

Sustainability at Albion PS – 2019/20

Albion PS signed up to become a ResourceSmart School in July 2019 aiming to achieve 5 stars and hold a 5-star rating. To achieve 5 stars there are 5 modules to complete. The first module is the Core Module which lays the foundations for progressing through ResourceSmart Schools and becoming a more sustainable school. Through this module we have:

- Set up a Sustainability team, including the house captains becoming the action team
- Had recognition for the sustainability work we have already done – entering documents onto the RSS website, including information from bills
- Set a baseline so we can measure our progress over time
- Established systems, policies and agreements
- Review and plan curriculum activities for 2019/2020.

In March 2020, schools were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the students began remote learning in April. Sustainability planning and curriculum activities were put on hold. 30% of the core module was completed by June 2020.

Grants

The school applied for a Land Care grant to improve our biodiversity, which was successfully granted in September 2019. Our Maths/Indigenous/Bird/Butterfly/Bee/Sensory garden was established by students, staff and parents during a working bee in early December. Mass planting of indigenous plants in mid-December and completed by students who were onsite during the lockdown in June 2020.

Sustainability in the curriculum

Sustainability Leaders

Our eight house captains have become our Sustainability Leaders this year in 2019. They have led our school to make changes to sustainability by:

- Learning about sustainability
- Communicating our sustainability initiatives and vision at each house meeting and school assembly, in the school newsletter, connective messages and visiting classroom
- Improved the management of our waste systems by putting in the same bins in each classroom:
 - Landfill (black) 60 litre
 - Recycling - hard plastic, paper and cardboard (tub)
 - soft plastic bucket,
 - recyclables bucket
 - Compost – fruit scraps (worm farms/compost) – food scraps (chickens).
 - Bread tags, oral care, old pens and pencils and plastic caps all go in the recyclable bucket.
 - Students also educated each class about the items that go into the correct bins.
 - Spoking at assembly each week about the importance of recycling paper and cardboard.
 - Leaders also help each class empty and clean their compost bin each week and help with recycling in the classrooms.
- Working in the Veggie garden helping with watering, tidying up, planting and other tasks.
- Collect data on WOW (Wipe Out Waste) Wednesday. (Every Wednesday we encourage students to bring a nude food lunchbox to school. Nude food means we are sending less waste to landfill and ensuring our waste does not harm marine life in Port Phillip Bay.)
- Collect data on Travel Tuesday - Every Tuesday we encourage students to active travel - walk, ride, train or scoot to school, rather than coming in the car. House points are given to students depending on their mode of transport.
- Organise the Recycle Shop in the Multi-purpose room during Recycle Week.

All students at Albion PS

- Hear about our sustainability initiatives and vision at each house meeting and school assembly
- Learnt about sustainability
- Work in the Veggie garden helping with watering, tidying up, planting and other tasks.
- Get involved in WOW (Wipe out waste) Wednesday
- Get involved in Travel Tuesday
- Get involved in the Recycle Shop in the Multi-purpose room during Recycle Week in 2019 by bringing in old books, clothes and toys to receive a token to purchase from the shop
- Get involved in recycling in their classroom and receiving house points for bringing goods in to be recycled, which include bottle caps, bread tags, ring tops, oral care, old pens and pencils.
- Get involved in the Bird count week in October 2019 and 2020. Students were able to sit for 20 minutes, watch and record the types of birds coming into the school.
- Getting involved in end of term litter clean ups with their class in a specific area of the school grounds. Choosing to pick up litter at recess and lunchtimes using the buckets and tongs outside the multi-purpose room.

During remote learning all students received 'The Blue Sky Classroom' - Activity sheets sent out from Environment Education Victoria for other creative ideas that can be done at home.

NB: 2020 was a very different year with our school being shut down at the end of term one, term two and three because of COVID-19. With large gatherings not permitted in term 4, 2020 our school did not hold assemblies. While sustainability issues were discussed, it was not a huge focus.

Sustainability at Albion PS – Semester 1, 2021

We continue to work on the first module - Core Module which lays the foundations for progressing through ResourceSmart Schools and becoming a more sustainable school.

75% of the Core module has been submitted. The last 25% includes looking at our data from bills entered from June 2018 – June 2021, setting targets and goals for the next two years. We will also be looking at our curriculum and where sustainability is being taught as well as professional development for staff. We are also looking at our school website and allocating an area for Sustainability which allows us to showcase what is happening at Albion PS and how our school community can join us in striving for a more sustainable school.

Albion PS also signed up to the Eco-Schools Litter Legend campaign and the year 6 students along with two staff members (Mrs Ryan and Mrs Batty) will lead the way! The sustainability committee was formed for 2021 and work began by carrying out the initial baseline environmental review of our school. There were seven themes reviewed by the year 6 students and each scored out of 25. The results are as follows:

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| • Biodiversity: Habitats and Homes | 22 / 25 |
| • Energy and Climate: Super Smart Power | 19 / 25 |
| • Fair Go: Global Citizens for Social Justice | 13 / 25 |
| • Lifestyles: Healthy and Active | 21 / 25 |
| • Litter and Waste: The Lifecycle of Stuff | 23 / 25 |
| • Waste and Waterways: Developing our Next Generation of Waterway Keepers | 21 / 25 |
| • Water: Drink, Think, Save the Sink | 21 / 25 |

Albion PS also signed up as an OzHarvest school running a Feast program in term 3 with the grade 5/6 students. During the course of this unit of work the students will learn about food waste, nutrition and develop basic cooking skills. The program has been developed by OzHarvest, Australia's leading food rescue organisation, to help raise awareness about reducing food waste, food insecurity and the importance of healthy eating. We hope they bring some of these great skills home to test with their families!

Grants

- Applied for a Woolworths Land Care grant to improve recycling and improving waste management practices and enhancing native habitats
 - Recycling and improving waste management practices - \$750 bins in classrooms. The aim of our project is... to set up the 4 Rs – refusing, reducing, reusing & recycling more consistently at Albion PS so that all students and staff in our school can participate within their classroom. The children and staff will be involved in 4 Rs, with the student leaders overseeing the program on a weekly basis
 - Enhancing native habitats \$150 for plants, \$250 for books about bees and \$250 for five nest boxes. The aim of our project is by building nest boxes and planting bee friendly plants we will be enhancing habitats for birds and insects at our school.

Sustainability in the curriculum

Sustainability Leaders

We decided in 2021 that all grade 6 students would become our Sustainability Leaders and work on sustainability issues and activities during their weekly leadership class with Mrs. Ryan. Two grade 6 students have been appointed Recycle leaders and they are responsible for emptying the classroom food scraps bucket each day and delivering the recyclables to the recycle hub.

They have led our school to make changes to sustainability by:

- Learning about sustainability.
- Communicating our sustainability initiatives and vision to all 10 classes and at school assembly, in the school newsletter, connective messages and visiting classrooms. Students

worked in pairs to produce a recycle poster for each of our 10 classrooms and presented this explaining where rubbish should go and what can be brought to school to be recycled.

- Work in the Veggie garden helping with watering, tidying up, planting and other tasks.
- Conducted a monthly litter audit of our oval and a waste audit of the bin outside the oval, separating the litter and waste into categories, then weighing each category. Two audits will be conducted – May and June. The remaining audits will be conducted in Semester 2.

All students at Albion PS:

- Learning about sustainability.
- Hear about our sustainability initiatives and vision in their classroom and at school assembly.
- Grade 3/4 students that assist with the perceptual motor program (PMP) on a Friday morning, work in the Veggie garden helping with watering, tidying up, planting and other tasks for half an hour every Friday between the 3 PMP sessions.
- Get involved in recycling in their classroom and receiving house points for bringing goods in to be recycled, which include bottle caps, bread tags, ring tops, oral care, old pens and pencils.
- Getting involved in end of term litter clean ups with their class in a specific area of the school grounds. Choosing to pick up litter at recess and lunchtimes using the buckets and tongs outside the multi-purpose room.

Parents at Albion PS

- Learning about sustainability.
- Setting up a Recycle Hub at the back of the library with 6 unused 240L rubbish bins
- Delivering recycle goods collected at school to the correct places.