



MOUNT SINAI COLLEGE



CREATING LEARNERS FOR LIFE



MSC Annual Report 2023

Mount Sinai College

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Theme 1: Contextual Information and Characteristics of the Student Body

At Mount Sinai College, we pride ourselves on our unique blend of Australian and Jewish heritage, fostering a love of Israel. Located in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs, we provide a nurturing family environment. Our commitment to instilling social and ethical values in each child, and developing respect for one's self and others, sets us apart.

We believe education is not about filling a pail but rather igniting a flame. Our goal is to ignite a NER TAMID of Judaism deep within each student's heart and equip them with the skills and knowledge to keep this flame alight and cherished for eternity.

Since our humble beginnings in 1981, with 14 students in a classroom at Maroubra Synagogue, Mount Sinai College has evolved into a contemporary, relevant Apple Distinguished School. Our architectural expression is a testament to our growth and success. With an enrolment of approximately 400 students, we strive to recognise each child as unique, supporting their development of autonomy, resilience, and the ability to make choices and decisions. Our aim is to foster optimistic, critical, and creative thinkers who will become lifelong learners.

We recognise that traditional classroom settings and outdated teaching methods may not sufficiently prepare students for the demands of the 21st century. At Mount Sinai, we are not simply reforming education but transforming it, prioritising innovative learning approaches that centre on students and fluid education. This shift aims to make education more meaningful and relevant, enhancing the joy and impact of the learning journey.

Our commitment to an effective technology program is evident in our award-winning learning spaces, which support flexible and innovative teaching practices. Our passionate and innovative teachers seamlessly use Apple technology to redefine their lessons, incorporating active collaboration, problem-solving, and personalised challenges. However extensive and powerful technology may be, we also recognise that our students cannot download care, passion, imagination and creativity – instead, they must upload it the traditional way by reading, writing, reflecting and discussing.

Jewish learning lies at the core of our school's culture, empowering students to embrace and cultivate their Jewish identity. We believe in fostering a strong sense of Jewish continuity, ensuring that our students carry forward the values and traditions that define our community.

Key Messages

College Principal: Noelene Bellingham



What an extraordinary year it has been at Mount Sinai! It is truly surreal to contemplate the realisation of my aspiration to work at this incredible school. The decision to move to Mount Sinai has unequivocally proven to be one of the most judicious choices I have made, further augmented by the advantageous reduction in my daily commute. This move signifies not merely a shift in employment but a comprehensive metamorphosis of my daily experience, and I could not be happier.

Educational research constantly reminds us that academic success is just one part of the equation. It is about equipping children with the skills to collaborate, adapt, and apply their knowledge to diverse situations. And I've witnessed firsthand how Mount Sinai goes above and beyond to provide students with a broad range of opportunities for growth and achievement.

The "6 Kind of Best" values at Mount Sinai are not just words on a poster—they are a way of life. Every day, both students and teachers live and breathe these values, always striving to improve and create a positive learning environment. The infusion of these values with the school's Jewish identity adds a unique and enriching layer to our educational journey.

In 2023, Mount Sinai College experienced a significant change as our longstanding Principal, Phil Roberts, stepped down. Phil has been more than just a leader; he has been a friend and colleague to all of us and I am certain the school will always hold a special place in his heart. On a personal note, I would like to formally thank Phil for the time he set aside to prepare me to take over his role. It has proven to be invaluable.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the exceptional team that facilitated my seamless integration into Mount Sinai. From the College Board, administrative personnel and teacher aides to the educators and our School Psychologist, each individual has played an indispensable role in fostering a sense of welcome and support. A special acknowledgment is reserved for our dedicated Leadership Team—Garron Forman, Rozanna Pleshet, Amanda Eisman, Emily Levenson, Aiden Levy, Janine Sussman, David Coleville, Kathryn Pearce and Jill Alison—for their guidance and exemplary leadership.

Notwithstanding the challenges posed by the conflict in Israel, which has tested our community, we have discovered ample cause for collective celebration of our students' accomplishments. From the dazzling talent showcased at the K-6 Concert to the Year 6 girls jubilantly embracing and celebrating their Bat Mitzvah, not to mention the infectious enthusiasm of the Spelling Bee and the spirited contests in Chess competitions between

educators and students—each moment has contributed to the vibrant pulse of Mount Sinai College.

As I eagerly anticipate the prospect of many more years at Mount Sinai, I cannot help but be infused with a sense of excitement and anticipation. Here's to the ongoing expansion, achievements, and indelible moments that will shape the future trajectory of both the school and its students. May each successive year prove even more gratifying than the preceding one!

President of the Board of Management: Daryn Saretzki



It is at this time each year that I marvel on how quickly the time has gone. While it has been pleasing to reflect on the achievements of the College and some of the wonderful celebrations we've had, our current environment and context is deeply concerning.

While I don't want to spend too much time on the current situation in Israel, I feel it's impossible not to acknowledge the impact it is having on our people – our family in Israel as well as the impacts we are seeing on our own community locally as well as across the globe. As I tried to reflect on the year that's just passed, it was so hard to look back through the fog of war and antisemitism now surrounding us.

I pray for the safety and security of Israel, all its soldiers and its people. I pray for the safe return of all the hostages. I pray for a rapid end to the conflict we are seeing, the end of Hamas and peace for innocent civilians. I also pray for the continued support we have locally in Australia from our politicians and community leaders in the face of antisemitism and attacks on our people and our religion.

Despite everything we are seeing, the Jewish people have always sustained. One important element of that, but not the only one, has been our focus and investment in the education of our children. Ensuring we always strive to learn, prioritise education and teach our kids to do the right thing is part of our DNA. That is why our Jewish Day School matters and that is why we will continue to celebrate the educational achievements of our kids and our school.

As a Board and a school leadership team, we've really been focused on the future of the school – not resting on our laurels but always looking for how to continue to improve and continue to develop the school. As I looked back across the year there are a few key highlights which I wanted to recognise:

- Starting the year with a brand new, and much requested playground and landscaping at our main campus – something I know the kids are absolutely loving.
- Successfully recruiting an amazing Principal in Noelene Bellingham and onboarding her smoothly.
- Growing our enrolments across the school – both ELC and Primary – to the

extent that we now have a wait list for our earlier years.

- We've had an excellent transition to a new College Rabbi in Rabbi Goldstein and we're delighted in the role he is playing at the school.
- We've also had a number of amazing events and celebrations at the school ranging from Phil's farewell earlier this year, the incredibly well attended Winter Wonderland and of course the return of our amazing Mount Sinai School Concert.
- Finally, we've also continued to invest in the school – including investing in our security which was well set to respond to the current events and continuing upgrades across the school including an upcoming renovation to the Kingsford ELC.

As with each year, there are challenges and not everything goes perfectly. Our staff however, acting as a team, have always sought to address and manage issues and do so with the best interests of our kids at heart. I want to take the time to offer thanks to a number of people who are critical to ensuring the successful running of our school:

- To all the teachers and the educational staff –thank you for the incredible job each of you do every day with our children.
- To Noelene and her leadership team - Garron Forman, Rozanna Pleshet, Amanda Eisman, Janine Sussman, Emily Levenson, Aiden Levy, David Colville, and Jill Allison – you all do an amazing job to keep the College running smoothly - we are all indebted to you. Thank you for all you put into the school.
- To Kathryn Pearce and Rachel Schwartz and all the administration staff – thank you for ensuring everything behind the scenes goes smoothly and runs like clockwork - ...you are truly invaluable to us.
- To the PA, Kerri Segal and Roxy Sacks - thank you for continuing to support and develop the community environment which is so important at MSC.
- To the CSG, our parents from PSG and all the community organisations who have supported us in recent months – thank you for keeping us safe.
- Many thanks also to Rabbi Zalman Goldstein and Maroubra Synagogue for your continued partnership with MSC.
- Thanks also to the JCA and Alain Hasson and our Life Governors for your continued support for our school.
- Finally, many thanks to my Board of Management – a wonderful band of volunteers who spend hours of their personal time helping to govern and support MSC.

To the Year 6 class of 2023, I wish you all the best for the future, your time in high school and your exciting futures ahead and the people you will be. I am sure you will do Mount Sinai College proud.

Wish you all a happy, safe and relaxing break over the new year. I look forward to an exciting 2024!

Infants & Jewish Studies Coordinator: Rozanna Pleshet

“Knowledge acquired in childhood is not soon forgotten.” – Talmud, Shabbat



It is a highly valued and long held belief at Mount Sinai College that Jewish Education is the golden thread which weaves meaning and joy into the tapestry of our lives. The importance of these formative early years in developing one's Jewish identity should never be underestimated. Ensuring that every child develops the necessary skills and knowledge, as well as an academic experience steeped in our Jewish rituals, critical thinking and ethical behaviour is of paramount focus at the College. Our goal is to provide students with life-long tools to engage in the wider community with the confidence of knowing who they are and from where they have come, all the while ensuring that they see themselves as essential links in the chain of Jewish continuity.

Designing and delivering a curriculum that turns this goal into a reality is the aim of our Hebrew & Jewish Studies Department. I thank our wonderful team of educators Carolyn Rubinstein, Ruthie Rubinstein, Michelle Baruch, Osnat Zeevi, Liraz Zion, Dana Ewald and Deena Meyerson. This dedicated group strive to ensure that the Jewish Studies and Hebrew continue to remain compelling and relevant to our students. It is a joy to work with such a harmonious group who never balk at the challenges that the educational landscape presents. A true “sisterhood” in every sense of the word!

In addition to this team, our students have been lucky enough to benefit from the teachings of two skilled informal Jewish educators this year. Doron Lewin assisted during Jewish Studies and offered weekly co-curricular sessions to a variety of ages over the course of the year. Chana Levin, mother of Aryeh, generously volunteered her time to teach a very popular Parsha learning session for our Kindergarten to Year 2 students. I thank them both for their tireless efforts and unending dedication to Jewish education.

As in every family, it is inevitable that, at times, we bid farewell to loved ones. This year, we bid farewell to our dynamic and talented “Morah Michelle” as she embarks on a new chapter in her personal and professional life. Michelle and husband Joel are relocating to Melbourne in 2024. Although departing, it's with the promise of return. No doubt Michelle will bring back to Mount Sinai a wealth of experience and skills that will undoubtedly contribute to and enrich our team upon her “homecoming”. Michelle's departure is not “shalom”, but rather “le hitraot”. We wish Michelle and Joel “behatzlacha” for this exciting venture, and eagerly await their return to Sydney and MSC.

In June, we farewelled our much loved and highly respected Principal Phil Roberts. Phil's legacy of maintaining the highest educational standards across all subject areas, whilst at the same time remaining true to our school's values system of the “6 Kinds of Best” continue to inspire and guide our staff and students alike. We farewelled our College

Rabbi Yossi Friedman who always managed to smile and lift our spirits during the pandemic. We wish both Phil and Rabbi Yossi much success in all future endeavours.

As we express our heartfelt goodbyes, we simultaneously extend a warm welcome to Ms Noelene Bellingham, our College Principal. Noelene has already endeared herself with staff and students in her short time at MSC. Rabbi Zalman Goldstein has seamlessly filled the role of College Rabbi and is fast becoming a familiar face on campus. Embracing change, we look forward to forging new connections, building upon Phil's legacy, and charting a course towards continued academic excellence and spiritual growth under the guidance of Noelene and Rabbi Zalman.

"The golden key to Jewish education is the Hebrew language." Chaim Nachman Bialik
Language is a primary factor that binds people to people and people to places. In the case of Hebrew, it is the glue that binds our cultural heritage and enables access to our authentic texts as well as modern Israeli culture.

Our Hebrew Jewish Studies curriculum teaches our Hebrew language across subject areas including Tefillot, Parsha, Chumash and Modern Hebrew. Learning about our Jewish Festivals, Jewish values, and the history of the State of Israel complete the suite of offerings our students experience over the course of an academic year.

We conclude 2023 as a nation with heavy hearts. Gila Sacks, the youngest daughter of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks Z"L, who was recently asked what her father would have said if he were alive today, shares a timely reminder of why our spirit will never be broken.

"My father would have probably said the world needs voices of hope. Of moral courage, of moderation. Voices that remind us of the role faith must play in healing the world, not hurting it. Voices that help us to see the dignity of difference and have the courage to believe in a better world. 'Od lo Avda Tikavteinu' Have the courage to hope. And do not lose sight of why you are a Jew, and why now, more than ever, the world needs Judaism and the State of Israel, to be a blessing to others and a model of hope so that we can begin to heal some of this oh so fractured world."

Gila Sacks, youngest daughter of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks Z"L

We are dedicated to delivering this hope, reminding of the need to make the world a better place *"Tikkun Olam"* by enacting our Jewish values. Our student's Jewish education will impact positively to the global society by fostering responsible, compassionate, and ethical individuals who work towards a more just, inclusive, and harmonious world.

"To defend a country, you need an army. To defend civilization, you need education."
Rabbi Jonathan Sacks Z"L

Early Learning Centre Director's Report: Jill Allison



In our ever-evolving landscape of early childhood education, one concept that is of importance is "Critical Reflection". Embracing this concept leads us to transformative and continuous improvements.

"We do not learn from experience.... We learn from reflecting on experience." (by John Dewey)

Critical reflection involves "learning from everyday situations and problems. It means regularly asking questions of yourself and about your actions to better understand why things happened in a certain way and how this might inform future planning and actions. It is central to making changes and improvements to support children's learning and outcomes". (NSW Dept of Education).

As educators, critical reflection encourages us to become more *self-aware* (looking at one's strengths and areas that need improvement), have better *decision making skills* (what works best for each child, tailoring approaches to meet their unique needs), have a *deeper understanding* of children (understand their interests, abilities, and challenges), embrace *collaborative learning* (sharing insights and experiences), *adapt* the ever-changing landscape (embracing new research and best practice), and have improved outcomes to create an environment where children can thrive, develop essential skills, and cultivate a love for learning.

As we continue to reflect on the children's lives through the fundamental Early Years Framework, we recognise that the youngest cohort, the Puggles, are "**Belonging**" (belonging to an environment that feels safe, secure and connected to others, making them feel valued), our middle cohort, the Joeys are "**Being**" (about being in the present moment in this important phase of their lives). The oldest cohort, our Preparatory children are "**Becoming**" (becoming young children that are constantly growing and developing and preparing for the transition to school and beyond). This notion guides our ELC educators in supporting the children's holistic development and preparing them for a successful future.

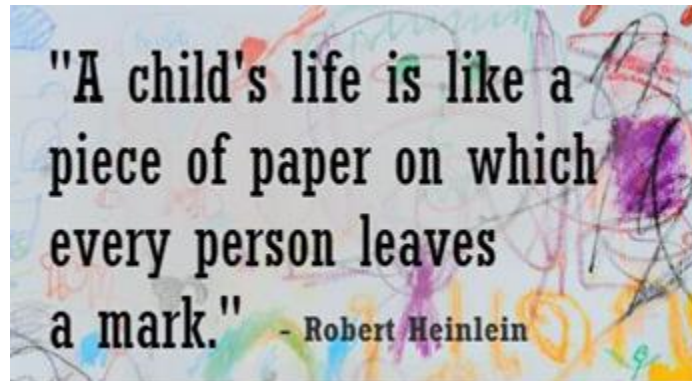
We look back at the year and see what we have achieved (growth in staff, record number of enrolments, new digital platform Storypark, parent involvement and many more). We will keep on looking at ways to continually improve at both the Maroubra Campus and the Kingsford Campus. I want to say thank you to all the ELC educators for a wonderful year and that you are all very much appreciated for the contributions and commitment you have made to the ELC and the children's learning journey.

Thank you to all the parents of the ELC who have entrusted us with the care and education of their children. Your trust in us and our program is very much appreciated, and we understand the immense responsibility that comes with nurturing and guiding

these young minds. We look forward to continuing to foster a positive and enriching educational journey for your children next year.

Thank you to our specialist educators, Coach Joel Weiner (Sport), Elana Shatari (Joeys & Prep music), Ruthie Rubinstein (Prep Hebrew) and Dana Ewald (Puggles & Joeys Hebrew), for continually broadening the children's education.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Noelene Bellingham (College Principle), Kathryn Pearce (College Business Manager), the MSC Board, Rachel Schwartz (ELC Enrolments Director), Kelly Cabral (Marketing Director), David Colville (IT Director), Kirsti Fox (a lady with many titles) and the amazing Admin team for all their help and support this year. It certainly does "take a village to raise a child".



College Rabbi: Rabbi Zalman Goldstein



To the wonderful things everyone has achieved; the amazing things that the teachers and staff have accomplished with their students; the lessons and messages that they were able to impart with their unique "Mount Sinai" spirit. But more importantly, we focus on the efforts and achievements of the students! Well Done! Yashar Koach! May you all continue to grow and thrive and continue making us all so proud! I truly enjoyed joining in with you for Tefilla, Assemblies, Rosh Chodesh, and special occasions.

I would like to suggest that we should all think of ways we can help and support our brothers and sisters in Israel, and Jews all around the world. We can do this the Jewish way. In a time, when our enemies choose darkness and evil, we must respond with bringing more light and pride to ourselves and our community. We are all searching for a message or inspiring thought to hold onto. Perhaps we can find it in the very first opening words of our holy Torah. In fact, G-d speaks and is quoted many times in the Torah, but how about we turn our attention to the very first time the Torah says, "and G-d said"? There it is, in the very first paragraph of the Torah "And G-d said, let there be light."

Let there be light indeed!

Perhaps G-d is telling us in the opening verses of the Torah to add light and make that our life's mission. When you see this in physical reality, it can really bring the message across. If you bring a child into a dark room, it can feel intimidating and frightening. All you need is even a small candle, a small glimmer of light, and you will see how much darkness is dispelled automatically. How much more so if you bring a lot of light. When things look very gloomy and dark, we don't despair, we bring more light. Perhaps we can begin with something small, but that small light can light up a room full of darkness.

There are so many ways we can bring light. On Friday nights, women and girls can light shabbat candles. We can pray - Dads can put on tefillin, we can all come to shule, get mezuzot on our doors, join the community in prayer, unity, and in comfort. We can call our friends and relatives and make sure they have all the support and love they need.

Lets keeps our heads high, with Hashem's help we will prevail, we always do.

School Captains: Liam & Gabriella

Wow, we can't believe our Mount Sinai journey is almost coming to an end. Mount Sinai has been our second home for so many years. How lucky are we to have spent so much time at such a wonderful, warm and welcoming school. Mount Sinai is not just a school, it's a community and we are all so lucky to be part of it. We are extremely thankful for all the opportunities and for all the brilliant memories we have had over the years. Our school motto is *ונשמע נעשה*, "We do and we heed" and the Six Kinds of Best are a key part of these values. The Six Kinds of Best have been part of everything we do at Mount Sinai!

Kind to Yourself

Mount Sinai isn't just a school for learning, it also offers friendships, memories and a lot of fun along the way, all of which we will remember forever. Our advice is to take all the opportunities that Mount Sinai offers and not to take it for granted. One of the opportunities that we are given from Years 4-6 at the end of the year is School Camp. This is a camp full of excitement, fun and bonding. It's 100% one of the highlights as we experience so many different activities and we have so much fun.

Kind to Others

The teachers at Mount Sinai have always demonstrated the *Six Kinds of Best* and they have always tried to pass these values on to us. Over the years, we have learnt to be kind to others and to always treat people the way we want to be treated. The teachers have taught us to respect others, and by respecting others we have been able to build strong friendships and learn from one another.

Another opportunity that the school provides is the “Buddies” program. This program lets us work with the younger kids, explaining and teaching them different skills and being a big sister or brother.

The Community Kind

The Community Kind is a very important value. There are so many activities at school that help to build our community. Every Thursday, we have inter-school sport. We look forward to playing against the other schools, meeting new students, and challenging ourselves. This is a great opportunity to bond with others through a common love of sports and activities.

Another opportunity that we get is to participate in is the Year 6 Camp held in Canberra. Three days full of activities, connecting with friends, cementing our knowledge as Australian Citizens and members of the Australian community, and just having a good time in the ACT. This is a real highlight of our MSC journey and connects us not only to the Jewish community, but to Australia as a nation.

As part of Jewish Studies, all Year 6 students complete community service hours along with a reflection of our experiences. We have volunteered at many places in our community; OBK, Plates for Mates and Friendship Circle to name a few. This is a very rewarding experience - it feels good to do Mitzvot.

Kind to the Environment

We spent our Infants years watching the incredible building take shape and have been very lucky to spend our Primary learning days in the amazing classrooms. We understand the importance of appreciating and looking after our environment, taking pride in our school, and working together to create a positive environment. Our teachers remind us that the little things can make a big difference and that we can all make an effort to pick up rubbish in the playground and keep our school clean.

The Achieving Kind

A person who shows the *Achieving Kind* has determination, drive, and passion. If you want to achieve and reach for the stars, this value is for you. There are many ways that you can achieve your goals at Mount Sinai and there is something suitable for everyone, including academics, sport, and music.

Every year, we have swimming and athletics carnival where students compete for their houses. We also have a band program and the opportunity to attend Music Camp, which is combined with other Jewish Schools. This camp involves three days of making new friends, playing our instruments, and learning new skills.

The Learning Kind

At Mount Sinai we learn, learn, learn.... We can participate in educational excursions, like the Year 5 Bathurst Excursion. Bathurst was incredible and we learnt all about Australian history and the Gold Rush.

At Mount Sinai we have the privilege to have our own iPads which just shows how much trust the teachers have in us! It also opens our eyes to new and interesting learning opportunities. Mount Sinai is an Apple Distinguished School and we have been so lucky to use technology to enhance our learning. Our teachers support us and work with us so we can learn at our own pace so that we can learn and achieve.

As we come to the end of our Primary School experience and our leadership role, we believe that there is a quote by Dr Seuss that has always stuck by us, "DON'T BE SAD BECAUSE IT'S OVER, SMILE BECAUSE IT HAPPENED". We are so grateful for our Mount Sinai experience. We want to say a huge thank you to Mount Sinai for creating a wonderful environment for all of us to thrive. We will miss dearly Mount Sinai.

From your School Captains,

Liam and Gabriella



Parents Association President – Kerri Segal

Dear MSC Community,

As we reflect on the whirlwind that has been 2023, it's safe to say it's been a rollercoaster ride of highs, lows, twists, turns, and even some unexpected loops. Amidst all the changes in direction, new leadership, and everything in between, we've witnessed something truly magical unfold at MSC—a year filled with excitement, beauty, community unity, and growth for our children at our extraordinary school.

A twist in my year was when the exceptional Roxy, always ready to lend a hand, inquired about how she could contribute. Seizing the opportunity, I asked her to join the PA as Deputy President. Consequently, Deputy evolved into my right-hand, and partner in "crime," or more fittingly, co-president in "crime," with lots of good laughs thrown in for good measure.

None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of our fantastic PA team, the dedicated school staff, incredible volunteers, our children who lend a hand at every event, and our ever-patient husbands who support us in our frenetic lives of juggling work, navigating PA duties, and parenting.

Our primary focus this year was community engagement, and we hope that you felt the Parents Association's supportive presence throughout. The year kicked off with Meet & Greet in the park for ELC, Prep & Year K, fostering early connections and friendships. To further strengthen our community bonds, we introduced 'Coffee & Catch-up,' where parents could drop off kids, get a free coffee, and have a chat. It was very special to connect with each other, so it has been continued on the first day of each term. The last day of each term, we do a 'drive-through' clothing drive for donations of previously loved uniforms, and now 'Coffee & Catch-up' is coupled with second-hand uniform sales.

Our MSC Movie team orchestrated two fantastic events at the Ritz: screenings of the Super Mario Bros Movie and Elemental. The response was overwhelming, with kids having a blast. Additional highlights included Wicked tickets organised by MSC Theatre and group tickets for Footy & Basketball by MSC Cheer Squad.

Driven by a passion for inclusion and community, our team successfully executed various initiatives: An ice cream party for Shavuot, Shabbaton in support of Israel, Banana bread for the MSC City2Surf team and a Sukkah hop with a stop at my home, to name a few.

Our community's strength truly shines during times of need. Whether assisting new immigrants, offering support during bereavement, or celebrating the arrival of a new baby, we come together. The Yachad meals provided immense comfort to families in our school, while events like 'Stand with Israel' at Maroubra Shule and fundraising for the JCA showcased our collective dedication.

Throughout the year, we ran various initiatives, such as coaster sales at Pesach, Mother's Day Breakfast and Market, Father's Day Scavenger Hunt, photo magnets, and coffee & biscuits for the Dads. Heartfelt thanks go out to all the volunteers; your efforts were truly appreciated, and the kids loved it. Our ongoing initiatives, including delicious birthday cakes and exciting Hot Dog days, continue to be a hit.

Volunteer opportunities arose from the Pesach Seder to Siddur Presentation, Grandparents/special person's day, and Hot Dog Day. I encourage each of you to get involved, stay connected, and share your ideas for new and exciting ventures. As we wrap up this eventful year, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you who played a part, big or small. Whether you volunteered, attended events, or simply offered a word of encouragement, you've made a difference.

With love,

Kerri x



Theme 2: Outcomes & results

2023

School facts

School sector	Non-government
School type	Primary
Year range	K-6
Location	Major Cities

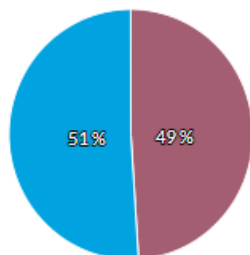
School staff

Teaching staff	21
Full-time equivalent teaching staff	19.8
Non-teaching staff	15
Full-time equivalent non-teaching staff	12.0

Students

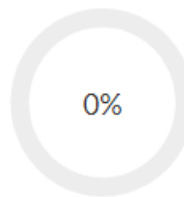
Total enrolments: 299

- Boys 152
- Girls 147



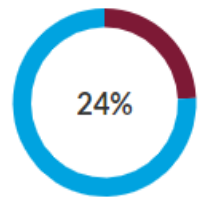
Full-time equivalent enrolments: 299.0

Indigenous students



Language background other than English

- Yes (24%)
- No (75%)
- Not stated (0%)

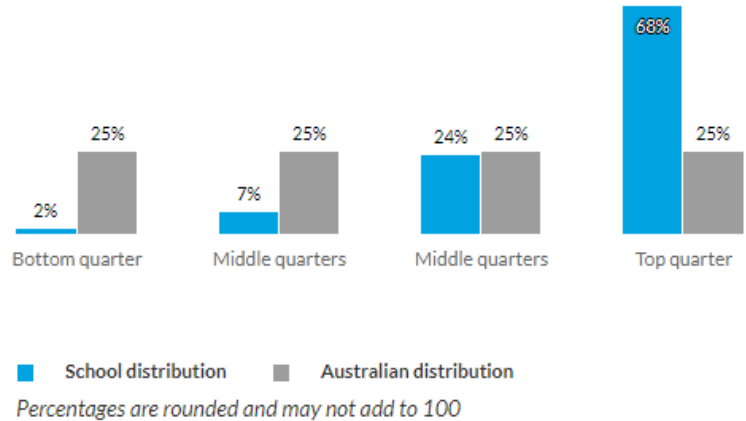


Student background

Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA)

School ICSEA value	1163
Average ICSEA value	1000
School ICSEA percentile	97

Distribution of Socio-Educational Advantage (SEA)



2023 Student NAPLAN Results

The College maintains a proud academic tradition and the 2023 NAPLAN results confirm, once again, the standard of excellence for which Mount Sinai College has become renowned.

Our school prides itself in ways in which we implement dynamic and formative assessment, not merely summative assessment methods. We also measure students' wellbeing and ensure our teaching and learning environment encourages curiosity and critical thinking.

	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar	Numeracy
Year 3	473	459	460	490	474
Year 5	547	509	517	532	536

Interpreting the table

Selected school's average when compared to all Australian students.

- Well above
- Above
- Close to
- Below
- Well below

Further information on student achievement can be found at <http://www.myschool.edu.au>

Theme 3: Staffing

Workforce composition

Type	Gender	All Staff		Indigenous	
		# of Staff	FTE	# of Staff	FTE
Principal	Female	1	1.0	0	0
Teaching Staff	Male	4	4.0		
	Female	16	14.8		
Specialist Support	Female	7	5.1		
Administration & Clerical	Male	1	1.0		
	Female	7	5.9		
Total		36	31.8		

Excludes Jewish Studies Teachers and Early Learning Centre staff.

Teacher accreditation

Level of accreditation	Number of Teachers
<i>Conditional</i>	2
<i>Provisional</i>	4
<i>Proficient Teacher</i>	28
<i>Highly Accomplished Teacher (voluntary accreditation)</i>	0
<i>Lead Teacher (voluntary accreditation)</i>	0
<i>Total number of teachers</i>	34

Excludes Early Learning staff.

At our school we embrace all faiths and backgrounds for all our staff and students. None of our staff members have identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, but we strongly encourage applications from First Nations and staff of other faiths.

Theme 4: Student attendance rates

Year Level	Attendance Rate %
Kindergarten	90.82%
Year 1	91.29%
Year 2	90.82%
Year 3	91.17%
Year 4	92.56%
Year 5	91.06%
Year 6	92.01%

Year Level	Attendance Rate %
Whole School	91.38%

Management of non-attendance

Mount Sinai College has processes in place for monitoring student attendance data. In 2023, 91.38 % of students attended school each day on average. This was similar to the daily attendance in 2022.

The College has implemented the following systems and procedures in order to monitor the daily attendance of students and identify absences from the College:

- Student attendance to be recorded in TASS by the class teacher.
- Late arrivals and early departures are entered by the Receptionist.
- Parents record the reason for student absence via the TASS parent portal.
- Receptionist accepts or declines the reasons provided for student absence. Any absence without a valid reason will result in the absence being recorded as an unjustified absence.

The College has implemented the following systems and procedures to follow up on unexplained absences from school:

- Classroom teacher will call or email the parents in the event of unexplained absences.
- The receptionist will follow up in the event of continued unexplained absences.
- Any written or emailed absence explanations will be saved in TASS.
- The principal will be notified by the office team of unusual or unexplained absences.
- Absences longer than 4 days for the purpose of travel, require an Extended Leave Travel Form to be completed by a student's parents. If the travel is for an approved reason, a student will be issued with a Certificate of Extended Leave Travel. The

absence will be recorded as Leave. If the leave is declined, the family will be issued with a letter of decline and the absence will be recorded as unjustified/unapproved on TASS. These completed documents are stored on the student's TASS file.

Unsatisfactory Attendance Intervention Strategies

The College has implemented the following strategies to improve unsatisfactory attendance and student engagement in school and learning:

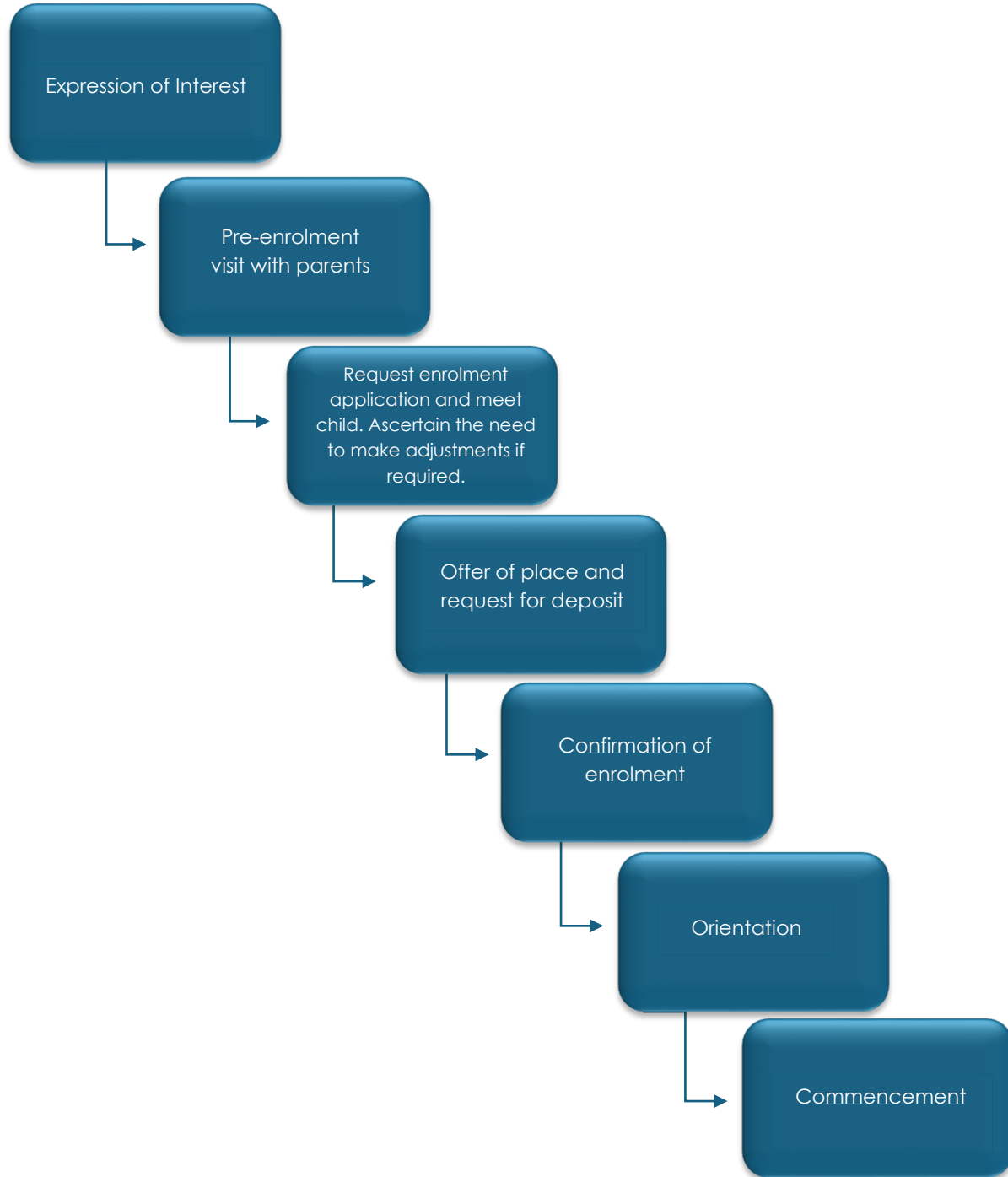
- The principal will call the family if a child has short- or long-term unexplained absences.
- The principal will establish if the reasons are legitimate and discuss with the College's psychologist if there are concerns.
- Continued absence may trigger mandatory E-reporting.
- School refusal issues will be dealt with by consulting the family and working closely with the College's psychologist and / or external psychologist/support network. A student Attendance Improvement Plan will be formulated in consultation with the family and relevant staff.

Additional data information on attendance is available on the My School website ([Home | My School](#)).



Theme 5: School Policies

Enrolment Policy



Entry to Mount Sinai College

Entry to Mount Sinai College is open to any pupil desiring a Modern Orthodox Jewish education coupled with a secular education based on the curriculum laid down by the New South Wales Board of Studies. The College maintains a policy providing equal opportunity for boys and girls and for children with additional educational needs where the college can provide a reasonable adjustment without causing unjustifiable hardship.

Withdrawal

Once a pupil attends the College, a term's notice of withdrawal must be given in writing to the Principal. In default of such notice, a full term's fees will be payable, unless special circumstances acceptable to the Board of Management are established.

Exclusion from the College

If the Principal, or an acting Principal, considers that a student is guilty of a serious breach of the rules or has otherwise engaged in conduct which is prejudicial to the College, students or staff, then a temporary or permanent exclusion may apply at their absolute discretion.

Furthermore, if the Board or the Principal believes that a mutually beneficial relationship of trust and cooperation between a parent and College has broken down to the extent that it adversely impacts on that relationship, then the school, the Board or the Principal may require the parent to remove the child from the College. No remission of fees will apply in either case.

Theme 5: Other School Policies

The following school policies are publicly available on the website:

- [Enrolment policy](#)
- [Child protection policy](#)
- [Anti-bullying policy](#)
- [Discipline policy](#)
- [Complaints policy](#)

Theme 6: Stakeholder satisfaction

The College adheres to an ‘Open Door’ policy and welcomes parents to become involved in the operations of the College through Board membership, Board sub-committees and the Parents’ Association.

Parental involvement is high, allowing regular feedback through informal channels and formal meetings.

Every two years, the College also conducts a comprehensive survey – a process that is outsourced. Results of the survey are made widely available to parents. Improvement targets are determined as a result.

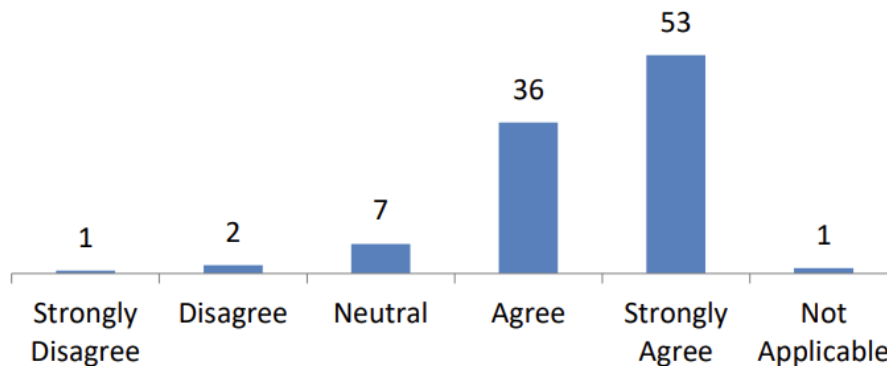
The survey questions focus on the following main areas:

- Cultures and Values
- Learning
- Emotional well-being and mental health
- Facilities
- Co-curricular programs
- Communication
- Parent's Association and the Board

The College is due to conduct this in-depth survey again in 2024.

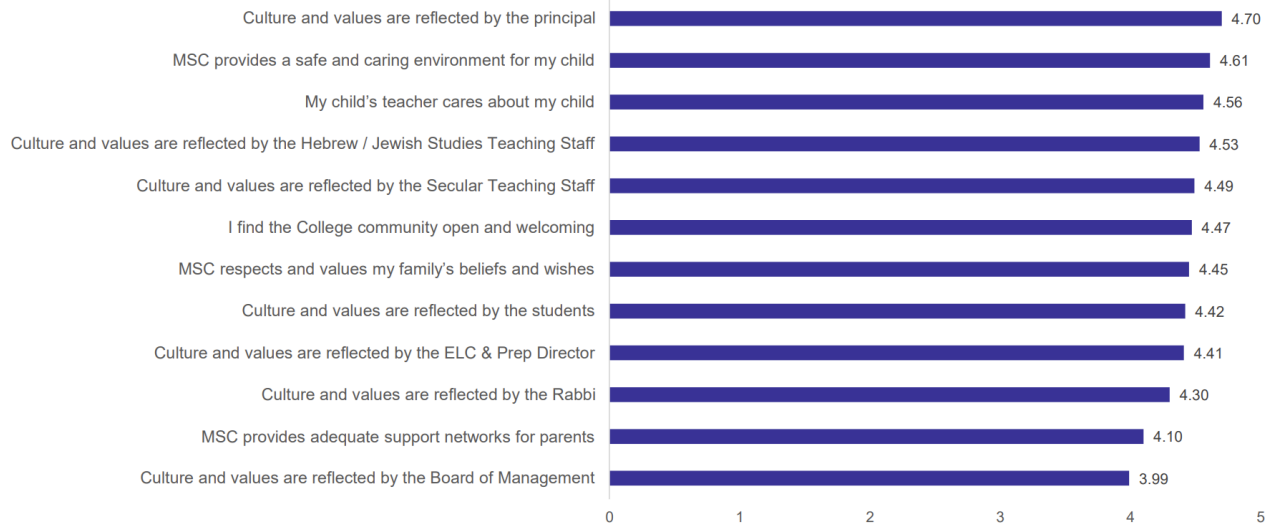
The highlights below from our most recent survey show a high level of satisfaction across the College.

MSC respects and values my family’s beliefs and wishes



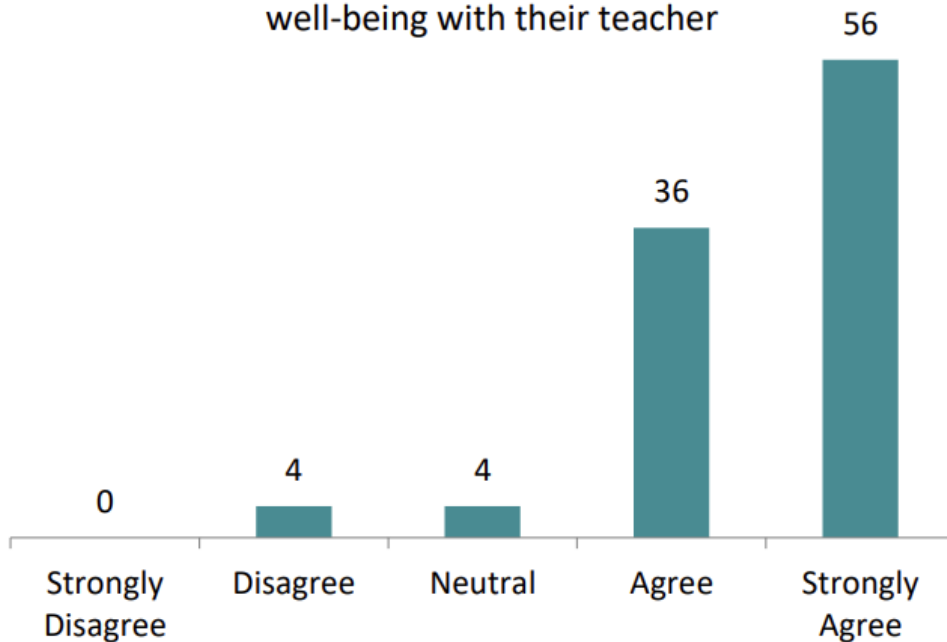
Summary of the Culture and Values Responses

Summary



Wellbeing

I am comfortable raising issues relating to my child's well-being with their teacher



Comments About Our Students

“Kids are mostly kind and respectful.”

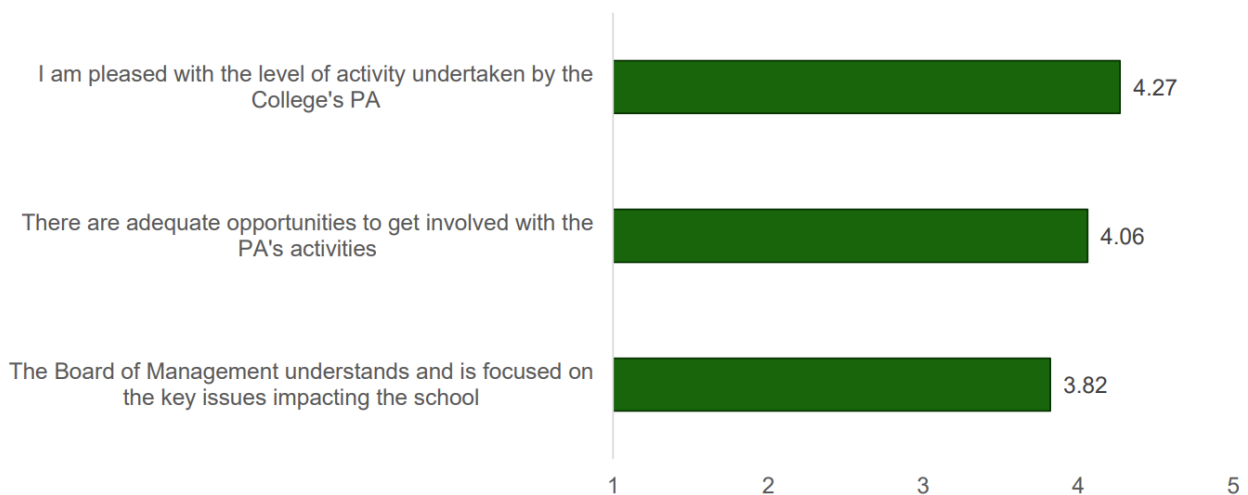
“The kids I see at school pick up / drop off are always friendly & polite, kids from other grades readily greet my child. When I attended an assembly with a pram & was standing near an exit in case I needed to quickly duck out, a student quickly brought me a chair.”

“I think kindness is something that is very much a part of the every day, from kids welcoming each other to supporting each other throughout the grades”.

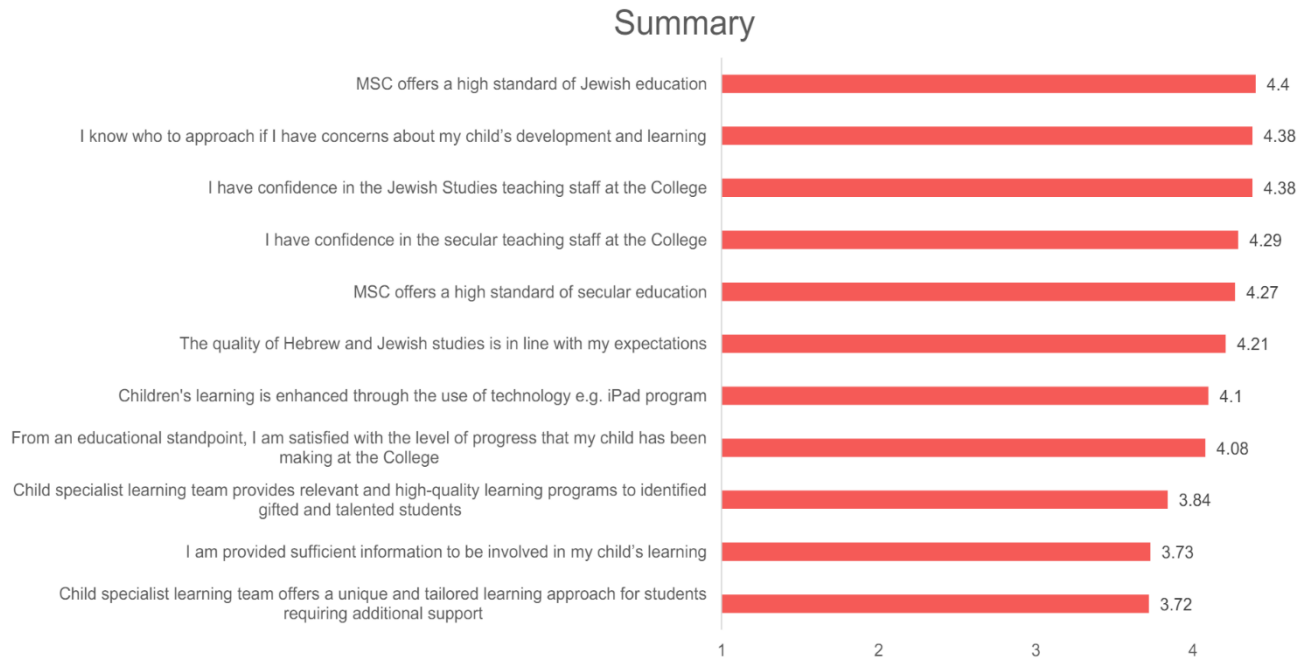
“The six kinds and other value-centred initiatives at MSC promote a school culture that is welcoming and purpose-driven.”

“The children grow up with a better sense of self and community than other schools! Having come from moriah for primary and high school myself, I can truly say that I'm very happy with our decision to have our children go to MSC primary school! Best choice we ever made!”

Parent Involvement



Summary of the Responses to Questions about Learning



In addition to the survey there are many occasions throughout the year that promote social cohesion and ultimately provide feedback. Such occasions include:

- Grade evenings – a forum for discussing with parents the educational program for that particular year level.
- Parent teacher interviews – conducted twice a year.

Student Wellbeing Survey

In 2023, the teachers completed several smaller surveys around student mental health and wellbeing. Questions allowed students to rate their mental health and wellbeing and provided the opportunity to tell teachers about things that were worrying them.

Questions included:

- I've been feeling optimistic about the future.
- I feel loved.
- Something is worrying me.

Following the survey's analysis, a weekly well-being meeting was established to support students and families.

The more intimate the environment at the College also allows us the opportunity to probe student satisfaction and wellbeing on a regular basis.

Teacher Self-Assessment

All staff completed the AITSL Teacher Self-Assessment Tool which can be found on the following website:

<https://www.aitsl.edu.au/teach/improve-practice/teacher-self-assessment-tool>

The Teaching Standards are statement that describes the professional knowledge, professional practice and professional engagement required of teachers. They comprise seven Standards describing what teachers should know and be able to do.

This survey provided the staff with an individual report across every focus area of the Teacher Standards, plus tailored insights to support their professional growth. The survey was used across the school by individual teachers and the leadership team to plan ongoing professional development for teachers.



Theme 7: Summary financial information

