

Flemington Education Plan

Community Update – December 2022

Welcome to the first edition of the Flemington Education Plan (FEP) community newsletter, which highlights and celebrates our many successes in our implementation.

This newsletter aims to bring to life how the FEP already positively impacts our students' education and well-being.

In the newsletter, you'll read stories that focus on our key priorities of teacher collaboration, student voice, health and well-being, community engagement and updates on construction works.

As students returned to the classroom for the full school year, it has been phenomenal to see how our four schools have collaborated and supported one another.

Under the guidance of their principals and dedicated regional staff, the schools have begun working towards the vision that every child and young person will experience opportunities and pathways that promote educational excellence, health and well-being, and a sense of belonging and community.

Please enjoy reading about some of the incredible work achieved this year across the precinct with many of these initiatives continuing in 2023.

What is the Flemington Education Plan?

The Victorian Government announced the development of the Flemington Education Plan in 2018. This work included engaging with students, staff, families and the broader community through workshops, an online survey and community pop-ups to ensure the community's educational vision was embedded in the plan.

The strategic plan was launched in late 2020 with the vision that every child and young person will experience the same high-quality seamless education that fosters:

- positive health and well-being
- a sense of belonging and community
- the capacity to succeed from early childhood into adult pathways beyond secondary school.

The four schools involved in the FEP are:

- Ascot Vale Heights School
- Debney Meadows Primary School
- Flemington Primary School
- Mount Alexander 7-12 College

For more information on learning programs and partnerships this plan is delivering, please visit the [Department of Education and Training](#)



Photo L to R: Koreena Carlton, Amanda Williams, Nance Sidoti and Dani Angelico

A snapshot of the 2022 highlights and achievements

- All four schools completed the School Strategic Review Process, which sets out the strategic vision for each school over the next 4 years. All plans include a well-being goal aligned with the FEP vision, highlighting the significance of this work. It's great that the schools have agreed to focus on the well-being goal in 2023.
- Collaboration across the schools through the Years 5-8 Transitions Working Group has resulted in a stronger understanding of the teaching and learning of mathematics across the settings, maths anxiety and the development of the Big Ideas in numeracy. Through this collaboration, we have developed a shared understanding of math anxiety, the barriers to maths, and how to deal with them if they arise, allowing students across the precinct to cope better with maths in secondary school. The schools worked with regional staff and recognised experts to support the professional learning of years 5-8 teachers.
- Primary schools across the Moonee Valley network were invited to participate in a Transition to Foundation (Prep) Pilot, which included translating materials into key community languages to better support families enrolling in primary school.
- Through the Mental Health in Primary Schools Pilot, our schools have worked to strengthen the capacity of staff in the area of mental health literacy, to review and improve the whole-school approaches to well-being, enhance individual support for students experiencing mental health concerns and develop the skills of students to promote and deliver well-being initiatives across the schools.
- Debney Meadows and Flemington primary schools received targeted funding for Homework Clubs and to engage two staff to work closely with African-Australian students and their families. Some of the work they are leading in this space, particularly their community and transition programs, are wonderful and position students for early success at school.
- Debney Meadows PS received some very exciting news last week, that they were successful in receiving the William Buckland Foundation's Enabling Education Program Grant of \$515,000 over 4 years. The school, in partnership with Kensington Neighbourhood House, Moonee Valley City Council, Paving The Way Forward, Farnham Street Neighbourhood Learning Centre, The Venny and Edmund Rice will be continuing to build quality community programs to support our students, families and wider community.
- Debney Meadows PS students and the 2023 preps went on a whole school excursion to the Melbourne Zoo this term. The school has utilised many opportunities through the Positive Start to School program to support students and engage in their learning following a return to onsite learning.
- In 2022, Mount Alexander College has seen significant improvement in the Top 2 Bands in NAPLAN Achievement at Year 9 in all measures. Students are performing well above the state, similar and network schools in the areas of Writing Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy. There has been a significant decrease in the number of students in the bottom two bands and a significant increase in the number of students in the top two bands. Well done to all the staff and students at MAC for their great work this year.
- Welcome, Nance Sidoti and Koreena Carlton have been appointed Principal this year following recruitment processes for both Ascot Vale Heights School and Debney Meadows.
- Congratulations to Amanda Williams from Flemington PS, who is stepping up as the Chair of the Moonee Valley Network of Principals in 2023.

100 Years of Quality Learning – 2022 Flemington PS motto

It's also important to note that the Flemington PS community spent the year celebrating its 100-year milestone. Student Council designed a new t-shirt as part of the uniform and creating the motto that led the celebrations. A history inquiry unit integrating a student-led inquiry model allowed students to explore the past. Students explored rights, laws, architecture, school discipline, and learning environments past and present. An Art Show commemorated the official event in September, with staff and students contributing to creating various interactive installations across the school.

A precinct focus on health and wellbeing

Mental Health in Primary Schools Pilot

This year, 3 of the FEP schools participated in the Mental Health in Primary Schools Pilot to help support the implementation of the education plan.

The school well-being teams have focused on strengthening staff's mental health literacy capacity, reviewing and making improvements to whole-school approaches to well-being, enhancing individual support for students experiencing mental health concerns and developing students' skills to promote and deliver well-being initiatives across the school. This work included:

- Delivering professional learning and mentoring classroom teachers to support them in understanding and promoting mental health literacy, identifying students with mental health concerns and providing and accessing appropriate supports
- Working with the Region's School Wide Positive Behaviour (SWPBS) Coach on an action plan to review and improve SWPBS and the Respectful Relationships programs. This review has involved capturing different perspectives and views of our school community and ensuring that policies, procedures, curriculum documents and the staff handbook support the delivery of our whole school approach to well-being
- Providing teachers and families with information, resources and referrals to support the individual needs of students experiencing mental health concerns.
- Amplifying student voice and agency by creating and training a peer support team to assist students in grades F – 2 with minor issues on the playground, held focus groups to capture student views on issues including engagement and connection to school and student leadership, facilitated a group of Flemington PS students to create a video celebrating World Teachers Day and supported its school captains to promote IDAHOBIT day raising awareness for the need to end discrimination against LGBTQ+ people.

To support strengthened outcomes, these staff have worked collaboratively to further their professional development in Zones of Regulation.

This work will continue in 2023, with the schools focusing on mental health and well-being across the precinct and the rollout of the Schools Mental Health Fund, which will be available from 2024.

Supporting students during the multi-staged build at Ascot Vale Heights School

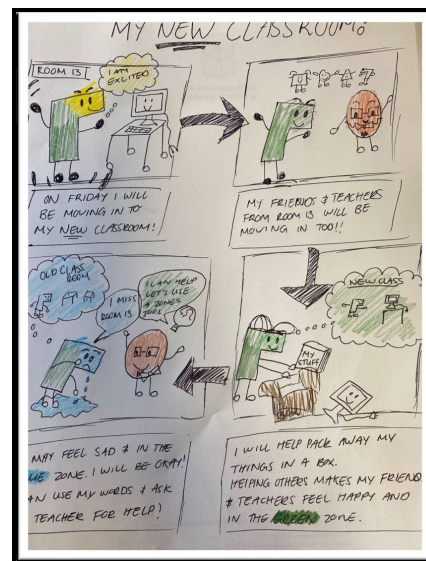
The allied health team at Ascot Vale Heights School developed a range of whole-school. It individualised supports, including video models, socials stories and comic strip conversations to support students through the multi-staged build, with most of the school and classrooms being transformed.

It was important for the school to create calm amidst the hive of activity taking place with the building works, including unfamiliar noises, smells and tradespeople walking around the school, changes to their classrooms and everyday routines.

The teaching and allied health staff at the school were the consistent people in the students' lives so there was a strong focus on supporting teachers with actions they could take in the classroom, including:

- modelling coping techniques throughout the build
- using social stories, visuals and having conversations with students to ease any anxiety
- managing the learning expectations by modifying tasks and providing movement breaks to minimise any sensory overload they may be experiencing
- allowing predictability where possible through daily routines and using social stories and video modelling should change in routine be needed.

The allied health team presented at the Western Melbourne Area Principal Forum in November to acknowledge this great work. We look forward to seeing these initiatives as the build continues in early 2023.



Update on building projects

Construction on the \$4.3m project at Ascot Vale Heights School and the \$26.3m project at Mount Alexander College are well underway, and we'll be working with the schools to move in once construction is complete.

You can also view the latest construction images, read the design brochure and view design images at: www.schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/mount-alexander-7-12-college and www.schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/ascot-vale-heights-school

Flemington Primary School's new playground is open

Flemington PS received funding through the FEP to develop two new playgrounds where students worked with landscape architects to design the grounds.

The students and architects developed themes around connection with the community, construction play and nature. The result are playgrounds where adults and children are welcomed, belong and can connect.

This has resulted in a colourful town square effect, ample seating and a pleasant decking area for our community coffee club. Our students LOVE sand play, and our early years teachers also teach in the sand play areas. We now have a massive sand play area and enough room for all to get into the sand play areas.

The need to construct as a part of play has been supported by the development of 3 cubby style structures across the playgrounds. Students will be undertaking an art unit next year where they will weave into the structures using found items from the playgrounds, such as leaves and colourful materials.

Perhaps the most exciting part for the FPS community is that, as an open campus in the inner, is the opportunity for families and our local community to also come and share in play. We have already seen an increase in families using our grounds after school and on the weekends – we love it

