and learn about Mary with lots of photos and a time line. We could find out more about her life on the iPad also.”

“It was very interesting, there were lots of pictures, a lot of detail and lots of artifacts. There were pictures that we really had to think lots about. There was information about her life, what she did and why, and how she did studies of the eyes. The last letter she wrote when her bones were breaking was very descriptive.”

YEAR 6 REFLECTIONS

Kalel

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

“I’m extremely thankful to be chosen in the Finding Common Ground group, It’s been an honour and most enjoyable thing that has included me in it. I thank my class to appreciating me, in a way, that I’m in the class.”

What memories will you take away from your time here?

“I’ll definitely remember the first term summer and although we looked REALLY young and it was REALLY hot at the time, all the excursions (plus camp) would be a core memory. Even now I can make out the clear details.”

What do you want to say to your buddy – advice and encouragement as they continue here at St Pius?

“Take a risk! You won’t learn/experience anything new if you don’t take a risk! Don’t back off and try to stay in the safe spot, if you’d speak up then you’d inspire other children to do great things like you.”

What do you want to say to us (kids and staff) as you head off to high school?

“I’ve enjoyed every single person at school no matter their gender or grade because they let me experience a different personality. Even if their personality is very common, I’d meet a person with a common personality and I’d think, Oh remember that kid with that personality in St Pius X.”

How do you think you’ve made a difference at school, in the community for others?

“I’ve changed my friends in a way to show them more about each other in a way. Although they would deny these words I believe I’ve gotten them to express their humour more often.”

Zak

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

“My friends and the community, and how everybody cares for each other.”

What memories will you take away from your time here?

“When I helped make our school song, all the sport we have done, and all the teachers.”

YEAR 6 REFLECTIONS

Zak (continued)

What do you want to say to your buddy – advice and encouragement as they continue here at St Pius?

“To always try their best and to be nice to other and to help people in need.”

What do you want to say to us (kids and staff) as you head off to high school?

“The one thing I want to say would be thank you for being good friends and good teachers.”

How do you think you’ve made a difference at school, in the community for others?

“Because I’m caring and inclusive, and I welcome people and gave people tours.”

Amy

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

“At St Pius X I enjoyed being with my friends and I thank them for always being there for me and anyone else who has helped me at the time when I’m at St Pius X.”

What memories will you take away from your time here?

“Camps at Anglesea and Millgrove, all my friends from Prep till now – and MasterChef!”

What do you want to say to your buddy – advice and encouragement as they continue here at St Pius?

“Never give up, always try your best, someone will always be there for you even when you feel left out and when no one is there.”

What do you want to say to us (kids and staff) as you head off to high school?

“I had a great time here with you guys and I also have learnt a lot from all of you.”

How do you think you’ve made a difference at school, in the community for others?

“Everything I have done here has made a little different to everyone at St Pius X and the community, every little action has changed this school.”

William

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

“I have enjoyed all my past seven years I’ve been here, it’s been a wonderful time working together with my friends. I am very thankful for all my friends who helped me through my past years and encouraged me. All the teachers was great and helped me when I struggled and needed help in learning.”

What memories will you take away from your time here?

“I will take all the fun years I had with all my friends, camps, excursions and more! All the learning and the friendship I will keep deeply in my heart as I go to high school and the rest of my life I will remember it all!”

What do you want to say to your buddy – advice and encouragement as they continue here at St Pius?

“Well, my buddy is in Germany, so I don’t have one now, but I would say to all the preps to have fun and listen to the teachers in class so you will learn more and know more.”

What do you want to say to us (kids and staff) as you head off to high school?

“That I had a fun seven years in St Pius X and I am sure that this school will keep on improving so the school can make more people happier.”

I loved all the teachers I’ve met and they all made a big difference to me in my life because each of them is good at doing something each.”

How do you think you’ve made a difference at school, in the community for others?

“I think that I have been a great friend to all my Year 5 and 6 friends. I helped my friends do maths sometimes because they need help so I help them and they have improved a lot since I helped them.”

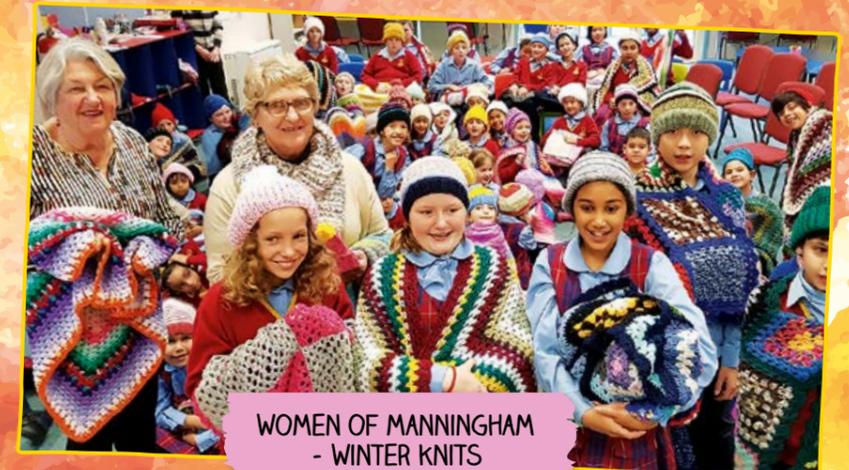
PLANTING THE GALLIPOLI OAK TREE



LONG WALK FOR RECONCILIATION



WALK OF WINTESS FOR THE HOMELESS



WOMEN OF MANNINGHAM - WINTER KNITS



CONFIRMATION



INDIGENOUS VETERAN MURAL



ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND GARDENING PROGRAM

Our Gardening program continues to be the source of much enjoyment and learning. Bella exposes the children to a broad spectrum of environmental studies which is both challenging and engaging.

BUSH CAMP DAY

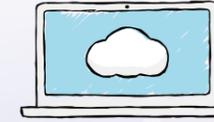
Bush Camp Day is full of fun from making shelters from natural materials to constructing a camp fire and cooking a nutritious meal from bush tucker.

INSECT HOUSES

The children learned how to construct insect houses from mud and straw. They were hopeful many new insects will choose a house in our garden and add to the health of our environment.



CLASSROOM STEM



WALK OF WINTESS FOR THE HOMELESS



SOCIAL ACTION AT ST PIUS X

MINI FAIR

Congratulations to the Year 3 to 6 children for organising and running a very successful Mini Market. Thanks you to the families, parishioners and community members who kindly donated items. The children all had a fabulous time with everyone purchasing bargains, as well as enjoying the many activities. A popular stall was the beauty stall painting nails and creating groovy hairstyles. The lolly stall as always was a real winner and such a bargain with everyone affording a large bag of lollies even the teachers. All money will be donated to Opening Doors Foundation.



KIDS OFF NAURU

LONG WALK FOR RECONCILIATION



PJ DAY

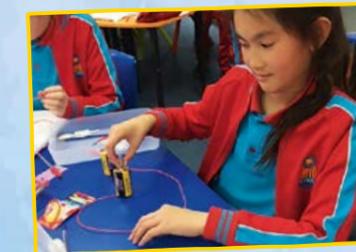


CEO SLEEPOUT

STEM MAD SHOWCASE

Years 3 to 6 students showcase the STOP THINK DO action through the use of Digital Technologies and coding to Make a Difference (MAD) to poverty in third-world countries.

Jonah: "There were lots of school at the Showcase. I met new friends and there were a lot of special people there. Most of the judges were nice and they told us we did really well. They liked our STEM program and the coding gadgets we used like Sphero."



SOUP DAY WINTER APPEAL



MINI MARKET - OPENING DOORS FOUNDATION



COMMUNITY EVENTS



ST PIUS X COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CHEER

The highlight of every year is sharing the joy and peace of Christmas. A Community School St Pius X really knows how to celebrate with the 3081 community. However these events occur in December when our annual *Shine* magazine has already gone to print, therefore we have decided to begin including photos of the prior December from now on. We hope you enjoy the photos from the 2017 festive season. Merry Christmas everyone!



ST PIUS X CHOIR

Our Christmas choir brings happiness to the elderly by singing Christmas carols at the local aged-care facilities, namely Estia Health Heidelberg West and Vasey RSL Care Ivanhoe. The children also sing for the Heidelberg Pensioners Club. Lots of fun is had by all, old and young like to sing dance and enjoy a party of festive food.



BUNNINGS

The Christmas Choir also sings at Bunnings Northland in Preston to bring delight to the Christmas shoppers, and of course the Bunnings staff – as well as performing at the Bell Street Mall Christmas event, which is so much fun!



3081 CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Great fun is always had at the 3081 Christmas Concert held each year at the Rosanna Baptist Church. The St Pius X children become a part of the local cast each year to perform and sing.

ST PIUS X CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Celebrating the end of year and giving thanks for all we have received and achieved throughout the year is always fun at St Pius X. We especially make it all a special time for our children, families and community. Our star attraction in the Nativity Play – baby Jesus is always the newest member of our school community. In December 2017, Violet was the star, youngest daughter of Alex and Emily Dinsdale and most importantly baby sister to Sylvie (Prep 2018).

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

Proud achievement marking the Centenary of Armistice. Historical murals commemorating the services of our Indigenous Veterans and the dedication of our Nurses during the war and longtime care for the return soldiers. Three 5m murals created by Simon Normand and St Pius X children and students of OLMC now grace the entrance to the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital. St Pius X student Jonah Cadd along with family members assisted in the unveiling of his great-great grandfather Frederick Lovett. Tiana Matthews a great-great granddaughter of Chris Saunders also a student at St Pius X contributed to the making of the mural.



SWIMMING PROGRAM

What great fun the kids had throughout the swimming program. I attended a session to see the great learning all the children were achieving from water confidence through to stroke skill acquisition, and the best thing was everyone was having so much fun! Each day the children returned from swimming with wide smiles being so proud of themselves.



CAMP!

MARCH 2018
MILLGROVE, VICTORIA



PERFORMING ARTS



APPRECIATIONS



Stephen Elder
Executive Director

EASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE
CATHOLIC EDUCATION
MELBOURNE

Marwin Austerberry
Regional General Manager

DELSIE LILLYST
Education Officer
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders
Catholic Education Melbourne



MICK GEARY
Chief Executive Officer
BANYULE
Community Health

illumi
illumicreative.com.au

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR YEAR 6 STUDENTS AND THANK YOU!

A measure of the success of a school is truly evident in the capability and skills of the senior students and our Year 6 have certainly thrived! The St Pius X Parish School community is very proud and in awe of the growth, learning and development of our Year 6 graduates. They are each unique and valued individuals who have a passion for learning, empathy for others, and a commitment to making a difference in the world.

Thank you to Amy, William, Zak, Anna, Josephine, Jake, Luca and Kalel.
As young leaders we are confident you will continue to strive to be the best you can be in all your future endeavours.

DREAM BIG, LAUGH OFTEN AND SMILE ALWAYS!



*Mrs Barbara Gomez (Principal), Anna, Luka, Amy, Zak, William, Kalel, Mrs Carmel Barro (Year 6 teacher)
Opposite (absent): Jake, Josephine*

THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

Children thrive in caring, nurturing and supportive communities where they feel safe, respected and valued. St Pius X is a strong community school working in partnership with families, the parish and the wider community to ensure all children have the best opportunities to flourish. Our holistic philosophy centers our focus on each individual child's health, wellbeing, learning and development. Embracing this deep way of working together provides a positive happy environment for everyone to have the freedom to enjoy all life and learning have to offer.

**THE POWER OF COMMUNITY IS THE MAGIC WE ALL NEED TO DISCOVER
OUR TRUE BEST SELF AND WHAT MAKES US SHINE.**

