Students at Holy Eucharist Primary School are educated with engagement and empowerment in mind.

The St Albans school represents a snapshot of multicultural Australia and is committed to providing a rich liturgical and prayer life.

Principal Jeff Parker says students of diverse religious backgrounds are warmly welcomed into this diverse school.

“We have 380 enrolled students,” he says, citing school family ties to Vietnam, the Philippines, China, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Pacific Islands, South and Central America and Europe.

“You can imagine how vibrant and colourful our Harmony Days are,” he says. “This wonderful cultural mix teaches the importance of inclusion and peace.”

With a strong emphasis placed on literacy and numeracy, the school received accreditation as a Performance and Development Culture School in 2009 for being an institution with deep respect for different cultures.

“A major role of our school is to help our multicultural community to assimilate into Australian culture without children losing contact with their own roots,” Mr Parker says.

Michael Bonnici, learning and teaching leader and deputy principal, says NAPLAN data from the past three years has shown an upward, positive trend in the students’ reading and mathematics.

“By the time students leave grade 5, results show their literacy and numeracy results have increased considerably,” Mr Bonnici says.

The school has a computer lab and each classroom is fitted with desktops, iPads, laptops and other IT tools.

A daily breakfast program, a Vietnamese community hub co-ordinator/interpreter, a cultural aide in the African language of Dinka, access to a speech pathologist and a music program supported by teachers from Loreto Mandeville Hall school in Toorak are included.

May 26 will be the school’s Feast Day, where students will celebrate the feast of the Body of Christ (Feast of Corpus Christi). The children and parents attending the local kindergartens in the area have been invited to celebrate the special day with the school.

“We will have a jumping castle, face painting, balloons and a sausage sizzle,” Mr Bonnici says.

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