



St Leonard's College
An education for life.

Parent Testimonial

A Letter of Thanks to St Leonard's College

To Stuart Davis (Principal) and Felicity Hutton (Head of Junior School)

After watching our year 4 daughter join all the St Leonard's music students at the Music Festival, playing cello and singing, there is no better time to say a very heartfelt and overdue thank you to you both as leaders of this outstanding school. My other daughter in year 2, who already studies piano and singing at St Leonard's, came away from the Music Festival event saying that she'd like to take up viola and then the flute next! She also enjoyed seeing her year 12 mentor up on stage, someone she says she can have great chats to in the playground!

I genuinely feel that every year at this school, my girls have more opportunities, more role models, more friends, and probably most important to our family; more confidence.

The culture in the Junior School is one of deep learning, inclusion, kindness, excitement, innovation, respect and nurturing. I know that such a positive culture takes time to develop, takes work and commitment to sustain and requires all in a community to contribute and care. The Junior School seems to find an exemplary way of elevating children to their highest potential and maturity whilst understanding they are young and developing too. I see both my girls encouraged as leaders and mentors to younger students through the buddy program, speaking with great confidence at assemblies, singing to large audiences at the Melbourne Recital Centre and inspired to take their learning further through real world projects; the Science Talent Quest, the units of inquiry, the 'Taking My Learning Further' projects (TMLF), excursions, camps and fundraisers. Our girls remind us of events on the calendar; Refugee Week or environmental days. Our girls presented a PowerPoint to us on Easter Day to remind us of the real meaning of Easter; they'd learned about this with Judith, in Chapel.

There is no pressure on my children to perform or achieve and the staff will gently remind the parents against this too! There is however high quality instruction; careful, subtle, fluid ability group work; fun, engaging methods; and much work on providing students with the language to support themselves and others and worthy goals with a lot of positive reinforcement to reach them.

I also see the care and compassion the staff have when the children need reassurance, when they're tired or hurt or scared or anxious or frustrated or have fallen out with a friend.

We have been blessed with the most extraordinary teachers over the years. Each of these teachers have brought unique and different gifts to the classroom. All of them have been highly committed to communication with us, with openness and willingness to help and support our girls and us. I am also deeply grateful for every single member of the after care team for the above and beyond care of our girls over the years, since ELC. They truly provide a home away from home for the children; one my girls often does not want to leave!

The specialist teachers and lessons are excellent too! My girls have never needed gymnastics lessons beyond the school because of the component taught within sport. The Art program is rich and varied and most of all fun! The Library lessons extend their love of reading. The music program truly opens up the world of music and now they have access to the new STEM course and engaging facility.

The PYP program is authentically delivered and I see the results of the depth and breadth of this program in my daughters' questions, musings, hypotheses and the growth of philosophical, ethical, global ways of thinking.

I could write so many more examples along these lines.

It takes great leaders such as those at the College to inspire staff and in turn inspire students.

We try to attend as many of the performances, extra-curricular activities and seminars as possible and we appreciate just how hard the leaders work, along with their staff when we see them there supporting students and their families; wholeheartedly.

We feel very fortunate to be part of this wonderful school and community.

Thank you again,

Debra Bussey, St Leonard's College Parent