

School committed to ongoing improvement

According to Mill Park Primary School's principal Mrs Lu Alessi, the school's success is determined by focussing on the recognition of individual learning styles, effective communication, teamwork and continuous improvement.

Mill Park Primary School is located in the northern suburbs of Melbourne. It is the original school in Mill Park. The school opened in August 1980 and current enrolment is 450 with the average class size having 25 students.

Mrs Alessi has been the school's principal for the past six years and held the position of assistant principal for seven years prior to that.

"Our school community works with the teachers to make sure that our students become motivated, engaged and independent learners through the provision of a really engaging, rich and meaningful curriculum which is getting them ready for their future lives," said Mrs Alessi.

She said that they all believe that people are their school's most important asset.

"We see ourselves as a community of learners. We are very eager to learn, to improve and to do our best at all times."

Mrs Alessi said that the school's teaching and support staff have a very strong set of values and that these values underpin all that they do. She said that they want their children to become resilient and optimistic adults of the future.

"It is our continual wish that our children find their school experiences to be truly positive and memorable ones. Our teachers work really hard to empower children to actively seek out learning opportunities and to make really good choices in their lives.

"Having a strong values program we like to recognise our students' learning efforts and achievements through a learning award. As well, we acknowledge students who live up to the school's values through a citizenship award which is published in the school newsletter. We also present the students with a certificate at assembly."

Mrs Alessi said that teaching in the modern era brings challenges for all the staff and the need to guide the children to become literate, numerate and curious continues to be their major priority.

In this high technological age she said that their school is at the forefront of skilling their children with ever changing tools.

"We are implementing the Ultraset which is an online learning management system developed for the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development in Australia - to provide extensive services to students, parents and teachers in government schools.

"As well, we are continuing to develop our 'one to one' Netbook program in years

4, 5 and 6. The 'one to one' Netbook program connects each student via a network with their teacher, other students and outside of the school."

Another long term staff member of Mill Park Primary School is business manager Mrs Angela Falso.

Mrs Falso oversees the efficient running of the school's administration area and is constantly looking at ways to improve the overall efficiency of the school operation.

Like most schools the need to control costs regarding the printing of materials for teachers, students and administration staff is a high priority.

"A few months ago we reviewed our print management issues with our long term office equipment supplier Toshiba Australia," said Mrs Falso.

"We have had a very good relationship with Toshiba dating back some 15 to 20 years and have recently committed to use them as our supplier for another 5 years."

Mrs Falso said that when they reviewed their print management needs with Toshiba's account manager Rob Colonnello it was decided that it would be much more economical to replace and upgrade the existing fleet of Multi Function Devices and desktop printers with four colour Toshiba e-STUDIO Multi Function Devices (MFD). This has led to significant savings and improved efficiency.

"The Toshiba e-STUDIO MFDs are all networked so that staff and students can print directly to them. Rationalising our printing needs to be handled by the e-STUDIO MFDs has meant that we have eliminated the need for toners and other consumables that the desktop printers required.

"We do a lot of scanning to e-mail to save on printing and students as well as teachers have taken advantage of the e-STUDIO MFDs scanning function. Another great feature is that incoming faxes are emailed directly to my computer and I can forward them to the



Mill Park Primary School principal Mrs Lu Alessi and Business Manager Mrs Angela Falso

appropriate person saving the need to print them out.

"One of the great benefits we have found in producing the school newsletter on the e-STUDIO is how much time we have saved with the benefit of Toshiba's e-BRIDGE Job Separator. By utilising the Job Separator function no more time is being wasted on counting and dividing the print job into individual sets. This has greatly improved our efficiency and saved staff time for more important tasks."

Mrs Falso said that the e-STUDIO can also produce low cost full colour banners 305mm x 1200mm in size on banner paper that they use for promoting fund raising and other school events.

"Rob Colonnello and all the support staff at Toshiba have been fantastic. Toshiba provided excellent training to ensure we are able to take full advantage of what the e-STUDIO MFDs offer and the back up support has been excellent."

It would appear like Mill Park Primary School, Toshiba Australia is committed to ongoing improvement.■

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