



## ST PATRICK'S MINI VINNIES - THE GOSPEL IN ACTION



St Patrick's School Port Fairy has worked to develop a culture of charity and community work, developing a strong chapter of Mini Vinnies in the student population with a committed band of participants from years 4, 5 and 6. Our Chapter of twenty-five members, with support from our Religious Education Leaders (REL) and parent companions, have planned and promoted good works at school and in the community over recent years.

Mini Vinnies is about doing good works in the community, but it is also about young people meeting to talk and share ideas and concerns, to have fun and to support each other. The Vinnies model of 'See, Think, Do' is a great way to get young people thinking and talking about their spirituality; by connecting their beliefs and values with service activities and issues in their community, they can help make their faith real, meaningful and relevant.

The motto of Mini Vinnies - Turning Concern into Action - has been at the heart of the work we do together at St Patrick's. Finding places to help others, share our skills and build a better world are at the core of our purpose. We plan for community connections with the residents at Moyneyana Aged Care and in-school works to care for our vegetable garden, fundraise for others and support St Vincent de Paul initiatives such as the Winter Appeal.

Currently our Mini Vinnies are planning to run a School Fete stall to support the Drought Appeal for Australian farming families in need, working with some of our parents to do Community Meals on Wheels, visiting our elderly friends at Moyneyana, planting up our veggie garden and working to show that as a Catholic organisation we live the words given to us in the Gospels.

Last week our student members attended the Regional Mini Vinnies Festival in Warrnambool where we gathered with other primary school chapters to reflect on our role and our work, to meet with local St Vincent de Paul leaders and learn about the programs and works that Mini Vinnies provides to children in need across the country.

The comments below have been supplied by some of our students, in reflection on the gathering.

*Leanne Mahney, REL St Patrick's Port Fairy*

*At the Mini Vinnies festival I liked learning about some fundraising and what other schools are doing to help people in need.*

### **Sophie Gapes**

*The thing I loved most about today is that I got to meet new friends and that was something new for me. I met Isla, she likes to play netball like me.*

### **Claudia Phillips**

*I met Ally's friend April. She loves horses and she's named after the month of April. She was really funny and friendly. I learnt some good ideas that I can take to our leadership meeting.*

### **Ava Woolf**





*The thing I enjoyed about today was learning new information and meeting new friends. I also liked the ideas of some of the fundraisers other schools came up with. It was a really fun day.*

**Antoinette Tamer**

*Today we learnt about a lot of cool stuff for example - the toiletry bags and recycling clothes that people can give to others. I met three girls who are going to Emmanuel College next year.*

**Ella Gapes**

*I enjoyed learning about Frederic and how he started St Vincent de Paul. I also learned that they run kid camps for kids who might not get the same opportunities as we do.*

**Maggie Carmichael**

*I learnt that not all clothes are able to be worn again but can be made into rags.*

**Caityn McCallum**

*The thing I enjoyed about the Mini Vinnies Festival was meeting new people and learning new things. One thing I learned was that there is a standard when donating clothing to the Vinnies shop - no stained or ruined clothes. I also learned that there is a group that can take kids on camps for free. I had so much fun.*

**Lila Killen**

*I liked the fun activities and how we got to make new friends. I met Matilda from St Pius.*

**Maddison Royals**



*I enjoyed learning what items can be given to other people to wear. It all goes to the mini Vinnies shops around Victoria. We learnt that stained or ripped items can not be given to Mini Vinnies.*

**Tana Nedziwe**

*I met new people and saw old people from my old school. I learnt that there is a call centre that can help people and can give them gift vouchers to help them out.*

**Ally Rowbottom**

*I like that we got to learn how we can help the community in different ways.*

**Lekaya Plant**

*At the Mini Vinnies Festival we did some games and it was so fun and I met a lot of people. I learnt that there is a phone centre for people who need help.*

**Maisie Henderson**

