



**YARRALINDA SCHOOL** ASN. INC

*A part of the Applied Scholastics™ Network*

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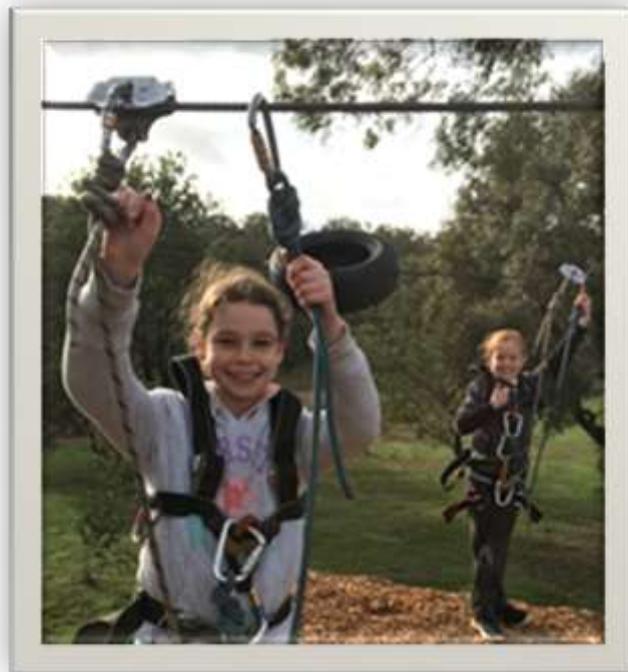
Principal: Mrs. C. Duffy

Reg. No. 1930

# Annual Report

## School Performance

### 2016



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## **Contextual Information about Yarralinda School and its history:**

Yarralinda School is an independent, non-denominational, co-educational primary school in Mooroolbark, now with an early learning centre for 3 and 4 year olds.

With caring teachers that love their jobs and small class sizes that ensure personal attention, children move confidently through our full and comprehensive curriculum which includes a strong focus on developing independent learning skills. Our school, which became registered in 1990, is located in a quiet setting on six acres of land.

Yarralinda School grew out of the shared ideas of a group of parents who were unhappy with the quality of education at their local schools. They wanted a smaller school that offered a more personal and caring approach to education. They wanted a school that taught their children not only how to learn but how to evaluate and reason with the information they were given. They wanted their children to be in a group that shared and supported a moral code that encouraged good manners and integrity. They wanted an environment that challenged their children to try, investigate and evaluate new things. And above all else, they wanted their children to find enjoyment in learning. From this list of "wants" Yarralinda School was formed.



### **A core educational philosophy:**

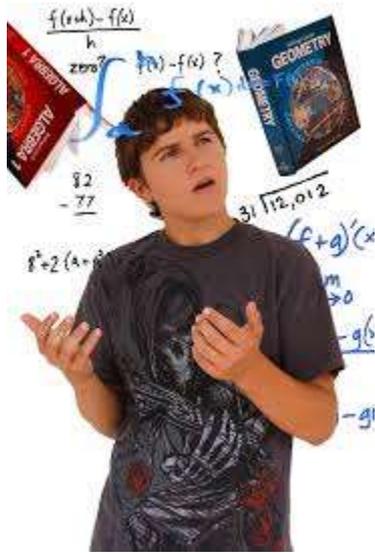
The founding parents wanted the school to be built around a core educational philosophy; one that they felt matched their values and ideas about education. They identified the Applied Scholastics educational program as the one that most closely matched their vision.

Applied Scholastics International was founded in 1972 by a group of concerned teachers who were searching for a way to resolve their problems with student learning and classroom management. They discovered *Study Technology*—a system of educational tools developed by American author and educator L. Ron Hubbard. So effective was this methodology that these professionals then decided to start an organisation dedicated to sharing it with others. The result was Applied Scholastics. Today, over 40 years later, Applied Scholastics International makes available L. Ron Hubbard's educational technology on a global scale. It functions through more than 760 affiliates to the benefit of some 100,000 educators and 28 million students.

For over 26 years Yarralinda has found the Applied Scholastics method to have proved itself beyond question. With caring, dedicated teachers and class sizes small enough to ensure personal attention, children move through the school and become graduates who are confident, competent and happy young people who retain their enthusiasm for learning; they then move on to secondary school ready to embrace the next stage of their learning journey.

## The Power of Words

What happens when you use words that others can't understand?



What happens when you teach a very interesting subject but find your students just aren't 'with you'?

You get a disconnection – a disengagement, a student who is no longer willing to learn.

Words have the power to do this.

Over the centuries language has developed, changed and adapted to new circumstances, new technologies. Language is rich with history and inspires futures. Writers combine words to make our world seem brilliant or flawed. Advertisers use words to interest and arrest our attention. Words create images and concepts that allow us to understand each other.

At Yarralinda School we recognise this as a *key* factor in teaching a subject.

Using the Applied Scholastics Methods, our teachers are in the unique position to know why a student is no longer interested in a subject. We know *how* to get their understanding and that it is *vital* to do so. We see that a student who can not apply what he is learning needs to have directed help that is specialized in finding the words or symbols that he doesn't know.

## **A Strong Sense of Integrity is Vital:**

In a world filled with television, internet, music videos, electronic games, etc., young people are bombarded with conflicting messages from a very young age. It's easy to see how young people can make poor choices. It is very important therefore, to work at building strong core values as early as possible.

As a school that is inclusive of all denominations and cultures, we encourage the development of such virtues as kindness, tolerance, and respect, as well as persistence, integrity and understanding. Whilst not promoting a particular religious philosophy, Yarralinda School encourages recognition of our spiritual nature.

To achieve the above, Yarralinda School students are taught the principles of *The Way To Happiness* program. *The Way To Happiness* booklet is a non-religious moral code based wholly on common sense. It was written by L. Ron Hubbard as an individual work, not as part of any religious doctrine. It covers 21 precepts (rules of behaviour) such as "Honour and Help Your Parents", "Be Worthy of Trust", "Set a Good Example" and "Respect the Religious Beliefs of Others" and is the basis of our conduct code for both students and staff.

Students learn age appropriate precepts and are encouraged to apply them at school and in life. In the upper grades, children complete class units on the different principles; in the lower grades, the principles are introduced through everyday examples by the classroom teacher. All students receive *Way to Happiness* awards for using the precepts in their everyday lives.



## School Performance Information

### Key Student Outcomes

#### Student attendance

The average attendance rate was 92%.

Breakdown by year level:

Grade 1: 93%	Grade 4: 94%
Grade 2: 87%	Grade 5: 90%
Grade 3: 93%	Grade 6: 94%

Any unusual non-attendance was resolved by direct communication with the families concerned.



### Proportions of Year 3&5 meeting national reading, writing, spelling and numeracy benchmarks- NAPLAN

Year 3: 100%                      Year 5: 100%

### Changes in benchmark results from the previous 2 years

0% change

### Post school destinations

Our grade 6 students moved on to:  
Melbourne Montessori School  
Lilydale Heights Secondary College

### Professional Engagement

#### School Staff retention

We had Laura Robson leave on maternity leave and due to class numbers merged her class with Kristy Nicolaou's.



### School Workforce composition

We have 3 qualified teachers, 1 diploma of child services and 4 administration staff; there are no indigenous staff.

### Teacher qualifications

#### School

Kristy Nicolaou: Bachelor of Business and Bachelor of Education, Post Graduate Degree in Early Childhood

John Ford: Bachelor of Science, Diploma of Teaching

Elizabeth Deveson: Diploma of Teaching with Honours in Music

#### Early Learning Centre

Kerry Clark: Diploma of Children's Services

### Professional Development

Disability Standards for Education – University of Canberra

Mandatory Reporting – Department Of Education and Training

Anaphylaxis training and First Aid updates HTLAID004

## Parent, Teacher & Student Satisfaction

We survey our parents, students and teachers through:

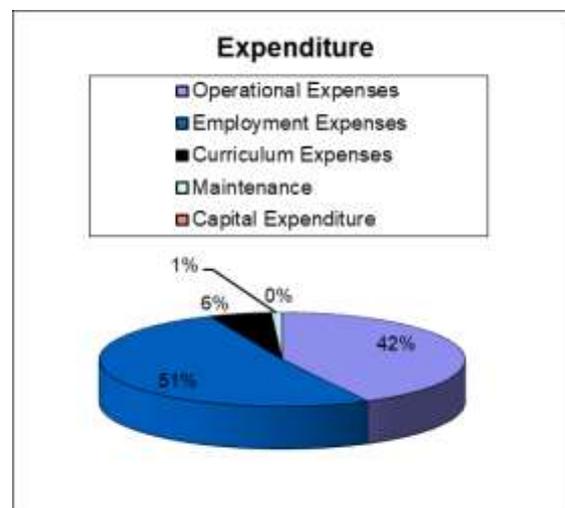
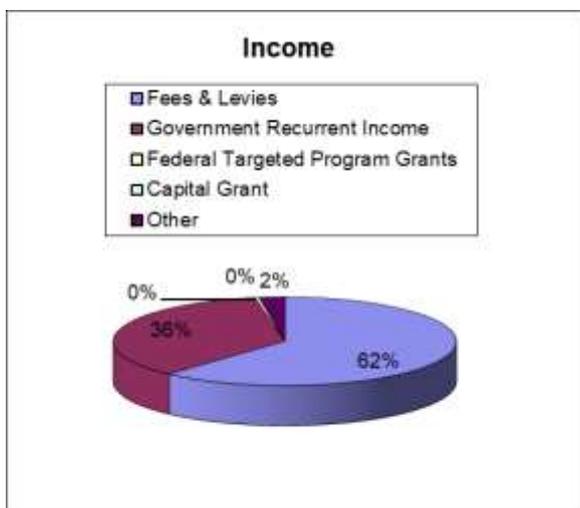
- Twice yearly Parent-Teacher discussions
- Additional parent meetings
- Student Self-Assessments, conferencing and class meetings
- Annual Parent Survey and Annual Staff Survey

All parents, students and teachers are encouraged to raise issues or concerns with the appropriate personnel within the school.

We have a very high level of dedication from our staff and have had a low level of concerns or issues raised with school personnel.



## Financial Snapshot 2016



## Some Highlights of the Year

Our Early Learning Centre more than doubled its enrolled and attending students with a good spread of students over all days. The projected enrolments for 2017 will see us at maximum by the end of term 2.



In term 2 the Upper School students were all engaged in a special Resiliency Program to increase their awareness of their power of choice when confronted with life's challenges.



The Program was kick started with a visit to the school by Donna Campisi ([Run Donna Run](#)), a dynamic and inspirational speaker and humanitarian. As a young child Donna overcame great physical hardship; her heartfelt story brought home the message that we all have the power of choice and with a belief in self we can overcome life's challenges.



The students were then asked to take on a physical challenge which was out of their comfort zone and the 1000 Steps (Kokoda Trail) in the Mt Dandenong National Park became the challenge.

The students donned 'The Power is in Me' T-shirts and caps and began training. The big day arrived on June 16th. We were very fortunate to have Donna join us to provide an extra boost of encouragement. Although very cold, the rain held out and the students showed remarkable determination in achieving and even surpassing the challenges they'd set themselves. Medals donated by Donna were awarded to the students when they arrived back at school.

Donna's mission of empowering others with the belief of 'The Power is in Me' was well and truly achieved!

For more photo's see our Facebook page link [here](#).





Our school and local community helped one of our families whose youngest daughter was found to have developed cancer and had a very low chance of survival. Our fundraising events raised over \$2500; she is doing very well and was able to leave hospital in December after a very intense 6 months.



The whole school went to see the performance of "Matilda" by Roald Dahl at the State Theatre. This level of immersion in the performing arts set our students up very well for our school concert. Our concert was Kaye Umansky's "Robin Hood". The children performed very well and some of the early learning centre children also had an opportunity to get up on stage and sing with the cast for the final number.

### **A Rich and Diverse Curriculum**

In 2016 Yarralinda School worked through all of the key learning areas, incorporating a broad range of external and internal activities aimed at increasing each child's engagement with the topics covered. We had many activities designed to increase each student's sense of identity and wellbeing as well as continuing work with the outside community. Below is the list from each term.

#### **Term 1**

- Sport & Swimming Program - whole school
- Hockey Program
- Library
- Urban Orienteering
- Pancake Day - Community fundraising
- Kids in the Kitchen - Food technology
- Sea Life Aquarium
- Harmony Day - Cultural food day
- Maroondah Dam

#### **Term 2**

- Soccer & Softball Program
- ANZAC Day activities (including cooking)
- Yarra Valley Water incursion
- Library
- Kids in the Kitchen - Food technology
- Resilience "Run Donna Run" (RDR)
- Cranbourne Botanical Gardens
- "Hippo Hippo" - The Musical based on the book 'There's a Hippopotamus on our Roof Eating Cake' by Hazel Edwards. Performance at the Karralyka Centre
- Mount Dandenong Thousand Steps (RDR)



'You & Me Murrawee' program at the Royal Melbourne Botanical Gardens  
Melbourne Zoo  
Urban Orienteering  
Responsible Pet Ownership  
Upper School sleep-over

### Term 3

Sport and Soccer Program  
Gymnastics Program  
School Camp PGL Campaspe Downs  
"Matilda" the musical performance – State Theatre  
Parliament Building  
Jeans for Genes - Community fundraising  
Library  
Yarralinda Olympics  
"Toys and Forces" Scienceworks  
Book Week: "Australia! Story Country" (dress as your favourite book character)  
Urban Orienteering – Melbourne Walk  
Melbourne Museum - 'My Grandma's Toy Box'  
Kids in the Kitchen - Food technology  
School concert – Kaye Umansky's "Robin Hood"

### Term 4

Sport: Tennis and Softball Programs  
Swimming Program Prep - Grade 2  
Christmas Shoebox – Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child Operation  
Transition days program for prep throughout the term  
Science Investigation  
Loud Shirt Day in support of the hearing impaired  
Library  
Kids in the Kitchen - Food technology  
Children's Week - Upwey 'Celebrate Children' Performance & activities  
Eureka Skydeck  
Circus OZ workshop and performance  
Urban Orienteering  
Teddy Bear's Picnic - Lilydale Lake  
Kids in the Kitchen - Food technology (Christmas cooking)  
Puffing Billy  
Upper School sleep-over

