

Information Booklet



Olinda Primary School



2017

At Olinda Primary School we are a caring, happy school where students love to learn. Our community works together so students become confident, capable and resilient citizens. Having your child attend Olinda places them in a rich social environment where they can achieve their personal best. Our social development program 'Play Is The Way' teaches the children to be self-regulating and masters of their own behaviour which they apply in their everyday lives both at school and at home.

Our school philosophy underpins the core values in our everyday dealings with each other, and in the development of all programs and policies. The values are intertwined with 'Play Is The Way', reflected in all conversations, playground activities and learning. This way our values really make a difference in our learning environment and are the filter through which all behaviours are considered.

Value	Definition	Students demonstrate this value by:	Adults demonstrate this value by:
Curiosity	Curiosity is a quality related to inquisitive thinking such as exploration, investigation, and a thirst for learning.	Seeking to understand the world as broadly and deeply as possible through who, what, when, where, how and why questioning.	Providing a safe and stimulating environment that supports the development of curiosity.
Responsibility	Responsibility means taking ownership of our actions and making wise choices.	Taking ownership of their actions. Following the Yellow Rule. Following the Blue Rule.	Providing a safe, friendly and challenging environment. Supporting the school's endeavours to provide the best education outcomes for each child.
Respect	Respect means being accepting and considerate of yourself and others' feelings and differences. It means using good manners and caring for the environment.	Accepting differences and using good manners. Following the Golden Rule.	Modelling respectful behaviours at all times. Treating all members of the school community in a polite and respectful manner.
Resilience	Resilience means staying positive even after facing setbacks and challenges.	Bouncing back! Following the Green Rule.	Allowing students to make mistakes and be responsible for their actions. Accepting that things will sometimes go wrong.
Persistence	Persistence means to keep going despite the difficulty of the task.	Completing their work. Following the Red Rule.	Encouraging students to complete what they set out to do.

Curriculum:

Olinda Primary School provides a challenging educational program for all children. Students work and play co-operatively with others, taking individual and collective pride in the school and their work. We embrace a spirit of mutual respect and support throughout the school.

Our Core Subjects:

At Olinda Primary, we have some non-negotiables that are our core subjects. These are Literacy, Numeracy and Inquiry Based Learning. Within a week's program, all children receive 10 hours of Literacy, 5 hours of Numeracy and 2 hours of Inquiry Learning. In reading, writing and maths we teach the children strategies that they can apply to different scenarios.

When teaching writing we follow the 'VOICES Plus 1' framework, which incorporates explicit grammar teaching and the 'Write to Read' program. The Write to Read program is a strong phonetics program where the children learn the 70 codes of the English Language, which they then apply to reading and writing. This program explicitly teaches children sound codes, rules to the English Language and handwriting. We use the CAFÉ Reading framework when teaching reading because it defines the strategies that good readers use. All the above programs work together to enable children to obtain a deeper understanding of the English Language.

At Olinda, we believe in teaching numeracy for the real world. We teach strategies that students can then apply to a variety of mathematical situations that they might come across throughout their life. We feel numeracy doesn't have to be dull. Statistics can involve calculating the percentage of red M&M's in a packet. However, we still believe in teaching the fundamentals. Times-tables might be considered nothing more than rote learning by some. None-the-less, we still consider times-tables an important foundation for mathematics and we teach strategies that the children can use in all situations.

We place a great emphasis on assessment within reading, writing and numeracy to closely monitor student progress, give feedback and set objectives. We believe what gets measured, gets managed.

Within each Inquiry Based Learning unit, we integrate where there is a natural fit with the curriculum. In particular, Science, Technology, History and Geography. At Olinda, we believe Inquiry Based Learning can significantly enhance education. Inquiry Based Learning is a process where students formulate questions, investigate to find answers, build new understandings, and then communicate their learnings to others

Tell me and I'll forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I'll understand.
Chinese proverb

Specialists' Programs

The children will all participate in Specialist Programs, which include The Arts both (Performing and Visual), Library, Physical Education, LOTE and Kitchen Classroom.

Performing Arts

At Olinda Primary School, the program in Performing Arts includes experience in Music, Drama and Dance at all levels. We integrate Music into Drama and Dance activities. We introduce all basic elements of the Performing Arts through singing, games, instrumental work, movement, dance, role-play, and other basic Performing Arts activities. We give children the scope to develop their potential on an individual and a group basis.

Visual Arts

At Olinda Primary School, we create and present art by exploring painting, drawing, construction and modelling. Art is a valuable part of the learning process, which contributes to the development of the individual's creativity, recreational skills and the ability to express and communicate their ideas. All students attend an Art session each week.

Physical Education

All children participate in the Physical Education program. Children are strongly encouraged to wear runners on the days of the lesson, as this will help the children to participate to their fullest potential. We also join other local schools on athletics days, district school sports and interschool sports days.

We have a tennis coach that teaches tennis usually during term three or four each year.

Swimming is held during term one where the students swim 3 days a week for 6 weeks at Olinda Pool. Professional swimming instructors provide all lessons.

Library Studies

The children attend a MARC Library session each week. A developmental program is offered by trained children's librarians. Regular borrowing is encouraged as a basis for developing reading skills and as an enjoyable leisure activity.

LOTE

French language is taught at Olinda Primary School. The LOTE curriculum is offered as an integrated part of the curriculum to all students. It is aimed at engaging students in thinking and reflecting on their own culture, wider civilisations that surround them and the languages and customs of other countries. All students attend the language sessions once a week. Their listening, understanding and speaking skills are developed through singing, games, rhymes, role-play and other language activities. Besides learning the language, they will build up an awareness and knowledge of French customs and cultures throughout the program.

Kitchen Classroom

The children spend a minimum of one day a week for two terms cooking. They are not only learning basic cooking skills but also learning mathematics. It is a perfect environment to learn fractions as well as doubling and halving recipes. The children also have a chance to create from scratch or modify a recipe.

Chess Club

The new initiative for 2017 because of 'Student Voice' at Olinda is that all children will be participating in a 'Chess Club'. We have a chess teacher that will be coming in for an hour every Friday during terms two and three. Everyone including the staff will learn about the game, as well as how to play strategically to win. As part of this, they will also have their very own chess league.

School Camps

Olinda Primary School attend 2 camps either in grades 4, 5 or 6 dependent on the camp cycle. We join up with other schools at the department of education camps. We always have an Olinda Staff member with the children assisting them. This is also a valuable time because the children at Olinda Primary mix with other children from the Dandenong Ranges Network.

Incursions and Excursions

We usually have 2 incursions or excursions during each term that are related to our Inquiry unit or our specialist's programs. During terms 2 and 4 we have 2 sessions with the CFA. During term 2 the children learn about fire safety around their house and yard. In term 4 the children learn about fire safety relating to bush fires. In this session they talk about fire plans, safety equipment and clothes. We have close connections to our local community in particular the Rhododendron Gardens, the local CFA and Police as well as local businesses.