

2022 Annual Report to the School Community

School Name: Mildura South Primary School (4389)



- 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

Mildura South Primary School is a Positive Education School and a member of the Positive Education Schools' Association. Our mission: 'We bring our best selves to school and love the work that we do' informs our priorities as we strive to develop the whole person focusing on Literacy and Numeracy, ensuring that we provide challenging learning experiences in an engaging learning environment. Our Positive Education culture values a high work ethic and collaboration with teachers working in Professional Learning Communities to achieve the best outcomes for students.

Together as a whole school community we support each other in discovering new learning about ourselves, our capabilities and what we can accomplish. Through our culture of coaching and continued professional learning we are able to achieve our vision:

- All students achieving high standards given the right time and support
- All teachers can teach to high standards given time, coaching, professional learning and the right assistance
- High expectations, teaching to point of need and early ongoing intervention are essential
- All leaders, teachers and students can articulate what they are learning and what success looks like. (Clarity: Lyn Sharratt 2019)

We have a strong commitment to Technology, encouraging and enabling the students to connect to the world beyond our school gate.

The school teaches STEM as a weekly curriculum area for all students from Years 3-6 to ensure our students are engaged in problem solving and authentic engaging learning that challenges their thinking and creates opportunities to collaborate with peers. Our staff consists of 1 Principal, 2 Assistant Principals, 1 Leading Teacher (leading Wellbeing/Special Education) and 5 Learning Specialists (2 Literacy, 1 Numeracy, 1 Visible Wellbeing and 1 Digital Technology). We have 21 classroom teachers, 6 specialist teachers, 4 administration staff, 14 Education Support Officers (Student Learning) and a part time Psychologist. We have a full time IT technician.

The Wellbeing/Special Education Leading Teacher supports all students and staff across the entire school. There is a strong emphasis on maintaining a safe, secure, welcoming and stimulating environment that encourages successful learning. Our school has a culture of teachers learning from each other through a cognitive coaching program, implementing the Victorian Curriculum within the Effective Lesson and reflecting on student voice to improve teaching practice. All staff continue to strive to make every day count for our students.

Our school is well resourced enabling us to implement strategies to address the needs of all students, including those with special needs. Assessment takes place for High Quality Practice at Mildura South Primary. Assessment is formative and teachers gather in their Professional Learning Communities to discuss 'faces on data' and the best practice to ensure that all students have the opportunity and learning experiences that enables them to flourish. Summative Assessment is carried out each term in Literacy and Numeracy and goals are set according to individual needs to facilitate each child being taught at their point of need. Parent support, dedicated staff and positive students ensures excellence in education at Mildura South Primary.

Progress towards strategic goals, student outcomes and student engagement

Learning

Our FISO 2.0 priorities are to increase teacher knowledge, skills and practice to ensure consistency across the school. To achieve this we developed a whole school professional learning plan with a particular focus on teaching and learning. Professional development has been provided to all staff to support the practice of the Victorian Teaching and Learning model when implementing the Victorian Curriculum. As a Positive Education School student voice and choice are also important priorities in the day to day teaching and learning culture at Mildura South Primary. There has been significant work on collecting student data to inform teaching and to make sure our children know when they are successful. Students are given a range of learning tasks and resources that are challenging and engaging and at their point of need. We have increased student leadership opportunity through Junior

School Council, and our 18 senior student leaders meeting with the Principal, Assistant Principals and Psychologist every fortnight to voice their views and insights and those of the students they represent. A key priority we have at Mildura South Primary is to be able to accurately measure the achievement levels and growth of our students. In 2022, our FISO 2.0 priorities are to focus on wellbeing and mental health support in conjunction with excellence in teaching and learning, creating a positive education climate for learning through high expectations and inclusion.

Numeracy and Literacy will continue to be our priority.

Our NAPLAN results in 2022 has given us very clear indicators of the strengths and areas in Literacy and Numeracy for improvement. We continue to focus on the Learning Gain particularly in Literacy and Numeracy between years 3-5.

We are encouraged by the parent survey and staff survey indicating a strong relationship between home and school. Mildura South Primary is committed to the continued improvement of student connectedness and a reduction of bullying behaviours .

All Programs for a Student with disability (PSD) students showed progress at satisfactory or above in achieving their individual goals. PSD students have four Student Support Group meetings per year that include Parents/Carers and all other stakeholders. Our staff work collaboratively to support each other in a highly professional manner with a rigorous commitment to student learning. Individual Learning Plans are written for all Koori students, EAL students, Out of Home Care students and PDS students. Faces on data are used to track each student at Mildura South Primary. Formative assessment takes place regularly and teachers collaborate in Professional Learning Communities to create goals and implement strategies ensuring each student experiences point of need teaching.

In 2023 our School network 'Compass' continues to facilitate communication between staff, students, and parents. One Assistant Principal is a Cognitive Coach throughout the school, ensuring consistency in practice from Grades Foundation - 6. The Assistant Principal and Numeracy Learning Specialist leads the teaching of Numeracy throughout the school. We have two Literacy Learning Specialist leading Literacy. Our Digital Technology Learning Specialist coaches teachers from Foundation to Year 6. The Visible Wellbeing Learning Specialist is working with Professor Lea Waters to enable our students to be taught at their point of need in Wellbeing. All coaches and Learning Specialists work closely with the school Cognitive Coach, who is also one of the Assistant Principals, ensuring our teachers and students are clear on what skill, knowledge or understanding they are learning and how they know they will be successful. Teachers continue to meet regularly to develop effective teaching practice that makes an impact on improved student outcomes, focusing on clear learning intentions and success criteria.

We will continue to implement team coaching, individual coaching and team lesson studies and learning walks as we utilise the Victorian Teaching and Learning Model, building on the coaching culture while teaching the Victorian Curriculum within the Effective Lesson teaching model.

Wellbeing

We SEARCH for TRICK to live PERMA

We teach and use the strategies of SEARCH each day: Strengths, Emotional Regulation, Awareness and Attention, Relationships, Coping, Habits and Goals to live our Positive Education culture and ensure that Wellbeing is visible. Something that we can: See, Hear and Feel. We have a shared understanding of our school values TRICK: Teamwork, Respect, Integrity, Courage and Kindness, and our values informs the daily decision making of students and staff at Mildura South Primary. In order to achieve our mission and vision we live, teach and grow in the culture of PERMA developing: Positive Emotions, Engagement, Relationships, Meaning and Accomplishment in our everyday life at school.

We respect and value all of our students' voices, stories, cultures and backgrounds. Self-awareness and self-regulation are modelled, taught and lived in our school community, through Calm Time and The Zones of Regulation model.

Calm Time

Years Foundation to 6 have three timetabled Calm Times implemented each day.

Beginning of the day

After Lunch

After Recess

At these times the whole school is calm, as students engage in what they know will assist them to prepare for the next learning episode. All classrooms also have calm spaces for students who may require calm time at other times in the day to achieve their best learning. A Wellbeing Space is located in our BOB (Be Our Best) building for students who require additional support, understanding and care.

Calm time facilitates mindfulness and ensures students are prepared to focus.

Brain breaks are also implemented throughout the day to ensure maximum concentration to all teaching and learning opportunities.

Tomorrow's Leaders Today (TLT) develops leadership skills in each Grade 5/6 student, encouraging them to take responsibility for their choices and wellbeing and influencing the positive culture of Mildura South Primary.

The Respectful Relationships Program that is taught from Foundation-Grade 6 builds an emotional resilience in our students, where individuals are respected and help seeking is an explicit strategy that we value and teach daily.

We have high expectation relationships, honouring all cultures with an inclusive approach to students within all curriculum areas.

Help Seeking

Staff and students at Mildura South Primary School learn and live the life skill of seeking help each day. Through our daily commitment to living, modelling and teaching when and how to seek help as a whole school community, we are able to build resilience, confidence and trust in each member of our school community.

Staff and students know that they are safe at Mildura South Primary, because when they reach out for help, they know that they will be listened to, heard, understood and supported.

The student and staff leaders are openly seen and heard giving and receiving help in order for all to feel safe at Mildura South Primary.

Our Culture of PERMA

P – Positive Emotions

We know that when we experience positive emotions that we are more open to learning and working with others. Each day we have calm time scheduled so that we can pause and check in with ourselves first, then enabling us to check in with others.

E – Engagement

We have engaging “point of need” learning where we know what we are learning and why we are learning it. Students can articulate the learning intention and success criteria for each lesson.

R – Relationships

We thrive on positive relationships. We listen to each other to learn and understand another person’s perspective. We value different people’s stories and cultures and we celebrate diversity in our Mildura South Primary Community.

M –Meaningful

Our learning and experiences at Mildura South Primary are in the context of growing our whole selves. We are taught strategies of mindfulness so that as we pause and notice we can identify the meaning of our learning and tasks in context.

A – Achievement

We are successful at Mildura Primary School because together we work hard. We support one another through challenges and we listen to each other identify ‘what works’ and ‘why it works’. We celebrate our achievements, knowing that it is only through making our own choices and mistakes that we can truly grow.

Our school employs a part time Psychologist and his role is to support the various needs of our students and develop the positive education culture in the school to improve the wellbeing of all of our school community.

Foundaiton students’ transition to school is a highly organised and effective program conducted at the end of the year prior to their commencement. All new Foundation families are met by the Principal and given a full tour of the school. At the end of each year, the students transitioning within the school to the next year level have three opportunities to work with and develop relationships with their peers and teacher for the following year.

We continue to build a strong relationship with our secondary feeder schools.

Engagement

Engaging curriculum and positive relationships with families will continue to contribute to our Positive Education culture, developing wellbeing and mental health support in 2022.

When reflecting on the Students’ Attitude to School Survey, there is still some work to do around the areas of ‘Student Behaviour’ and ‘Well Being”, in particular our ‘get help’ culture.

Tomorrow’s Leaders Today (TLT) develops leadership skills in each Grade 5 and 6 students, encouraging them to take responsibility for their choices and influencing the positive culture of Mildura South Primary.

Our Positive Education culture values hard work and collaboration. Together as a whole school community we support each other in taking risks and working out of our comfort zone to learn and discover new things about ourselves, our capabilities and what we can accomplish.

Mildura South Primary School has a whole school Student Engagement Policy that ensures a safe environment.

The Student Leadership Team and House Captains for 2023 were elected and established at the end of 2022.

There are more opportunities for student leadership through Junior School Council along with the acknowledgement of individual students at the school assembly with our ‘Celebration of Strengths’ weekly awards and ‘Aussie of the Month’ monthly award.

Other highlights from the school year

Mildura South Primary School has a weekly Outdoor Education Program. All students receive one hour of engaging activities, exploring outdoor activities, connecting to country, learning bike safety and preparing for overnight experiences in tents. Mildura South Primary Senior Students in Grade 5 and 6 complete the Kokoda Track. Walking 100km at school, remembering and respecting those that have given their lives for our freedom. Mildura South Primary has a War Memorial and the students learn to remember with respect and gratitude. Honouring all those that made many sacrifices so that we can experience the daily opportunities we have in Australia today.

Financial performance

Collaboration and rigorous School Council discussion, listening to the expertise of the members and building on the strengths of individuals, facilitates best practice at Mildura South Primary School. An example of this is the new improved strategies that Mildura South Primary are using in order to communicate with the local community about who we are and what we achieve, resulting in increased enrolments.

Mildura South has ended the year in a financially sound position.

The College Lease funds of \$82,604 boosted our cash reserves and enabled the school to purchase equipment and employ a maintenance man who attended to the grounds, buildings and repairs.

The Out of School Hours Program/Vacation Care continues to flourish and the school received administrative fees which we directed to the running of the program.

Our Provisional Account balance is maintained to ensure that we have sufficient funds for Long Service Leave and also for School Council Employee salaries.

We received the Early Years Numeracy and Literacy grant (\$30,333) and this was used to fund a teacher to work one on one with our Koorie students.

For more detailed information regarding our school please visit our website at www.msps.vic.edu.au