Chirnside Park Primary School

The next step in your child’s Education

PREP 2014 INFORMATION BOOK
Welcome to Chirnside Park Primary School

It is with pleasure and pride that I welcome you to our warm and family friendly school. Every parent is anxious to find a good school, one that will care for their child and prepare them for their future.

We welcome visitors at Chirnside Park. The best way to choose a school is to see it in action on an ordinary school day. Chirnside Park is a great school! Come and visit us. I am sure you will be impressed.

Jan Marinakos, Principal.

MISSION STATEMENT:

Chirnside Park Primary School works together with the whole school community to support, engage and share knowledge to maximise individual potential. As we grow we aim to shape and empower our students to be resilient citizens and learners for life.

Location

We are extremely fortunate to be located in a quiet location at the end of a ‘No through road’. There is a school crossing guard at the entrance to the school and ample parking for safe pick up and drop off.
Student Wellbeing

Our highest priority is providing students with a positive and safe environment that promotes the development of self esteem, strong friendships and the social and emotional wellbeing of students. Students are supported to develop vital life skills such as working co-operatively, building resilience, and effective communication and interpersonal skills as a foundation for later learning. Our schoolyard is a happy and friendly place where ‘everyone knows everybody’, older children look after younger children and yard duty teachers observe the great connectedness between children of all age levels.

Parent–School Partnership

We are keen to ensure that the education of your child is truly a partnership between you as parents, and the school. We also work hard to cater for every child as an individual responding to their different learning styles and needs. We encourage parents to communicate any queries or concerns with teachers and we are very vigilant about following up. We take parental concerns seriously and seek feedback to achieve the best results for our children.
We are very proud of our innovative reading program. This program has maximised student engagement and produced amazing results by responding to the needs of each student.

A look in any of our classrooms will introduce you to the acronym CAFÉ. The initials stand for Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency and Expanding Vocabulary. Students are explicitly introduced to reading strategies in these categories and then their skills and understandings are re-inforced in small group and one–to–one teacher instruction.

Students are supported to select ‘just right’ books which they are interested in from the classroom library. Students challenge themselves and create personal learning goals. Students then participate in focussed independent reading and partner reading to practise reading strategies that have been introduced.

Students are also explicitly taught ‘thinking skills’ while reading. Students are encouraged to Make Connections, Infer, Visualise and Predict, in order to deepen their comprehension and understanding of different texts while still reading with understanding and fluency.

We love reading!
Writing

Students are inspired to record their ideas in a range of written genres. They use their experiences and visual prompts to create narratives, persuasive texts, informative reports and poems. Students utilise technology and a range of materials to publish their work.

DIPL: Spelling and Grammar

DIPL (Doorway Into Practical Literacy) is a program where children learn spelling rules that help make connections between sounds and written symbols. They also discover how to accurately put sentences together. Accurate spelling and correct speech and grammar assist children to become proficient writers.

Oral Language

Proficiency in oral language is a vital tool for thought. Without fluent oral language students find it difficult to think and therefore difficult to articulate ideas when reading and writing. We support students to develop effective speaking and listening skills that foster the development of their thought processes. We use a range of engaging visual prompts and explicit modelling to prompt students to listen to others and express their own understandings and ideas.
We utilise a wide range of Information Technology tools to enhance student learning.

Every classroom has an interactive whiteboard and a pod of computers. There are also large banks of laptops and iPads in years 3-6 and in Prep-2 there are sets of iPads and iPod touches.

A range of engaging software is used to enhance literacy and numeracy learning and prepare students for a world filled with Information Technology.
Our students are exposed to real life Maths that is relevant and fun! We assess our students before beginning teaching any new concepts and teach to their point of need so we ensure they are being challenged with the next step in their learning.

Students participate in a range of games and activities and receive small group instruction to support the development of mathematical skills and understandings.

Children are assisted in learning fundamental mathematical skills by utilising the computerised program ‘Mathletics’, which can be accessed at home to support further learning.
We place the highest priority on supporting all students to achieve their best and feel successful. Teachers consistently monitor the progress of students and respond to their individual learning needs providing support or extension where necessary.

We also provide a number of programs that provide additional support or challenge and extend those who may need it.

‘LLI’ Leveled Literacy Intervention

We have a structured intervention program in place for those students that addresses individual needs and is delivered by trained adults in a 1 to 3 ratio. It is imperative to us that no child slips through the net.

Support Services

If the need arises, in consultation with parents, it is possible for students to be referred to additional support services. Social Workers, Speech Therapists and Psychologists visit during school hours and work with parents and teachers to assist children in their development.

Chirnside CHALLENGE

This a new initiative commencing at the school that aims to provide students operating well above the expected level with opportunities to extend their skills and understandings.
We link Science into our Literacy program as a means to engage children’s interest. Hands on activities inspire children to discover things about the world and develop not only their knowledge and understandings but provide inspiration to read, write and talk about their experiences.

History

Students learn and appreciate how the world and its people have changed. Students develop an understanding of world history and Australian history past and present to provide them with knowledge to participate as the world continues to evolve into the future.
We have an incredibly diverse range of programs and activities that inspire students to explore their interests and develop personal qualities and skills.

- Excursions/Incursions
- 3/4 and 5/6 Camps
- Junior School Council
- Chess Club
- Drawing Club
- Gardening Club
- Knitting Club
- Chirnside Idol
- School Choir
- Learn to Surf
- Athletics Days
- Fun Run
- Hip to Skip
- Father’s Day breakfasts
- Instrumental Music Tuition
- Family Fun Night
- School Discos
- Interschool Sports
Our specialist programs are an exciting part of every day at school!

Visual Art

In Visual Art, students have fun learning to creatively express themselves in a variety of media, including painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, print making and sewing.

Physical Education

Our passionate PE teacher helps children to build skills and coaches them to develop their sporting prowess as well as developing their level of fitness.

Indonesian

Students build Indonesian language skills and their understanding of other cultures.

Music & Performing Arts

Students participate in weekly music lessons and an annual production. This an experience for the whole community and allows children to exhibit their special talents.
Prep is arguably the most exciting year of school. We have so much fun sharing this exciting year with students and watching their amazing growth throughout the year! We celebrate their great achievements with families at Prep Celebration Day at the end of the year.

What were your favourite moments of Prep?

“At school this year I enjoyed CAFE reading and learning about animals. I have learnt to read and write.” Holly

“At school this year I enjoyed doing fruit takeaways and I liked going to the Zoo. I learnt to count to 100.” Ebony

“I liked reading groups because there are lots of fun things, even iPod touches and I love writing.” Liam

“I liked playing in the shop corner and playing dress ups with my friends.” Olivia

“I like playing alphabet charades and Lego. I have learnt to count backwards and I can read tricky books.” Samantha

“My favourite thing about school is reading stories. I am good at making things and making new friends. I can count by 10s and I can read chapter books.” Tegan

To support Preps in their first year of school they are given a Grade 5 buddy and participate in a range of fun activities and getting to know you games. Grade 5 students excel in creating great friendships with their buddies and look out for them in the playground. This program is a highlight for Preps and Grade 5s alike.
We have a fantastic and comprehensive transition program which ensures we rarely have tears on the first day of school. Students participate in a range of fun activities while becoming familiar with the staff and facilities throughout the school.

Transition Dates:
Wednesdays 10am– 10.45am
May 29th– Mathematics
July 24th- Science
August 14th– Visual Arts
October 16th– PE
November 13th– Technology

Final Transition: 9.30– 10.45am
December 11th– Literacy

Please see our transition program for more information
We greatly value the contribution parents can make in our school community. We welcome parents to help within our classroom and school events. Parents who are available help with reading programs, mathematics activities and excursions. Children are very excited to have their parents involved in the school community.

Parents are also invited to participate in School Council and the Parents and Friends committee. These groups actively participate in fundraising and decision making within the school community.
Out of Hours School Care

We offer Before and After School Care.

Parents often book in because they may be working, have appointments or just to allow their children to have the social experience of attending after school hours care.

Staff offer a range of fun activities:

- Board Games
- Sensory activities
- Lego
- Drawing /colouring
- Dress ups
- Creative play
- Art/craft
- Cooking

Canteen

Our Canteen Manager seeks to provide highly nutritional food at excellent prices. We offer an extensive menu which is available from the canteen or the front office. Our canteen is staffed by volunteer helpers and is currently open each Thursday and Friday.

Whole School Events

To further build our community relationships we have a variety of whole school events. Parents and wider family and friends are invited to engage with our school through:

- Whole School Production
- Grandparents Day
- Family Fun Night
- Father’s Day Breakfast
- Carols Night
- District Cross country/ Athletics
- Interschool Sports
- Open Night
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If you wish to have more information please do not hesitate to contact our School Principal Jan Marinakos on 9727 3466. Or visit our website: www.chirnsideparkps.vic.edu.au

You are most welcome to make an appointment to discuss your child’s individual education needs and have a personal guided tour.