



Ss Michael & John's Primary Prospectus



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John's Primary

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Principal's Message

The motto of Ss Michael and John's Primary School sits at the heart of every decision that we make. This ensures that at all times it is the children who are central to everything we do. We recognise that they are our future and that it is our responsibility to help them to create a viable life in a world that is so different to the generations preceding them. Today's children are growing up in a fast-paced, ever developing global world. More so now, than at any other time in history, it is vital that our children are not only literate and numerate, they need to be highly adaptive, critical and creative thinkers and problem solvers with highly developed communication skills.

The teaching programs that we offer at Ss Michael and John's address the spiritual, intellectual, academic, personal and interpersonal needs of each student. Research informs us of the importance of the Arts, Physical Education and Languages in developing the whole child, cultivating their abilities across all areas of the curriculum, broadening students' brain function and stimulating creativity.

At the heart of all that we do is the teaching of Jesus Christ and the principles of Social Justice. If we succeed in educating the students who walk through our doors to recognise the dignity of each person, to respond to injustice at local and global levels and to respect and promote the rights of individuals, then we will have succeeded in educating them to be citizens of the world, doing great deeds as Jesus commanded.

Andrea Cox

Ss Michael & John's Primary School Principal

***For I know the plans I have for you,
declares the LORD,
Plans for welfare and not for evil, to
give you a future and a hope.
Jeremiah 29:11***





History

The school was founded in 1883 when the Parish leased the Temperance Hall in Splatt St (now Roberts Ave) for use as a school. It was conducted by a staff of lay teachers. Since 1884, Ss Michael & John's Primary School has operated in a variety of buildings, including the parish church, but always on the current site. The Brigidine Sisters assumed responsibility for the school between 1920 and 1990. St Brigid's College also operated here from its founding in 1920 until 1968.

The former Brigidine Convent was incorporated into the school facilities where classrooms and administration were ran until 2009 when the building was demolished. In 2010, Ss Michael and John's was delighted to complete a major building and redevelopment program. A brand new school building incorporating all class rooms and an administration wing and staff area.

Vision & Mission

With Christ as our centre point and inspiration, our children will thrive and be empowered to positively contribute to the world.

Caring, Learning, Growing: Every Child; Every Day

In light of the Gospels, we commit to establishing authentic relationships and collaborative partnerships to maximise learning for all.



The SMJ Learner

At SMJ Horsham, we thrive to create a positive learning environment that will help students develop socially, emotionally and academically to their full potential.

We work to create an educational environment that provides an exciting, interesting and engaging learning environment that is not restricted by socioeconomic, cultural, geographical or family background.

Today's world is everchanging, and the challenge for us as educators is to ensure that as the children move through primary school, that we truly engage, motivate and excite them. Working collaboratively to problem solve, be critical thinkers, risk takers and resilient individuals are essential skills that need to be developed and foster in this modern, new age world. Therefore, there is also a strong focus on building connections through student learning experiences to the real world and broader community in which we live.

As a Catholic school it is important that student learning reflects the vision of our school and an understanding of the life and teachings of Jesus.

We aim to maximise student potential in a safe and caring community in which academic achievement, positive self esteem, cultural diversity and the rights of all are highly valued and respected.

At SMJ we believe that a strong and supportive partnership between home and school promotes the best possible environment for student learning and we encourage parents to become involved and support our school.

Religious Education

At SMJ Horsham we aim to support parents as educators of their children in faith.

We take into account the uniqueness of each child in their ongoing faith formation. All students are expected to participate in 2.5 hours of Religious Education learning during each week.

Drawing from the life experiences of the students, we follow a P - 6 Religious Education Program which is planned using the 'Awakenings' document which incorporates the gospel values, liturgical seasons and the local calendar.



Through our learning and teaching activities we aim to:

- develop a knowledge of our Catholic faith and what it means to live out the message of Jesus in our world today.
- provide students with an experience of formal and informal prayer, thus giving them an opportunity of growing in a relationship with God
- provide opportunities for Sacramental preparation and celebration

All baptised children at SMJ Horsham are offered the opportunity to participate in the Sacramental Program which includes Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation.

Class Prayer celebrations (liturgies) and masses are held throughout the year at various times. Whole school masses are also celebrated at significant times throughout the school year such as the beginning of the school year, Easter and Mothers and Fathers Day. Parents and families are welcome to join us in these celebrations and are notified of these events via the school Facebook page and or school newsletter.

MINI VINNIES

Students in Grades 3-6 who are interested in social justice are able to join the Mini Vinnies which empowers primary school students to become advocates within their school and local community by putting their values into action. They meet regularly to learn about social justice issues, develop leadership skills and engage with the wider St Vincent de Paul Society.

Mini Vinnies is about doing good works in the community that benefit people facing social injustice. It is also about young people meeting to talk, share ideas and concerns, to have fun and support each other.

Curriculum

We provide a balanced developmentally appropriate curriculum, with particular emphasis given to Literacy, Numeracy and Religious Education. SMJ operates 11 combined age classrooms with an average size of 25 students. Specialist areas include library, art, physical education, music/performing arts and the Indonesian language.

Through the core subjects, all learning and teaching is drawn from the Victorian curriculum. Students are educated in faith through the Diocesan program, Awakenings which is supported through the Catholic Education Office in Ballarat.



Prep to Year 2 students engage in investigations throughout the week which is inspired by the research and work of Kathy Walker and the Reggio Emilio approach. The investigations are designed to be challenging, playful and individual while also allowing children to develop the skills needed to work collaboratively, build independence and be supported to extend their learning.

Investigation time engages children in exciting, personalised and authentic learning experiences that reflect the particular needs, interests and strengths of the individual child. It ensures a greater level of engagement for all students. It also helps to increase oral language for all children regardless of their linguistic background and integrates rich literacy and numeracy into all learning experiences.

Investigations provide time for the children to practice decision making, initiate ideas, develop persistence, take a risk with their learning, and try again when it doesn't work; all within a safe environment where the child is supported and encouraged to succeed.

Our child-centred approach to learning continues in Years 3-6 where the students think about how they interact with each other, work together, use their time appropriately and identify what they need to learn.

Educational Research replaces Investigations with a focus on the child ren developing the skills to be researchers, identifying what they need to know, what is important to know, and the skills they need to develop to be inquiring learners who are confident and competent at sharing their learning with others. The research is driven by powerful questions often framed by real life problems and purposes. The students move through processes that help them to think beyond the facts and come to understand deeper concepts.

Physical Education

The sporting program at Ss Michael and John's Primary School encourage s active participation, fitness and fun. All students are encouraged to enjo y a range of different sports, whether working towards personal best, or be ing a team player, and we offer a comprehensive program of sports experi ences all year round.



Sport at SMJ Horsham provides opportunities for students to develop their motor skills in a friendly and supportive environment. All students participate in a one hour physical education class per week and have the opportunity to compete and represent their 'House' colour team at the school athletics carnival and inter school competitions if they are successful to make the next level.

Ultimately the sport program emphasizes maximum participation whilst developing fundamental game skills and fostering a sense of fair play and sporting spirit.

SPORTS and RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCES

- Athletics
- Basketball
- Bushwalking
- Cricket
- Cross Country
- Cycling
- Dance Program
- Football
- Golf
- Hockey
- Netball
- Rugby
- Soccer
- Softball
- Volleyball



Visual & Performing Arts

Visual and performing arts at SMJ is taught by a dedicated full time specialist teacher.

The Arts learning area acts as a way for children to explore the world around them. With a strong focus on fun, the children are taught and encouraged to utilise their imagination, use a variety of communication skills, and explore their creativity to solve problems as they learn about the world around them. The Arts also promote opportunities for students to build confidence and form relationships with peers in a relaxed and trusting environment.



PERFORMING ARTS

Performing arts consists of Drama, Music and Dance. Each term focuses on a different key area: drama, music, dance, with term 4 being reserved to bring all elements together in the form of our end of year Christmas concert.

Prep to Grade Two, students explore spatial awareness and movement through dance, learn to work cooperatively with others and make decisions, experiment with sounds using instruments and voice and express their creativity with make believe and role play. Grade 3-6 students continue to expand on the above skills by preparing and performing short scripts, choreographing dance sequences, composing music using a variety of instruments.

VISUAL ARTS

Prep to Grade Two, students explore the use of colour, line and texture with a strong focus on developing painting and drawing techniques. While structured art lessons focus on key skills and techniques, the students are also exposed to a broad range of materials to create freely and express their creativity.

Grade Three to Six students expand their range of skills and more complex art processes while developing respect for and acknowledgement of the diverse roles, innovations, traditions, histories and cultures of artists. Students create artworks that encourage individuality by exploring techniques such as printmaking, still life drawing, 3D sculpture and watercolour.



Indonesian - Additional Language

Students at Ss Michael and John's Primary School learn Indonesian as an additional language from Prep to Year 6. They engage in a wide variety of linguistic and cultural experiences that help them to understand their role as a global citizen. Students gain confidence and self esteem while exploring the role of language in communication and culture.

Topics covered include: School Life and Community, Family, Zoo Animals, Farming and Agriculture, Food, Traditional Indonesian Performing and Visual Arts, Time, Location, Customs and Holidays.

Students have the opportunity to consolidate knowledge, skills and concepts through the following activities:

- Singing, chants and rhymes
- Traditional Legong dancing
- Cooking Indonesian dishes
- Playing musical instruments
- Performing shadow puppet shows
- English and Indonesian text analysis
- Drawing, painting and creating artworks
- Playing Indonesian sports and games
- Writing and reflecting.

Information. Communication & Technology

Information Technologies (ICT) at SMJ Horsham Primary is used as a learning tool designed to transform students learning and enrich their learning environment. The use of a wide range of ICT software develops new thinking and learning skills to produce innovative and creative insights.

Students are able to produce more productive ways of working and solving problems individually and cooperatively through the use of ICT. Students are progressively introduced to a broad range of skills including applied technology, databases, desktop publishing, graphics, multimedia, operating environments, programming, spreadsheets, telecommunications, presentations and word processing.



Skills in these areas are applied to complete a variety of projects as the children explore the world of learning. The students become familiar with the use of a variety of ICT hardware and software, they learn how to operate equipment safely and apply the protocols of internet safety.

Students from Prep to Grade 2 have access to iPads to enhance their learning through various app based programs. They use iPads as multimedia tools to photograph and video their learning throughout the day. Children are able to share this learning with their families through the Seesaw app.

Grade 3 to 6 have access to devices throughout their school day. Various application programs are used by teachers in all areas of learning such as google classroom.

All students are exposed to robotics, coding and programming within the ICT curriculum through the use of Spheros and web based applications.

At SMJ's, smart, safe and responsible use of ICT is essential. All students are required to participate in cyber safety education programs and complete acceptable use agreements prior to using technology.

Student Wellbeing & Support

Wellbeing is integral in enabling children to flourish as contributing members of society who enjoy meaningful and spiritually enriched lives. Our school vision and mission underpins our wellbeing practice and curriculum. Staff recognise the pivotal role they play in fostering the wellbeing of children.

Wellbeing is recognised as our children's capacity to cope, learn and thrive. Children who have a positive mood and attitude, are resilient and content with who they are and are more engaged and successful learners. Wellbeing is clearly linked to positive learning outcomes for children and families.

Wellbeing in our school includes creating safe, inclusive learning communities, developing a strong sense of connection and belonging through authentic relationships, engaging students in positive learning experiences that enable student voice and providing purposeful and innovative learning experiences.



Social emotional learning is both explicitly taught and woven through all learning and teaching opportunities. Children participate in a wide range of cooperative learning strategies and inquiry based learning to deepen their knowledge and understanding of how to work and relate well to others.

We have a full time Wellbeing and Learning Diversity Leader who is supported by a part time Pastoral Care worker. They support children, families and staff across all areas of wellbeing including social and emotional learning.

BOUNCE BACK

The award winning Bounce Back program supports teachers and schools in their efforts to promote positive mental health, wellbeing and resilience for both students and teachers and build safe and supportive class and school learning environments.

RESILIENCE PROJECT

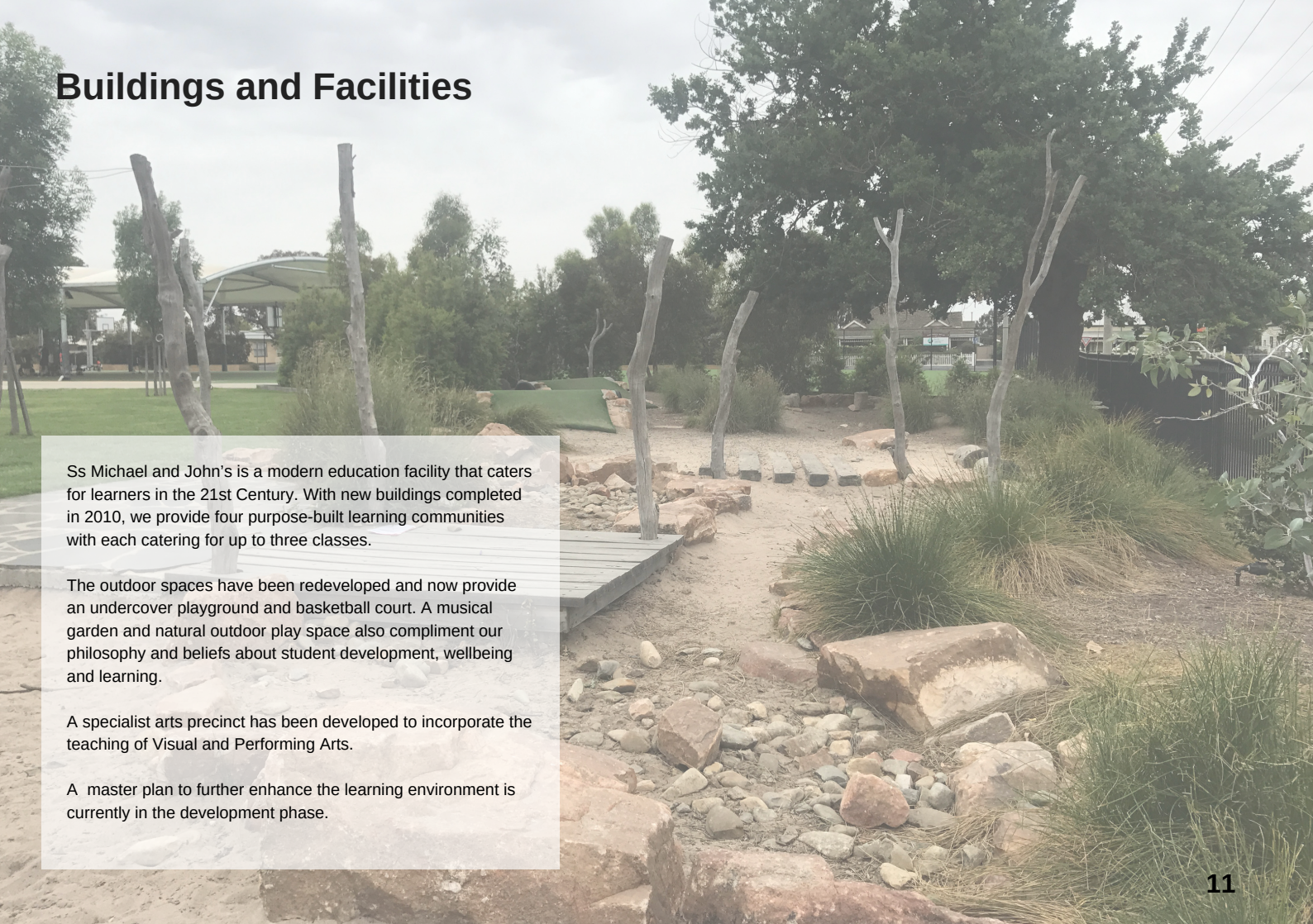
Our school will be taking part in the Resilience Project commencing in 2019. In this program evidence based strategies that build resilience and improve mental health through inspiring students, empowering teachers and engaging parents.

SEASONS FOR GROWTH

This special education program is offered to any students that have experienced significant change or loss in their lives.

At SMJ Horsham we are proud of the Buddy Program that we provide to all our Foundation students. In term 4, our Grade 5 students undertake training through the Alannah & Madeline Foundation Better Buddies Framework. The values of the Better Buddies Framework include caring for others, friendliness, respect, valuing difference, including others and responsibility. Each Prep child is visited at their Kinder by their Buddy. This student is on hand to support them on the orientation days and during the first weeks of school. There are follow up activities throughout the year.

Buildings and Facilities



Ss Michael and John's is a modern education facility that caters for learners in the 21st Century. With new buildings completed in 2010, we provide four purpose-built learning communities with each catering for up to three classes.

The outdoor spaces have been redeveloped and now provide an undercover playground and basketball court. A musical garden and natural outdoor play space also compliment our philosophy and beliefs about student development, wellbeing and learning.

A specialist arts precinct has been developed to incorporate the teaching of Visual and Performing Arts.

A master plan to further enhance the learning environment is currently in the development phase.



Fees

The following fees are the 2019 prescribed fees which can be used as an indicative guide only for 2020.

2019 School Fees Total (Per Year) \$1510

Breakdown:

Tuition Fee \$1030

Capital Fee \$180

Student Levy \$480

CAPITAL FEE

A nominal fee is charged per year to assist with basic school maintenance and upkeep.

STUDENT LEVY

The student levy fee covers all student supplies, project materials, technology maintenance and local excursions.

FAMILY CONCESSIONS

The following concessions apply for three or more siblings who attend the school at the same time:

- A 25 % fee reduction in the student levy for the third and subsequent enrolled students.

OTHER CHARGES

2019 Camp Fees per Student

Foundation - Year 2

Year 3 \$60

Year 4 \$220

Year 5 \$320

Year 6 \$450

\$550

DEVICE FEE (YEAR 4 STUDENTS ONLY)

Purchase of Laptop \$635



Enrolment

The application process is straightforward.

To ensure an accountable and equitable process of enrolling students at Ss Michael and John's Primary School is maintained, the following process will be followed for all new applications.

All prospective parents must complete an application form and return it with a copy of their child(ren)'s birth certificate to the school office. It is recommended that before an application is forwarded that prospective families have attended an open tour day or private tour.

After this paperwork is received, parents will be invited to the School for an interview with the Principal, Deputy Principal or Well Being Team leader. Based on the application and interview, a Letter of Offer may then be forwarded.

Parents will then be asked to return a Letter of Acceptance within a time limit and pay a \$100 enrolment deposit. Once this process is completed, a child has secured a place at Ss Michael and John's Primary School.

An application is a prerequisite to admission but not a guarantee of admission. The order of priority for applications is siblings of current students, then baptised catholic children followed by other completed applications based on the date they are received.





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 smjhorsham

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