

# ST KILDA PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents,

Thank you for considering St Kilda Park Primary School in your quest to find the best possible learning environment for your child. At any time you can speak with Neil Scott (Principal), Kerry Bates (Assistant Principal) Nova Whitehead (Business Manager), or Kat O'Brien (Office Manager) if you require further information.

## *Primary School - Early Years*

The purpose of primary school is to give your child a foundation of knowledge, skills, attitudes, behaviours and values necessary for further learning. In St Kilda Park Primary School there is a particularly strong emphasis on students achieving high standards in literacy and numeracy. At the same time, children are encouraged to be confident and excited about learning and life through our Philosophy Program and rich Arts Programs.

## *The Early Years Learning Areas*

The Early Years Learning Area is an exciting and stimulating place where your child will be challenged and supported. As part of the Learning Area, your child will read books, and learn how to write well and solve mathematical problems with their teacher. Children are encouraged to make sense of the world around them through real-life experiences.

Learning Areas are child-friendly places, with colourful displays of children's work, learning materials and books, computers, and construction materials and art supplies - all of which children find inviting and stimulating.

Teachers are skilled at observing children during the normal school day activities. Teachers also ask children to perform certain tasks so they can assess their development, particularly in literacy and numeracy. Your Foundation child is assessed in a range of tasks that are more like fun and games activities than 'tests'. The specialist team, including Art, Craft, Performing Arts and Italian and Library provide a very comprehensive curriculum to cater for differing learning attributes of your child.

The focussed teaching strategies and practices used in our school accommodate the variations in the learning needs and styles of our students. Teachers plan the curriculum with a student-centred approach through the application of new teaching strategies and learning theories with a strong focus on developing high expectations of students as learners.

We build quality relationships based on respect, value and care. Teachers will take the time to get to know and understand students, not only in an educational sense but also in a wider social and personal sense. We will continue to engender school community partnerships with parents and the broader community to encompass a thorough knowledge of the school and its programs that are enriched and engaging for all. Parent Helpers are strongly encouraged in all Learning Areas and in many other areas around the school.

## *Technology in the Learning Areas*

Reading, writing and mathematics will always be important in education, and technology can be vital tools to help students better interact with these fundamental skills. Knowing how to use technology also forms part of the skill set students need for life in the 21st century. St Kilda Park Primary School provides an innovative learning environment so that all students have great opportunities to succeed. We have many technological devices that enhance the rich learning experiences for all students.

### ***Further Information***

If you wish for your child to attend St Kilda Park Primary we will give you an Information Booklet which provides you with information you will need to prepare your child for primary school at SKiPPS. The information in this booklet gives you with a snapshot of the valuable opportunities available to students who attend St Kilda Park Primary School. It outlines some of the innovative programs and activities that aim to make school engaging, gives your child a real thirst for learning, and prepares him or her for the future. The Information Book also has useful information to help you become involved in your child's education.

The school is proud of its transition programs to ensure children enter, move through and exit the school in a supportive environment from all agencies involved. We have an established and consistent application of the approach to student management and engagement across the school. Teachers create an environment where students' comments are acknowledged, their different opinions are respected and valued and where children feel safe and happy at school.

Information appraising each child's individual needs, both academically and emotionally is passed onto the next year's class teacher through tracking the achievement of students in the expected Victorian Essential Learning Standards, which encompasses the holistic child. We will smooth the transition from one year level to the next through continuing development of an agreed 'handover' protocol, including sharing of information, reports, specific student data in consultation with parents.

### ***St Kilda Park Primary School***

St Kilda Park Primary School is supported by a strong and solid educational system, so you can be confident that state-wide standards in education are maintained. Our school has the flexibility to tailor its programs to meet the individual needs of students and the local community.

St Kilda Park Primary School is an important part of our local community. Not only do the students usually live locally, but the people who make schools work - parents, principals, teachers and other staff and school councils - work hard to involve and connect with their community.

Please consider visiting our school in the near future to discuss your child's educational opportunities. If you wish to make further enquiries about St Kilda Park Primary School please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

***Neil Scott***  
**Principal**

### ***Ethos***

The school has chosen to encourage individualism and the development of community relationships, teachers are addressed by first names; all Year Six students are leaders and there is no school uniform.

This is accompanied by an emphasis on participation and the principles of equal opportunity are paramount within the school at both student and staff levels. The underlying principles of the Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2008 are embraced and applied at all levels of school organisation. St Kilda Park provides a secure, stimulating and nurturing environment in which children are encouraged to take responsibility for their own behaviour and to respect the rights and needs of others. The school is committed to helping children reach their full potential and celebrates all worthwhile pursuits and achievements. The school is relatively small and the size is regarded as a significant contributor to the creation of a strong sense of community.

### ***Defining the Learning Culture of St Kilda Park Primary School***

St Kilda Park Primary School community seeks to develop an inclusive, creative and reflective learning culture. This culture connects children to their world by engaging and equipping them with the necessary skills and knowledge to become valued members of the community.

The School acknowledges that it has a significant role to play in nurturing and developing social competencies in children as the essential foundation for all learning.

## Values guiding community life, teaching and learning at St Kilda Park Primary School

The following core values are reflected in all aspects of school life and contribute to a sense of common purpose within the school community:

# ***Respect Creativity Enthusiasm Resilience***

The school has chosen to encourage individualism and the development of community relationships, teachers are addressed by first names; all Year Six students are leaders and there is no school uniform.

The school community has a strong artistic orientation and high levels of participation in sport/physical activity which is well supported. The school maintains a strong focus on Visual and Performing Arts, Languages Other Than English (Italian), Philosophy, a love of Literacy in the Library, newly implemented Kitchen Garden program and Creating a Positive School Environment (CAPSE).

All staff members operate in teams with a strong emphasis on collaborative planning to maximise consistency. We have 25.7 equivalent full time staff: 1.8 principal Class, 2 Leading Teachers, 16.4 Teachers and 5.5 Education Support Staff.

### ***Parental Involvement***

Efforts are made to ensure that the School's wider community is actively involved so as to enrich school life and ensure that individual backgrounds and experiences are acknowledged and affirmed. Parent participation is encouraged and welcomed in all aspects of curriculum development, implementation and evaluation. Involvement is vital to the running of some programs, eg Sports and Gala days, Celebration of the Arts, Maths Talent Quest and general classroom helpers are facilitated by parent information and training sessions. In addition we have active parental involvement on School Council and all sub-committees. Current sub-committees include Education, Finance, Buildings and Grounds and Fundraising. Furthermore the school enjoys high levels of community support for all fundraising activities, many of which have a strong artistic and musical focus. A Parents' Association (SKiPPA) supports all school activities.

### **School Profile**

#### ***Location and Demographics***

St Kilda Park Primary School, founded in 1882, is an inner suburban bay side school with a population of 357 children in 2017. It is situated on a quiet site, with Albert Park on two of its borders which provide us with a fantastic place to play and a sense of openness.

#### ***Physical Environment***

The original nineteenth century two-storey brick building houses our Foundation, Yr 3/4 and Yr 5/6 Learning Areas, staff facilities, internal toilets, a library, conferencing rooms, a first aid room and the administration centre. This building is classified by the National Trust. Adjoining this building is a single storey wing, added in 1980, containing our Kitchen Dining facilities, a purpose-built art room, a performing arts space, toilets. Behind this wing is our new BER (Building the Education Revolution) Learning Area which currently houses our Yr 1/2 Students and school library. A major refurbishment of the original building was completed in 2011. This refurbishment 'opened' up the Learning Areas providing opportunities for team-teaching. All Learning Areas and Specialist Areas have Interactive Whiteboards installed and the Staffroom and the Administration Centre are equipped with computers and internet access.

The Out of School Hours Care Program is housed in the Kitchen Dining room. An Out of School Hours Care Program provides casual and regular childcare and offers a comprehensive range of activities.

Wide verandahs at the front and back of the single storey building and our newly constructed undercover area in the quadrangle provide shelter from the rain and sun. The quadrangle is regularly used as a school assembly area and as the gathering point for the children to eat play-lunch.

The school grounds are lined with large, shady elm trees and include an adventure playground and basketball/netball court. The children also have regular daily access to the adjoining parkland as part of supervised play at recess and lunchtimes and for physical education classes.

Our school community has come together to construct a kitchen garden. The kitchen garden is situated in Albert Park, adjoining our school. Parks Victoria and St Kilda Park Primary school formed a Licensed Agreement where the school leases the land to build our kitchen garden and playground. Parks Victoria are also very supportive as it ties very nicely into their 'healthy parks healthy people' philosophy.

The Kitchen Garden Program provides our children with hands on experience in learning about the growing and harvesting of fruit and vegetables, with an understanding of the value of organic growing principles, water conservation and environmental sustainability. And of course the final lesson is about enjoying the varied flavours of freshly picked produce that they have grown and prepared themselves.

The school is well served by public transport - bus, light rail and tram. Car access to the school is by means of a minor roadway off Fitzroy Street. This roadway is on land owned by DEECD but is used as a means of accessing Albert Park and the surrounding area - there are ongoing issues regarding the maintenance of the roadway and policing of traffic in this area. There are a number of parking spaces located immediately outside the school on land managed by Parks Victoria. However, over recent years there has been increasing traffic congestion in the Fitzroy Street area and reduced access to parking.

The diverse extra curriculum includes: private music tuition, choir, camps and excursions, swimming, lunchtime cross age sports activities, out of school hours sports, Years Foundation and Year Five 'Buddy' Program, Transition Programs, Year Six Leadership Program, Social Skills Program for Foundation-Six, chess clubs, coding clubs assemblies and whole school events, Premiers Reading Challenge academic challenges and extension programs. Our Year Six Leadership Program also provides all students with many opportunities to have fun and develop awareness of their local community.

### *Our Philosophy Program*

In 1989 a staff member, the Principal and some parents all heard about Philosophy for Children and became interested in bringing the program to the school. Since then teachers have been developing this program that now is deeply embedded into the curriculum and ethos and values of the school.

*The Philosophy Program aims:*

- to nurture in children a healthy sense of self esteem as they learn to clearly articulate their own ideas and learn to listen carefully to others
- to empower children to deal with problems and issues that will confront them at various stages of their lives by thinking critically, reflecting and acting in a responsible way
- build skills and attitudes which transfer to other contexts
- engender skills of good thinking and language development reinforce each other
- to encourage children to pay attention to what goes on in their own experience and to reflect on issues that matter to them
- to promote and develop thinking skills, especially higher order thinking skills
- to assist children to find ways to connect their own thoughts/ideas with those of others, so that they can build a coherent understanding of the world and their experience of it
- to provide opportunities for children to discover and invent ideas rather than merely absorbing and copying old ideas
- to demonstrate the value of reflective thinking and self corrective discussions for improving, understanding and resolving conflict
- To empower children to deal with problems and issues that will confront them at various stages of their lives by thinking critically, reflecting and acting in a responsible way.

Thank you for taking an interest in St Kilda Park Primary School.