



PARENT HANDBOOK

2020

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INTRODUCTION

OUR HISTORY

A tiny little school on the hill was established in 1911, officially numbered 3684, and consisted of a timber building with a small entrance porch. It was run on a part time basis with the Waterholes School. The school was officially Department owned in 1926, and various milestones over the years included the arrival of the much need



water tank in 1914, shelter pavilion in 1927, piano on loan from the Hall Committee in 1946 and in 1964 provision of drinking taps. Several periods of low enrolments necessitated the school either closing until numbers increased or reverting to a part time school as the teacher worked on alternate weeks at other small schools such as Bullumwaal, Forge Creek, Raymond Island and Tambo Crossing. In 1968 a portable classroom was erected with the view of removing the old building that had served its purpose. This was the year that the school now had a telephone connection. In 1985 the school's increased enrolments allowed a second teacher. 1986 marked the school's 75th Birthday celebrations and the laying down of the asphalt play area. In 1989, a new 'modular three' classroom with office was sited.

The next twenty years were a busy time as the school evolved, with parents constructing the mud-brick art and music rooms, the addition of an administration room, an environmental lab (prize won through the Keep Australia Beautiful national Secret Garden competition) a "Covered Way", a new library room, and outdoor performance stage. The late nineties also marked the leap into the digital world with computers, the World Wide Web and mobile phones.

Late in 2002, a bus service commenced its daily run picking up and delivering many of the local children. Unfortunately this service discontinued in 2007, although the parent organised bus service established in 2005 continues for our Bairnsdale families. At the start of 2015, we were able to purchase our very own 25-seater school bus which is driven by school staff and is a very affordable option for families.

Major upgrades in 2009 included two modular five portable buildings replacing all existing portable buildings and a new toilet block. 2009 was also the year of the Koori flag being raised at CCPS.

Centenary celebrations in March 2011 coincided with the launch of our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program and extensive grounds development. Publication of the book "*Little School on the Hill- still making a difference, 100 years on*" marked a happy gathering of many past and present students, teachers and families all with a shared connection to the little school on the hill.

Enrolments over the years have fluctuated and currently we are very small with 11 students.

OUR SETTING

Clifton Creek Primary School is a small rural school, established in 1911, which is a twenty minutes' drive from Bairnsdale in East Gippsland, Victoria and approximately 300 kilometres east of Melbourne.

Set in the foothills where farmland meets forest, our expansive school grounds provide an exciting outdoor play environment rich in opportunities for growth and learning. Excellent facilities include three large modular classrooms, a library, community built mudbrick art/music room and the recently refurbished kitchen with three fully equipped learning stations. A wireless network and combination of laptops and iPads ensure digital technologies are embraced as an aid to individual learning at Clifton Creek Primary School.

Like all primary schools, we implement the Victorian curriculum with a priority on laying strong foundations in Literacy and Numeracy. However, our many special programs and school rituals along with the setting and the very low student staff ratio make Clifton Creek a unique school. We have our secret garden, a chook pavilion, vegie gardens and frog bog. Learning is enhanced through our own mates program and our tuckshop/toastie/taco Tuesdays which are run entirely by the students. We also have our annual Kids & Blokes evening, Mother's Day Dinner and end of year concert. We are an active member of the Bairnsdale Cluster of schools and the East Gippsland Schools Network for professional purposes, working together to develop and implement shared philosophies and educational goals.

OUR VISION

Individual achievement in a unique learning environment

Clifton Creek will become a high performing school that focuses on teaching and learning with a shared commitment of school improvement whilst maintaining our individuality, celebrating our successes, and continuing to make decisions with a Kids First focus.

UNIQUE

Unique may be defined as being the only one of its kind and there is no doubt that education at CCPS is unique.

Outside the square: Some of our well-loved rituals such as Mates, Concert and Tuckshop/Toastie/Taco Tuesdays are stamped with CCPS creativity and approached in surprisingly fresh ways to ensure engagement of our students and real-life learning. Daily routines provide students with structure and familiar patterns but within this, we are also able to embrace one of the big advantages of a small school - flexibility.

Distinctive setting: We have an expansive outdoor learning space with panoramic views across rolling farmland and bush. An enclosed yard and a rustic pavilion house our resident chooks, peacock and guinea pigs. Exciting play equipment, an oval to kick the footy on, tin cubby, beautiful secret garden, undercover stage, water wise vegetable garden and a newly established frog bog provide much to occupy and enthuse children during playtime.

Our staff: A unique combination of energetic, caring, enthusiastic individuals dedicated to educating the children work at Clifton Creek School. Teachers at Clifton Creek all have a close understanding of the students and work tirelessly to make positive things happen for them.

OUR VALUES

ONE IN, ALL IN

- Our school activities are approached with the positive mantra “one in, all in”.
- Inclusiveness drives “one in, all in” practices.
- Personal well-being is never compromised.
- Opting out is only a consequence of informed choice.
- Have a go till you know!

VALUING DIFFERENCES

Staff at Clifton Creek Primary School acknowledge that every individual is unique with his/her own set of life experiences. We recognise that children cannot be expected to learn using a ‘one size fits all’ approach. We strive to provide programs that cater for individual difference. Children are encouraged to acknowledge and celebrate differences; skills, abilities, needs, attitudes, learning styles, interests, passions and backgrounds.

KIDS FIRST PRINCIPLES

- The emotional, physical and academic well-being /development of every child is paramount.
- All points of view and all points of need are considered in the planning and implementing of teaching and learning activities.
- No child will miss an educational opportunity because of financial strain or personal situations.
- Children can be anywhere in the school buildings unless there is a question of safety or unless their presence precludes the most valuable use of a space in the preparation time period.

GENERAL INFORMATION

ABSENCES

DE&T policy states that, "Children of school age resident in Victoria are required to be in full-time attendance at a Government or Registered Non-Government School." Please remember that ...*“It’s Not OK to be Away”* If your child is absent for any reason whatsoever, either a written or personal explanation **must** be given.

ACCOUNTABILITY & IMPROVEMENT

Like all Government schools we strive to improve student learning, enhance student engagement & wellbeing and strengthen successful transitions. The performance of our school is on a continual improvement plan. This involves setting improvement goals through internal school self-evaluation and an external school review. Planning, evaluating and reporting on progress is achieved through strategic plans, annual implementation plans and annual reports.

ALLOWANCES

Children living more than 4.8kms from their nearest school are entitled to either travel on the school bus or receive a Conveyancing Allowance. This allowance must be applied for through the school.

ASTHMA FRIENDLY SCHOOL

In 2008 the school gained accreditation as an Asthma friendly school.

BE INVOLVED

Share in the life of our school and its commitment to providing students with high quality education.

- a. **HELPING AT SCHOOL** With low student numbers, our school thrives thanks to a hard working school community and excellent parent / teacher and student relationships. Parents provide the school with interest, friendship and enthusiastic participation in groups such as School Council and the Fundraising Committee. We call upon our school community for assistance in grounds maintenance, reading programs and volunteering in the library, kitchen and garden. Without the support of our dedicated parents we, as a school, would find it hard to operate successfully.
- b. **SUPPORTING AT HOME** We recognise that parents have the first and most significant influence on their child's learning. At CCPS your continued involvement in your child's education is important so they can achieve the best possible learning results.

A positive supportive attitude displayed at home towards school events and activities is important- we appreciate your involvement in this manner. Promoting discussion about the day's learning and facilitating any home tasks is another great way to reinforce learning.

BOOK CLUB

Scholastic Australia is a publishing company dealing with schools. Once a term catalogues are distributed to children. Orders and payments are returned to the school, collated and processed. Purchases are entirely optional, however our school does benefit through earning credits and library book rewards.

BUS TRAVEL

In 2015 CCPS purchased a school bus primarily for children travelling to the school from Bairnsdale. This service is funded by the parents involved and payments are made to the school at the start of each term. Details of times and costs are available through Sue Paul or the school office.

Parents sign a commitment to paying bus fees and students are required to adhere to safe travel behaviours.

CAMPS AND EXCURSIONS

Over the course of their primary schooling children participate in a variety of day and overnight camps or excursions. These are organised either alone as a school, or in conjunction with other cluster schools. School Council and Departmental permission must be given before camps are allowable. Local permission forms are given out at enrolment. Special permission notices are required if car transportation is involved. Camps require separate notices.

CAMPS, EXCURSIONS AND SPORTS FUND

The CSEF is a 4 year initiative started in 2015 providing payments for eligible students to attend sports, camps and excursions. A valid means-tested concession card must be held to receive the payment of \$125 which is paid directly to the school and allocated to the primary student.

COMMUNICATION

- *INFORMAL CHATS/FORMAL INTERVIEWS*

If you have any concerns or questions about your child, please come and talk with the teacher!

- *NEWSLETTERS*

These usually are delivered home via the children fortnightly on Wednesday afternoons. Please take time to read them as they contain important information. Emailed versions of the Newsletter can be arranged at your request, or can be downloaded from the school website.

- *REPORTS*

Detailed written reports are issued at the middle and end of each year, with oral reports and ongoing informal communication throughout each term. We use the standard reporting format used by all state schools.

- *SCHOOL WEBSITE*

This is a great source of information relating directly to education at Clifton Creek Primary School. Current newsletters, school policies, parent information, curriculum details, recent activities and links to even more information can be found on our recently updated website. Have a look at www.cliftoncreekps.vic.edu.au and bookmark the address.

- *EMAILING*

Staff at school all have a personal edumail account – please check with your child’s teacher to confirm their address. There is also a school edumail account clifton.creek.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au which is checked by the business manager. Feel free to email the school or staff if this is a convenient mode of communication for you.

- *TELEPHONE*

Please try to phone the school during *out of class hours*, particularly when the office is unstaffed. A message may be left on the telephone, but please be aware that on days when the office is unstaffed these messages may not be checked until after the end of the school day- please use this as a last resort.

Teachers do have their personal mobile phones and these may be used for emergency contact if other means of contact are unsuccessful. Please **DO NOT** use these mobile numbers during class time for ordinary communications.

- *TEXT MESSAGING*

With improvements to mobile phone reception this is an increasingly useful way of communicating pertinent information and reminders to parents/carers. We are also happy to receive messages from parents/carers via text.

COMPUTERS

Children have access to laptops and iPads.

END OF YEAR TRADITIONS

Our school year ends with “the Concert”, a much-anticipated occasion featuring all the children. Intensive planning, preparation and sourcing of costumes, music and props ensures involvement from the entire school community. Outdoor staging at the school is a recent innovation and relies on a reasonably fine evening, however, warm rugs and cushions add to the audience comfort. Santa arrives with gifts for all, including younger siblings and pre-schoolers. Please talk to a teacher to clarify details. The night concludes with a delicious shared supper provided by the parents. School Council presents a book to each pupil and a gift to graduating Year 6 students.

ENROLMENT

Any child who turns five before the 30 of April is eligible for enrolment at any primary school. Each child is required to produce a completed immunisation and birth certificate. Current enrolment forms are available from the office. Periodically parents will be asked to confirm details such as telephone/emergency contacts to ensure our records remain accurate.

GENERAL CONSENT FORM

Upon enrolment, parents complete a form regarding consent for Headlice inspections, Medication Management, Internet & Sunsmart Policy details, publication of student work, photographs and names, and also local excursion participation. This covers the duration of your child’s education at CCPS unless we are otherwise informed by written note.

GRADUATION

We have traditions to mark the end of primary schooling for Grade 6 children at CCPS. A special outing in Term 4 and the combined Cluster dinner as well as a gift & handcrafted bookmark presented at the Concert all mark this significant achievement for children leaving Clifton Creek at the end of grade six.

GROUNDS & MAINTENANCE

This is the responsibility of the School Council, which employs a lawn mowing service. Additionally School Council will enlist the aid of all school families through working bees over the course of the year.

HEADLICE

Headlice is a common problem in all schools. The checking of your child and the treatment of any infections is a PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY. Please contact the school if you find headlice. Your child will need to stay at home until all lice have been removed and eggs treated. Please refer to the fact sheet included at the back of this booklet to assist with the treatment and management of headlice. The school consent form, once signed, allows teaching staff to check children for headlice when necessary. Please refer to the school’s Head Lice Policy for further details.

LANGUAGES (formerly known as LOTE~ Languages Other Than English)

Hennie visits each class for 1.5hours per week to instruct in German Language, Conversation and Culture for all students.

LIBRARY

Our school has a large collection of picture storybooks, novels and reference materials which are being regularly updated and extended. Children are encouraged to take home library books constantly.

· *M.A.R.C. Van*

This is a Mobile Area Resource Centre, and is partially funded by the Department and through School Fees. A trained teacher Librarian drives and runs the van. The children are instructed in library and literature on a fortnightly basis. Students are expected to transport their books in a protective bag.

· *EG SHIRE MOBILE LIBRARY VAN*

This community service visits our school each fortnight on a Wednesday afternoon from 1.45 pm. Children are encouraged to select and borrow during lunch. Library cards are necessary however during term time library cards may be kept in the school office. All community members are urged to support this service.

LATE ARRIVALS/EARLY DEPARTURES

In the interests of safety we ask that any children arriving late to school should be “signed-in” by the parent upon arrival, and students departing before the end of the school day should also be “signed out” by the parent. The Arrivals/Departure Register is in the office.

LOST PROPERTY

All children’s garments should be labelled with names. Unlabelled clothing left behind is displayed at the front gate, and then placed in the LOST PROPERTY BOX located in the office. At the end of each term any unclaimed items are donated to the op shop.

LUNCHES

TUCKSHOP/TOASTIE/TACO TUESDAY

This is an over-the-counter sales service operated by senior children at play-time periodically during school term. We encourage children to bring a small amount of money to support Tuck Shop rather than including shop treats from home on these days. Again, parents will be advised on the availability of this option via the weekly newsletter.

As well as being “real life” maths activities, this is also a form of fundraising by the senior students, with profits going to the World Vision sponsorship of 8 year old Mike who lives in Zambia.

HEAT UPS

Our children have the special privilege of ‘heat-ups’ every day of the week, where we are happy to assist the empty pantry by allowing the children to microwave simple left-overs from home. In the interests of good nutrition and staff time we discourage any microwaving which involves the actual *cooking* of convenience foods.

OTHER UNIQUE RITUALS

- Mother's Day Dinner

Imagine having a meal cooked for you with no dishes to worry about afterwards. Each year early in May, children show appreciation to their mums by hosting a special dinner here at school- be ready for some extra pampering, TLC and lavish treats from your child.

- Kids & Blokes Evening

Dads and their primary school children come along to school for an evening of friendship, games and challenges. Pizzas are traditionally on the menu for this annual ritual celebrated early in September.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

Parental participation is welcomed and encouraged. Reading, typing stories, Computer skills for publishing & digital imaging, Special days, Electives, kitchen garden program and Friday Fang are some of the different activities where parents help with various grades.

Please speak with Sue if you are unsure of how you can support our school children in this manner.

PARENT PAYMENTS

An itemised invoice of school fees payable is sent home to all families in Term 4 for the following year. It includes essential education items, optional extra items and voluntary financial contributions. All payments may be made by cash, cheque, online deposits, centrepay or quick direct debits arranged through your bank.

PROBLEMS

If there are any problems that may arise at school or at home, please contact the teacher concerned. Most issues are easily resolved with prompt attention.

PUPIL FREE DAYS

There are four pupil free days set aside for curriculum development, professional development for the teachers and for report writing. One of these is always allocated to the FIRST day of the school year.

SCHOOL STRATEGIC PLAN

In line with DE&T policy our school community writes its own Strategic Plan, a document detailing the uniqueness of our school, the roles and responsibilities of all and our educational priorities for a four year period. At the end of each 4 year plan period the school undertakes a review which includes a self-assessment, Verification by an independent person and the creation of the next strategic plan. Parent input in this process is most welcome. Our new Strategic Plan is now in its implementation phase after being finalised late 2016.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Clifton Creek School Council is a group of parents, teachers and other interested people who carry out a very important function in setting the general direction of the school. Elections are held each year as half of the councillors' terms expire annually. Council meets twice a term. It is a very valuable way of contributing to the school as well as gaining an understanding of the functioning of a school. The Annual Report will be distributed and promoted to the school community by 31 May.

SCHOOL ANNUAL KEEPSAKES

- a. CCPS CELEBRATES is a colour publication produced annually and has input from all of our school community– students, staff and parents! Payment for the printed memento is made with annual fees at the start of the year and is an optional extra ~ \$10 per publication. It is ready for distribution at the end of the year.
- b. SCHOOL PHOTOS

Annual school photos are purchased directly from the photographer. These, along with the annual school magazine are a memento of your child’s education at Clifton Creek PS.

SCHOOL POLICIES

Councillors constantly review our school policies updating where necessary and newsletters communicate these policies to our families. These are published on the school website, and hard copies are available from the office.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Our School Website is www.cliftoncreekps.vic.edu.au

SPORTING SCHOOLS PROGRAM

We are part of this commonwealth-funded initiative designed to help us increase children’s participation in sport and to connect children with community sport.

SUNSMART

Clifton Creek Primary School is a SUNSMART school. Wide brimmed hats are compulsory for all children when outdoors during from mid August to April. Sunscreen is available in each classroom for student use.

UNIFORM

Our school’s colours are AQUA and BLACK. Children are encouraged to wear school uniform on school days and is compulsory on school outings, group days, sports days and photo day. Thongs and flimsy shoes are considered NOT SAFE footwear and should not be worn to school. At certain times of the year, mosquitoes may be troubling. Adequate protective clothing is essential at these times, however we have roll-on mosquito repellent (Skintastic-Off) applied by staff as needed to those students who have parental permission forms signed. If you prefer your child to use a different personal insect protection, please supply it in a clearly labelled bag for the teacher to administer. (Please do not send aerosol cans).

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Parents are **invited** to make a financial donation to the school at any time, and their contribution is very much appreciated.

VOLUNTEERS

We welcome parent community members into our school for the fantastic support they offer classroom teaching /learning programs. All volunteers working with children are required to have a current Working With Children Check. (For non-employees the WWCC costs only the price of a passport size photograph.) Working With Children Checks are arranged the

Department of Justice website, proof of identification is required. Parents who are assisting in their own child's classroom do not require a WWCC.

WEB RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION ON VICTORIAN EDUCATION

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/Pages/default.aspx> for an index to parent information relevant to Victorian schools

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/head-lice>

for advice on headlice from the Department of Human Services

DAILY ROUTINE

8.50 am	Drumming/Singing	1 pm	Lunch is eaten outdoors
9.10 am	First session	1.10pm	Outdoor Play
11 am	Morning Play	1:45pm	Music practice/Quiet reading
11.30 am	Second Session	2 pm	Afternoon session
		3.20 pm	End of school day/Bus Departs

Children have access to indoor quiet play before and after school as well as play times on days of extreme weather conditions. On many afternoons teachers have commitments for meetings or professional development in other locations and it is important that children are collected promptly at dismissal time.

SCHOOL CONTACTS

Business Hours~ 5157 9251,

After Hours~ Sue Paul 0400 072 298

EMAIL clifton.creek.ps.@edumail.vic.gov.au WEB PAGE www.cliftoncreekps.vic.edu.au

Please try to phone the school during *out of class hours*, particularly on days when the office is unstaffed.

SCHOOL STAFF 2018

Principal and Teacher **Sue Paul**

Teacher Monday-Wednesday **Carrie Jones**

Kitchen Garden Specialists: **John Ireland & Jill Hermans**

Education Support~ Classroom: **Maureen McLeish and Ellyn McKenzie**

Business Manager: **Ellyn McKenzie**

SCHOOL COUNCIL 2018

Annual elections are underway every February. We welcome all parents who would like to join School Council.

President: Patrick Goessens,

Treasurer:

Secretary: Adam Cooper

Members:

DE&T Members: Sue Paul,

CURRICULUM

We implement the new Victorian curriculum Foundation to Year 10 with a priority on laying strong foundations in Literacy and Numeracy.

VELS is used to plan student learning programs, assess student progress and report to parents.

ENGLISH

The VELS English curriculum provides students with the skills to analyse, understand, communicate with and build relationships with others and with the world around them.

The Literacy program at CCPS includes all modes of language (listening, reading, speaking and writing) as inseparable and integrated parts of all other curriculum programs and aims to develop each child's interest, enjoyment and competence in using language to receive and express thoughts, ideas, feelings and knowledge. There is a balance in the use of the four language modes, and an attempt to engage all students in using each mode on a planned basis. Children are continually challenged to use the four modes for productive ends.

We have a two hour uninterrupted Literacy Block each morning. Take home readers continue from prep to Year 6 and your daily signature after listening to the reading is expected.

Most children begin school believing they will learn to read and write. This is a commendable attitude and as adults we should not destroy this belief. Current teaching methods impart confidence in children that they can read and write, although not at an adult standard. Parents should reinforce this as well. Parents and older siblings should encourage all efforts because what looks like scribble to us is 'writing', and what is parroting, is 'reading' to the younger child. These are the first steps in effecting reading and writing, as is babbling the first step to oral communications.

Ongoing communication between parents and teachers is a very important facet of your child's learning process, as schooling is a continuation of education they have received from home. The child sees this as a positive influence on his/her learning. Also, any problems that may arise can be dealt with effectively before they get too difficult to overcome.

CLASSROOM LANGUAGE PROCEDURES

The teachers in the classroom will be endeavouring to provide:-

- A happy, positive, stimulating atmosphere with plenty of praise.
- Encouragement for ALL attempts, realising language learning has individual development stages.
- An environment surrounding the children with meaningful print in a variety of models.
 - Activities using literature daily in the classroom, and with support from home through reading.
 - Activities requiring the children to write about their ideas at their own level.
- A variety of methods of the children's published work.
- Practice in recognition of letters, numerals and signs and their names and sounds.
- Written practice of formation of the above letters, numerals and signs.
- Opportunities for the children to predict their language/learning and anticipate the next word/s.

- Opportunities to develop a word concept through cutting, sorting and reading sentences with punctuation included.
- Activities to build up the children's own collection of words.
- Activities to extend language experiences through the other learning areas.

BEGINNING READING

Most introductory reading materials contain text that is very repetitive or is already familiar to the child; eg, nursery rhymes. When a child is beginning to read these books, try to follow these steps.

ASK the child to count the words. This reinforces what a word is. Have the child point to each word as he/she reads.

ASK about particular words:

- ~ What is the biggest word? ~ Count the letters.
- ~ What different words / letters are. ~ Point to different words/letters.

TALK about what is happening in the story, the pictures and what may happen.

LOOK for little words in larger ones. Look for words that are repeated.

ENCOURAGE all the time.

Always give the child your undivided attention when hearing them read.

Have a set time every night. It is important to encourage good reading habits.

PRAISE children frequently.

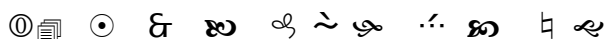
PAUSE to allow the child time to work out an unknown word, or for them to self-correct.

PROMPT if the child is still unable to continue, or ask a question which may help the child work out what the word might be.

STAGES OF WRITING

Young children usually progress through various stages of development in their writing

1. Scribble
2. Invented Letters



3. Strings of conventional letters.

í. r L e h t m I e p

4. Groups of letters with spaces between them

í. bwsa ghd hyjü kjh

5. Writing which reveals developing knowledge of sound symbol correspondences:-

í. mí dadí kam wif me t skul

- Don't expect ADULT standards. Allow your child to progress naturally through the above stages.
- Don't worry too much if your child is at an early stage of development. All children progress at different rates.
- Encourage your child to write at home.
- Praise all attempts.
- Don't let your child feel that he/she is a failure.
- Ask your child to read his/her writing.
- Be interested.

REMEMBER...

All children learn to write by writing!

Victorian Modern Cursive

Unjoined including capitals for right-handers on single lines



SPELLING

Steps when spelling words:-

1. Discussion ~ talk about the word to be spelt
2. The child has a go at writing the word down, eg “chicken”
3. The child writes ~ c h i k n
4. Parent’s response: “Look at what letters you have correct”

Ticks c h i k n
 √ √ √ √

5. Set up a box structure. Put letters in the correct position in the box.

ch	i	ck		n
----	---	----	--	---

6. Talk about the different sounds needed to give the “k” sound. After the child has worked out the correct letters, PRAISE.
7. Tell the child the correct letters if the attempts are illogical.
8. Say the letters of the word, C H I C K E N
9. Write the word down.
10. Repeat the process with other unknown words.
11. Use the LOOK, COVER, WRITE, CHECK approach to reinforce the spelling of words.

MATHEMATICS

The VELS Mathematics curriculum provides students with carefully paced, in-depth study of critical skills and concepts. It encourages teachers to help students become self-motivated, confident learners through inquiry and active participation in challenging and engaging experiences.

The nature of the Mathematics program at CCPS is for each child to actively participate in a wide range of skills, which will include:- number skills, problem solving, applying maths to everyday problems, geometry, measurement, (weights, length, volume, time, money), estimation and approximation, alertness to reasonable results, reading graphs, prediction and language of maths. In the upper grades, Times-tables are an important facet to help reinforce and consolidate all the four processes:- addition, subtraction, division and multiplication.

At Clifton Creek Primary School, teachers believe there are underlying concepts that need to be firmly in place to ensure all students are successful learners of Mathematics.

We believe that children learn Maths by:

- Building on prior knowledge
- Understanding the ‘why’ part of Maths.
- Being exposed to strategies and concepts taught in a variety of ways.
- Developing a strong understanding of number, as it is the foundation on which all other topics are taught.
- Being given opportunities for self-discovery.
- Articulating the process to ensure new knowledge can be applied across a variety of settings.
- Automatically recalling fundamental number facts.
- Consolidating knowledge (for example sharing their Maths experience with parents and assisting other learners)

Teachers’ core knowledge is paramount. Teachers also know each student and plan/implement a Maths program that is based on quality not quantity. The role of the teacher includes:

- Creating a Maths rich learning environment.
- Explicitly teaching Maths vocabulary.
- Using concrete materials when introducing new concepts and strategies.
- Providing concrete materials for any students who need them.
- Giving feedback that is meaningful and instant.
- Providing opportunities to practise and consolidate knowledge.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

CLUSTER GROUP DAYS

Clifton Creek belongs to a group of rural primary schools known as the Mitchell River Cluster. The other schools are: - Nicholson PS, Lindenow South PS, Bairnsdale Christian School and Steiner School. Our Athletics, Cross Country, Sports, Group Days and Year 6 Transition programs are usually held with the Cluster Schools.

Group days extend the programs offered at school and are held on a semi-regular basis in a variety of locations with other schools in the Cluster.

JUNIOR ROTARY PROGRAM

The grade 6 children are encouraged to participate in the Rotary Junior Citizenship Awards each year. This is an intensive program with a number of physical, cultural, and community challenges written up in a diary format. Children from many local schools are presented with a certificate at a presentation ceremony at the end of the year.

KITCHEN GARDEN

In 2010 we were granted funding to enable extensions to our gardens and kitchen for the operation of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program. Each student in Grades 3 to 6 spends time every week of the school year learning about growing, harvesting, preparing and sharing fresh seasonal produce. Thursday mornings are timetabled for Kitchen Garden classes. The whole school is included in enjoying the lunch.

M.A.R.C. Van

This is a Mobile Area Resource Centre, and is partially funded by the Department and through School Fees. A trained Teacher Librarian, drives and runs the van. The children are instructed in library and literature on a fortnightly basis. The Marc Van box is placed in the office for the return of MarcVan books during the fortnight. Students are expected to transport their books in a protective bag.

MATES

Teachers put in place a buddy system for students where students from senior grades are linked with younger pupils, generally for the school year. Each term there are a number of Mates Days where big mates organise and create a fun and educational session for their little mate. Throughout the year big mates will also “look out” for their little mate and help them through their challenges. The older children have a real sense of responsibility and affection for their young charges that adds to the sense of community felt at school on a daily basis.

RESOURCESMART SCHOOL

Since 2008 our school has been working towards being a waste-wise RESOURCESMART school. Recycling is becoming a way of life here at CCPS and we are striving to look at many areas in our school where we can all reduce, recycle and re-use. Modules in waste management, energy, water and biodiversity are all “ticked off” and we continue to practise being Resource Smart.

SWIMMING PROGRAM

Each year the whole school participates in a series of ten sessions of swimming lessons over the course of five weeks.

TRANSITION

a. PREP ORIENTATION / TRANSITION

In Term 4 several days are set aside for “practising preps” and the Prep Steps program. These are full days to help familiarise your child with our school. In Term 1 preps are exempt from attending school on each Thursday; this enables the children to have some rest time at home.

b. YEAR 6 / 7 Transition

Local secondary schools conduct a series of visits, orientation days, open nights and transitions days to allow the smooth change for grade six students from our little school to the much larger schools further afield. Also our Cluster organises a special grade six function to celebrate graduation and also foster connections between students.



Clifton Creek School
is
KIDS FIRST
&
UNIQUE

We value differences
and we believe
one in, all in!

