Weeden Heights
PRIMARY SCHOOL
VERMONT SOUTH
Futures are Bright

Weeden Heights Primary School

Vermont South

Year 5/6A

Information Booklet 2025

Futures are Bright ...

Our Mission

Weeden Heights Primary School empowers and supports students to achieve personal excellence to become life long learners and global citizens who make a positive difference.

We Are

A dynamic child centred, learning community committed to providing exemplary programs in a challenging, vibrant and safe environment.

Our School Values

Respect Personal Excellence Curiosity and Creativity Collaboration

We Support

Our students to be life long learners who are:

- Logical and Creative Thinkers
- Knowledgeable
- Tolerant
- Motivated
- Resilient
- Imaginative
- Open Minded
- Risk Takers
- Reflective
- Caring and respectful.

Our Curriculum

Is designed to ensure students:

- Experience the joy of learning and reach their academic potential
- Develop comprehensive literacy and numeracy skills
- Foster enquiry learning, thinking skills and problem solving
- Maximise learning across all areas including Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM), History, Economics, Geography, Health and Environmental Studies.

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Caring For and Nurturing Students

A Whole School Commitment

In addition to providing a vibrant learning environment and a safe and secure physical environment, we place significant emphasis on the well-being of our students. We know our students and make them feel valued.

Our programs and services include:

- Cross-age and grade mentoring
- Buddy program
- Cyber Safety
- E-smart accredited school
- Specialised lunchtime activities
- School House System
- Visible playground supervision
- Qualified First Aid staff
- UV/Sunsmart Policy
- Asthma Friendly Accredited School.

Community Partnerships

We believe the home/school partnership is vital to a child's achievement. We maintain regular communication with parents and welcome their involvement through:

- Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program
- Classroom Helper programs
- School Council
- Parents Association
- Classroom Parent Representatives
- Parent / Student / Teacher Partnership Meetings
- Open days
- Fortnightly electronic newsletter "Nokuna"
- Facebook Page
- Instagram Page
- Compass (smartphone app)

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to Grade 5/6A

Prathik	Gargi	Nick	Ava	Coco
Divya	Asher	Billy	Ella	Eric
Osmond	Jerry	Aeshan	Abigail	Clarissa
Sienna	Charlotte	Olivia	Jasmine W.	Harrison
Zara	Shreyas	Cindy	Jack	Alex Z.
Zayden	Advaith			

Year 5/6A Learning Agreement/Mission Statement

"When life gets you down, you know what you got to do?

Just keep learning." (From Finding Nemo)

In our grade, we will be collaborative and focussed on our learning. We will be honest, kind and respectful towards everyone. We will have a positive mindset and encourage each other to do our personal best to achieve our goals. We will take risks in our learning and make smart decisions. We will display resilience, good work ethic and make learning fun for ourselves and others!

Class Teacher

Aarti Arya

Specialist Teachers

Languages - Delphine Todd

Performing Arts - Kate Phillips

Visual Arts - Kate Phillips

Physical Education - Solange Nancarrow

STEAM, Kitchen & Garden - Caitlin Filby

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Daily Schedule

Doors Open -	8:50 am
Classes Commence -	9:00 am
Recess -	11:00am
Classes resume	11.30am
Lunch Eating -	1:30 pm
Lunch Break -	1:40 pm
Classes resume -	2.30pm
Day Concludes -	3.30pm

Specialist Schedule

Subject	Day	Time
Languages	Monday	12:45 pm
Physical Education	Tuesday	12:30 am
STEAM/SAKG	Wednesday	12:30 pm
Visual Arts	Wednesday	2:30 pm
Performing Arts	Tuesday	2:30 pm

General Information for Parents

Whole School Assembly

Monday mornings commencing at 9:00 am. Please join us in celebrating the students and their achievements.

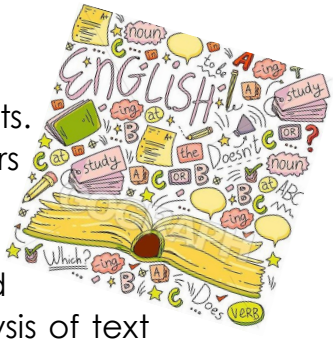
Camping Program

At Weeden Heights Primary School, the camping program aims to provide each student with the opportunity to gain knowledge, experience and a sense of achievement through a variety of challenging activities within different environments. This program promotes the students' independence and builds positive teacher-child and peer group relationships. In 2025, the year 3-6 camp is at Lake Dewar Recreation Camp and will be held from August 6-8.

Written Reports

Mid year and end of year reports and portfolios will be sent home detailing your child's progress in English, Mathematics, Inquiry Learning, specialist areas and personal development.

English



Literacy is a core skill and central to the learning of our students. It helps create confident communicators, imaginative thinkers and informed citizens.

Café Reading approach aims to develop meaning and comprehension, improve reading strategies and critical analysis of text using a variety of text types. Application of comprehension strategies are enhanced through strategy groups and explicit teaching. Literature Circles are introduced in Years 5 & 6 to support students to develop independence and strengthen their comprehension.

In writing, the teaching approaches for students are modelled, shared, interactive or guided. Teaching writing through the VOICES approach demonstrates planning, composing, recording, revising and publishing through a variety of text types and developmental stages.

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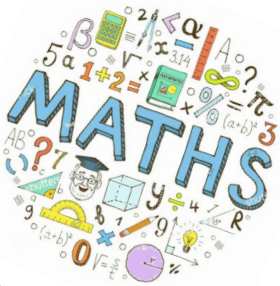
All classrooms are supported by a comprehensive range of well resourced texts and other materials appropriate to the needs of each student. ICT is incorporated into our literacy programs and are a significant vehicle for learning.

Mathematics



Mathematics learning aims to provide students with essential mathematical skills and knowledge in number and algebra, measurement and geometry, and statistics and probability .

Our curriculum focuses on developing increasingly sophisticated and refined mathematical understanding, fluency, logical reasoning, analytical thinking and problem-solving skills. These capabilities enable students to respond to familiar and unfamiliar situations to make informed decisions and solve problems efficiently. Digital technologies are used to provide access to new tools for continuing mathematical exploration.

Our Numeracy block involves number fluency games to build upon previous mathematical skills and understandings, Students are encouraged to explore problem solving strategies and apply them to open ended problems, facilitated by their teacher. Classrooms are well supported by a variety of manipulatives, concrete materials and other tools to match the needs of each child.

All students have access to an online learning program called Prodigy, which supports all aspects of numeracy and supplements the classroom program through school and home learning opportunities.

Inquiry Learning

Each term students are involved in developing the focus questions for their Inquiry learning. An Inquiry unit of work is then developed reflecting the students interests, whilst ensuring the capabilities and strands of the Victorian Curriculum 2.0 are being covered.

Students begin term 1 with the W.H.P.S Bright Beginnings Wellbeing Program. This is followed by various inquiry units over the year, that cater to the key learning areas of History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship and Sciences.

eLearning/Digital Technologies

Computers and digital technology is integrated across our entire curriculum. Students have the opportunity to regularly use Chromebooks, iPads, document cameras and the Internet. Students in Years 3-6 are invited to participate in our BYOD Program. Launched this year, many students have chosen to take part in the program. The individual use of personal devices empowers students to work to their full potential and develop essential learning habits with the support of digital tools.

Languages

Students at W.H.P.S. learn French. The language program is designed to instil an appreciation of language learning, teach students the necessary vocabulary and phrases and introduce students to the French culture. The students are instructed by a native speaker who is supported by the classroom teacher.

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Library

Students are able to borrow a wide selection of books from our well equipped Library on a weekly basis. Each child is encouraged to borrow 3-4 books weekly. Books may be kept for 1-2 weeks at a time and re-borrowed if required.

Performing Arts

Creating, making, exploring and responding are the major focus of the Performing Arts Program. The content areas of the performing arts are – drama, music and dance.

Drama includes development of character, using voice costume and props. Students will have the opportunity to explore expression by participating in nursery rhymes, activities and drama games. They will create their own characters and participate in the performances. Costumes and props will be used to help develop performance.

During Music sessions students will be encouraged to sing, move, and play instruments confidently. Musical elements such as beat, pitch, dynamics and tempo will be explored and used to communicate ideas and feelings.

Dance involves the students participating in a variety of dance styles: hip-hop, rock'n'roll, dance that tells a story (ballet), disco, and traditional dances. Student will explore putting their own movements to various styles of music and engage in a variety of dance games.

Choir will be available as an optional lunchtime activity for any interested students.

Visual Arts

Imagination and creativity are pivotal to the Visual Art program. Students create 2D and 3D visual art works that communicate ideas, concepts, observations, feelings and experiences. They use a range of skills, techniques, processes and materials and equipment. Activities include painting, printing, collage and paper skills, modelling, drawing, and using threads and textiles.

Students will be encouraged to describe and discuss their own and others' art work.

Please provide your child with an art smock to protect their school uniform (an old shirt is fine too).

Physical Education/Sport Program

All students participate in our Physical Education and sport programs which includes structured and informal physical education classes. Swimming also forms part of our Physical Education program. All students complete an intensive swimming program. Students from Year 3 onwards participate in Hoop Time Basketball competitions and district and zone sporting carnivals.

Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden

Our students will have some opportunity to work with the garden and kitchen specialists during the SAKG program. They will learn about growing and preparing food, some of which contain fresh produce from our garden and eggs from our resident chickens.

Participation in the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program provides opportunities for students to implement their learning in a fun and dynamic way. They improve their ability to make healthy eating and lifestyle choices, and develop an awareness of environmental issues.

Students will be involved in harvesting produce and preparing and sharing food in the kitchen. Senior students also work in the kitchen and garden where opportunities arise. All grades are responsible for maintaining a section of the garden. We invite and encourage parents and special friends to participate in our volunteer program.

S.T.E.A.M.

This specialist area incorporates Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics. STEAM develops creative problem solving skills along with robotics and coding. All students will attend this weekly.

Social Skills/Wellbeing

Students participate in weekly social skills classes. The foci for these is our school values, eSmart, mindfulness and meditation and our whole school Wellbeing program Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships.

Homework

While each year level at Weeden Heights Primary School is guided by our School Council endorsed Homework Policy, homework looks a little different across the school. We see homework as an opportunity for parents and carers to participate in their child's education. Students practise skills and knowledge learnt at school, in pursuit of becoming an independent learner, responsible for their own learning.

In general, students are expected to complete and submit the following homework:

Years 4, 5, 6

- Daily reading (15-30 minutes per night)
- Fortnightly homework based around the spelling, English, Maths, Inquiry and Personal Learning skills being taught in class.

In addition projects may be assigned to support the classroom program

Daily Reading

Students are encouraged to select a book of their choice from their reading box, school library, home or classroom CAFÉ library to read daily at home.

- Students have a school diary to record the details of their home reading. These need to be brought to school daily and will be checked by teachers regularly.

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- Home Reading is aimed at enjoyment and practice. Students will be reading books that are 'just right' in order to practice a range of reading behaviours without struggling with the text, the most important of these being comprehension.
- In class, students will read at a higher level of difficulty as specific skills and reading strategies are taught
- Home reading should be an enjoyable experience.

Teachers will:

- Ensure students are made aware of the due date for homework
- Value students' efforts by acknowledging their work and providing feedback
- Contact parents if a student is not completing homework on a regular basis
- Encourage students to develop home organisation skills for homework.

Parents can help their children by:

- Encouraging a regular daily session to examine and complete homework
- Discussing key questions or suggesting resources to help with homework
- Helping to balance the amount of time spent between homework and recreational activities such as watching T.V. or playing computer games
- Asking how homework and class work is progressing and acknowledging success

Personal & Interpersonal Development Skills

Student Engagement and Wellbeing
Actively Promoting Positive Behaviours

At Weeden Heights Primary School, we strive to learn how to work and play effectively with others. The diverse situations within the classroom and school yard, both structured and informal, provide invaluable opportunities or learning and refining positive social strategies. Students develop the ability to make constructive independent decisions and experience associated rewarding results.

Positive social participation skills include:

- Identifying the consequence of our actions and the effects of our words upon others
- Accepting responsibility for both our actions and our learning
- Demonstrating courtesy, respect and empathy for others and their belongings
- Sharing resources
- Working co-operatively with others
- Effectively undertaking small group tasks with a variety of peers
- Accepting support and advice constructively.

In line with the schools Engagement and Wellbeing Policy each student completes the an Essential Agreement. The values and behaviors which we trying to build are discussed in the class and form the basis of each grade Learning Agreement/ Mission Statement as appears on the front page of this booklet. However if there is a breach in behaviour, the school has a very clear procedure that aims to maximise the learning for all parties.

Characteristics of Successful Learners

Thoughtful: curious, reflective, provide reasons

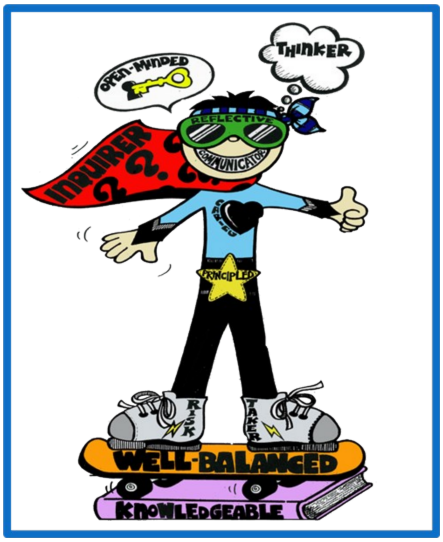
Industrious: motivated, focused on task, persistent

Generative: creative, original, imaginative

Empathetic: aware and concerned for the feelings of others

Risk Taker: make informed independent decisions, try new things

Strategic: organised, resourceful, planned



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Parental Involvement

Weeden Heights strongly believes that student learning is enhanced when families and teachers work together as partners. Some ways to become involved:

- Becoming involved as one of our valued Classroom Parent Representatives
- Sharing cultural backgrounds, creative skills or other expertise with selected classes
- Assisting with school concerts and productions
- Becoming part of our Parents and Friends Association (PFA)
- Actively playing a role on our School Council or one of its Sub-Committees
- Attending working bees.

We also welcome families to participate in any special days such as junior sports, dress up days and other activities as they arise.

Classroom Representatives

At the start of each year your child's classroom teacher will invite parents to become their Classroom Representative. This includes liaising with the parents in the class and the school, involving everyone in the classroom and social activities and passing on information between school and home. Classroom Representatives meet regularly to exchange ideas and plan activities.

Parents and Friends Association (PFA)

The aim of the Parents and Friends Association (PFA) is to raise much needed extra funds for the school for the benefit of the students. In previous years the committee has provided the school with two new playgrounds, helped with the cost of fencing around the staff car park, purchased audio visual equipment, interactive whiteboards and air conditioners for the library and classrooms, together with many other items. Being a member of the Parents Association is a great way of being involved with the school and getting to know other parents. Notification of dates, time and venue of meetings is done through our school newsletter 'Nokuna' and all parents are welcome to attend. If you would like to discuss your involvement, contact telephone numbers for Parents Association members are also included in our school newsletter.

School Council The School Council is a legal entity comprising parents and staff.

The Weeden Heights Primary School Council is required:

- To work with parents and staff in shaping the educational policy of the school
- To ensure buildings and grounds are kept in good state of repair
- Suggest improvements/extensions to buildings and grounds
- Stimulate interest in the school
- Participate in the budget process each year
- Stand for election.

Elections for School Council are held each year in Term 1. All parents are eligible to stand for election.

Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month. If you are interested, please do come along. Input from all members of the community is valued. School Council actively seeks your ideas, support and involvement.

School Council Sub Committees

Our School Council has the following sub committees for which parents are encouraged and welcome to join:

- Education
- Buildings and Grounds
- Finance
- Public Relations

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Ways You Can Help Your Child

Reading

- Share reading sessions with your child as often as time permits
- Encourage your child to use the pictures to also aid their comprehension
- Talk about the texts you read: author, illustrator, cover, pictures, setting/scene, characters, story line/plot and so forth
- Ask your child a few questions and encourage them to make predictions about the text before reading it, whilst reading it and comments after reading it.
- Be seen as a reader yourself in order to provide your child with a good reading role model. Reading to your child is extremely beneficial in aiding their development
- Promote the use of our school and local libraries
- Read old favourites again and again to promote familiarity and confidence
- Listen to audio books and stories at home and whilst traveling in the car
- Encourage your child to read magazines, cartoons, comics, newspapers etc. Locate signs, and read recipes, junk mail, packets, boxes and other household items. These will help broaden your child's understanding and knowledge of texts with regards to their purpose, audience, format and style, in addition to word content, vocabulary and usage
- Encourage your child to reflect on what they have read. Can they find the main idea and summarise?
- Finally … above all else … reading should be FUN!

Writing

- Encourage, support and praise ALL attempts at writing
- Provide all sorts of materials for writing and related activities, especially fancy and colourful pencils, different styles of paper etc. Even alphabet cookie cutters and play dough or shaving cream in a tray can be fun!
- Reinforce the different forms of writing and how they are used, eg. Phone messages, shopping lists, notes on the fridge, greeting cards, lunch orders, invitations, diaries, etc.
- If possible, allow your child to use the computer for all sorts of writing including stories, reports, letters, etc. They could use PowerPoint to create stories or reflections of events and even share them at school on the Interactive Whiteboards or projectors.
- Play alphabet, rhyming and word games like I Spy, Scrabble, Hangman, etc.
- Encourage them to explain aspects of their writing such as its purpose, meaning and intended audience.
- When having difficulty spelling a word, encourage your child to have a go at writing first. Then look at the word and identify the part that doesn't look right. Ask, "How could you change it? Do you know any similar words? Have your heard this pattern before?, etc. Don't forget to praise every effort!
- Help them recognise and learn consistent patterns in words such as 'ion' in station.
- Help your child to effectively use dictionaries, word books and thesauruses to support their spelling and vocabulary skills.

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