



2014





WANTIRNA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mountain Highway, Wantirna, 3152

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Website: <http://www.wantirnprimary.vic.edu.au/>

Principal: Mrs Heather Norbury

Business Manager: Jenine Farley

Prep Teacher: Ms Brogan Badrock

Teaching Staff and Program Support Staff: A list of all teaching and program support staff will be published and updated throughout the year. The aim of this booklet is to provide an introduction to the school's programs and routines. The overview presented is a starting point in providing information which will facilitate your involvement in your child's education. Please keep it at hand as a useful reference.

WELCOME

Dear Parents,

We welcome you and your family to Wantirna Primary School.

At Wantirna Primary our focus is on student welfare and learning to enable all children to be safe, happy and learning to their full potential. We address the rights and needs of all students – physical, academic, emotional and social, and work to ensure that a comprehensive curriculum is provided for all students.

Curriculum is our core business. We cater for different levels of ability and different styles of learning. Classroom programs include cooperative learning and mixed groupings. We work to provide a balance of curriculum that attends to specific needs and challenges all students.

You, the parents, are part of our learning community and a vital link in your child's education. A sense of community evolves when parents and staff work in partnership for student achievement. We encourage active parent participation in the school through various avenues. You are welcome into the classroom as a classroom helper, and to be involved in various groups and activities.

Through open communication and shared goals for your child's development, we will strengthen the partnership.

We look forward to celebrating your child's learning through their primary years of schooling with you.

Mrs Norbury – Principal

and School Staff



WELCOME

Congratulations on choosing Wantirna Primary School for your child's education. Wantirna Primary School is a unique school and the right choice for your child because we have some excellent features and facilities -

- Early Years Literacy Program
- Early Years Numeracy Program
- Excellent ICT facilities – Interactive Whiteboards, iPads, Netbooks
- Camps and excursions
- Cross Age Tutoring (including a Prep Better Buddy Program)
- Gifted and Talented Extension School Based Programs
- Inter-School Sport
- Instrumental Music (private tuition)
- Prep / Year 6 Transition
- Outstanding Facilities and Resources
- A brand new Junior Learning Centre (Prep – 2)
- School Productions
- School Recorder Groups
- Swimming Programs
- Student Leadership Opportunities.



AND MORE!



TERM DATES FOR 2014

Term One: 29th January – 4th April

Term Two: 22nd April – 27th June

Term Three: 14th July – 19th September

Term Four: 6th October – 19th December



WE CARE

Wantirna Primary School strives for its students to become motivated and independent learners through the provision of a wide range of learning choices. We consistently encourage students to become lifelong learners who value themselves, others and learning and aim to be the best they can be. We promote social responsibility, resilience, perseverance and independence to prepare our students for an ever changing world.

At Wantirna Primary School we CARE -

C – collaborative learners

A – active contributors

R – respectful and responsible citizens

E – emotionally aware



PREPARING FOR SCHOOL



Beginning school is an exciting time in your child's life. Show by your words and actions that you are confident about the school and your child's ability to cope with it. Be positive that it is a happy place where the child will learn and develop friendships. If you convey a positive attitude this will be passed to the children whose learning will benefit.

Children beginning school have had varying experiences and are at varying stages of development. As a result, each child will have mastered different skills. However, the following would be of assistance to children when starting in Prep:

- To be able to speak clearly or confidently to each other and adults.
- To eat lunch independently. (Unwrapping and eating sandwiches during the holidays would be good practice).
- To cope with correct toilet procedures. It is important that boys are shown how to use the urinal.

All children should be able to:

- Flush the toilet
- Wash their hands
- Manage the taps



Accidents can happen at this stage. Prep teachers try to prevent these by programming regular visits to the toilet during the first weeks. It is wise for all Preps to have a spare set of underwear in their bags.

All children should be able

- To take off and put on articles of clothing, including shoes on the correct feet. (As tying shoelaces is often difficult for many young children, the Velcro style shoes may be an option). The wearing of thongs or open toed sandals is not allowed, as they do not provide sufficient protection.
- To use a handkerchief or tissue correctly.
- To sit quietly and listen to short stories or music.

Label any clothes that may be taken off, together with things like lunch boxes, drink bottles and school bags. Show the child the label and say something like, "See I've put your name here in blue pen."

PREPARING FOR SCHOOL



Social Needs

- To be able to relate to adults outside the family group.
- To get on with other children (sharing, taking turns).
- To respect the belongings of others (toys, books, school equipment).

Emotional Needs

- To be able to leave parents confidently.
- To accept that he/she cannot always get his/her own way.
- To control emotions as much as possible.
- To tackle tasks with confidence and enthusiasm.
- To play independently.
- To be able to complete set tasks.

Starting school is usually a tiring experience, even for a healthy child. A cross and miserable child, or one who is not sleeping or eating well, may have a minor illness. This should be treated before the child has to make the extra effort involved in starting school.

Intellectual

At school, Prep children will be introduced to reading using a range of reading materials, such as Big Books, posters, magazines, signs, tapes and poems. A variety of approaches to Reading and many different activities will be used to develop children's confidence in understanding print. Children are helped to discover the relationships between the print and the message.

You can encourage a love of books by:

- Reading to your child regularly.
- Borrowing books from the library.
- Letting your children see you read.



THE FIRST DAY



Starting Date: Wednesday 29th January 2014

9:00AM TO 1:30PM

Requirements:

- ☺ Lunch (lunch box needs to be named on base and lid)
- ☺ Brainfood (an unprocessed snack, eg, fruit, celery, carrot sticks) in a small container or wrapped separately
- ☺ Play lunch (wrapped separately)
- ☺ School Bag (named)
- ☺ Smock (named)
- ☺ Library Bag (Named)
- ☺ Large Box of Tissues



Please note:

- All clothing must be named
- Students are not to wear thongs or sandals to school
- Long hair should be tied back
- In keeping with the school's SunSmart Policy, a school uniform sunsmart approved hat **MUST** be worn for outdoor activities, including recess, lunchtimes and Physical Education, during Terms 1 and 4
- Name tags are worn during the first few weeks to help teachers and children identify one another.

Parents are requested to leave the Prep room each day as soon as their child is settled at an activity. Although some children may become upset at saying goodbye, recovery is swift and the period of adjustment to school brief. Please do not hesitate to consult with the teacher if there appears to be a continuing problem.

TERM ONE ORGANISATION



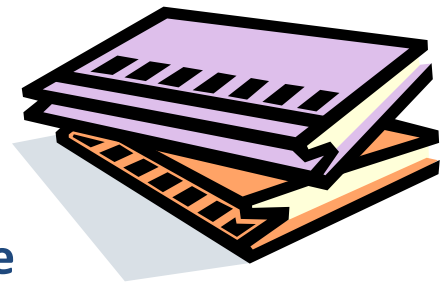
PREP DISMISSAL TIMES TERM ONE

Prep Children will be dismissed from the external doors of the Prep area on Wednesday 29th January at 1:30pm. They will also finish at 1:30pm on Thursday 30th January. On Friday 31st January they will come from 9:00am to 3:30pm. Preps will not attend school on Wednesdays until the week of Labour Day.

On Wednesdays, our Prep Teachers will carry out individual learning readiness assessments. Teachers will organise a mutually convenient appointment time for your child's assessment.

School Times:

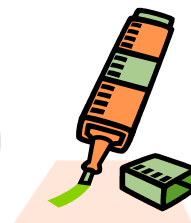
On the first day of school, on arrival, children can go directly to the Prep classroom which will be open from 8:30am. The 9:00am bell indicates that children can move into their learning area to prepare for the day.



Normal School Instruction times are as follows:

Session One	9:00am	-	11:00am
Recess	11:00am	-	11:30am
Session Two	11:30am	-	1:30pm
Lunch in classroom	1:30pm	-	1:40pm
Lunch Recess	1:40pm	-	2:30pm
Session Three	2:30pm	-	3:30pm

REMINDERS



Early Dismissal:

Please note on the last day before the Term 1, 2 and 3 vacations, the dismissal time for all students Prep to Year 6 is 2:30pm. Dismissal time on the last day of the school year is 1:30pm. You will be reminded of this in the school newsletter.

Assemblies:

Assemblies are held on Friday at 9am in the gym.

Public and End of Term Holidays:

All Curriculum Days and Term Holidays are published in the school's newsletter, which is distributed every fortnight on a Thursday.

Wet Days:

On days when the weather is too hot (34 degrees +) or too wet the children will be allowed to come inside and be supervised in their classrooms by teaching staff. Staff will setup activities for the students to complete.

School Organisation:

School Organisation differs from Year to Year. In 2013 there are five classes at Wantirna Primary School, with the Junior Learning Unit learning in the one building (from Prep to 2) and the Senior Learning Unit (from 3 – 6) learning in the L Space (Learning Space).



PREP LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

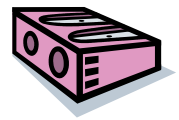


As part of the Federal Government's BER project Wantirna Primary School received a brand new learning space that has three classrooms and a central learning area. Our Prep 2011 class was the first class to move into this new building. The new Prep classroom has fantastic resources such as;

- A mini computer lab
- Large open learning areas
- Brand new furniture
- Eco friendly design
- Brand new teaching resources



PREP LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

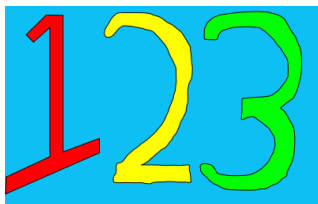


Wantirna Primary School has a strong Prep curriculum that caters towards different learning styles and children of different ages.



Literacy

Every morning Preps complete a two hour Literacy block that covers the three English domains of Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening. At Wantirna Primary School Preps begin to take home readers for reading at home from Week Three, enabling children to become confident with reading and books.



Numeracy

As part of the Numeracy curriculum Preps complete six one hour Numeracy sessions a week, consisting of hands on Maths activities, interactive whiteboard programs and multi age sessions.

Visual Arts

Each week all classes are scheduled in for a one hour specialist Visual Arts program. Students complete different art activities and put their art work on display throughout the school. Students wear art smocks to art sessions.

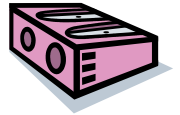


PE

Each week all classes receive a forty five minute PE session. As well as this students from Prep to Six also undertake a swimming program for ten weeks of the year. Preps go swimming in Term 4.



PREP LEARNING ENVIRONMENT



Interschool Sport

Annual swimming, athletics and cross country carnivals are conducted for students from Year 3 and we also have a Family Fun Night at the beginning of the year that features sports games. The Senior School also regularly participates in sports carnivals involving schools in our local area.



Music



All classes complete a music program right throughout the year, the Preps currently complete their music program with the Senior School to strengthen the relationships that Prep Students have with their buddies.

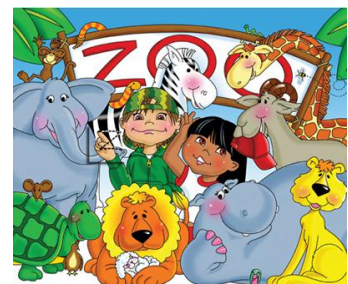
Brain Food and Drink Bottles



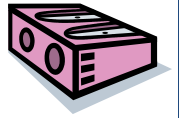
At 10:00am every morning students are able to have a nutritious snack to help them through the morning. Brain food is a non processed snack and includes foods such as sultanas, apples, pears, oranges etc.. Children are also allowed to have a plastic water bottle on their table at all times.

Excursions and Extra Curricular Activities

Excursions are regularly scheduled for throughout the year to tie in with the Integrated Studies learning that takes place in the classroom. All excursions are well supervised by staff and parents.



PREP LEARNING ENVIRONMENT



Religious Education

The Council for Christian Religious Education ACCESS in schools provides instruction for thirty minutes per week for all classes. The approved course is taught by accredited instructors. Religious Education is an optional program and students who do not attend CRE are given other educational tasks to complete.



Home Learning

Wantirna Primary School believes that a strong and positive home school relationship is integral to educational success for your child. The students receive home learning folders in week three, which contain activities for the students to complete at home.



HOME LEARNING



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Wantirna Primary School believes that a positive home to school relationship is integral to quality educational outcomes for children. As such we value the opportunity for students to continue their learning at home.

There are many ways that students can learn at home. As part of the school's fees students receive 24/7 access to the online programs Mathletics and Reading Eggs; at all times students can logon and practise their Mathematics and Literacy at home and parents can monitor how they are going.

Students are sent home with take-home books from Years Prep to Grade 2 and children can read these books with members of their family and then reflect upon the books they have just read back at school.

The online learning resources Study ladder and Superclubs Plus are also utilised throughout the Senior School, enabling learning to happen at every opportunity.

BUDDY PROGRAM

Wantirna Primary School runs a strong buddy program, utilising the Better Buddies program, sponsored by the Alannah and Madeline Foundation. All students are introduced to their Year Five buddy during the Step Into Prep Sessions. The buddies come and say hello on the first day of Prep and visit the classroom regularly during the first weeks of Term 1. Throughout the year Preps also go and visit their buddy in their classroom and complete various buddy activities. Having Year 5 buddies for Prep students means that the children are able to see their buddy at school for two years, supporting a smoother transition.

