



MONTMORENCY PRIMARY SCHOOL OVERVIEW



Montmorency Primary School Testimonials 2013

"Why we fell in Love with Montmorency Primary School ~ From our initial welcome at Montmorency in 2009 until now, we have found Montmorency Primary School to be a very warm, friendly and accessible community of both families and staff. Our positive relationship with the Principal, Michael Otway, and his team in this time is a testimony of the school's enduring philosophy of collaboration between parents and teachers. Our children have grown in confidence and character due to the school's commitment to a personal and caring relationship with each individual student."

- Nichole Wallwork and Family

"At Montmorency Primary School we aim to give students a global education in a local community context. Students are connected to their teachers, each other, the community and the natural environment. Our community is excited by the contemporary design of our new school rebuild expected to take place later on this year. It's an exciting time to be part of our friendly school and we welcome you."

- Felicity Gordon, MPS Parent & MPS School Council President

"I like the smaller size and 'community' feel - so many people - students and staff - know each other. I think that this increases the incidence of respect and genuine concern and caring for each other. I like our 'Transition' program: our Prep Foundation classes prepare the children gradually and gently, increasing their self-esteem and confidence, preparing them for a successful school experience. I also like the mixture of abilities at Monty - children with additional needs and those without gain awareness, insight and personal, life and educational skills to assist them to be better people and citizens in the future."

- Linda Carter, MPS Prep Foundation Teacher

"We could not be happier with our school choice for our daughter, who has an autism diagnosis. Her easy settling-in period and continued positive experience at this school is a credit to the 'Respect' and 'Friendship' values the staff and parent groups encourage. The two aspects that we value greatly (particularly with our daughter's circumstance of autism) are the flexibility in teaching to our daughter's needs and the small school environment, where all of the children know each other. The children and parents really do feel part of a caring community."

- Rachelle Walker, MPS Parent

"Our fantastic SAKG program, our brilliant volunteers from the school and the wider community, our commitment to environmental sustainability and community networking all make MPS special, as well as the supportive spirit of our school students towards each other and to those less fortunate. There is a can-do attitude within the school community. We achieve amazing things, often organising more activities than many larger schools."

- Michelle Hegarty, MPS Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Specialist

"Monty Primary's extensive grounds and play areas make it unique in its ability to offer students a wide variety of physical education activities. We have been fortunate to have community groups come in and coach students as well."

- Donna Barclay, MPS Physical Education Teacher and OSHC Coordinator

"I have taught at six schools over a 25 year teaching career. These schools have consisted of Private, Catholic and Government Schools. Whilst all the schools have positive aspects, none of the schools have had as many positive aspects as MPS. Not only is Monty a small school where every child is known by all, but its community spirit shines. The children are truly delightful and I have never taught at a school where yard duty not only presents few problems, but there are always at least 8 adults in the yard during every break. This enables the children to develop positive relationships with quality adults. I'm in awe out in the yard at the 'cross-age' and 'multi-age' interaction - Grade 3 – 6 students playing footy on the oval, and Grades Prep – 4 playing cricket in the tennis court. This isn't a 'once off' - this is every day. The children have an amazing respect and tolerance for one another and our school's values of 'Learning, Respect, Safety and Friendship' are a natural and integral part of every day. It truly is a wonderful school and I couldn't think of teaching anywhere else."

- Keryn Johnson, MPS Prep Foundation Teacher

"I am new to MPS this year and have been very impressed with the caring nature of the staff and the overall school culture of acceptance and respect. It has been my pleasure to teach at MPS, and I look forward to developing exceptional visual and performing arts programs for my students."


- Cori Nelson, MPS Visual and Performing Arts Teacher

"Why I love working at this creative and unique primary school...In the six years I have been here there has always been a distinct feeling... children have grown and moved on, class dynamics have altered, teachers and staff have changed, but one thing remains the same. There has always been something special about Montmorency Primary School. All good establishments come from great leadership and I would give honour and value to our principal, Michael Otway, who has for years put his knowledge, expertise and heart into leading the school. The many changes and challenges that come with all good schools, like MPS, have dedicated, loyal and hard-working teachers, staff, parents, grandparents and volunteers behind them. This same crew of people for 2013 with fresh ideas have worked behind the scenes to establish new and ongoing activities for the children to learn, enjoy and experience during their primary school years."

- Beverley Hardi, Student Welfare Officer

What Makes *Montmorency Primary School* Special?

We are a small school and can nurture your child through primary school, provide preparation for secondary education, and encourage life-long learning.

-  MPS student enrolments have been steadily increasing since 2009. In 2013 we have 165 students attending our school. To maintain the 'small-school' feel and caring environment of MPS, our long-term plan is for a total school population of no more than 250 students.
-  Our very experienced Principal is also trained in Special Education. The majority of our teachers are experienced, and our graduate teachers bring fresh ideas, and extra enthusiasm, knowledge and programs to our school.
-  MPS runs a combination of straight and composite classes, determined by student numbers each year. Our teachers provide appropriate learning opportunities based on *individual student learning needs* regardless of year level and whether the student is in a straight or composite grade.
-  MPS offers a *well-developed First Step Prep* (formally 'Prep Foundation') program for children who are school-age, and would benefit from a structured and individualised program preparing them for mainstream Foundation (formally 'Prep') the following year.
-  Our well-established ***Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program*** is offered to **ALL** students from First Step Prep through to Grade 6. This differs from other schools where generally only senior students participate.
-  We also have a purpose-built Stephanie Alexander Commercial Kitchen along with a purpose-built Garden Room, and our very own Pizza Oven. As part of the SAKG program our children look after and dote upon our six free-range chickens.
-  The SAKG Mini-Market is a student-led activity held several times each term to support the Program. Students, families and members of the general public are welcome to visit the Mini-Market at MPS on given Tuesday afternoons when fresh seasonal garden produce, seedlings, seeds and plants, bread and eggs and freshly baked food items from our kitchen program are sold. MPS students set up the stall, manage the price lists and sell items in this popular after school event.
-  In addition to SA kitchen garden sessions, there are weekly comprehensive Visual Art and Performing Arts (instrumental and vocal music, and drama) and Physical Education programs. These lessons are run by passionate and experienced specialist teachers in well-equipped and purpose-built classrooms and outdoor spaces.



MPS prides itself on being community-linked and is involved in several local and overseas social justice causes including, *Diamond Valley Community Services and Foodshare, Orphund, Turn on the Tap, the Christmas Shoebox Appeal, and Boots for All*. MPS also hosts the monthly **Monty Farmers Market** and our biennial **Monty Community Fair**.



Our school has expansive 2.2 hectare grounds with many natural treed areas, vegetable gardens, a quiet fairy garden in 'Julia's Orchard', a grassed football oval and fully fenced tennis court, bat tennis and a basketball court, rotunda, frog bog and three separate playground areas. *These along with our buildings give us the largest school grounds in the area*. Our oval is used on weekends by a dog obedience club, and recently our grounds were also used by ABC Television as a home-base while filming a local program.



MPS has a large, multi-purpose Assembly Hall, affectionately known as *The Castle*. It is used for Physical Education, Perceptual Motor Program for Preps (PMP), whole school assemblies, meetings and many other school and community activities, such as the Montmorency Community Food Swap, and weekly yoga, craft and Tai Chi classes.



We currently have two rock bands at MPS, one mixed gender and one all-girl, both led by our Principal, Michael Otway. Michael is also a musician, and plays guitar and sings at the monthly Monty Farmers Market with his quartet, *Minor Detail*.



Our Library is temporarily situated in the main corridor while our new school is being built. With our new school we will be restocking the library.



Our Junior School Council differs from most schools in that participation is open to all age levels from *Grade Foundation to 6*, not to the upper grades exclusively.



Our Inter-school Sport program runs for *Grades 3 and 4*, in addition to Grades 5 and 6. We also have basketball and soccer teams coached and managed by parents.



MPS promotes a balanced approach to exercise and nutrition with a whole school, short 'Morning Fun Run' every day at 9:00am, water bottles kept in class to encourage proper hydration, and a Healthy Snack of fruit or vegetables in the classroom at 10:00am.



The history of MPS is long. In the heart of Montmorency, it was established in 1922, four years before electricity was connected in the area.



MPS is located in the heart of the Montmorency community in a convenient position near to the Were St shopping village, and also in close proximity to Eltham and Greensborough.



MPS has a comprehensive and informative website with additional school and program details at www.montmorency.vic.edu.au and a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MontyPS.

Montmorency Primary School AusVELS

- **MPS Teachers are transitioning to AusVELS**, the new Victorian education framework which incorporates the new Australian Curriculum F-10 for English, Mathematics, History and Science within the curriculum framework first developed for our previous Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS).
- **AusVELS Literacy:** programs include Literacy Support, *Reading Eggs*, *Cued Articulation*, *Seed Writing and Magic 100 Words*, genre writing, and the Premiers' Reading Challenge.
- **AusVELS Numeracy:** programs include *Nelson Maths* and *Mathletics* (online). Early years students focus on using concrete materials in a 'hands on' approach to mathematics.
- **AusVELS Integrated Studies:** History and Science units; see our website for 2013 unit plans
- **Information Communication Technologies (ICT)** classroom use includes desktop and laptop computers, iPads and Interactive WhiteBoards.
- **MPS Junior School** teachers utilise play-based and active learning frameworks in their classrooms, and Show/Tell and Share/Learn programs.
- **MPS Senior School** students will soon have classroom online blogs to post their work.
- **MPS "Thinking Curriculum"**: In addition to teaching content we feel it is necessary to teach children problem-solving and thinking skills they can use throughout life. We have a whole-school approach for this, utilising Howard Gardner's *Multiple Intelligences* and Bloom's *Taxonomy* models.
- **Assessment & Reporting:** Parent-Teacher interviews are held in terms 1 and 3; written reports are completed in Terms 2 and 4. Parents are welcome to meet with the teacher by appointment at any time.



“Preparation for Life”

MPS Values

These are our school values written in kids-speak.

- ★ **Respect:** We respect each other.
- ★ **Safety:** We feel safe at Montmorency Primary School.
- ★ **Friendship:** We care about each other.
- ★ **Learning:** We have fun learning.

MPS Policies

- **Our Environmental Mission Statement:** *Our mission is to engage students, staff and the community to develop a sustainable school environment. A new management plan was uploaded to our website in 2013.*
- **Our Student Code of Conduct:** This document was revised in 2013; see the website for details.
- **Head-start Program:** At the start of every year the whole school participates in this program, which focuses on our core school values of Respect, Safety, Friendship and Learning.
- **Anti-Bullying:** MPS is a no-bully-zone school. We are also an e-Smart online safety school.
- **Whole Body Listening:** We incorporate a whole school program that teaches effective listening.
- **Healthy Eating and Exercise:** MPS has a ‘Morning Fun Run’ and a Healthy Snack time each day.
- **Sun Smart:** Wearing a school hat is compulsory in Terms 1 and 4.

Additional Student Activities at MPS

- **Community Involvement:** students participate in a variety of community causes
- **Buddies:** senior school students spend time with junior school and local kinder students
- **Perceptual Motor Program (PMP):** For Preps, this program develops motor and memory skills.
- **School Rock Band:** Band participation is optional. In 2013 there are two bands.
- **Choir and School Production:** to be organised in 2014
- **Inter-school Sport:** Currently all Grade 3-6 children are assigned to an Interschool Sports Team.
- **Lunch Club:** On Fridays for all ages, we play indoor strategy and thinking/problem-solving games.
- **Grade 6 Web Page Design:** an ICT interest group
- **Instrumental Music Lessons** and **Tennis Lessons** are available and optional. (*fees apply)
- **Art Therapy:** Sophia Valente is a Montmorency Art Therapist who volunteers at MPS. She spends short periods of time in the classroom with students to explore their creativity and promote self-expression using simple drawings; optional.
- **Life Education:** a visiting drug and health education program
- **School Banking:** On Fridays for all ages; optional.
- **Christian Religious Education:** Classes are optional and held weekly.

MPS School Committees

- **MPS School Council:** In an effort to gain maximum benefit for the whole school community School Council adheres to good governance and timely reporting. It consists of elected parents, a community member and DEECD staff.
- **Sub-Committees:** Education, Buildings and Grounds, Stephanie Alexander KG and Environmental Sustainability sub-committees meet and report to School Council. These meetings are advertised in the School Newsletter so that interested Community members can attend.
- **MPS Junior School Council:** The JSC, including School Captains and Sport Captains, is made up of elected Prep – Grade 6 students.
- **Parents & Friends:** This group coordinates school fundraising and social activities.

MPS Parent Information

- **Additional Student Support:**
 - The G.A.T.E.ways Extension Program for highly capable students is available at MPS.
 - DEECD Educational Psychologist: Vaughn Losewitz has an office at MPS and is available for meetings with parents, assessments and referrals. He also runs a workshop for new Prep parents at the end of the year.
 - DEECD Speech Pathologist: Anna Drake has an office at MPS and is available to see students by referral. Anna also trains classroom assistants in reading support to assist children who would benefit from extra support or extension with their reading.
 - DEECD Student Welfare Officer: Beverley Hardi is available to support and assist students, parents and staff with personal concerns.
 - Literacy Support: Lessons are taught 3-4 times per week on a needs-basis by one of our teachers, who is Reading Recovery and Literacy Support trained.
- **OSHC**: Our high-quality before and after school care program is coordinated by a qualified teacher.
- **Parent – Teacher Communication**: MPS teachers are committed to keeping parents up to date with regards to their child’s progress and believe this is an integral part of student well-being and overall academic success.
- **School Fees**: Fees for 2014 will be approximately \$350 for each Foundation (formally ‘Prep’) to Grade 6 student and \$495 for each First Step Prep (formally ‘Prep Foundation’) student, plus excursion costs.
- **Uniforms**: Uniforms may be purchased through the school and are compulsory. School shoes OR runners may be worn. There is no separate sports uniform.
- **Parent Involvement**: Parents can be classroom helpers, attend excursions, be garden or cooking session helpers, or be part of the *Parents and Friends* group, School Council, Education Sub-Committees and assist with events, such as the fair and working bees. Parent volunteers also compile the school newsletter and coordinate the Uniform Shop.
- **Newletters**: Our school newsletter is published fortnightly via email and in written hard copy. Foundation students receive an additional newsletter to keep parents up-to-date and informed about classroom activities and programs.
- **Lunch Orders**: Lunch orders are made fresh and available on Fridays.

***See www.montmorencyps.vic.edu.au for full details
and call the School Office to book a Tour on 9434 5944.***





MONTMORENCY PRIMARY SCHOOL
DESIGN DEVELOPMENT
DD02 - PROPOSED
SITE PLAN

Taylor Construction Architects Pty Ltd
 Unit 11 140 High Street East Melbourne, VIC 3002
 ph: 03 9589 1511 fax: 03 9589 1822
 www.taylorconstruction.com.au



MPS New School Site Plan

The rebuild process began in September 2013 with all classes running as per normal.

Performing-Arts **SAKG** Purpose-built-SAKG-kitchen
 Science Reports Stephanie-Alexander-Kitchen-Garden three-playground-areas Fun-Run
 Thinking-Curriculum environmentally-aware **MPS** Integrated-studies Sport
 parent-involvement
www.montmorency.cps.vic.edu.au
 Academics lots-of-space **community** AusVELS the-arts
Preparation-for-Life
 facebook-page fully-fenced-tennis-court Life-Education
 Literacy additional-student-support PMP-for-Preps
 Lunch-Club expansive-2.2-hectare-grounds rotunda
 Friendship sustainable-school-environment History
 School-Council community-linked
 Learning social-justice-causes tennis-lessons
 Prep-Foundation Two-school-rock-bands
 inter-school-sport vegetable-gardens SunSmart
 free-range-chickens No-bully-zone
 Student-Code-of-Conduct cyber-safety
 OSHC community-involvement
 Numeracy instrumental-music-lessons
 Farmers-Market Junior-School-Council
 GATEways Parents-and-Friends Safety
SAKG-Mini-Markets fairy-garden-in-Julia-s-Orchard
 Newsletters natural-treed-areas Library
 basketball-court Whole-body-listening
 roses
 Visual-Arts Education-Support lunch-orders
 frog-bog **caring** Established-1922
 The-Castle-Assembly-Hall bat-tennis-courts
 ICT
 Healthy-Snacks Heart-of-Montmorency
 Respect biennial-community-fair
small-school-benefits