



ST. JOSEPH'S  
SCHOOL

HINDMARSH

# FORTNIGHTLY Newsletter

Issue 7: 7th May 2019



ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL HINDMARSH

## Principal's Tour



Wednesday 5th June 2019

Commencing at 12 noon

PLEASE INFORM INTERESTED

FAMILY & FRIENDS

**IMAGINE • DISCOVER • CREATE • ACHIEVE**

Please let any family and friends know who may be interested in attending one or both of our *Come & Try Sessions* in the Preschool

**come  
& try**

**BOOK NOW**

# Kindergarten

**2x SESSIONS**

**6th June & 20th June**  
**9.30am - 10.45am**



**Be curious & Explore our Preschool at St Joseph's**

St Joseph's Catholic School Hindmarsh | 56 Albemarle Street, West Hindmarsh SA 5007 | [www.sjsh.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sjsh.catholic.edu.au)



# ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

HINDMARSH

## Special Friends &

# Grandparents DAY



## Wednesday 5th June

Arrival 9.00am

ready for a 9.15am start

Choir/Band Performance • Grandparents Liturgy

Classroom Visits • Morning Tea

More information later.

RSVP 27th May 2019 for catering

## Diary Dates for Term 2

### Week 2

8 May: Mothers Day Stall  
School Board Chairpersons Forum

### Week 3

NAPLAN  
13 May: Mothers Day Liturgy Reception–Year 2  
16 May: Years 1 and 2 all day Excursion to Gorge Wildlife Park  
17 May: Walk Safely to School Day

### Week 4

NAPLAN  
20 May: P & F Meeting

### Week 5

29 May: School Board Meeting

### Week 6

Catholic Education Week  
5 June: Grandparents/Special Friends Day – STEM EXPO  
Principals Tour  
6 June: Come & Try our Preschool

### Week 7

10 June: Queen's Birthday–Public Holiday–School Closed  
12 – 14 June: Year 5/6 School Camp

### Week 8

17 June: Refugee Week  
P & F Meeting  
Catholic Athletics' Carnival  
20 June: Come & Try our Preschool

### Week 9

26 June : School Board Meeting  
26 June: Whole School Mass to give thanks and gratitude for  
Father Bill and the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart  
28 June : Feast of the Sacred Heart  
Cultural Day and Dinner

Saturday 29: Parish Event – Farewell Fr Bill and  
Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

### Week 10

4 July Learning Journey  
5 July End of Term 2 at 12.30pm

# LEADERSHIP & OFFICE CONTACT DETAILS

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56 Albemarle Street, West Hindmarsh 5007

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Welcome back to school! I hope you enjoyed the holiday break and took the opportunity to enjoy the glorious weather.

The first day of school this term was one of those memorable moments I will truly treasure! Seeing the expressions of wonder and awe from students, staff and parents on entering the new learning spaces was just magical! Students and Parents who attended the tour were asked to record their 'first impressions' – these have been captured and included below for you all.



These high quality learning spaces will enable us to continue providing your child with contemporary learning opportunities, helping them achieve their potential and preparing them for future success.

High quality teaching has always been our commitment and will continue to be our highest priority to ensure your child can **Imagine Discover Create** and **Achieve**.

Last term the focus of the professional learning was 'moderation' of student work using the Language Scales facilitated by Kay Carmody. This term teachers will be working with Kate Dilger the Executive Officer from South Australian Science Teachers Association, to further develop their understanding of, and confidence in incorporating **STEM** pedagogy across the curriculum.

I would like to acknowledge the work undertaken by ALL staff throughout the building process in moving, creating, establishing and re-establishing learning spaces. Many were here on weekends and after hours to ensure that all was set for learning as soon as the term began!

## *Appreciation & Thanks!*

I know this dedication is valued and appreciated by the students!

### **What next?**



The transportable buildings will be removed from our site by the end of this term. The area where the transportables currently stand will be developed according to the concept plans developed by past students and Jet Htun, (Claire's dad).

Some of this area will be paved. You are invited to purchase a personalized engraved paver.

*Order forms will be available soon.*

### **Parent Workshops**

Recently you received information regarding some upcoming parent workshops. In previous surveys parents had expressed an interest in attending workshops. We have been fortunate to have received a PIE grant to make these workshops possible for no cost. Please take advantage of this opportunity. A creche will be available and wine & cheese too. Come along with some friends!! An information pamphlet will be sent out tomorrow regarding the first session which will be held on Wednesday 19th June at 7.00pm. Please book so we can organize the night.

### **Come & Try Preschool**

Last week the eldest child was given an envelope containing 20 flyers to advertise the "Come and Try" Preschool sessions being held soon. Thank you for helping us to promote our preschool in the wider community. If you would like additional flyers, please let Judith in the front office know.

### **Federal Election Update - Catholic Education's key election objectives**

Catholic schools are a vital part of Australia's education landscape; from humble beginnings almost 200 years ago, Catholic Education is now the nation's largest provider of education outside the government.

The key national issues for Catholic Education at the upcoming federal election are:

- increased capital funding
- more resources for early childhood education
- religious freedom in schools

To find out more go to: <http://www.cesa.catholic.edu.au/news/federal-election-2019>

Additional information is also included further in the newsletter.

## Staff News

Dawn Saleeba has decided to retire as Bursar after 33 years of exemplary and committed service to St Joseph's school,

*always shining to give witness to Mary MacKillop's mission*

*In All Things Love.*

There will be an opportunity later this term to demonstrate our gratitude for Dawn's service to our community.

Dawn will be greatly missed by students, staff and parents alike.

I also wish to inform you that I will be taking Long Service Leave from Monday 26 August until Friday 27 September. A process of selection will now commence to appoint an Acting Principal during my absence. The community will be notified in writing as soon as this process is completed.

## Grandparents/Special Friends Day

I look forward to seeing many Grandparents and Special friends on Wednesday 5 June and to continue building and celebrating our wonderful community.

## Mothers Day Stall

Today we held our annual Mothers' Day Stall. The children are so excited about selecting a gift for their mother or special person in their life. We thank our wonderful Parent and Friends volunteers who are helping out with buying, wrapping and now today selling the gifts. You are providing our children with a wonderful opportunity and we sincerely thank you for your valuable time and expertise.

**We would like to take this opportunity  
to wish all our families a very  
Happy Mother's Day on Sunday.**

May it be a day when mothers and significant  
people are surrounded by

*LOVE.*

God Bless,

Maria D'Aloia on behalf of the  
leadership Team Helen Clark and Rita Garreffa.



## *A Mother's Day Prayer*

**Dear Lord,**  
Please watch over  
and support all mothers  
and carers  
on earth  
and in heaven .....

And help them to know how  
much they are loved  
and appreciated  
on Mother's Day  
*and*  
every day.

# Religious Education News

## Reconciliation

The following students received the Sacrament of Reconciliation in beautiful ceremonies in Week 11 last term.

Alessandra Ielasi, Gianluca Ruffo, Jordina Falanga, Leila Vrbanac, Massimo Cirillo, Mia Lamberti, Molly Rayner, Victoria Lamberti, Zara Lamberti, Darius Flynn and Aaron Zito

Thank you to staff and families who attended and supported these children in this stage of their Faith journey. Thank you also to Fr Bill, Fr Krish Mathavan and Fr Tony Densley who officiated at our Sacramental Liturgies.

These children will continue their Sacramental Program throughout the Year.



## Masses and Liturgies Term 2

- R-2 Mother's Day Liturgy in the hall- 9am Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May
- 6C Mass in Chapel- 9am Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May
- Year 3-4 Mass @ Sacred Heart Church- 9:30am Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> of May
- Grandparent's and Special Friends Liturgy in the hall- 9:15am Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June
- 5TC to host a whole school Mass in the hall- 9am Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June
- 5-6 Combined Schools Sacred Heart of Jesus Mass @ Sacred Heart Church- time TBC Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June
- 5/6G and 3TDP to host Whole school end of term Liturgy- 9am

## *A Prayer of Gratitude for our New Learning Space*

*Lord,*

Yours is the earth and all that is in it.  
And in Your goodness, You have entrusted it to our care –  
To provide us with places to dwell together as Your people.

We ask You to bless our students, our new learning space and the land it is built upon.

May it be a place where Your designs for our children's lives are wisely discerned and nurtured.

We ask Your blessing and safety for all who helped to build and plan our new space.

May they be filled with Your strength and peace as they complete the plans that You inspire.

May all who pass through its doors be filled with the joy of Your abiding presence as they work  
and learn in the light of our Catholic faith.

We make this prayer to You,

In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**God Bless**

**Helen Clark  
APRIM**





**St Joseph's  
Parents  
& Friends**

# Easter Rabble Results

CONGRATULATIONS

1st Prize:	Kathleen M
2nd Prize:	C Moore
3rd Prize:	Catherine Bendys
4th Prize:	Daniel Tran
5th Prize:	Kate
6th Prize:	Tony De Blasio
7th Prize:	Esther Geo
8th Prize:	Max Wilson
9th Prize:	Jordan Brown
10th Prize:	Quynh Pham
11th Prize:	Bhim
12th Prize:	Copper Margrie
13th Prize:	Albanese Family
14th Prize:	Liliana 6C
15th Prize:	Gianluca Ruffo
16th Prize:	Saahel
17th Prize:	Rachel Irlam
18th Prize:	Joel Mercurio
19th Prize:	Jess Pollice
20th Prize:	Jo Poulton
21st Prize:	Lisa Ranaldo
22nd Prize:	Fusco Family
23rd Prize:	Melissa Thom
24th Prize:	Denise Tarrant

*We hope you enjoyed your prizes!!*

St Joseph's Hindmarsh

**let's  
play**

**Playgroup**  
Every Wednesday  
9am - 10.30am

Please bring a piece of fruit to share

Follow us on Instagram  
@letsplay\_playgroup 



# PE News from Cristian Morgado

## Soccer 2019 Season

- Games commence on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May.
- U6-U11 games are all played at St Clair.
- Senior games are played at Underdale High School and West Lakes
- Please check the website for fixtures at [www.nwjisa.org.au](http://www.nwjisa.org.au)
- Under 6 is vs St Francis Lockleys Red field Z1. The clinic starts at 8:30am and game starts at 9:00am.
- Under 7 Blue is vs Immaculate Heart of Mary field V. Clinic starts at 12:00pm and game starts at 12:30.
- Under 7 Gold is vs Seaton Park in field W. Clinic starts at 8:30am and game starts at 12:30pm.
- Under 8 is vs Nailsworth White in field U at 10:45am.
- Under 9 is vs Prospect in field X at 10:45am.
- The under 10 and 11 are playing under Mt Carmel and they will be given their timetable as soon as the NWJSA send us the team they are registered in.



I would also like to thank all the parents that offered to coach the teams.

If there are students still interested to play please email at [cmor@sish.catholic.edu.au](mailto:cmor@sish.catholic.edu.au) as soon as possible.

## SAPSASA Knockout Netball, Soccer and Basketball

I would like to thank all those year 6 students that have sent their emails nominating for the knockout competitions.

- Knockout soccer for girls will be played on a Monday week 7 or 8 of this term.
- Knockout soccer for boys will be played around week 5 more information will be given in the coming weeks.
- Netball girls will be played on Friday week 5 or 6 of this term.
- Basketball knockout boys and girls will be played either on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> or Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> of July.
- Knockout dates might change depending on a number of circumstances. We'll let you know if there are changes.

## SACPSSA Athletics Carnival

The SACPSSA Athletics Carnival is being held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June. Selected students will be invited to attend. More information will be distributed shortly.

## SACPSSA Cross Country Carnival

The SACPSSA Cross Country Carnival is being held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August. Selected students will be invited to attend. More information will be distributed shortly.

# School Awards for the Values & Respect

At Assembly children who have excelled during the week are presented with a Certificate. The teacher chooses this award from our School Values or from our 5 Respects. Congratulations to the children received Awards. In Term 1 Week 10

## School Values

- Respect
- Compassion
- Hope
- Forgiveness
- Service

CLAYTON 3/4MDP  
School Value of Respect

MORRISSEY 4C  
School Value of Respect

MILA 4C  
School Value of Respect, Compassion,  
Hope, Forgiveness & Service

## 5 Respects

- Self
- Others
- Staff
- Learning
- Property and Environment

LILA RM  
Respect for Staff, Learning,  
Property and Environment

CHLOE B 1/2S  
Respect for Learning

MEHTAAB 5/6D  
Respect for Learning

CIANA 6C  
Respect for Others

## The Italian Awards

Presented from the School Values and 5 Respects

GRACE C  
Respect for Learning

ARLO S  
Respect for Learning

JACK S  
Respect for Compassion

AVA P  
Respect for the Environment

# Ruby



Sub-junior 8yrs champ section

★ 1st Place ★

**Congratulations Ruby**  
**SA Calisthenics**

# What is happening in the Preschool?

## Welcome to Term 2 May 2019

As we continue to investigate identity and diversity, we are introducing the children to different languages and dialects. We encourage the children to have a strong sense of who they are and their connectedness to others – a shared identity as Australians. Driven by the interests of the children and to celebrate the International Year of Indigenous Languages we will focus on the Kurna language with a focus on animals.

***The International Year of Indigenous Languages*** is a United Nations observance in 2019 that aims to raise awareness of the consequences of the endangerment of Indigenous languages across the world, with an aim to establish a link between language, development, peace, and reconciliation.



Stories, videos and an Australian animal play table will be introduced as we further explore the Kurna language.



**Ngana ngai, Who Am I?** introduces young readers to both native animals and the concept of Indigenous language - in this case the Kurna language, from South Australia. The book names the Kurna words for animals such as parrot, wombat, kangaroo, cockatoo and echidna and provides a simple fact about each animal.

**Pirtawardli** are a series of videos featuring Pirlta the Possum, Kurraka, the Magpie and Kuula the Koala. Each episode introduces Kurna language with cheeky banter and humour.

In week three we will meet some Australian animals up close and personal when we are visited by Tamara from ***Animals Anonymous***. <http://animalsanonymous.com.au/>



**ST. JOSEPH'S  
SCHOOL**

HINDMARSH



## WE'RE TAKING IT IN OUR STRIDE ON FRIDAY, 17 MAY 2019

Well it's that time of year again when our school seriously starts talking about walking!

Not only is walking a wonderful way to get you where you want to be, but it also gets your health – and your child's health on the right track too. So that's why this year our school is participating in National Walk Safely to School Day on Friday 17 May 2019.

Walk Safely to School Day asks that we all consider our transport habits and try to incorporate more walking as part of a healthy, active way to get around. And although walking all the way to school isn't realistic for many of us, it's quite easy to figure out how you can build a walk into your family's daily routine.

You can teach your child the healthy habit of walking more by:

- Walking with them the whole way to school
- If they get the bus or train, walk past your usual stop and get on at the next stop
- If you have to drive, park the car a few blocks away from the school and walk the rest of the way.

Regular exercise like walking with your child not only helps them (and you!) beat chronic problems like obesity, heart disease, behavioural and mental health issues and diabetes. It also gives you a great opportunity to teach your child safe ways to behave around roads and traffic.

Remember, Active Kids are Healthy Kids so get planning your own Walk Safely to School Day journey for Friday 17 May 2019!

For more information, visit [www.walk.com.au](http://www.walk.com.au)





ST. JOSEPH'S  
SCHOOL

HINDMARSH



[www.walk.com.au](http://www.walk.com.au)

Friday 17 May 2019

Parents are asked  
to park their car  
a block away  
and WALK to  
school OR  
maybe leave the  
car at home!

*Don't forget to use our new School Crossing*

We will be  
hosting a  
healthy breakfast  
in our Breakfast Club

Morning Fitness  
on Thursday  
16 May

# **CREATING THE LIBRARY**



**As you can see our new Library is taking shape.**

**We have been busy sorting through books that have been in storage as well as the books from the Library in the Hall.**

**The new wall shelves arrived on Friday and it is beginning to look brilliant.**

**Special thanks to Sue Ciampi and Isabelle Welsh (helps cover and mend our books), Maria Apostolou and Denise Tarrant for all their help.**

**We hope the Library will be ready for use by the start of Week Three.**

**Thanks Kay Carmody**



# Mayoral Make-A-Book Literacy Challenge 2019

## Celebrating 30 Years

If you are a preschool or primary school aged child who lives or studies in the City of Charles Sturt, you're eligible to enter our annual book making competition, which has been running since 1979. Our school supports this local initiative by incorporating the Mayoral Make-a-Book into their Literacy outcomes. All classes will devote time for the writing process. Each child is invited to individually, in small groups or as a whole class to enter the competition.

Your book entry can be:

- ♦ a story, graphic novel, informational, poetry... and on any topic
- ♦ English or multilingual
- ♦ a physical book, e-book or audio book
- ♦ created by yourself, with friends or even your whole class
- ♦ up to 1000 words in length

All participants are recognised for their efforts. Prizes vouchers are awarded to the most outstanding entries. Being involved is the most important factor!

Judges look for:

- ♦ original ideas and themes, creative use of language, sound spelling and grammar (drafting and proofreading are important!)
- ♦ a balance between beginning, middle and end
- ♦ appealing design, layout and format; illustrations that complement the text (if applicable)
- ♦ presentation and neatness

\* Binding style is not judged but make sure your book is strong enough to be handled by stapling fully one side of your entry.

How to enter: Books collected by class teachers.

Students may also enter books completed at home by giving them to their teacher.

Entries close Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019 (T2, W5)

An entry form is available from your class teacher and must be **glued on the back cover of your book.**

There needs to be an entry form from each child if co-written.

*Be careful if you wish to write a blurb. Add this blurb inside the back cover.*

Any enquiries: Kay Carmody – Literacy/EALD Co-ordinator



# TRB looking for feedback



Teachers  
Registration Board  
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

## Parent & Carer Feedback

The Teachers Registration Board of South Australia registers all teachers in South Australia.

The Teachers Registration and Standards Act 2004 (the Act) which legislates how the Board oversees registration and the teaching profession is currently being reviewed.



We would like feedback on the suggested changes and potential outcomes of this review from anyone in the community who has an interest in education or the teaching profession.

Have your say with a quick  
online survey at  
[trb.sa.edu.au](http://trb.sa.edu.au)

A consultation paper 'Enhancing Teacher Registration in South Australia' which outlines possible changes to the Act is available to read on our website.

Feedback can be provided

- via a submission or
- by taking a quick online survey.

For further information, to make a submission or to take the survey please go to:  
[www.trb.sa.edu.au](http://www.trb.sa.edu.au).

If you have any questions please contact us using the information below.

Please provide your feedback by 31 May 2019.



Teachers  
Registration Board  
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

T: 8253 9700  
E: [Info@trb.sa.edu.au](mailto:Info@trb.sa.edu.au)  
W: [www.trb.sa.edu.au](http://www.trb.sa.edu.au)



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credit  
unionsa 

*School  
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Rewards*

All members of the school community must consider their own circumstances and obtain their own advice before joining School Community Rewards. The school takes no responsibility for any advice or product provided by Credit Union SA Ltd. This information is general in nature and doesn't take into account your own personal circumstances. It is important for you to consider the terms and conditions before acquiring any of our products or services to help you decide whether they are suitable for you. Conditions and fees apply. Lending criteria apply to all credit products. Products are issued by Credit Union SA Ltd except for insurance where the Credit Union acts as an agent for Allianz Australia Insurance Ltd AFSL 234708. Credit Union SA Ltd ABN 36 087 851 232, AFSL/Australian Credit License 241066, 400 King William Street, Adelaide SA 5000.



*We aspire to*  
**Success for All**

**7 - 12 Secondary College Tour**

*Thursday 16 May, 9:30am*

*Enrolling now for Year 7 in 2022*

**[www.nazareth.org.au](http://www.nazareth.org.au)**

# THE FACTS ON SCHOOL FUNDING IN AUSTRALIA



School funding can be a confusing and contentious topic – so it's important that parents and school communities know the facts.

This leaflet explains how and why governments fund all not-for-profit schools, including Catholic schools.



## KEY STATISTICS (2018) - CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN AUSTRALIA

Schools



1750

Students



764,190

Staff



96,098

Catholic schools  
have educated  
Australian  
students for  
almost  
200 years

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS EDUCATE 1 IN 5 STUDENTS



## THE COST OF A SCHOOL EDUCATION

The true cost of a school education in Australia is much higher than most people realise. The Federal Government calculates the basic cost at \$11,343 per primary student and \$14,254 per secondary student for 2019. That would be a huge cost for most Australian families, especially if they have two or more children.

This is why state/territory and federal governments provide some funding to all not-for-profit school sectors.



PRIMARY STUDENT  
\$11,343



SECONDARY STUDENT  
\$14,254

## HOW GOVERNMENT FUNDING IS CALCULATED

Funding for all schools in all sectors is calculated using the same needs-based measure – the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS).

Each school's SRS is calculated according to the needs of its students, starting with a base amount - \$11,343 per primary student or \$14,254 per secondary student plus extra funding for six types of disadvantage.

So a primary school educating many disadvantaged students may have an SRS of more than \$17,000 per student, while another educating highly advantaged students may have an SRS of less than \$12,000 per student.

The SRS is a funding target and was introduced in 2014. For many state and territory governments, it represents a big jump in their school funding commitments as they are the majority funders of public schools which educate two-thirds of all students. Meeting the SRS is therefore being phased in over several years with Federal assistance.

## WHO PAYS THE SRS?

In public schools, the SRS is funded solely by state/territory and federal governments; parents are not required to contribute.

In Catholic and other non-government schools, state/territory and federal governments fund 20-90% of the SRS base amount according to a means test of the school's parents, who are expected to make up the shortfall. The more parents can afford to pay, the less public funding a non-government school attracts.

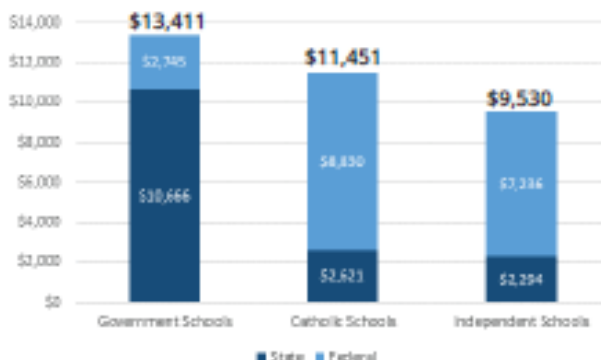
## IT'S A FACT



- Funding for all students in all school sectors is calculated using the same needs-based measure - the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS)
  - In public schools, the SRS is solely funded by taxpayers
  - In Catholic and other non-government schools, parents pay part of the SRS according to an assessment of their ability to pay
  - Public school funding has never been cut to fund Catholic schools. Funding for public schools has risen every year in line with enrolments and indexation
- Catholic Education supports a strong, properly funded public schools sector
  - All Australian students should have access to a quality education, no matter which school they attend
- Catholic school parents are also taxpayers and deserve a fair share of government funding support to keep their children's schools affordable
- By keeping Catholic schools affordable, one in five Australian children can attend a school that reflects their parents' values and beliefs – an important feature of a pluralist society
- Catholic schools save taxpayers money; without affordable Catholic schools, taxpayers would need to fund 100% of the cost of educating Catholic school students, instead of around 70%

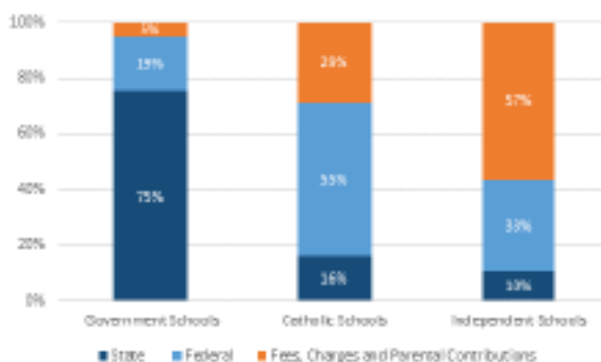
## HOW MUCH GOVERNMENT FUNDING DO SCHOOLS RECEIVE?

### 2017 TOTAL GOVERNMENT RECURRENT FUNDING (per student average)



## HOW MUCH DO CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENTS PAY?

### SOURCES OF RECURRENT FUNDING 2017

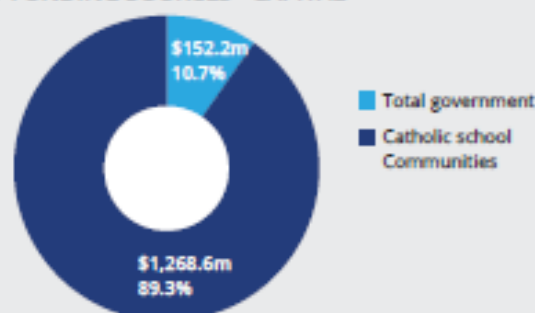


Catholic school communities, on average, contribute almost 30% of the cost of educating their students. The remainder is covered by a combination of state/territory and federal government funding.

Without this government funding support, Catholic systemic schools would need to charge parents the full cost of educating their child. This would put a Catholic education out of reach for most Australian families, forcing them onto the public schools sector which is already stretched.

In 2017, Catholic school communities paid \$3.6 billion in fees and \$1.27 billion in capital funding to support their schools. This represents a significant saving to taxpayers.

### 2017 FUNDING SOURCES - CAPITAL



# insights

## Mum's the work

by Michael Grose



Watching my own children become parents is an unexpected parenting joy.

Not in the light-hearted 'your-turn-has-come' way where older generations delight in watching their own children endure the same sleepless nights, naughty toddler behaviour and teenage rebelliousness that they experienced as parents.

The joy for me lies in watching my adult kids protect, teach, nurture and support their children, in the time-honored way that parents have done for generations. This work, also known as generative parenting, was outlined by American psychologists and researchers Dollahite, Hawkins and Brotherson in the 1990's.

Also known as mother work (and father work), generative parenting refers to the instinctive activities of parents that enable the next generation to survive and thrive. These activities range from providing kids with food and shelter and other basic needs through to developing more complex skills in their kids such as working with others, adapting to change and developing the resourcefulness needed for full independence.

Like most parents my daughters want to be the best parents they can be so they both devour parenting books, attend courses when they can and join online chat groups for support and ideas.

But it's their mother work, their instinctive work, that's their most potent parenting force. Here's why.

### Mother work is protective

When my eldest daughter visits our house she does a quick reconnaissance trip through each room, lifting errant blind cords and removing heavy objects, to make our house safe for her two boys to move around. The protective side is strong.

### Mother work is educative

When my youngest daughter patiently explains to her exuberant young three year old that she needs to allow other children to share her toys, she is doing important teaching work. That requires super patience.

### Mother work is nurturant

The safety my daughters provide when they wrap their arms around their children when they've fallen and hurt themselves comes naturally to them.

## Mother work is supportive

The emotional support these young women provide to their children when they've been upset by the thoughtless or rough behaviours of siblings and friends is often hard work. But they are up to the task.

My daughters' mother work will continue well into their children's teen years and beyond. The nature of the work will change with each developmental stage but the intent of the work –to nurture, protect, teach and support – will stay the same.

Men can do this work too, but they do it differently. When a mother instinctively protects she generally draws her child closer before searching out the source of fear. There'll be lots of cuddles before she puts a nightlight on to ease a child's fear of the dark.

When a father instinctively protects he's more likely to eliminate the source of fear, and skill his child up to fend for themselves. He'll prove there's nothing to be scared of when the light goes out, and show his child how to turn on the light when needed. Both are valid approaches, and are indicative of the gender differences in child-rearing.

This Mother's Day, it's my daughters' instinctive mother work that I'll celebrate, as that is real magic of parenting.

Happy Mother's Day.



### Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's the author of 12 books for parents including *Spoonfed Generation* and the best-selling *Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change It*. His latest release *Anxious Kids*, was co-authored with Dr Jodi Richardson.