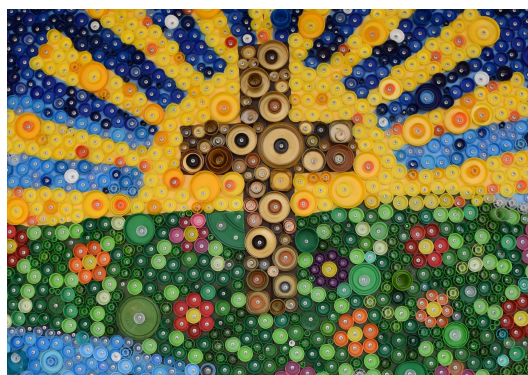




# Ss Michael & John's Primary 2022 Prospectus











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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 led 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 housing classrooms and administration 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 learning areas, an administration wing and staff area was constructed.

## 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 we are committed to creating positive learning experiences based on Christian values.

We strive to engage, motivate and inspire children. As well as promoting the learning of key skills a strong emphasis is placed on discussion, research, investigation, collaboration, critical thinking and problem solving.

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

Our educators work collaboratively and take collective responsibility for student learning. Our collaborative teams that work in each learning community are the driving force of the schools efforts to achieve its mission of high levels of individual student achievement. This supports our mission of every child, every day - caring, learning and growing.





# Religious Education

As a Catholic school we are part of the Church's mission, achieved through interaction with our local Church, families and the community which we serve. We are here to assist parents, as the primary educators of their children, in the education and religious formation of their children.

Children's active involvement in our faith-filled community is an integral part of our life and work at Ss Michael and John's. This ranges from the Holy Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation for our Catholic children to the development of strong social and moral values.



As a welcoming and inclusive school we offer each pupil an education that promotes their human growth since a vision of education inspired by Jesus Christ is one which is concerned with the development of the whole person (social, intellectual, spiritual, moral, emotional and psychological).

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.





# Curriculum

We provide a balanced and developmentally appropriate curriculum, with particular emphasis given to literacy, numeracy, social and emotional learning and religious education. We operate 11 composite classrooms with an average size of 25 students. Specialist areas include library, visual art, physical education, music, performing arts and Indonesian language.

Through the core subjects, all learning and teaching is based upon 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 collaborate, develop planning and organisational skills and identify their own learning goals.

Educational research replaces investigations with a focus on the children developing the skills to be researchers, identifying what they need to know and what is important to know. Students develop skills they need to be inquiring learners who are confident and competent at sharing their learning with others. Research is driven by powerful questions often framed by real-life problems, experiences and current issues. 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 encourages active participation, fitness and fun. All students are encouraged to enjoy a range of different sports, whether working towards personal best, or being a team player, and we offer a comprehensive program of sports experiences 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

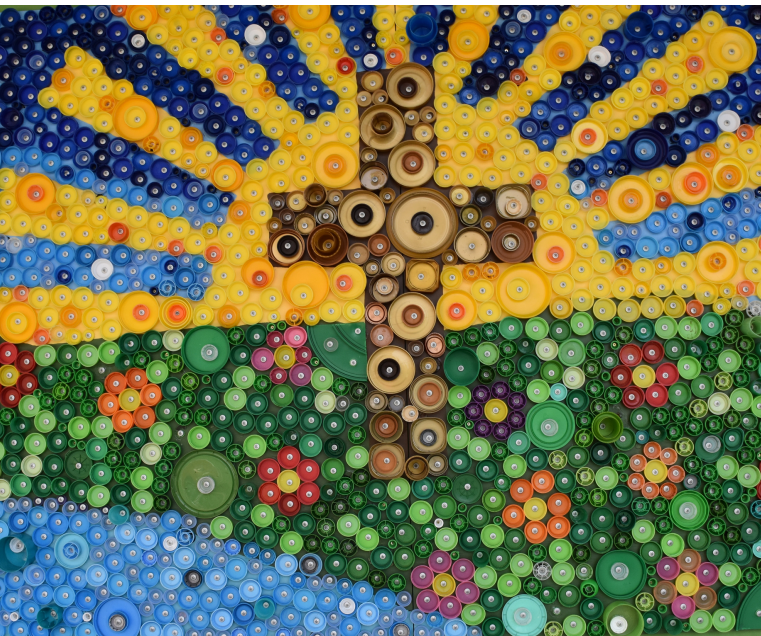
- Athletics
- Basketball
- Bushwalking
- Cricket
- Cross Country
- Cycling
- Dance Program
- Football
- Golf
- Hockey
- Netball
- Rugby
- Soccer
- Softball
- Volleyball





# Visual & Performing Arts

The Arts learning area allows 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.

From Prep to grade two, students will explore spatial awareness and movement through dance, learn to work cooperatively with others, 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 and composing music using a variety of instruments.

## VISUAL ARTS

From 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 which allow them to freely express their creativity.

Grade 3-6 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 six. 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 and communication technologies (ICT) at SMJ Horsham Primary is used as a learning tool designed to transform students learning and enrich their learning environment. Innovation and creativity through the use of ICT tools develops thinking and learning.

Students are able to explore more productive ways of working and solving problems, individually and collaboratively 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 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, 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.

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, feel connected safe and secure, 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. We constantly strive to build collaborative partnerships with our families and the wider community.



Social emotional learning is both explicitly taught and embedded in 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 collaborate and relate to others.

Students are supported in the areas of wellbeing and learning diversity by dedicated staff and wellbeing support workers.

## **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**

This program utilises evidence based strategies that build resilience and improve mental health through inspiring students, empowering teachers and engaging parents. All children receive a resilience journal and explicit teaching in the areas of gratitude, empathy and mindfulness.

## **SEASONS FOR GROWTH**

Seasons is offered at different times of the school year to support children who have experienced grief, loss or change. This ten week small group program is run by trained members of our staff.



# Buddy Program

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 2020 prescribed fees which can be used as an indicative guide only for 2021.

### **2020 School Fees Total (Per Year) \$1585**

Breakdown:

Tuition Fee \$1070

Capital Fee \$200

Student Levy \$315

### **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**

2020 Indicative Camp Fees per Student

Foundation - Year 2 \$65

Year 3 \$220

Year 4 \$320

Year 5 \$450

Year 6 \$550

### **DEVICE FEE (YEAR 4 STUDENTS ONLY)**

Purchase of Laptop \$390



## Enrolment

To ensure equitable and accountable enrolment of students at Ss Michael and John's Primary School, the following process is carried out for all new applications.

All prospective parents must complete and return an enrolment expression of interest form which can be downloaded from our website or obtained from our school office. Prospective parents are encouraged to view our website and Facebook page SMJ Horsham.

After an expression of interest form is received, parents will be invited to the school for a tour with the Principal or Deputy Principal. At the tour, parents will be provided an enrolment pack which includes official enrolment forms.

Upon receipt of an enrolment form, parents and the prospective student will be asked to return to the school for an interview. Based on the application and interview, a letter of offer may then be forwarded.

Parents will 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. The SMJ Horsham enrolment policy can be found on our website.





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