



## Montmorency Primary School Testimonials 2013

"Why we fell in Love with Montmorency Primary School ~ From our initial welcome at Montmorency in 2009 until now, we have found Montmorency Primary School to be a very warm, friendly and accessible community of both families and staff. Our positive relationship with the Principal, Michael Otway, and his team in this time is a testimony of the school's enduring philosophy of collaboration between parents and teachers. Our children have grown in confidence and character due to the school's commitment to a personal and caring relationship with each individual student."

*– Nichole Wallworks and Family*

"At Montmorency Primary School we aim to give students a global education in a local community context. Students are connected to their teachers, each other, the community and the natural environment. Our community is excited by the contemporary design of our new school rebuild expected to take place later on this year. It's an exciting time to be part of our friendly school and we welcome you."

*–Felicity Gordon, MPS Parent & MPS School Council President*

"I like the smaller size and 'community' feel - so many people - students and staff - know each other. I think that this increases the incidence of respect and genuine concern and caring for each other. I like our 'Transition' program: our Prep Foundation classes prepare the children gradually and gently, increasing their self-esteem and confidence, preparing them for a successful school experience. I also like the mixture of abilities at Monty - children with additional needs and those without gain awareness, insight and personal, life and educational skills to assist them to be better people and citizens in the future."

*- Linda Carter, MPS Foundation Prep Teacher*

"We could not be happier with our school choice for our daughter, who has an autism diagnosis. Her easy settling-in period and continued positive experience at this school is a credit to the 'Respect' and 'Friendship' values the staff and parent groups encourage. The two aspects that we value greatly (particularly with our daughter's circumstance of autism) are the flexibility in teaching to our daughter's needs and the small school environment, where all of the children know each other. The children and parents really do feel part of a caring community."

*- Rachelle Walker, MPS Parent*

"Our fantastic SAKG program, our brilliant volunteers from the school and the wider community, our commitment to environmental sustainability and community networking all make MPS special, as well as the supportive spirit of our school students towards each other and to those less fortunate. There is a can-do attitude within the school community. We achieve amazing things, often organising more activities than many larger schools."

*– Michelle Hegarty, MPS Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Specialist*

"I have taught at six schools over a 25 year teaching career. These schools have consisted of Private, Catholic and Government Schools. Whilst all the schools have positive aspects, none of the schools have had as many positive aspects as MPS. Not only is Monty a small school where every child is known by all, but its community spirit shines. The children are truly delightful and I have never taught at a school where yard duty not only presents few problems, but there are always at least 8 adults in the yard during every break. This enables the children to develop positive relationships with quality adults. I'm in awe out in the yard at the 'cross-age' and 'multi-age' interaction - Grade 3 – 6 students playing footy on the oval, and Grades Prep – 4 playing cricket in the tennis court. This isn't a 'once off' - this is every day. The children have an amazing respect and tolerance for one another and our school's values of 'Learning, Respect, Safety and Friendship' are a natural and integral part of every day. It truly is a wonderful school and I couldn't think of teaching anywhere else."

- Keryn Johnson, MPS Prep Foundation Teacher

"Monty Primary's extensive grounds and play areas make it unique in its ability to offer students a wide variety of physical education activities. We have been fortunate to have community groups come in and coach students as well."

- Donna Barclay, MPS Physical Education Teacher and OSHC Coordinator

"I am new to MPS this year and have been very impressed with the caring nature of the staff and the overall school culture of acceptance and respect. It has been my pleasure to teach at MPS, and I look forward to developing exceptional visual and performing arts programs for my students."

- Cori Nelson, MPS Visual and Performing Arts Teacher

"Why I love being school chaplain at this creative and unique primary school... In the six years I have been here there has always been a distinct feeling... children have grown and moved on, class dynamics have altered, teachers and staff have changed, but one thing remains the same. There has always been something special about Montmorency Primary School.

All good establishments come from great leadership and I would give honour and value to our principal, Michael Otway, who has for years put his knowledge, expertise and heart into leading the school. The many changes and challenges that come with all good schools, like MPS, have dedicated, loyal and hard-working teachers, staff, parents, grandparents and volunteers behind them. This same crew of people for 2013 with fresh ideas have worked behind the scenes to establish new and ongoing activities for the children to learn, enjoy and experience during their primary school years."

- Beverley Hardi, School Chaplain