Tootgarook Primary School

2016/2017 Information Booklet

"Taking a Leap into Learning"
A Message from the Principal

This information booklet outlines the programs we offer students at Tootgarook Primary School. The landscaped grounds enhance the spaciousness of the playground, in which our students are able to participate in a wide range of play and sporting activities. Our schoolyard is open, enabling clear supervision of students by staff, who encourage and promote safe and friendly play.

The school was rebuilt in 2010 and our modern buildings feature classrooms which are designed for flexible student movement. This enables teachers to collaborate in teams when planning a wide range of learning opportunities to cater for the broad range of student levels of development, learning styles and interests. Our learning environments include art/technology studios, a kitchen, outside learning courtyards, a Library, a Multi-Purpose Room, a hall which the community is encouraged to use and a foreshore classroom at Tootgarook beach.

It is the aim of our school to provide a safe, caring and stimulating learning environment in which all children will have the opportunity to access a quality education through programs designed to not only develop your child’s academic and intellectual abilities, but also nurture their physical, social and emotional needs. Our RICH school values of Respect, Integrity, Celebration and Honesty have been developed by parents, staff and students. These values reflect attitudes and behaviours necessary for successful learning and social interaction beyond the schoolyard. Our experienced teachers, implement the programs described in this booklet, providing students with skills, knowledge and values, enabling them to successfully participate in a rapidly changing world.

Please feel welcome to contact me on 59852864 if you require further information or wish to make an appointment to discuss our school and what it has to offer your child. Tours of the school are available at any time convenient to you and can be arranged on the above number.

Regards,

Wayne Whitworth
Principal
The school seeks to engage its students in learning that has value and meaning beyond the instructional context and connects students to the wider community. Children are encouraged to develop self-discipline and accept responsibility, learn and interact cooperatively, take pride in themselves and their achievements and contribute to the community culture at the school.

As a learning community, TPS is committed to:

- delivering a curriculum focusing on the core competencies of literacy, numeracy and an understanding of our world through our integrated units of study and information communications technology.
- providing the staff and students with a positive working and learning environment in which they are supported by the Principal and School Council
- providing a safe and secure environment in which students will grow in both autonomy and ability to work and play together
- meeting the needs of individual children in the areas of social, emotional, physical and intellectual growth
- fostering in each student a strong sense of identity, responsibility, self-esteem and independence and ensuring that their maximum potential can be realized
- creating relationships with parents that facilitate the exchange of information necessary to ensure the child’s progress.

“taking a leap into learning”
Our Programs

PREPS INVESTIGATIVE LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

To assist in the smooth transition between Pre-School and school, the Foundation (Prep) program features Investigative Learning which involves guided, child directed and adult led play activities. These activities usually relate to an Integrated Studies topic which the whole school is studying. Oral Language, Reading, Writing, Numeracy, Thinking, Technological and Social Skills develop and are extended from student participation in this play based learning.

ENGLISH and MATHEMATICS

TPS follows the strategic and comprehensive approach to English and Mathematics development as outlined in the Victorian Curriculum.

In English children use THRASS (Teaching Handwriting Reading And Spelling) a nationally recognised program for teaching learners about the letters, speech sounds and spelling choices of English. They are exposed to a wide range of texts, fiction and non-fiction books, poems, songs, rhymes and tales. The students are encouraged to experiment with writing genres and are provided with many opportunities to become competent speakers and attentive and courteous listeners.

Literacy Intervention offers intensive tuition to those students whose literacy skills are slow to develop. This provides an additional opportunity for children who are having difficulty learning to read and write. Literacy Intervention complements our literacy program and enables the children to become active and independent readers and writers empowering them to join in the daily literacy activities.

In Numeracy lessons, students are provided with learning experiences that are challenging, enjoyable and enable them to achieve a range of purposes. Structures within the grade allow for individual differences through the provision of open-ended tasks. Mathematical concepts and strategies are modelled and explained using concrete materials. Numeracy development is based around hands on problem solving in whole class and small groups. Skills that can be transferred to real life situations are developed through engaging maths ideas and strategies.

Parental involvement is welcomed and encouraged in the classroom and we aim to develop a shared understanding of children’s literacy and numeracy learning. Parental support with our curriculum programs is appreciated and valued.

INTEGRATED UNITS

Our Integrated Units of work identify a range of knowledge, skills and behaviours that are essential to ensuring students are prepared as active learners and problem-solvers for success at school and beyond. This strand focuses on ways of thinking, communicating, conceiving and realising ideas and information. It assists students to develop the capacity to design, create and evaluate processes as a way of developing creativity and innovation. Through their learning our students form a body of knowledge associated with ways of seeing the world and distinct methods of exploring, imagining and constructing that world.

Our task is to equip students for the challenging world of the twenty-first century and to ensure that students develop as people who take increasing responsibility for their own physical wellbeing, their own learning, their own relationships with others and their role in the local, national and global community.

“taking a leap into learning”
**MUSIC**

Our Music program at TPS provides students with the experiences and opportunities to develop their skills and abilities in music and singing. Music lessons are provided to all students by our specialist teacher. Junior recorder groups are offered as an introduction to our school band. Lessons in a variety of instruments are also available. These include saxophone, clarinet, flute, guitar and drums. Students who participate in our choir and school band can extend themselves through participation in our district music camp, cluster band and community performances.

**ART**

Our Visual Arts program provides exemplary opportunities for our students to develop skills, confidence and creativity using a variety of art media. Student work is proudly displayed throughout our school and TPS has a proud tradition of participation and success in local student art shows. Student art is also displayed at a variety of community forums.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH**

Physical Education is provided to all students and emphasises the important role that physical activity, sport and recreation need to play in the lives of all Australians by providing opportunities for challenge, personal growth, enjoyment and fitness. It promotes involvement in a manner that reflects awareness that everyone has the right to participate in a healthy and active lifestyle. It develops students' confidence in using movement skills and strategies to increase their motivation to become active as well as improve their performance and maintain a level of fitness that allows them to participate in physical activity. Our school participates in the “Active After School Communities” program which enables our students to participate in a variety of activities supervised by a number of specialist coaches.

TPS has a proud tradition of participation across a wide variety of sporting activities at various levels. The school competes at inter-school levels in athletics and cross-country, football, netball, swimming, T-ball and soccer.

Our Prep students also participate in the Perceptual Motor Program (PMP) which is designed to develop their balance and spatial awareness.

A Running Club is held at 8am on Tuesday and Thursday. This provides an opportunity for our students and members of the community to participate in a regular fitness activity.
INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

Students use Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in their daily learning as part of their preparation to participate in the ‘knowledge society’. Each student is able to access and utilise the computers in their learning environment and experience the role that technology will play in our future.

All classrooms have Interactive Whiteboards installed. These give students opportunities to participate in a wide range of activities on the internet and interactive activities produced by classroom teachers.

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING

KIDSMATTER

KidsMatter is a national primary school mental health initiative. Our school was successful in being accepted in the first national intake of fifty schools.

KidsMatter aims to:
- improve the mental health and wellbeing of primary school students
- reduce mental health problems among students
- achieve greater support and assistance for students at risk or experiencing mental health problems.

*The program focuses on four main components:*
- creating a positive school community
- social and emotional learning for students
- parenting education and support
- early intervention and for students and families at risk.

BOUNCE BACK

Students participate in the Bounce Back program to develop resilience, so that they are able to cope with adversity and challenges in their lives. Students are taught strategies such as optimistic thinking, problem solving, humour and asking for support. This program also introduces students to strategies enabling them to identify and deal with bullying.

BLUEARTH

Bluearth is a weekly session of specifically designed games, movements and postures that link into Physical Education. The principles achieve improved social, personal, physical and academic outcomes, including:

- Inclusive, enjoyable and non-threatening learning environment.
- A presumption that each student has the ability to succeed.
- Opportunities to allow exploration, creativity and self assessment.
TRANSITION PROGRAMS

Pre-School to Foundation (Prep) Transition Program

Children beginning school at Tootgarook, have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of school experiences during their Pre-School year. The Tootgarook Pre-School, Lyndel Child Care Centre and Capel Sound Child Care Centres are situated within walking distance of the school and this close proximity allows for local Pre-Schoolers to be involved in many school activities throughout their kinder year. They participate in our annual concert, utilise our facilities, such as our impressive outdoor playground equipment and visit classrooms. The children meet members of the school community such as the Principal, Music and Art teachers. They become familiar with school staff who will facilitate their learning experiences when they begin Preps. Older students throughout the school get to know many of the ‘kinder kids’ and this develops a caring and nurturing climate within the school.

Information sessions and tours of the school are held in Term 2 to assist parents with making an informed decision when choosing a school to meet the needs of their child and family. Also during Terms 2 & 3 our Leaping into Learning Program commences, giving Pre-School children an opportunity to participate in early literacy and numeracy activities with an early year’s teacher. They become familiar with the Foundation (Prep) classrooms and other areas of the school such as the toilets, Art and Music rooms.

During Term 3 & 4, enrolled students continue to participate in the Leaping into Learning program. A Parent Information Meeting is conducted in November for parents who have enrolled their children at Tootgarook Primary School. Our extensive Transition program intends to give Pre-Schoolers and families opportunities to become familiar with the school environment and staff. This in turn eases the transition to school and ensures Foundation (Prep) students at Tootgarook Primary School quickly settle into classroom routine and their learning, during February.

Tours of the school are available throughout the year. Please phone the school office to make an appointment.

YEAR 6 TO YEAR 7 TRANSITION

Students at Tootgarook Primary School begin to prepare for transition to secondary school well before their last year at primary school. Throughout their last three years at Tootgarook, our teachers begin to introduce the children to organisational skills necessary for successful change to a new learning environment.

During Years 4, 5 & 6, the students are grouped for their Maths and English lessons according to levels of ability rather than year levels. Their learning activities are appropriate to their needs and they are taught organisational skills such as reading timetables, the importance of being prepared with the appropriate materials, as well as adjusting to a range of different teachers. Year 5 students visit local secondary schools prior to choosing a school and Year 6 students visit their school of choice for orientation activities. Secondary school teachers visit our school to give lessons in some secondary school subjects such as Languages Other Than English.

“taking a leap into learning”
**Student Leadership**

Our senior students in Years 5 & 6 are encouraged to demonstrate their leadership skills by nominating for school captain and house captain positions. These roles include promoting our school values, leading school assemblies, representing our school at community events and organising whole school events such as sports days. Junior School councillors are elected by their peers and represent the student body. They raise issues and ideas to improve our school, after discussions in classrooms. Recommendations made by Junior School Council are then forwarded for discussion at School Council.

**SCHOOL CAMPS**

The school provides a wide range of camping and outdoor education programs commencing with a sleepover at grade 2. Students in grades 3 and 4 alternate each year between Somers camp & The Briars over three days. Students in grades 5 & 6 attend an Urban Camp centred around a visit to Melbourne and participate in an educational experience related to Australian history such as Sovereign Hill at Ballarat. These camps occur in alternative years.

**WATER SAFETY & SWIMMING**

An intensive two week swimming program is conducted at Rosebud Pool by qualified instructors for Foundation (Prep) – Grade 2. The school’s swimming squad trains over three weeks in preparation for school and District competitions. A water safety and awareness program, including beach activities, based on the “Nipper Program” of Surf Lifesaving Clubs is also conducted on the foreshore of Port Phillip Bay. Students in grades 5 and 6 also have the opportunity to participate in the Southern Peninsula Triathlon Competition.

“taking a leap into learning”
EXTRA CURRICULUM ACTIVITIES

Our school offers a range of extra-curricular activities, giving our students further opportunities to develop their creative, communication and physical skills by broadening their interests. Before school activities include Running Club and Breakfast Club. Lunchtime activities include Chess Club, Choir, Mobile Library, Zumba and organised team sporting games.

The Active After School Program offers activities such as Yoga, Photography, Karate and Soccer. Milo cricket and junior football training are held on the school oval. Some opportunity to participate in the Connections Program which is held during Terms 2 & 3 at various school campuses in the area. Selected students participate in activities to extend their knowledge of Computers.

SUNSMART

TPS is a SunSmart school and all staff and students use a combination of sun protection measures during first and fourth terms. Broad brimmed hats are compulsory when students play or participate in outdoor activities during these specific times of our school year. Children are directed to a designated shaded area if they do not have their hat.

The goals of our SunSmart policy are to:

- increase student and community awareness about skin cancer and sun protection
- implement a combination of sun protection measures in first and fourth terms
- work towards a safe school environment that provides shade for school community members
- assist students to be responsible for their own sun protection.

BUDDIES

A year 5 buddy provides your child with additional support in his/her first year at school. This assistance includes specific classroom activities as well as in the playground during recess and lunchtime. The program develops responsibility and empathy in our senior students.
PARENT AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Parents are actively encouraged to participate in their child’s education. Parents at Tootgarook assist with classroom programs such as reading, cooking, sporting events, camps and excursions. Our Tootstars program, includes the RACV Energy Breakthrough, Bike Education and Drama. The R.A.C.V Energy Breakthrough gives Years 5/6 students, parents, teachers and local businesses an opportunity to work together to construct an environmentally friendly vehicle or machine. Teams work throughout the year to design, build, test vehicles and machines within given specifications. Students train to improve their fitness and stamina to participate in the culmination of this team effort at Maryborough in November each year. Students visit local Aged Care Centres, Childcare Centres and Pre-Schools to interact with a wide range of community members. The Tootgarook Monthly Market is held on the 4th Sat. of each month, providing the school and community with an opportunity to share resources and work together. A twice weekly Running Club, organised and run by parents, gives students and community members an opportunity to participate in a regular fun and fitness activity. A current Working With Children Check is required for all personnel working with our students.

SCHOOL KITCHEN AND GARDEN

A fully equipped state of the art kitchen included in our new buildings will be used to support our Health and Nutrition program. Throughout the year, students will plants and care for vegetables in the garden. The produce will be utilised by Prep-Year 6 students during cooking activities.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND SUSTAINABILITY

OUR VISION: To be a sustainable school, leading in the field of Environmental Education and Sustainable Operations. We aim to motivate our students, staff, school and the wider community to live more sustainably and to appreciate the resources that we have available. The school is committed to a whole-school approach to environmental education, of which waste minimization and litter reduction is an important component.

Tootgarook Primary School has the good fortune to be in close proximity to the beach. We have access to an outdoor education centre which is run by Capel Sound Foreshore. Students participate in environmental studies activities, learning from the local rangers and conservation groups. Our school has won the Mornington Peninsula Mayoral Sustainability awards for 2009 and 2010. We were successful in winning two out of the three awards, attracting recognition and prize monies for further sustainable projects. An environment focussed unit of study is included each year from Prep-Year 6. Our Junior School Council has implemented many sustainable measures in the school, including, Nude Food, worm farms, composting and recycling paper. We enter sustainability competitions through the Junior School council every year. Through the National Solar in Schools program we have obtained solar panels for our school. We also practise water conservation with many water tanks connected to our buildings. At Tootgarook Primary School, environmental awareness and sustainability are integrated into all areas of the curriculum.

“taking a leap into learning”