



**Information Booklet
2009 - 2010**

School Contacts

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Parents are encouraged to keep in close contact with the school, as a home-school partnership is valued at Mount Waverley North Primary School.

Dates and Times

Term Dates for 2009

Term 1: 2nd February to 3rd April
Term 2 : 20th April to 26th June
Term 3 : 13th July - 18th September
Term 4 : 5th October - 18th December

Term Dates for 2010

Term 1: 1st February - 3rd April
Term 2 : 20th April to 26th June
Term 3 : 13th July - 18th September
Term 4 : 5th October - 18th December

School Hours:

There is a school assembly each Monday at 9.00am.

The day begins at 9.00am. Please try to have your child at school several minutes before the bell.

The school ground is supervised from 8.45 each day. Morning recess is 11:00 am - 11:30am
Lunch recess is 1.45pm until 2:30pm. Children eat their lunches in their classroom prior to this from 1:30-1:45pm. The school day concludes at 3:30pm. Teachers supervise the playground until 3:45pm.

Late Arrival or Early Departure with a parent or designated care-giver.

Notification of late arrivals or early departures is done through the main office. Children must be signed in or out in the appropriate register.

School Profile

Introduction

Mount Waverley North Primary School was established in 1994. It is situated off main roads in a well-established residential area, amongst pleasant treed surroundings, conducive to a relaxed and positive learning environment.

With a motto of, "Knowledge for Life" and a clear focus on its vision and mission, Mount Waverley North is committed to providing the highest possible learning outcomes for all students. The school offers a strong educational program across the eight key learning areas and places particular emphasis on students developing literacy and numeracy skills. Its professional and highly committed staff, along with the wider community, work together to provide quality learning opportunities for all students.

The school's policies and curriculum are based on the principles of :

- Developing motivated, inquiring and independent learners.
- Developing self-esteem and confidence.
- Fostering mutual respect and trust.

Our Purpose

The school's direction is embodied in its purpose statement which is:

To provide a learning environment that facilitates the healthy and whole development of every child so that they have the knowledge, skills and resiliency to be successful in a rapidly changing world.

Facilities

The student population of approximately 380 reflects the diversity of cultural and social backgrounds within the community. Students are accommodated in 15 classrooms, with the additional facilities of a well resourced Library, an Art room, Hall and German room. Outside facilities include shaded adventure playgrounds for both senior and junior schools, basketball and netball courts, substantial grassed play areas, a shaded sandpit, safe practice areas for cricket and softball, and a treed leisure area. We provide a friendly, secure and supportive environment. We have a number of water tanks which are used to flush toilets. In 2009 we will be installing a water tank to irrigate our oval.

Curriculum

A seven year sequential curriculum is offered through integrated and stand alone units of work in English, Mathematics, Science, Design, Creativity & Technology, Humanities, Health and Physical Education, Civics and Citizenship, The Arts and LOTE (Languages other than English - German).

E - learning is integrated into the curriculum and students access computers in each classroom and the Library.

The school supports a variety of specialist programs and students participate in The Performing Arts, The Visual Arts, Physical Education and German. Our commitment to ensuring that all students reach their full potential is exemplified by the special assistance offered, which includes Literacy Intervention, English as a Second Language and Integration. Early Years Literacy and Numeracy programs have been implemented to address and support

the literacy needs of students in the years Prep to 4. A range of extension programs is also offered for highly able students. Students also participate in external competitions, which enhance learning opportunities and actively support the curriculum. A range of enrichment programs are provided and these include camps (Years 3-6), a comprehensive and developmental outdoor education program, swimming, excursions and incursions, recorder, interschool sport, Perceptual Motor Program, Junior School Council, Religious Education, Safety House, Sun Smart, a House System and competition aerobics.

Community Involvement

In recognition of the importance of an integrated education system, close liaison with local education facilities has been developed. The Taste of School pre-school transition program is held over six sessions and pre-schoolers attend Thursday afternoons.

Mount Waverley North enjoys strong community support, and parental involvement in the students' education is a particular feature of the school. An active and supportive Parents and Friends Association and School Council, along with numerous other parent volunteers, complement the work of the professional staff.

The school is home to the Victorian School of Ballet, Syndal Netball Club and various other local groups.

Excellent Outside School Hours Care and a Vacation Care Program are offered.

Curriculum Overview

The Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS) is the basis upon which all Victorian Government schools plan and monitor student performance. It provides sufficient detail to schools and the community about the major elements of curriculum and expected outcomes. It does not prescribe the detail of individual school programs. Key decisions about course planning, curriculum organisation and teaching and learning programs are our responsibility.

We place particular emphasis on students achieving a firm foundation in the areas of literacy and numeracy. We have implemented the 'You Can Do It' and 'Values for Life' programs to support the development of these values.

VELS is divided into three strands:
Physical, Personal and Social Learning,
Discipline-based Learning and
Interdisciplinary Learning

These strands are then broken up into a number of Domains

Strand	Domain
Physical, Personal and Social Learning	Health and Physical Education Interpersonal Development Personal Learning Civics and Citizenship
Discipline-based Learning	The Arts English The Humanities The Humanities - Economics The Humanities - Geography The Humanities - History Languages Other Than English (LOTE) Mathematics Science
Interdisciplinary Learning	Communication Design, Creativity and Technology Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Thinking Processes

We do not fragment the curriculum in order to achieve the student learning outcomes as described in VELS, and our approach is generally integrated or holistic. In doing so we ensure there is a comprehensive coverage of learning across the curriculum. An integrated approach means for instance, during a Science lesson there will be opportunities for reading, writing, speaking and listening and perhaps some Mathematics and Health.

Our school also plans programs on the basis that:

- Students begin primary school with established knowledge and approaches to learning that vary widely
- Students progress at different rates
- Literacy and numeracy are of paramount importance in the early years of schooling, Prep to 4
- Students develop self-responsibility for their learning over the seven years of primary schooling
- All curriculum is socially just and inclusive

Extra classes delivered by permanent and visiting teachers include Religious Education, private piano and violin tuition, group musical tuition with woodwind, brass and percussion instruments, choir, aerobics, chess and numerous sport clinics. Small group classes are held to complement class programs for students in need of either special assistance or extra extension.

School Strategic Plan

All state government schools operate within a common set of policy expectations, and these provide the context for the development and implementation of our School Strategic Plan.

Our School Strategic Plan sets the direction of the school for four years. It takes into account the mission statement of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) and focuses on the achievement of the highest levels of success for students. It sets out our school's commitment to continuous improvement in all areas of school life and is our platform for planning, decision-making and resource allocation. Our Strategic Plan enables us to describe our own distinctive ethos, to identify our educational values and further develop programs to improve student learning.

School Council

The Mount Waverley North School Council is an elected body of parents and teachers, duly constituted in accordance with the provisions of the Education Act. Decision making is primarily based upon the achievement of our purpose: *To provide a learning environment that facilitates the healthy and whole development of every child so that they have the knowledge, skills and resiliency to be successful in a rapidly changing world.*

In conjunction with the Principal and Staff, it is responsible, within the framework of overall government policy, for the development of our school's education policies.

Other responsibilities include the general overseeing and maintenance of buildings and grounds, cleaning services, finance and publicity. School Council comprises fifteen members:

- 9 elected non-Department of Education and Early Childhood Development representatives
- 1 Parents' Association representative
- 4 elected Department of Education and Early Childhood Development representatives
- 1 Principal

Council meets twice each term and observers are very welcome.

The committees of the School Council are:

- Finance
- Education
- Communication
- Environment
- Out of School Hours Care
- Festive Fair
- Parents and Friends Association

Membership of committees is open to all - whether elected School Council members or not. Committees are usually convened by a School Councillors and may consist of other Councillors, interested staff and parents.

Dates of meetings, elections and annual general meetings are advertised in the school newsletter.

Input from all members of the school community is valued. School Council actively seeks your ideas, support and involvement.

Parents and Friends Association

The Mount Waverley North Primary School Parents and Friends Association (or the 'PFA' for short!) exists to support the whole of the school community and to provide extra assistance to the school through fundraising and social events. All parents and guardians of students enrolled at Mount Waverley North Primary School are eligible to become members of the PFA.

Fundraising is an integral part of our activities. You may not be available to help in the classrooms if you work, however you can still support your child's education by helping out with fundraising with whatever amount of time you have available to give. The dedicated efforts of the PFA ensure our children benefit greatly by upgrading essential school facilities such as new playground equipment, classroom furniture and computers.

The PFA meets monthly in the staff room at the school and we welcome anyone from the school community to join us for what is always an informative, interesting evening. These informal meetings provide an opportunity for parents to meet each other and to share ideas that will benefit our children. Participating in the school activities and our fundraising events is a lot of fun and our children always delight in seeing their family involved in the school. Please accept our invitation to come along and give your suggestions on how we can contribute to our children's education.

Reporting to Parents

The home-school partnership is vital. We encourage parents to contact teachers, the Assistant Principal or Principal should they have any concerns, or are in need of assistance or support, with regard to their child's academic, social or emotional progress. Please don't wait for a designated interview time.

Written reports are sent home at the end of Terms 2 and 4 and opportunity is provided for parents to attend a parent-teacher interview following their distribution. A parent teacher interview is also conducted early in the school year and this provides all parties with the opportunity to learn more about the student and teacher expectations. This is complemented by a Year level information evening. Other parent information evenings are conducted throughout the year.

Mount Waverley North Primary School is proud of the high level of achievement its students attain across all realms of the curriculum.

Parent Participation

We strongly believe student learning is enhanced when parents and teachers work together as partners. In addition to School Council and Parents and Friends Association there are numerous ways in which parents are invited to participate in school activities. These include:

- Helping in the classroom with various activities, eg. Literacy and numeracy activities and e - learning.
- Accompanying classes on excursions, camps and to sporting events
- Assisting in the Library with the maintenance and the processing of books
- Assisting and coaching our sporting teams
- Assisting with the junior school Perceptual Motor Program (PMP)
- Sharing home country background experiences, creative skills or other expertise with selected classes
- Assisting with our school concert
- Assisting with our School Fair
- Attending working bees
- Working at the uniform shop

Your involvement is purely at your convenience. We warmly encourage you to consider becoming involved with our happy and active school community.

Uniform

There are educational, social and economic reasons why the wearing of a School uniform is strongly supported by the Mount Waverley North Community.

Our School Council believes that a school uniform adds to the atmosphere, tone and spirit of the school. It assists all students in developing a pride and loyalty towards the school as well as developing within them a sense of belonging. It also ensures students are easily identified when groups are on excursions.

The Mount Waverley North uniform is :

Basic uniform

- Green or white polo shirt (long and short sleeved)
- Green and blue fleecy top (windcheater and baseball jacket)
- Blue shorts (boy and girl styles and unisex)
- Blue track suit pants
- Girl's summer dress
- Girl's winter pinafore
- Socks (navy blue or white)
- Footwear (sturdy suitable footwear)
- Hat (3 styles) blue legionnaires, blue floppy and bucket styles
- Year 6 windcheater - blue hooded with class names to be purchased in Term 1 of Year 6

Please note: As we are a Sun Smart school, hats protecting face, neck and ears must be worn during Terms 1 and 4.

Student Welfare and Well Being

Mount Waverley North Primary School has a whole school approach to Student Welfare and Well Being. We believe that the educational and social goals of the school can best be achieved by providing a positive, caring and supportive environment based on the needs of all students, and through the development of a cooperative partnership with the school community.

There is a strong emphasis on the pastoral care of the individual students.

The school's Code of Conduct takes into account the rights and responsibilities of all members of the school community and provides an environment in which tolerance, compassion, friendship and reliability is encouraged in all members. Tribes is a core part of our Welfare Curriculum (supported by Healthy Relationships, Wilson McCaskill and "You Can Do It").

All members of the Mount Waverley North Primary School community follow the Tribes agreements, which are:

- Mutual Respect
- Attentive Listening
- Appreciation/No Put Downs
- Participation/Right to Pass
- Personal Best

It is the responsibility of students to:

- Demonstrate the Tribes Agreements
- Be responsible for their own actions.
- Consider and respect the rights of others.
- Take pride in themselves and the school.
- Exercise self control.
- Present a positive image of themselves and the school.
- Accept consequences when they choose to behave inappropriately.
- Comply with the Homework Policy, Student Dress Code and Welfare and Discipline Program.

We have in place a number of programs and special initiatives, which are proactive and preventative. These include:

- Our Learning Communities initiative
- Tribes
- The Healthy Relationships Program
- Drug Education Plan
- Kid's Hope
- A well developed Health and Physical Education Program
- Student Services Support - the bi-weekly visit of a Guidance Officer and Speech Pathologist
- School Chaplain
- Special needs social skills programs for small groups of students
- The services of the Monash School Focused Youth Service.

Family Services

Before School Care:	Week days 7:00 am to 8:45am
After School Care:	Week days 3:30pm to 6:30pm
Uniform Shop:	Open every Wednesday 2:45pm to 3:15pm
Lunch Orders:	These are available every day
School Nurse:	Attends each year checking all Prep children and following up referrals
Guidance Officer:	Visits every second Thursday, working with referred students
Speech Pathologist:	Visits every second Monday, working with referred students
School Chaplain	Attends the school every Tuesday and Friday
Parent Enrichment Program:	Ongoing information sessions are conducted for the parent community