



**St Bede's Primary School, North Balwyn**



# **2018 ANNUAL REPORT to the School Community**

REGISTERED SCHOOL NUMBER 1482



## Contents

Contact Details .....	2
Minimum Standards Attestation .....	3
Our School Vision .....	4
School Overview.....	5
Principal's Report.....	6
Religious Education at St Bede's .....	7
Learning and Teaching at St Bede's.....	10
Student Wellbeing at St Bede's.....	13
Leadership and Management at St Bede's .....	15
St Bede's School Community .....	17
VRQA Compliance Data.....	19

## Contact Details

<b>ADDRESS</b>	2 Marwal Avenue North Balwyn 3104
<b>PRINCIPAL</b>	Ms. Annette Broadfoot
<b>PARISH PRIEST</b>	Rev. Werner Utri
<b>SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR</b>	Mr. Chris Sinnico
<b>TELEPHONE</b>	(03) 8851 4651
<b>EMAIL</b>	principal@sbedesbn.catholic.edu.au
<b>WEBSITE</b>	www.sbedesbn.catholic.edu.au

## Minimum Standards Attestation

I, **Annette Broadfoot** attest that **St Bede's School** is compliant with:

- All of the requirements for the minimum standards and other requirements for the registration of schools as specified in the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic) and the Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017 (Vic), except where the school has been granted an exemption from any of these requirements by the VRQA.
- Australian Government accountability requirements related to the 2018 school year under the Australian Education Act 2013 (Cth) and the Australian Education Regulations 2013 (Cth)

Date: 01/05/2019

## Our School Vision

Bede was a committed scholar  
and educator in the service of God.

With Bede as our model  
and Christ as our everlasting light,  
we strive to build a Catholic school community  
where each is given time and support  
to learn,  
to know,  
to do, to live together  
and to be.

**Christus Dies Aeterna Nostra**

## School Overview

St Bede's School strives to create an educational experience for all students that is strongly grounded in our Parish community. The education of our students, staff and parents begins with an invitation to explore and grow in understanding of our faith and how we can live it out within school and the wider community.

The pastoral care of all students is an important focus and we place significant emphasis on Student Wellbeing so that we may offer an education that is holistic. We give time to meeting and working with parents in order to build relationships that strengthen and enrich the way we work.

We are keen to build a school culture where staff value working together. We encourage all staff, inclusive of our leadership team, to be responsive in the way they work and to be open and reflective when reviewing their own performance and needs. There is a very genuine commitment to working with individuals so that staff will be skilled to improve student outcomes.

We unreservedly create a school culture where expectations, structures and processes are focused on our endeavour to meet the needs of students. We encourage strong commitment to excellence in teaching and learning.



## Principal's Message

I sincerely thank all staff for their commitment and dedication during this year. All staff have worked with integrity to ensure that our students have shown growth in their learning and personal development.

Our Parents and extended community continue to enrich our school and we appreciate the work, friendship and support that is provided in so many different ways.

St. Bede's school is so much richer because of the wonderful connection and relationship we have with our Parish and I thank Werner for his guidance and generosity in working with us to ensure that our whole community can grow in understanding our faith. We wish him great success and fulfilment as he leaves St Bede's at the end of this 2018 school year to take on the role of Dean at St Patrick's Cathedral.

This report will provide you with some brief snapshots into life at St Bede's. Enjoy reading and viewing but don't hesitate to come and join us for a visit. You are very welcome.



*“Our footsteps are the road. There is no road, the road is made by walking. By walking one makes the road, and upon glancing behind one sees the path that never will be trod again.” Antonio Machado*

## EDUCATION in FAITH

A few reflections on our year of living and working together as a faith community:



For we are  
God's servants  
working together

you are  
God's field  
God's building'  
1 Corinthians 3:9

The Scripture we have chosen to guide us through 2018 encourages us to join with others in bringing God's presence alive in our world. What does that mean for all of us? Perhaps it means that in the midst of all the hard work, events and community building we need to ensure that we take time with each student and person we encounter each day; making sure that we respond rather than react! Our Scripture was used throughout the year to encourage the children to bring the love and peace of God's presence into all their daily interactions. And through this we have further developed our school culture to be a community committed to working together to build resilient, friendly and generous students who "Choose Kind".

Each year we celebrate with our community at our **Parish Picnic**. This year the picnic was held in our school grounds after the 11am Parish Mass. Entertainment, jumping castles and delicious food made for a very special occasion; especially our **school choir** performance.



**SOCIAL JUSTICE in ACTION**

During this year our students worked to support and understand the work of a variety of external groups who offered service to our communities. We have a strong Mini Vinnies student group who support the work of our parish St Vincent de Paul conference as well as engaging in local

community service work by such activities as visits to Eva Tilley Memorial Home. Our Grade 5/6 students were very active in raising awareness to support such groups as Caritas, Drought Angels and Feed. The children also took part in a bake sale to promote our awareness of using products that were free PALM OIL.



and funds Need for

of



Catching up with our past priests at the St Patrick's Day mass!

**ST BEDE'S FEAST DAY FRIDAY 25<sup>th</sup> May**



We celebrated our Feast Day with a special liturgy to bless the PEACE GARDEN. The final blessing at the end of mass included a special blessing for our Peace Garden. We processed together from the Church into the Peace Garden. It was a very simple but moving symbol of how we hope the Peace Garden will be used into the future.

As well as the special blessing we arranged for Chris Humphrey's team of zoologists to visit St Bede's - just like Bede we are scholars and scientific learners!

SACRAMENT of EUCHARIST



Do this in memory of me



Taste and see the goodness of the Lord



Many Blessings

## LEARNING and TEACHING

Very early in our school year we experienced a great adventure with our WHOLE SCHOOL EXCURSION to -The Triennial Exhibition at NGV - The Shrine of Remembrance and - the Queen Victoria Gardens

What a special day we had! It was delightful to see the children exploring the Art Gallery, being absorbed by the stories told to them by our Shrine Tour guides and enjoying the delight of real grass under their feet!!! A huge thank you to everyone who was part of the day: the care and energy of staff and parents who constantly counted to see that we still had everyone and the children who were so responsible and engaged in all that the day had to offer.

Here are some insights into this wonderful day:





Our 2018 celebration of learning was our **WRITERS' FESTIVAL**. All term we focused on the skill of crafting our writing and creating amazing stories, biographies, procedural texts and reports! The creativity demonstrated in our finished products was extraordinary!

My family and I really liked the Writers Festival because they thought each room was great. My mum liked the Workshop the best because that was when I explained the Haiku well. My dad liked the "Jim" poem the best because he didn't know it. My sister liked "Jim" because she likes animals and there was an animal in it and my favourite was the Reader's Chair because I liked how they performed it. John S

During the festival I went to all the rooms but I performed in Ms Bolderston's class. Rose and I interviewed each other. In Mr Brown's class, my friend taught me and her parents how to make a "Blackout" poem. The only light in the room came from lamps. In Ms Schroder's room there was a spotlight that focused on the two performers who either read out their stories or their limericks. There was also an interview group in this room as well. Chiara P

During the Writers' Festival the rooms I saw were Mrs CC and Ms Schroder. In Mrs CC's classroom I did a RE play called The Good Samaritan. I was a robber with Max B, Sophia H, Gabriel F, Orlando D and Oliver T. I also read my recount in Ms Schroder's classroom. My recount was about our family trip to Paris and London. My performance went well. My family thought it was great. Holly K



The success of our **Writers' Festival** was evident in the engaged audience and very proud presenters. Each year we showcase our learning in Term Three and each year I continue to be proud of the creativity, skill and hard work of our school community. The collaboration and imagination that is demonstrated gives me huge confidence in all our staff and students. **Well done EVERYONE** on providing such wonderful insights into all that was achieved during Term Three!



**TEA, TODDLERS and TIM TAMS!** Exploring Maths at St Bede's All families were invited to join us for a special adult learning session to promote efficient mental computation skills, identify maths language for use at school and at home and learn about maths games to play at home.



Pancake Day!



Inquiry Night "Babysitting"



Provocation Day!

**LOTE @ St Bede's - Bonjour mes amis!** In June, we hosted **85 visiting teachers** who were taking part in Day 2 of the **Leading Languages Professional Learning Primary programme (LLPLP)**. It provided an opportunity to showcase the learning that is occurring in our **French programme** which continues to grow. The model of **staff and students** being **co-learners** promotes very **genuine learning** and **strong engagement**. It is wonderful to observe the excitement in the room as we recognise ourselves as **speakers of French**.

## STUDENT WELLBEING



**"If you want others to be happy,  
practice compassion.  
If you want to be happy,  
practice compassion"**  
DALAI LAMA



During 2018 we focused on encouraging Kindness as a way of being at St Bede's. It was a great focus and we believe it made a difference to our relationships.

Some Staff modelling their "At St Bede's we choose Kind" Tshirts!!

At St Bede's one of our goals is to develop leadership skills and qualities in all Grade 6 students. The leadership we ask of each student is based in our **faith** and requires a **servant leadership** approach. Our leadership program asks that we be of service to others and all students in leadership roles are asked to demonstrate **humility** and **generosity of spirit**. They recognise that a particular leadership role is a **privilege** and an opportunity that should be treated with great **respect** and **grace**.



At the end of 2017 we worked with our Grade 5 students to explore the image of a door as a way of reflecting on the possibilities that were opening up for them as possible student leaders in 2018.

*I love the narrow door  
—You know, the one at the school  
Where parents and children cram in  
At the beginning of the day at Saint Bede's,  
Rushing to beat the bell.*

*Elsewhere the doors are wide and efficient  
and some have powered automatic openings  
for easy entry and exit.*

*There are no traffic jams in these doors  
**No chance to perform an act of love.***

***I love the narrow door.***

*Adapted from Tim Muldoon*

### Our 2018 Student Leaders were:

RE Captains:	Anthony Fernandez and Anabel Kelliher
School Captains:	Eden Fraser and Roman Smith
House Captains:	Marcel Bisinella and Serephina Tass - Green Georgia Jackson and Oscar Torresi - Red Jolin Jiang and Hugh White - Blue Angela Bisinella and James Godfrey - Gold
Performing Arts:	Marcus Feraro and Nicholas Ciavarella
French Leader:	Josephine Nguyen and Daniel Perera
ICT Leaders:	Oakley Tang and Alyssa Wong

## LEADERSHIP and MANAGEMENT

### WHOLE SCHOOL REVIEW

In August we held two pupil free days for staff to prepare for our school review which would involve us in a formal external process to validate our registration as a school. As part of this process Mr Malcolm Joseph on behalf of The Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) validated our compliance for registration. In early Term Four Mr Tony McGruther from ACER (Australian Council for Educational Research) and Mr Wayne Richard (Catholic Education Melbourne) engaged with us in a process of using the "National School Improvement Tool" to explore our strengths and identify future directions for school improvement.

Using an evidence-based framework, the NSIT supports school-wide conversations about aspects of current practice, areas for improvement and evidence that progress is being made.

The key areas of focus were:

1. An explicit improvement agenda
2. Analysis and discussion of data
3. A culture that promotes learning
4. Targeted use of school resources
5. An expert teaching team
6. Systematic curriculum delivery
7. Differentiated Teaching and Learning
8. Effective pedagogical processes
9. School community partnerships

Out of this process and also using the data collected from our school surveys we finalised our strategic plan for the next five years.

### PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

All staff engaged in school-based, on-line or external PL opportunities and approximately \$500 per staff member was expended. Our school based PL Days during 2018 focused on: Building school culture, Assessment and Reporting and our School Review.

We continued our partnership with **Melbourne University** and welcomed **Masters of Education candidates** into our school. They worked each Monday and Tuesday across all levels of the school. This model of Teacher Education uses a mentoring approach and is very rigorous. As well as providing a great experience for the candidates we received the benefit of their skills and eager interest in all our students. Mrs Judy Trumble works part-time with Melbourne University as a Teaching Fellow in the Masters of Education and this offers us access to current resources, personnel and innovative educational ideas.

## Parish Education Board (PEB)

We continued our work on the development of a school Masterplan to take us through the next decade and beyond. We intend to take a very thorough and approach to developing a comprehensive and purposeful Masterplan. We conducted a number of school tours with parents in our community to gather ideas, promote interest and identify our needs. Many matters were discussed:

- How do we provide light, diverse and interesting learning spaces for all students?
- How do we add to the aesthetics of our school?
- What can be reshaped / added to develop the play space?
- How can we improve parking around the school?
- How do we ensure our Parish and School vision is the basis of our plan?

We look forward to the work we have to do. It will involve many steps and will call on expertise both within and beyond our school community.

More images of our 2018 school year.



## SCHOOL COMMUNITY

### PARENT EDUCATION NIGHTS

Our Parent Education Nights were focused on **students' social emotional wellbeing**, a fabulous night on **inquiry** led by our coach Kath Murdoch and continued great work on our Adult Faith education nights for Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation.



In August we offered very special "Congratulations" to Laura Poole on the occasion of her wedding to Shannyn Jeffreys. Their day was filled with lots of fun and joy. Laura and Shannyn loved the beautiful assembly led by Laura's Grade 1/2 class.

Another big event saw all families being invited to celebrate Fr Werner Utri's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination to Priesthood. Our **Prep** classes hosted a magnificent **Assembly** where Werner's mum, dad and sister were special guests who shared some fun insights to their son and brother!! In the parish we joined with Werner for a **Mass of Thanksgiving** followed by a wonderful party in the Jarrow Room.



**REMEMBRANCE DAY** - This is always a very significant day in our school calendar and once again, we hosted the members of North Balwyn RSL to our school Remembrance Day Service. On this occasion we acknowledged the Centenary of Armistice Day. Our school has received a special grant from the Federal Government under the Armistice Day Centenary Grants

project and with this grant we will record some of the stories of our community that tell of the ordinary lives who have contributed so much to our community through their service to Australia. And as an example of the stories we hope to share through this special publication Stephen Walsh and Daniel Perera shared some of their family's story as part of this year's Remembrance Day service. It was very moving. Over the remainder of this year and early next year we will gather these stories and publish them in March next year. Also, this year we created an artwork which was presented to North Balwyn RSL for their new facilities as an acknowledgement of those in our community who have provided service and protection of our country.

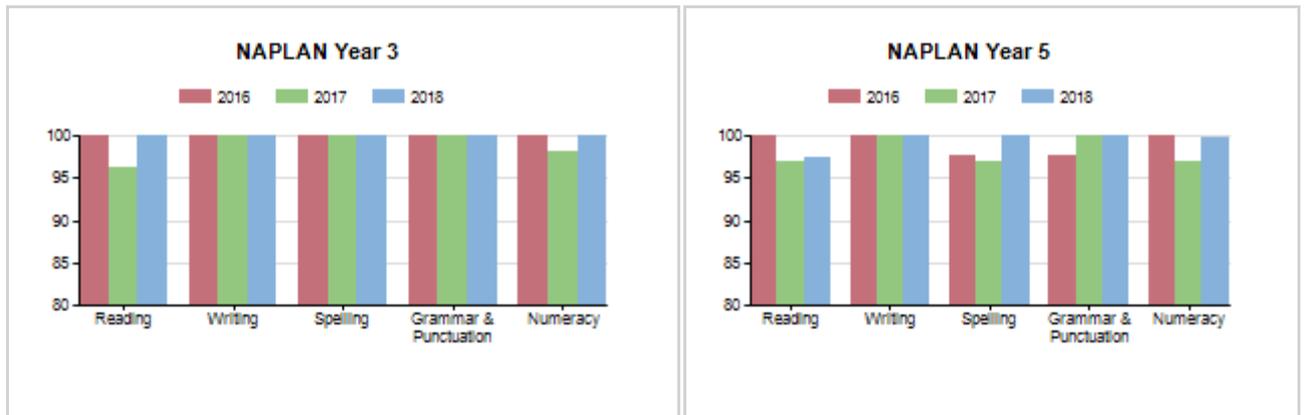
### **SAUSAGE SIZZLE on ELECTION DAY**

**VICTORIAN STATE ELECTION - THE DEMOCRACY SAUSAGE!!!** Our combined cake stall and sausage sizzle raised approximately \$1800 thanks to the generosity of our community: wonderful donations, enthusiastic bakers and very willing volunteers on the day. It not only helped us raise \$\$ but once again raised our profile in the community. Rumour has it that Tony Jones said he voted at St Bede's had the best "Democracy Sausage" on offer!!!

**Mass of Anointing** and lunch provided by Katie Day and her wonderful team of volunteers occurs twice throughout the year. A delicious lunch for our parishioners; a beautiful community event!

## VRQA Compliance Data

PROPORTION OF STUDENTS MEETING THE MINIMUM STANDARDS					
NAPLAN TESTS	2016 %	2017 %	2016 - 2017 Changes %	2018 %	2017 - 2018 Changes %
YR 03 Grammar & Punctuation	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
YR 03 Numeracy	100.0	98.1	-1.9	100.0	1.9
YR 03 Reading	100.0	96.2	-3.8	100.0	3.8
YR 03 Spelling	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
YR 03 Writing	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
YR 05 Grammar & Punctuation	97.8	100.0	2.2	100.0	0.0
YR 05 Numeracy	100.0	97.0	-3.0	100.0	3.0
YR 05 Reading	100.0	97.0	-3.0	97.4	0.4
YR 05 Spelling	97.8	97.0	-0.8	100.0	3.0
YR 05 Writing	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0



There are changes in our performance in some years and there would be a number of factors impacting on this. We are constantly engaging in professional development in literacy and numeracy to respond to the individual needs of our students. Our personalised response to students and our emphasis on analysing our collected data assists us in providing for learning at the point of need.

**CONNECTEDNESS to our STUDENTS** In 2018 we participated in a trial project with Catholic Education Melbourne to trial new School Improvement Surveys. The following table presents a summary of feedback we received about our students as part of this process.

DOMAIN	SCHOOL RESULT	LIKE SCHOOL RESULT	DOMAIN DEFINITION
Rigorous Expectations	86%	81%	How much students feel that their teachers hold them to high expectations of their understanding, persistence and performance.
School Engagement	67%	61%	How attentive and invested students are.
School Climate	65%	65%	Perceptions of the social and learning climate.
Teacher / Student Relationships	81%	75%	The strength of the social connection between teachers and students.
School Belonging	80%	73%	How much students feel they are valued members of the community.
Learning Disposition	83%	79%	Student's mindset about themselves as learners.
Student Safety	63%	54%	Perceptions of student physical and psychological safety while at school.
Student Voice	63%	63%	The extent to which students feel they have opportunities to have an impact on their school.
Catholic Identity	66%	61%	Student perceptions about the Catholic Identity of the school.

<b>AVERAGE STUDENT ATTENDANCE RATE BY YEAR LEVEL</b>	Y1	94.4 %	<p><b>Attendance is taken twice daily and recorded electronically. Parents are encouraged to notify school by phone or email if a student will be absent from school. All late arrivals and early departures are recorded online through the general office.</b></p>	<b>TEACHING STAFF ATTENDANCE RATE</b>	81.2 %	<b>STAFF RETENTION RATE</b>	90.5 %
	Y2	93.3 %					
	Y3	93.0 %					
	Y4	93.1 %					
	Y5	93.7 %					
	Y6	92.8 %					
	#	93.4 %	<p><b>Parents are contacted when there are unexplained absences.</b></p>				

<b>TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS</b>	Doctorate	0.0 %	<b>STAFF COMPOSITION</b>	Principal Class	3
	Masters	23.8 %		Teaching Staff (HC)	27
	Graduate	33.3 %		Teaching Staff (FTE)	23.4
	Graduate Certificate	9.5 %		Non-Teaching Staff (HC)	14
	Bachelor Degree	81.0 %		Non-Teaching Staff (FTE)	14.3
	Advanced Diploma	19.0 %		Indigenous Staff	1
	No Qualifications	4.8 %			

Our year was filled with many memorable and special events that we give thanks for....

- Have you heard about "Polly and Buster"? It's a great story that our class (3/4K) read this year and it taught us so much about how to be a good friend. We loved it so much that we wrote a magnificent script for our class assembly. It was so entertaining!
- In Grade 1/2N we are so proud of the way we collaborate together. One of the really important skills to learn is how to work together and we are doing this so well.
- Our teachers are so imaginative! Every term they plan a "provocation" that helps them to gain insights into what we already know about a particular topic or what we are wondering about the topic. One of the best ones was 'the crime scene'!!! Ms Richardson planned out a series of clues for us to solve.
- In Grade 3/4H we had an amazing time with the Google Virtual Reality glasses. We explored in 3D the geography of South America and compared it to our experience exploring Australia. Everything looked so real you felt like you were really in the landscape.
- Showing our parents what skilled writers we are was a highlight for Grade 3/4JCC. Mrs Crowe-Conway also coached us to perform a poem called "Jim" which everyone loved seeing performed at our Writers' Festival. It was so good we did an encore at our assembly recently.
- Learning to surf down at Anglesea was brilliant but Grade 5/6S also liked the simple things of going on a night walk, sleeping in our cabins with our friends and laughing at the performances on the night of the talent show. Anglesea had much to offer.
- In 5/6A we have loved laughing and enjoying each other's company. We all have built new friendships and learned so much about one another.
- Grade 3/4P also loved our Writers' Festival in Term Three. It was great fun and different because we got to create writing journals in special scrapbooks instead of using our writing books. We had the opportunity to write soooooo much and add lots of creativity to our work.
- During the year we had quite a few new children join our school. Angus in 3/4P made good friends by joining in the soccer game. His teacher really helped him settle in with his friends.
- It is great fun when your teacher gets married! We got to dress up as though we were going to a wedding. There were lots of Brides and Grooms. We surprised Ms Poole by inviting Shannyn to our special assembly. We made her cry we were so beautiful.
- Have you ever seen Prep children performing *Les Trois Petit Cochons*? Our Preps this year were magnifique! Everyone got to act out the different characters and we had fun speaking in French. Everyone was amazed at how good we were.
- In Prep we also loved inviting Fr Werner's family to our special assembly where we interviewed them and found out lots of secrets. There was so much joy and laughter.
- We love our maths learning in Grade 1/2K. We are very good at recognising fractions and we get to play lots of games so that it makes learning maths fun. Also in writing we are such experts at knowing how to write information texts and importantly persuasive texts.
- Swimming and free dress days are the top of the list for Grade 1/2J. We are looking forward to the big water slide to celebrate learning to swim in 2018!
- The start of our year was very special. Everyone enjoyed our whole school excursion to The Shrine of Remembrance and NGV for the Triennial Exhibition. What amazing art! We had a little bit of the exhibition in our school foyer throughout the year to remind us of this beautiful day.

*With love and thanks to everyone  
who contributed to a successful year of learning and lots of great memories!*