

A large, stylized teal leaf graphic with a dark teal outline, positioned on the left side of the page. The leaf has several pointed lobes and a central vein structure.

Working
together
for a
bright
future

Victoria
Road
Primary
School



www.victoriaroadps.vic.edu.au/



www.facebook.com/VictoriaRoadPS/

In a *beautiful* setting overlooking the spectacular Yarra Valley, Victoria Road Primary School is a school of *choice* for many families in the Lilydale area. Our child centred approach to teaching and learning *inspires* us to create a learning community *dedicated* to the development of individuals who strive to *achieve* their best and help others to do the same.

Principal's Message

As Principal of Victoria Road Primary School I feel very fortunate to be working with such a vibrant team of educators in a stimulating and inspiring school environment. Students at Victoria Road experience advanced and innovative programs that develop and nurture a love of learning through creative and progressive approaches to teaching and learning.

As a School Wide Positive Behaviour Support school, our students are intrinsically motivated to contribute to our ever changing world, in a way that is ethically and morally sound and for the benefit of the wider community and environment

Our prospectus offers a snap shot of life at Victoria Road Primary School. For further information, we encourage you to contact our office to arrange a tour or attend one of our Open nights.

Kindest regards,

Lisa Branch
Principal



Vision

Victoria Road Primary School is child centred and research based in its approach to the education of its students. Our school values of being respectful towards yourself, being respectful towards others and being respectful towards your learning reflects the value we place on developing positive personal relationships and nurturing a strong social conscience within our community. Our belief is that this creates fertile ground for academic achievement and an environment in which all children can thrive and grow to be critical thinkers who act with integrity.

Teachers at Victoria Road actively participate in pedagogical learning, expanding their understanding of children, cognition, pedagogical practice and leadership. All decisions made and actions taken are strongly based in current research, best practice and data collected by the school. We are currently addressing all nine characteristics of a “High-Performing school”, with the goal of excellence in all nine areas. We fully recognise that to achieve our goals, effective team work is critical. Therefore transparency and active, rigorous discussions are encouraged within our school, creating an environment where respectful challenge is appreciated as a means for us to achieve success.

We are a School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) school and believe that children learn social behaviours through explicit instructions with positive reinforcement and constructive feedback provided. All members of our community are positively acknowledged for the contributions they make as individuals. SWPBS underpins all we do when we interact with others, plan lessons, develop programs and make overarching decisions for school operations.

Values



Be Respectful
Towards Yourself



Be Respectful
Towards Others



Be Respectful
Towards Your Learning





Classroom Help

This will look different in each classroom; for example, reading with students, help during literacy groups, cooking, sharpening pencils, etc.

Approach your child's teacher/s if you'd like to be involved.



School Council

Meets monthly to discuss buildings & grounds, finances, fundraising, educational initiatives, etc.



Specialists

Art room helpers - see Jeanette Morton

P.E. - Sports Day - see Scott Clarke

Performing Arts - school concerts and other performance events - see your child's music teacher

Asian Celebration Day - see Claire Robertson, Indonesian Teacher

Other special events - see your child's classroom teacher



Champion Dads

A social group where Dads support each other through fun activities with and without their children.



Working Bees

per term - keep an eye out for dates in the newsletter



Gardening Friends

Gardening Friends - General gardening and landscaping of the school



Look out on **Sentral** and **Facebook** - we often put a call out for help for small jobs which we need help with.



School Banking, Canteen, Fundraising

At Victoria Road PS, we recognise the *importance of engaging* parents and we work hard to create an environment that encourages *community engagement*.

Research has shown that when schools and families *work together*, children do *better*, stay in school *longer*, are more *engaged* with their school work, go to school more *regularly*, behave better, and have better *social skills*. Parent *engagement* also results in longer term economic, social and emotional *benefits*.

Community

how to get involved

“

As soon as I walked into Victoria Road I fell in love with it. Each year I have had the pleasure of getting to know each of my children's teachers, who have always been welcoming and supportive. I have been a constant parent helper over the years and feel that this is encouraged with many opportunities for not only mums, but dads and grandparents too. My family has had a positive and memorable experience.



Wellbeing



Wellbeing Team

We have a team of educators who oversee our School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (PBS), approach. The team coordinates whole school, small group and individual support for our students. Collectively our team boasts qualifications including a Post Graduate Diploma in Child & Adolescent Psychotherapy and a Masters of Applied Behavioural Analysis.



Leanne Hyndman & Narelle Scampton *Individual and Group Counselling*

Leanne sees individual students for counselling for up to 6 sessions, she co-ordinates small groups and works with volunteers in our school to run Breakfast Club, The Community Pantry and other activities. Leanne is a qualified counsellor and level 2 member of the Australian Counselling Association. She has worked in schools for many years. Narelle has a long association with our school and is now our school Chaplain. At school she sees individual students who are referred to her and runs small groups to build social skills and understandings.



Rebecca Norman *Special Needs Co-ordinator*

Rebecca works with and co-ordinates support staff, co-ordinates the applications for funding for students with disabilities, co-ordinates referrals to Student Support Services Officers and generally looks out for the needs of students with special needs of all sorts. Rebecca is a qualified primary and secondary teacher who has worked in various settings with a special interest in disabilities.



Co-Teaching

At Victoria Road Primary School, our children are taught in co-taught classrooms. Essentially this means that with any class of children, there are two teachers who work collaboratively to teach the class. This model of teaching provides us with many benefits such as:

- Increased options for flexible grouping of students
- Enhanced collaboration opportunities for students and teachers
- Two teachers to observe, assess and help problem solve
- Flexibility in delivery of learning experiences for students
- Diversity of instructional styles offered leading to increased student engagement
- Greater student participation
- Improved behaviour management ability
- More student/teacher interaction
- Increased student achievement

We are confident that this proven model provides our students with increased opportunities for learning growth and the building of solid relationships with others in their learning community. If you would like to find out more about our co-teaching model, please call the office.

Student Leaders



Training students to be responsible and ethical leaders is something we work on with our children as soon as they begin life at Victoria Road Primary School. Through Positive Behaviour Support (PBS), we teach them to lead and help others to make positive social choices and to assist others by being a team player. As children get older we encourage them to take up responsibility within our school community by completing tasks that assist in the smooth day to day running

of the school. Through Junior School Council, students can focus on being part of an organised team that assist charities by raising funds through the coordination of special events. Junior School Council reports directly to School Council at their monthly meetings.

In Grade 6, our Junior Leaders are designated specific Captains roles they fill for the year, including School Captains, Vice Captains, PBS Captains, Sustainability Captains, Arts Captains, Sports Captains and ICT Captains. The leadership skills of the School and Vice Captains are further advanced by attending the GRIP Leadership workshop in Melbourne each year. The public speaking opportunities available through several events and our weekly student led assemblies offer a great opportunity to develop this useful life skill.



At Victoria Road Primary School we are committed to providing a learning environment that is positive, inclusive, supportive and safe so that students are able to be confident and capable members of our community. We aim to support all students to care for themselves, others, their learning and their school.

School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS or PBS) is an overarching element of our school.

Students took a large role in deciding upon our school values. They collectively agree that the following three values are important:

Be Respectful Towards Yourself

Be Respectful Towards Others

Be Respectful Towards Learning

The wellbeing team oversees wellbeing at VRPS and work closely together to ensure that all children receive timely and appropriate support.



Literacy

Literacy is the foundation upon which all learning is built. At Victoria Road our ultimate goal in literacy is to develop independent lifelong readers and writers who comprehend and communicate effectively. We achieve this through our consistent approach to teaching Literacy.

At Victoria Road we incorporate a variety of approaches to ensure your child is receiving the best possible teaching and learning practices in literacy. We have the strong belief that a successful Literacy program includes a balance of differentiated instructional methods and a range of strategies in Reading and Writing.



Specialised Spelling Programs



Writers' Workshops




Reading Workshops



Speaking and Listening Activities



Victoria Road Primary School strongly believes in the importance of supporting students in the development of mathematical knowledge and skills they will draw on in their future personal and work lives.




We deliver a developmental program that incorporates skill development, curriculum knowledge and knowledge application. Our program is based on the Victorian Curriculum and is planned to best meet the students' individual learning needs, providing structure for students to develop mathematical understanding, fluency, reasoning, modelling and problem-solving. Our classrooms are places where students can learn through formal maths lessons and a critical thinking approach to problem solving tasks.

Our students are supported in engaging in their own learning, catering to differing learning styles through the use of concrete materials, formal maths lessons and technology. This enhances their ability to develop strong mathematical understandings and have flexibility when applying their knowledge to new situations. Through the use of specific, individual goal setting, we encourage students to be actively engaged in their learning, exploring a range of strategies to solve problems and develop pride in their own learning growth.


Numeracy



Students are encouraged to make art works that express their own ideas. They view other art works created by other students or renowned artists. They learn to appreciate art work from different cultures and times.



At Victoria Road, our school community has a magnificent art room, fully equipped with all the resources needed for a full program. Each class has the opportunity to use the art room once a week for a structured art lesson with the Visual Arts Teacher. Students enjoy being creative and learning new skills. Each class has lessons designed for their particular age, interest and skill level.




Students plan, create and reflect on their own art work at each age level, recording their plans and designs in a visual diary. Student artworks are displayed around the school and celebrated through the school assembly, newsletter, school concerts and portfolios.

Learning through the Visual Arts helps students develop an understanding of world cultures and their responsibilities as global citizens.

The Arts




Each year we have an Asian Celebration Day – the students dress up and enjoy a full day of Asian inspired workshops.



We have a dedicated Indonesian language room where students attend class each week for 45 minutes. All mediums of literacy are utilised to ensure successful language learning, including speaking and listening, reading and writing. The program offers differentiated learning opportunities to ensure that all students


The Indonesian program is part of the greater Global Education initiative at VRPS. We currently have two BRIDGE school partnerships with schools in Malaysia and Indonesia. Native speakers are invited to visit our school and we embrace the use of ICT to keep in touch with our partners overseas.




Indonesian



At Victoria Road we are committed to ensure that our students are adequately equipped to effectively participate as 21st century learners. Across the entire school, a wide range of digital equipment and facilities are available to students.



We are proud to have established ourselves as a leading school in the area of technology innovation, having focussed on supporting teaching and learning, and advancing school organisation. Victoria Road was one of the first schools in Victoria to completely engage with Google Apps for Education (now known as G-Suite). Our teaching programs are developed collaboratively using Team Drives and Google Docs. Each child has a G-Suite account which provides them with an array of tools, including an e-mail address, cloud storage, collaboration software, plus much more.



Each classroom and learning space is equipped with an interactive whiteboard, projector or large LED screen. The students have access to large numbers of high quality Chromebooks and iPads. Our teaching of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) at Victoria Road has been driven by the introduction of Dash and Dot Robots across the school. The students operate the robots using coding, via a suite of iPad apps. Dash and Dot are emotionally engaging and have helped inspire creativity in our students.

Digital Technologies



Victoria Road Primary School offers a comprehensive, high quality Physical Education/Sport Program, with an emphasis on catering for ALL children.

The program is coordinated by our Physical Education Teacher, who is a full time member of staff. The students are provided with a wide range of sporting experiences focusing on the sequential development of fundamental motor skills, fitness and sport education. The program is conducted in our sports centre, which is a facility that we are very fortunate to have available to our students.

Key features of the program include:

- Weekly timetabled Physical Education classes with the Specialist Phys Ed Teacher, from Foundation to Year 6
- Additional weekly Sport Programs, from Foundation to Year 6
- A wonderful indoor sports stadium, with a huge range of sports equipment
- Strong partnerships with community groups and sporting associations, including the Yarra Ranges Athletics Club, Lilydale Tennis Club, S.E.B.C Saints Basketball Club, Mt Lilydale Lakers Basketball Club, Lilydale High School, Melbourne Storm Rugby League Club and the Mooroolbark District Sports Group
- A yearly intensive swimming program at the Croydon Aqua Hub, is offered to all students
- Professional looking sports uniforms for Interschool Competitions, which promotes school spirit
- A strong school focus on Health, particularly healthy eating
- A major emphasis on sportsmanship and fair play. Victoria Road is renowned for this within the Mooroolbark District Sports Group





Here at Victoria Road Primary,

we recognise that the transition into Foundation (Prep), is a big step and can come with mixed emotions.

For this reason, we have many activities and events organised to help you and your family become familiar with our school and to make the transition for your child as smooth as possible.

Some of these activities include Information Nights and Practise Prep sessions. We also aim to visit all enrolled children at their kinder which allows us an opportunity to spend some time getting to know them and pass on a social story book which includes pictures of the people and places in our school. At these visits we are able to talk to the kinder teachers regarding any information which may be helpful in the transition process. Lastly, we run formal transition sessions which start in October. These sessions allow children to engage in classroom activities, meet the classroom and specialist teachers, office staff and their buddies and generally get a feel for school life!

Transition

from Kinder to School



Thinking Culture

at Victoria Road

Creating a thinking culture



has been a focus of work from Project Zero at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (Harvard University). Teachers at our school have undergone extensive professional learning concentrating on developing a thinking culture, making thinking visible and engaging in thinking routines designed to elicit an awareness of thought processes and in depth thought.

Our aim is to create a learning environment which encourages students to develop skills which promote reflection, ask meaningful questions and come to thoughtful conclusions. Skills such as hypothesising, collaborating, problem solving, gathering evidence and making judgements are nurtured and encouraged in a structured manner guided by the teacher.

We design and plan our learning around the four Key Qualities of Powerful Learning Opportunities as identified in Ron Ritchharts book Making Thinking Visible. Ron is a Senior Researcher at Project Zero, Harvard University.

Novel Application

Applying, organising, interpreting, evaluating or synthesising prior knowledge to solve novel problems or form new judgements.

Meaningful Enquiry

Develop new understandings and insights that go beyond the obvious and extend one's current understanding.

Effective Communication

Expressing, representing, justifying, supporting and communicating one's ideas, understandings, methods and processes effectively using disciplinary tools, symbols and language.

Intrinsic Value

Having value and purpose beyond merely doing work for the teacher. At the high end, the efforts may have utilitarian, aesthetic or personal value and connect learning to the larger world.



At Victoria Road Primary School, we recognise that *wellbeing* plays an integral part in the *successes* our children experience. Our Wellbeing Team coordinate *group and individual* programs to assist children in navigating their way through the *world* and equip them with *tools and strategies* that improve their ability *get along* with others and achieve their *best*.

