



2023 Annual Report



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2023 AT A GLANCE

42

STUDENTS ENROLLED
IN 2023

Boys team came first in soccer
winning the trophy.

A number of children received
first place awards in running
events competing against
other schools.

RETENTION
RATE

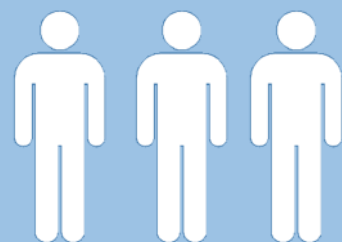
Prep - Year 7

96%

First year of High School Open

100%

TEACHERS ENGAGED IN
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



New Sports Activities Added

SCHOOL PROFILE

Mooroolbark Grammar is an independent, non-denominational, co-educational primary school in Mooroolbark that also offers Year 7 & 8.

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.

Mooroolbark Grammar 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 who shared and supported a moral code which 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" Mooroolbark Grammar School was formed.

Location

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Telephone:	+61 3 9727 3032
Email:	andrea@mooroolbarkgrammar.vic.edu.au
Website	https://www.mooroolbarkgrammar.com.au

SCHOOL DETAILS

School Sector:	Independent
Total Enrolments:	42
Year Levels Offered:	<u>Prep to Year 6</u> <u>Year 7</u>
Co-Educational:	Prep to Year 7

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STUDENT BODY

Mooroolbark Grammar offers co-education from Prep to Year 7.

Our students are a proud and friendly community of confident, well-educated girls and boys.

Enrolled	42
Prep	2
Grade 1	4
Grade 2	4
Grade 3	6
Grade 4	13
Grade 5	5
Grade 6	5
Year 7	3

DISTINCTIVE CURRICULUM OFFERINGS

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 organization dedicated to sharing it with others. The result was Applied Scholastics. Today, over 50 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 30 years Mooroolbark Grammar 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 Mooroolbark Grammar we recognize 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 cannot 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, Mooroolbark Grammar encourages recognition of our spiritual nature.

To achieve the above, Mooroolbark Grammar students are taught the principles of *The Way To Happiness* program. Tasks are based on the booklet "How to Make Good Choices," which is a non-religious moral code based wholly on common sense. It covers 21 precepts (rules of behavior) such as "Honor 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 life.



Secondary School

Mooroolbark Grammar opened their first year of High School this year, allowing those who had already attended the school to continue their education to higher levels.

With the opening of Year 7, the addition of a Science room was added as well as a diverse and exciting curriculum. This has now opened the doorways to more students at the school and allowing those already attending to extend their stay and continue learning with the tools they have been provided in a higher level of education. This allows them to hone their skill and prepare them for the years that lie ahead.

STAFF COMPOSITION

School Staff retention

All teaching staff continued in their roles with the addition of some new teachers due to the expansion.

QUALIFICATIONS OF ALL TEACHING STAFF

School Workforce composition

We have 5 qualified teachers (3FTE) and 4 administration staff (3.6 FTE).
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

Andrea Parsons: Bachelor of Education

Halle Lad: Master of Teaching

Elizabeth Deveson: Diploma of Teaching with Honors in Music

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Sounds-Write Course

Training from ISV on Child Safe Policies

Seven-Steps Writing Course

Fitzroy Method – Mastering the Essentials Course

First Aid Training

Mandatory Reporting Education Module



The school provides a caring community in which individuals feel value and develop a sense of belonging to their school. Each girl and boy is encouraged to develop a life-long love of learning, confidence, leadership skills, in an environment which values respect for the individual, tolerance and understanding of others.

PARENT, TEACHER AND STUDENT SATISFACTION WITH THE SCHOOL

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 also conduct surveys on our children once a year to chart their satisfaction and see where we can improve on the overall curriculum or services.

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.

Student Exit Interviews

Reputation and enrolment growth are vital for the ongoing success of the School. Notification of a withdrawal is an opportunity for the School to gain information that may help to improve its services or, at best, retain the enrolment.

The School undertakes to conduct an exit interview with every family withdrawing a student from the School. The purpose of the interview is to:

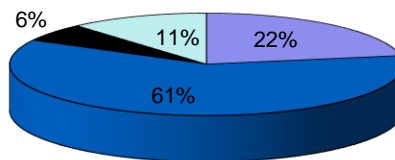
- Identify reasons for, and trends in, student withdrawals and possible areas for improvement at the School;
- Identify factors that may persuade parents to retain the enrolment.



SCHOOL INCOME BROKEN DOWN

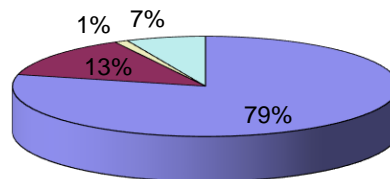
Expenditure

- Operational Expenses
- Employment Expenses
- Curriculum Expenses
- Maintenance



Income

- Government Recurrent Income
- Fees & Levies
- Federal Targeted Program Grants
- Other



KEY STUDENT OUTCOMES

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Average student attendance rate (%) for the whole school

The average attendance rate for the whole school as a percentage in 2023 was 85.2%

There was a steep drop in attendance this past year due to a number of students being absent overseas for extended periods of time. This was an exceptional circumstance which is not anticipated to be repeated for the coming year.

Average student attendance rate for each Year level

Year levels	Average attendance rate for each Year level as a percentage in 2023
Junior School	
Year 1	93%
Year 2	92%
Year 3	87%
Year 4	88%
Year 5	84%
Year 6	80%
High School	
Year 7	77%

Management of Non-Attendance

Students are marked present or absent at 9am. Students must also register their attendance if they arrive at school after this time. Parents/guardians are requested to phone the School to advise of their child's absence each day they are not attending or to make notes on the Compass Portal. If this phone call is not received by 9am, the School Reception will phone parents directly to advise their child has not been recorded as attending school.

NAPLAN RESULTS

Refer to the My School website <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Some Highlights of the Year

Our children were entered into Sports Victoria events where the children compete in different categories against other schools. This includes activities such as cross-country, basketball, soccer, relay races and more.

Despite being a small school, our children excelled in a number of sports activities. Their achievements went well beyond bigger schools that they competed against. Overall, the children loved the activities that they competed in and the trophies and games that they won.

The whole school did horse riding lessons in Terms 2 & 3



Some of our children entered the National (ANC) Australian Maths competition with great results!

Our children love our annual adventure camps and every year we endeavor to make them even better and more exciting.

2024 will bring some changes.

Farewell: This was my last year as principal of Mooroolbark Grammar School.

I would like to introduce you to the new principal Andrea Parsons.

Highly respected for her professionalism and insights into the complex and ever-evolving landscape of twenty-first-century teaching and learning; Andrea's vision for the school is underpinned by a vital moral purpose and an understanding that deep level thinking, creativity and imagination are amongst the fundamental skills young people will need for the world of tomorrow. Along with the skills and abilities to become lifelong learners, with a passion to grow and explore the world around them.

POST-SCHOOL DESTINATION INFORMATION

At the time of publishing this School Annual Report, the results of the 2023 post-school destinations survey, *Next Steps - Student Destination* report for the School was not available. Information about these post-school destinations of our students will be uploaded to the School's website in September after the release of this information.