



Village School

2021 Annual Report



9 Holloway Road, Croydon North
VILLAGESCHOOL.VIC.EDU.AU

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CHAIRS REPORT

Tucked away, down the long drive, Village School bubbles away, cultivating creativity, problem solving, critical thinking, social cohesion and responsibility, care for others, animals, and the environment. The Board has endless appreciation for the staff, each of whom plays a profound role in helping the young learners to thrive, so that when their time at Village finishes, although they shed some tears, they confidently enter their teenage years.

2021 was, like 2020, filled with challenges, including learning online and remotely, families who fell ill with COVID, families separated by border closures and the emotional uncertainty of the year. There is no doubt that these difficulties took a toll on our community, which was not able to get together in person for most of the year, or even gather by the gazebo at 3:30pm. To our community, a huge well done and thank you for your perseverance. It is exciting to see that the community has begun rebuilding any connections lost, in 2022, and the Parents and Friends Committee is to be commended for its efforts in this too.

It has to be said that by the end of the 2021 year, tired as we may have been, some momentous events had happened for Village School.

The most significant change was, of course, the retirement of our very well-loved Principal, Tanya Heine. And, with that, the welcoming of our fourth Principal, Ashley Penny. If you've ever taken the time to look at the old photos of Village School, you'll be able to spot Tanya with her groups of learners in almost every picture back through the decades. Tanya became Principal of Village School in 2013 and passionately led the school community with her unflappable presence and vehement commitment to the values of the school. The Board would like to thank Tanya for her service as Principal of Village School and we delighted that it has not yet been time to say a full farewell, because she continues to teach Performing Arts.

And, of course, welcome to Ashley. Ashley came to Village School having worked in various countries, including Australia, Nauru Island, United Kingdom, Indonesia and China. Ashley brings over 30 years of national and international educational experience. Ashley is a student-focussed educator who passionately believes that children deserve a mutually respectful environment that encourages self-directed learning and caters for individual learning needs and styles.

The Board was impressed with Ashley's demonstrated ability to build teams for continuous improvement, professional excellence and high performance. He is a flexible, calm team player who is community-minded and places great emphasis on leading and supporting learning communities. Ashley is highly regarded as a forward thinker with an international outlook on education and we have been delighted to that the community has welcomed him.

In Term 2, 2021, the Board invited an expert in primary education, Noel Stonehouse, and his colleague, Wendy Cahill, to attend Village School, meet with members of the community, and prepare a report for the Board. This provided valuable insights to the Board as we prepared to recruit a new Principal and commence strategic planning.

A few weeks after this report was delivered, the then Chair of the Village School Board, Raymond Yates, needed to take leave from that position as he was occupied with caring responsibilities. I was at that time Vice-Chair and I stepped in as Acting Chair for the period July-October. In October, Ray told us the

unfortunate news that he was unable to return to the position of Chair, and, as the Chair is an appointed role under the Village School Constitution, rather than an elected role, the Board appointed me as Chair. The Board would like to thank Ray Yates for his years of service as Chair of the Board. Ray brought years of knowledge and skill in education and community, and we were fortunate to benefit from his stewardship.

I would like to thank Ian Bentley for this prowess in the recruitment of the new Principal. Ian is a member of the Board and an educational expert with an impressive CV. Ian will, unfortunately be leaving the Board this year and his wisdom will be sorely missed. Ian's three grandchildren attended Village School and he has been a significant part of the community for many years.

I would also like to thank Amy Buchanan for her contributions to the Principal Search, Amy's term on the Board is finished but you will still see her around the school. And finally, thank you to Amy Lovell, Head of Junior School at Kingswood College, for her assistance in the recruitment of the Principal, as an independent expert.

Following Noel Stonehouse and Wendy Cahill's report, the Board has appointed the Chair of the Parents and Friends Committee to join it. Danielle Parent and Liesel McDonald jointly hold this appointment at the moment.

Village School is not static, part of its magic is in that it can imagine, and re-imagine itself; that the learners enrolled at Village School are excited to come every day; and that they graduate strong, independent, and keen. The future of Village School is exciting.

Pamela Taylor-Barnett
Chairperson, Village School
23 May 2022

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It is an absolute pleasure to submit my first report to the AGM after being in the seat for nearly one semester. As this annual report is based on the 2021 school year, this report has been compiled with the assistance of Tanya Heine and I would like to thank her for her assistance. The transition of leadership and organisational change is an exciting venture. *The Village Way* is a component of tradition. Moving forward we also want to emphasise and integrate *The Village Experience* (think, do, learn) highlighting what makes us unique and the perfect choice for our committed families.

As I move around the school each day I am constantly reminded of the teaching, learning and sense of community and spirit that this small unique school offers. Whether it is the wide range of quality programs offered through our specialists' day, the diverse sports cycles, the innovative teaching and learning or the care and wellbeing space that is provided for all learners: Village School is a hub of excellence.

COVID-19

2021 was yet another year of COVID-19 restrictions and remote learning. The teachers constantly reflected and revisited their strategies around this, as online learning inevitably suited some students but not others.

Village school probably had more children still attending school than other schools of even larger populations, due to the fact that we had parents identifying as 'essential workers' and also some of our student population attended school due to various special needs. I would like to congratulate and thank the teachers and the learning supports for their extra efforts; their patience, creativity and ingenuity. We were absolutely indebted to our learning supports during this time and would not have been able to cater to the children attending school without them.

EDUCATION PROGRAM

The classroom programs continued to be based around themes which addressed the key learning areas, and there was always an element of fun and games as part of these themes.

In first term, the preps settled into school focusing on identities, cultures, interests, likes and dislikes as a way to get to know one another and at the same time fostering friendships and a feeling of inclusion and togetherness. Another group focused on Food and Nutrition which provided a wonderful springboard to explore literacy and maths through creating shopping lists, reading recipes, adapting recipes, shopping at Coles with money and cooking for the group each week. The upper primary began the year with both groups having themes with a Geography focus which culminated in a travel expo that the parents were invited to attend.

We celebrated Community and Space as whole school themes with each group having activities and lessons that catered to the individuals in their group.

COVID-19 lockdowns again impacted the Whole School Performance of "From Zero to Hero", so for the second year in a row we made a film. This was a valuable performing arts experience, with some older students visiting the recording studio to create the soundtrack. Teachers followed up with themes addressed in the performance, such as Mythical Creatures, Real Life Heroes, African Animals, Superheroes and Climate Change.

Specialist classes that were provided to the children included STEAM which was taught by Sandy, Library which was taught by Sally, Performing Arts which was taught by Tanya and Korean, our Language other than English (LOTE) subject was taught by Yonny.

SCHOOL EVENTS

Graduation Ceremony

It was a great relief to be able to put on a Graduation Ceremony at the school in the amphitheater in term four. COVID-19 regulations meant that some parents were unable to attend the performance and some sat outside the school groups where they could partially see and hear the proceedings.

A.G.M

We conducted our AGM online via zoom due to COVID-19.

Incursions/Excursions

It was another year of disruptions due to COVID-19, but we managed to have a mixture of excursions when restrictions eased, as well as incursions that were conducted in person at school and online.

In the first term, small groups of students walked to Coles, practicing value for money when purchasing ingredients for cooking.

During the 'Community' theme in Term 2, there were excursions to visit the post office, the mechanic, the local library and a street library. We were also lucky to have incursions such as St. John's providing First Aid for the learners and the local police came and talked to the lower primary about their role in our community.

In Term 4, as part of our 'Space' theme, the children participated in a virtual incursion through Scienceworks, titled 'Blast Off: How Rockets Work'.

Open Day

We had planned to conduct an open day for marketing purposes, but due to COVID-19 this event was moved to an online format shortly before the date. We would like to thank Danielle, Liesel and Shannon for all of their hard work in putting the online Open Day together at such short notice.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

TITLE	DATE	HOURS	STAFF
First Aid	21/10/ 2020	3	All Staff
	15/09/2021	3	All Staff
Strategies for difficult student (Jaxon) from Liz and Jess	2/12/20	1	All class teachers and Tanya
Website hand over training	16/12/20	1	Sally and Tanya
Montessori A Secondary Program Info from Templestowe College visit with info	22/03/21	1	Tanya
NCCD Network meeting	19/ 07/21	3	Tanya, Leanne, Melissa Laura
Meeting with MacKillop College re special program info as related to ex-student.	15/06/21	1	Tanya
NAPLAN Transition Training	12/08/21	3	Sally Melissa Tanya
First Steps Continuum compared with Victorian English	3/02/21	1 hour	All Staff
Strategy Planning with Ian	24/03/21	1	All Staff
Curriculum (staff Meetings	4/08/21	3	All Staff
	11/08/21	1.5	
Philosophy with Ray		1	All Staff
Behaviour Management with David Vinegrad	26/08/21	1.5	All Staff

TESTING AND ASSESSMENT

Village school also treats every child as an individual rather than a subset of an age cohort. Although benchmarks are acknowledged we do not compare one student with another and instead, measure how far each child has come.

Teachers use math's continuums that have been created using the Victorian Curriculum content descriptors, so that the teachers are able to assess with reference to these benchmarks. Formal assessments took place in Term 2 and Term 4 to coincide with formal report writing. Due to the nature of remote learning, teachers were also able to use student's digital portfolios to help with assessment purposes.

NAPLAN

No NAPLAN results as NAPLAN was cancelled for 2020.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

The Village School Board invited Assoc Prof Noel Stonehouse and his colleague Dr Wendy Cahill to conduct a review of the school in Term 2. They consulted with the community, including staff and parents to prepare a report for the Board based on their findings. Their report provided insights and recommendations for the school which were considered when preparing the school's strategic plan.

TEACHING REVIEWS

Teachers continue to use the weekly staff meetings to discuss and review curriculum development and managing student behaviour. They also work collaboratively to assist each other and share their individual skills.

PARENT SURVEYS

During Term 2, parents were invited to participate in meetings and focus groups with Assoc Prof Noel Stonehouse and his colleague Dr Wendy Cahill. During these meetings parents were interviewed and given an opportunity to discuss a range of questions posed by the consultants.

STUDENT ENROLMENT (AS AT OCTOBER 2021)

YEAR LEVEL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
PART-TIME PREP	2	3	5
PREP	5	9	14
YEAR ONE	7	3	10
YEAR TWO	2	6	8
YEAR THREE	5	2	7
YEAR FOUR	4	0	4
YEAR FIVE	7	2	9
YEAR SIX	7	4	11
TOTAL STUDENTS	39	29	68

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

YEAR LEVEL	ATTENDANCE %
PART-TIME PREP	77.75%
PREP	86.18%
YEAR ONE	91.11%
YEAR TWO	88.60%
YEAR THREE	88.42%
YEAR FOUR	92.89%
YEAR FIVE	89.56%
YEAR SIX	92.05%
TOTAL AVERAGE	88.32%

MARKETING

Our new website is up and running thanks to Nikki Stokes. We noticed an increase in enquiries which was very timely as we also had a large number of learners leave at the end of 2021. The extra enquiries generated from the website effectively maintained the status quo as regards to enrolments.

We had a group of Swinburne students volunteer to help with marketing. They visited the school and took photos, created a video to feature on the website. They also liaised with our external marketing consultant.

Val Morgan came to the school and created a 15 second video to feature at Hoyts cinemas and for our personal marketing use.

STAFFING

Teaching staff:

Laura Fraser	PTP/Prep	Bachelor of Education
Carmel Arnold	Years 1/2	Bachelor of Education
Melissa Langford	Years 1/2	Bachelor of Education Diploma of Business Management
Samantha Assender	Years 3/4	Masters in Primary Education
Leanne Fitch	Years 5/6	Graduate Diploma Bachelor of Arts (Psychology/Sociology) Graduate Diploma (Social Psychology)
Sally Boyd	Library	Bachelor of Education
Tanya Heine	Principal	Master of Education
Yonny Chang	Performing Arts Korean	Diploma of School Music Graduate Diploma Beijing Language and Culture University – Intermediate
Sandra Barnes	STEAM	Bachelor of Law – U.K. Bachelor of Education
Ashley Penny	Principal	Bachelor of Education Bachelor of Arts (Education) Reading Recovery Educator

Learning support staff:

Kim Thomas	Prep	Certificate 4 Education Support
Kathy McCann	Years 1/2/3/4	Diploma of Children Services Certificate 3 Education Support
Rachelle Senior	Years 3/4	Bachelor of Education
Tara Massoud	Years 3/4	Bachelor of Education (pending)
Meredith Macrae	Years 1/2	Certificate 3 Education Support
Sam Fox	Years 5/6	Mid years of teacher training
Aurora Hammon	Years 1/2	Certificate 4 Education Support

Office Staff

Trish Lamb	Bursar
Sally Boyd	School Registrar
Maia Cruz	Office Staff

Contractors

Georgia Appleton	Pony riding
King Swim	Intensive swimming program
Triple Ace Tennis	Tennis coaching, Lilydale

Cleaning/Maintenance

Shining Knight – Facilities Services

OH&S

During 2021 we had many trees come down during extreme weather events, which created a lot of occupational, health and safety issues. There were 9 trees in total that came down on the school site. At times, we had to block off areas to keep the learners safe. We also needed to wait for insurance money to come through before we could start the clean-up.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the entire staff for their wonderful contributions in providing for our learners and keeping the home-school communication channels open. Staff work tirelessly not only in the classrooms but also during their breaks to ensure the best level of care and education is operating within the school.

Thank you also to the Board, parents and learners for their warm welcome whilst I settle into the role.

2021 BOARD MEMBERS

The board governs all matters relating to the School and meets monthly throughout the year to review the direction and operation of the School. The board is responsible for approving the annual budget, and ensuring that the School is compliant with all relevant legislation and regulatory frameworks.

Chairperson:	Pamela Taylor-Barnett
Treasurer:	Keith James
Principal:	Tanya Heine
Bursar:	Trish Lamb
Co-opted Education Consultant	Ian Bentley
Parent Representative	Amy Buchanan
Staff Representative	Melissa Langford
Parent & Friend Committee	Danielle Parent

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

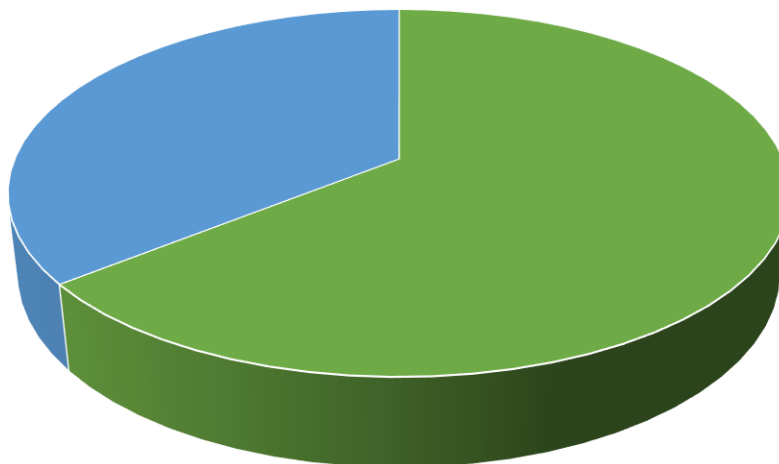
2021 Income



Tuition Fees 30.7%
Government grants 45.0%
Fundraising income 0.1%
Interest income 0.0%
Other income 24.2%



2021 Expenditure



Salaries and on-costs 73.4% Other Expenses 35.8%

