

2022 Annual Report to the School Community

School Name: Yarra Junction Primary School (3216)



- All teachers at the school meet the registration requirements of the Victorian Institute of Teaching (www.vit.vic.edu.au).
- The school meets prescribed minimum standards for registration as regulated by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) in accordance with the Education and Training Reform (ETR) Act 2006. This includes schools granted an exemption by the VRQA until 31 December of the previous calendar year from the minimum standards for student enrolment numbers and/or curriculum framework for school language program.
- The school is compliant with the Child Safe Standards prescribed in Ministerial Order No. 870 – Child Safe Standards, Managing Risk of Child Abuse in School.

- This 2022 Annual Report to the School Community has been tabled and endorsed at a meeting of the school council and will be publicly shared with the school community

About Our School

School context

Yarra Junction Primary School is a co-educational Primary School located in the Yarra Valley, 65.8 km North-East of Melbourne CBD. At Yarra Junction Primary School our school's vision is to develop each child's social, emotional, and academic growth by nurturing our students to become creative, curious and critical thinkers within an engaging and connected learning environment. As school staff; "We care, we inspire and we achieve". We hold the belief that all students can achieve personal, social and academic growth. The school values that our school community embraces are: High Expectations, Respect, Resilience and Collaboration. We embrace learning links that are informed by the Curriculum capabilities; Apply Best Effort, Curious Questioning, Multiple Approaches and Feedback. Our values and learning links provide us with the framework for the way we achieve our vision.

Talented and passionate staff work collaboratively from Foundation to Year 6 to provide a rich and varied curriculum to promote children to develop high academic, personal and social skills. Yarra Junction Primary School offers rich Numeracy and Literacy learning, and classes in Visual Arts, Physical Education, Community Studies and Performing Arts. The instructional model of gradual release - I do, We do and You do is the teaching and learning approach that teachers use across the curriculum to promote engagement and learning outcomes. Parents strongly endorse the teaching and learning program at Yarra Junction Primary.

We are proud to facilitate effective intervention programs within literacy (LEAP), tutoring and High Abilities Classes (Performing Arts, Visual Arts and Learning Capabilities). These classes support meeting the differentiated learning needs of our students.

Our emphasis on developing the whole child is demonstrated through our whole school wellbeing programs of The Resilience Project and Respectful Relationships. Furthermore, we facilitate peer support programs.

Teachers are active learners at Yarra Junction Primary School. Professional Learning Communities foster collaborative learning for teachers. Student learning data, observations and professional literature are central elements of these learning communities. Professional learning both internally and externally is engaged with by staff. Yarra Junction Primary School has been assigned as a lead PLC school in 2023, to support outer east schools with embedding effective PLC practices.

Our school has strong structures to monitor and embed effective teaching and learning, to enhance innovation, to welcome staff voice/agency and to set/achieve goals. Consultative Committee, School Improvement Team, Communities of Practice, Professional Learning Communities, Junior and School Council.

Community and inclusivity are vital within our school. We have students with a diverse range of disabilities and social/emotional needs attend our school and we work to ensure that the learning experiences and environments cater to the needs of all students.

We have embedded opportunities for student voice and agency within our school through the development of our Junior School Council, student leadership roles and various clubs facilitated at our breaks.

We have beautiful school grounds and welcoming learning spaces within our school buildings. Staff and students take great pride in our school.

In 2022, the school's end of year enrolment was 210 students, divided into 11 grades. 4% of the student cohort identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. 8 students are funded on the Program for Students with Disabilities. Our schools SFO index was 0.4037 which is in the Low-Medium band. The staffing profile was made up of Principal, 11 classroom teachers, 4 Specialist teachers, 2 intervention teachers, 2 tutors, a Wellbeing Coordinator, a Chaplain, 10 Educational Support Officers, 1 Office Administration Officer and 2 part time Bursars.

Progress towards strategic goals, student outcomes and student engagement

Learning

Students at Yarra Junction Primary School engage in learning across the curriculum areas of: Literacy, Numeracy, Visual Arts, Music, Drama, Physical Education, Geography, History, Civics and Citizenship and Language. Planning across the curriculum is data informed and we embed the gradual release model of 'I do, We do, You do', into our teaching.

We are extremely proud of our students' achievements in NAPLAN.

NAPLAN Year 5 Reading: 38% in top two bands, 56% in middle bands and 6% in bottom two bands. Our reading results are higher than similar schools and the outer east network schools.

NAPLAN Year 5 Writing: 34% in top two bands, 60% in middle bands and 6% in bottom two bands. Our writing results are higher than similar schools and outer east network schools and the state.

NAPLAN Year 5 Numeracy: 17% in top two bands, 74% in middle bands and 9% in bottom two bands. Our numeracy results are similar to similar schools and the outer east network schools.

NAPLAN Year 3 Reading: 79% in top two bands, 21% in middle bands and 0% in bottom two bands. Our Reading results are higher than similar schools, outer east network schools and the state.

NAPLAN Year 3 Writing: 68% in top two bands, 32% in middle bands and 0% in bottom two bands. Our Writing results are higher than similar schools, outer east network schools and the state.

NAPLAN Year 3 Numeracy: 55% in top two bands, 41% in middle bands and 4% in bottom two bands. Our Numeracy results are higher than similar schools, outer east network schools and the state.

To promote academic achievement in 2022 we:

* Embedded Professional Learning Communities where goals and actions were set to improve teacher's professional knowledge and practice informed by student learning data.

* Appointed two curriculum learning specialists to lead professional learning in Spelling, Speaking and Listening and Numeracy.

* Embedded data informed planning for whole class, intervention classes, High Ability classes.

* Embedded student learning goals against our schools learning links: Apply Best Effort, Give, Receive, Apply Feedback, Curious Questioning and Multiple Approaches

* Embedded our Sunflower Model for improvement that incorporates a Consultative team, Professional Development Plans for staff, PLC's, School Improvement Team.

* Evaluated our Spelling and Speaking and Listening documentation.

* Introduced Teach Like a Champion Techniques

Wellbeing

Yarra Junction Primary School continued to implement aligned practices with the Student Engagement Policy to promote the health and wellbeing outcomes of every student.

In 2022, our past chaplain Mr Eadon returned to YJPS to support students both individually and within small groups. We timetabled a weekly wellbeing block into our teaching and learning schedule for a Wellbeing lesson. Lessons are resourced by The Resilience Project and Respectful Relationships lessons and action plan. We have embedded the Resilience Project language of Gratitude, Empathy and Mindfulness – GEM into our whole school language.

All our staff have completed training in Respectful Relationships and Youth Mental Health.

Wellbeing of students transitioning into school was a priority which led to the implementation of 'soft start' at the commencement of each day to provide teachers an opportunity to check in with students and an opportunity for students to merge into school whilst engaging in sensory activities.

Yarra Junction Primary School established a Wellbeing Community of Practice in 2022 to set goals and actions to promote wellbeing in our school and increase outcomes of survey elements aligned to wellbeing.

In 2022 our Annual Implementation Plan set the target of increasing our positive scores in the Attitude to School Survey data against the following element related to optimising health and wellbeing outcomes of every student:

Emotional Awareness & Self-Regulation – increased from 68% in 2021 to 70% in 2022

Resilience – increased from 7% in 2021 to 61% in 2022

Managing Bullying – increased from 71% in 2021 to 75% in 2022

Sense of Confidence – maintained 75% from 2021 into 2022

Teacher Concern – increased from 71% in 2021 to 75% in 2022

In 2022 our Annual Implementation Plan set the target of increasing our positive scores in the Parent Opinion Survey against the following elements related to optimising health and wellbeing outcomes for every student:

Managing Bullying - maintained 64% in 2021 into 2022

Promoting Positive Behaviour - increased from 66% in 2021 to 76% in 2022

Respect for Diversity - increased from 68% in 2021 to 75% in 2022

Confidence and Resiliency - increased from 64% in 2021 to 83% in 2022

Engagement

We are proud of the school culture at Yarra Junction Primary School that is built upon our school values and Wellbeing Programs (resourced by Resilience Project and Respectful Relationships). Our core values are : Respect, Resilience, High Expectations and Collaboration.

We reviewed our Wellbeing and Inclusion Policy informed by staff and school council to create a whole school approach to wellbeing, engagement, inclusion and positive behaviour. Our behaviour management process promotes students to develop personal and social skills through accepting responsibility for their actions and engaging with restorative communication.

In 2022 our Annual Implementation Plan set the target of increasing positive scores in the Attitude to School Survey data against the following elements that align to optimising student engagement in their learning:

Stimulated Learning - increased from 65% in 2021 to 78% in 2022

Respect for diversity - increased from 75% in 2021 to 76% in 2022

Student Voice and Agency -increased from 58% in 2021 to 64% in 2022

Attitudes to attendance -decreased from 81% in 2021 to 78% in 2022

Motivation and Interest -decreased from 73% in 2021 to 69% in 2022

In 2022 our Annual Implementation Plan set the target of increasing positive scores in the School Staff Survey data against the following elements that align to optimising student engagement in their learning:

Use feedback to improve practice -decreased from 75% in 2021 to 40% in 2022

Promote student ownership of learning - increased from 75% in 2021 to 100% in 2022

Focus learning on real life problems -decreased from 75% in 2021 to 53% in 2022

In 2022 our Annual Implementation Plan set the target of increasing positive scores in the Parent Opinion Survey data against the following elements that align to optimising student engagement in their learning:

Stimulating Learning environment - increased from 67% in 2021 to 74% in 2022

Student connectedness -increased from 71% in 2021 to 79% in 2022

Student Voice and Agency -increased from 61% in 2021 to 75% in 2022

Effective Teaching -increased from 66% in 2021 to 72% in 2022

In 2022 our attendance data was further impacted by COVID, other health related issues and family holidays.

Student absence in 2022 (Foundation to year 6):

20 – 29.5 days – 20% of students were absent (47 students) – increased from 9% in 2021

30 or more days - 21 % of students were absent (49 students) – increased from 15% in 2021

We have embedded our Community Studies subject into our specialist program, where we support goals of the Marung Plan from the Education Department by teaching the Victorian standards of geography, history, civics and citizenship with a First Nations perspective.

Our 2022 School Council was an actively engaged group of parents and staff members who collaborated to support our school finances and raise funds for the development of a dry river bed and student input maintenance and ground developments (eg:painting of picnic tables).

Our Junior School Council was an active group of students throughout 2022, they finalised the 2021 work of creating shop front cubbies for the school yard and facilitated a whole school disco night.

Other highlights from the school year

2022 was a year to celebrate the return of onsite learning. In addition to onsite learning Yarra Junction Primary School was able to re-engage in a variety of extra-curricular and community events.

Some of these events included:

- Year 5 /6 five-day camp to Canberra
- Year 3 /4 three-day camp
- Junior school excursion to Gumbuya World and 1/ 2 movie night
- Whole school production of The Wizard of Oz performed on Mt Lilydale Mercy College stage
- Whole school disco, facilitated by Junior School Council
- Festival of the Arts evening
- Grandparents Day
- End of year Christmas Concert
- Whole school Swimming and Athletics Carnival
- Student attendance in district sporting events

Financial performance

Yarra Junction Primary School maintained a sound financial position throughout 2022. The 2021-2025 School Strategic Plan, 2022 Annual Implementation Plan and 2022 School Budget provided the framework for school council allocation of funds to support programs and priorities. All funds received from the Department of Education have been expended to support the achievement of educational outcomes and other operational needs of the school, consistent with Department of Education policies, School Council approvals and the intent/purposes for which funding was provided. The impact of COVID and other health issues continued to create unpredictable expenditure in relation to teacher replacement and casual replacement teacher costs. The school budget booklet continued to be an effective resource for our school bursar, Principal, Consultative Team, School Council Finance Sub-Committee and school leaders to plan, monitor and evaluate expenditure. In 2022, a budget “wish list” document was created for leaders to forecast expenditure for the 2023 year to support with the development of a new budget. Within 2022 some of our major purchases included: Art supplies, administration equipment, whole school maintenance, Rock retaining wall installed behind our rock climbing wall, Whisper walls to create inside learning spaces, updated carpet in some classrooms. Successful application of a grant financed the purchase and installation of two new flag poles to fly the Koorie and Torres Strait Islander flags and another successful grant funded the installation of two shade sails (Yarning Space and Performing Arts outdoor area). We were able to maintain three Learning Specialist roles within our Student Resource Package. These leaders provided effective professional learning for staff, monitored/evaluated whole school documentation and support effective teaching practice. At the end of 2022, Yarra Junction Primary School had a school resource package with a surplus of \$99,726. This surplus has been strategically managed to ensure that the school can accommodate financially for the return of staff members on our staff register who are on leave. Our school received Equity funding of \$34,130 which contributed towards the employment of an experienced Literacy Intervention teacher. The intervention teacher lead an intervention team with an Education Support Staff member and facilitated small group explicit teaching and learning. Funds were allocated to support the purchase of resources for students, including decodable readers. We received Tutor funding of \$62,689 which employed an experienced teacher and Education Support Staff member part-time to support students within Numeracy lessons within and outside of the classroom. Our program for students with disabilities received funds of \$300,619. These funds were strategically used to employ Education Support Officers, employ a coordinator to manage the Program for Students with disabilities and to purchase learning resources to promote student engagement with learning on the program. Yarra Junction Primary School received Chaplaincy funds of \$20,280. These funds were used fully to employ a school chaplain on a part-time basis. We received \$23,127 from the Bush Fire Grant which funded works in our school grounds including: tree lopping, branches cut, debris removed, mulch replaced by stones.

For more detailed information regarding our school please visit our website at <https://www.yjps.vic.edu.au/>