

2017

Nathalia Primary School Information Book



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Welcome to Nathalia Primary School

The education of a child is a partnership between home and school. It is important that we both work together in the best interest of the child. Studies have shown that a child makes the most progress when home and school work closely together. I look forward to working with you to develop your child's social, emotional and academic skills.

The school welcomes parental participation in classroom and school activities. This can include helping with reading activities, excursions and school sports. We hold a number of activities throughout the year where parents are invited to come along and join us.

We understand that your time is valuable but there are many things you can do to help the school such as being a member of the School Council, Parents' Club, helping at working bees, fund raising activities and attending extra curricula activities.

Nathalia Primary School is part of the Nathalia Learning Community, working in partnership with Nathalia Secondary College, St Francis and St Mary of the Angels. This unique structure enables us to work closely together to provide high level professional development for teachers and the sharing of ideas and resources to ensure that all students get the best learning opportunities.

The school has developed and implemented a document entitled Values and Beliefs—Learning and Teaching Practices. This document details the core values our school holds and the practices that are exhibited across our school community. This document aligns with the school's Instructional Model where the methods of curriculum delivery in the school are articulated. Please contact me if you would like copies of the either of these policies.

I hope this information booklet answers many of your questions. Please don't hesitate to contact the school if you have a question. I look forward to work with you during your child's primary school education.

Chris McCallum – Principal



School and Sports Captains

School Profile

Nathalia Primary School was established in 1878 and currently has an enrolment of around 110. A significant proportion of students travel by bus from outlying areas each day.

There is a strong community involvement and parent support for the school. Parents are encouraged to participate in a variety of aspects of the school program. The School Council is the governing body of the school and election for positions on Council are held annually. The Parents Club is a less formal group and welcomes all members of the school community to become involved. The Parents Club contributes greatly to the culture of the school.



The classrooms are well maintained and provide an excellent teaching and learning environment for the teachers and students. The school grounds are spacious and maintained by a team of committed parents.

Opportunities are provided to develop appropriate social skills through the implementation of Nathalia Kids Are Friendly Kids program and School Wide Positive Behaviours. These programs support the overarching principles of the school which are Respect, Responsibility, Courtesy and Cooperation. Catering for individual needs ensures success for all children and leads to optimistic attitudes and enjoyment of learning. Positive reinforcement is given through Student of the Week awards and individual classroom systems.

The school places a strong emphasis on the development of the children's literacy and numeracy skills. A minimum of two hours of literacy and one hour of numeracy is timetabled every day. Children in the prep year focus on letter identification, word attack skills and establishing independent reading habits. In numeracy the children focus on early years number skills such as counting and place value.

The school's curriculum is complemented by specialist programs in Art/Craft, Performing Arts, Physical Education and Library. We also have theme days, sports and other engagement activities happening all through the year.



Term Dates—2017

For the month of February every Wednesday (1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd) is a rest day for Prep students. As from the first week in March, Preps will commence attending for the full week.

Term 1: 30 January (school teachers start) to 31 March

Term 2: 18 April to 30 June

Term 3: 17 July to 22 September

Term 4: 9 October to 22 December

Class Times

Classes begin at 9:00am.

Morning recess 11:00am -11:30am

Lunch 1:30pm - 2.20pm

School dismissal 3.20pm

Lunch is eaten under teacher supervision between 1:30pm and 1:40pm.

The town children leave by the Robertson Street gate, which is supervised every afternoon.



Visitors to the School

Our school operates a visitor's book. All visitors to the school, including parents, are asked to sign in and out. This procedure has been implemented to ensure student safety and to enable the school to account for all people in an emergency situation. The visitor's sign in book is located in the school office.

Lunch Orders

Lunch orders are available daily. Orders are collected from our school by staff from the Secondary College canteen and are delivered at the beginning of lunch time.

Orders are to be written on a brown paper bag with the child's name, grade and the correct money enclosed. The canteen price lists will be distributed at the beginning of the year. Any price changes are notified via the school newsletter when they occur.

Bus Travel

Our school has 6 buses that service our families and the broader Nathalia Learning Community schools. As there are often a large number of students from all 4 schools accessing each bus, it is vital that students understand the importance of safe bus travel.

A teacher is on bus duty every day to monitor children as they get on the bus to leave for home. If your child is picked up at school at any time, or is not travelling home on the bus, please ensure that the school office is notified by a parent. High standards of behaviour are expected at all times when children are travelling on buses.

Families that are not attending their nearest public school and are accessing the school bus service will be required to pay a bus fare.



School Uniform

The School Uniform Policy is an initiative of the School Council and the wearing of uniform is compulsory at Nathalia Primary School. The uniform is practical, cost-effective and comfortable for the children to wear. All items of school uniform are on sale at Casual Step in Blake Street Nathalia.

If for some reason your child cannot wear their uniform to school, a note from a parent is appreciated.

Our school is a Sun Smart school and the school wide-brimmed hat must be worn for all outside activities in terms one and four.



Enrolling at Nathalia Primary School

The school's enrolment forms provides or requests information including details of:

- ◆ The privacy of your information
- ◆ Student health
- ◆ Family and emergency contacts
- ◆ Student background
- ◆ Immunisation status

If you would like to discuss any aspect of the enrolment package, or seek assistance with completing the forms, please contact the Principal, Chris McCallum.

Information Technology



The children at the school have access to information technology primarily through the schools netbook program. The netbooks are supplied to all children in the upper school on a one-to-one basis and in banks of computers in classrooms for the infant and middle area of the school. There is no additional cost to parents for this program, nor is there a need for parents to provide computers for classroom use.

The use of computers at the school complements the general curriculum and enables the teachers and students to access up to date technology. The school has policies and practices in place regarding the acceptable use of computers and, specifically, how to safely use the Internet.

Student Welfare

Currently on staff we have a Primary Welfare Officer and Chaplain who work with the whole school community. This includes the staff, students and families, working in individual or small group sessions dependent on need. The school also has access to the Koorie Education officer, education psychologists, occupational therapists, speech pathologists and other allied health workers.

The wellbeing of the students, families and staff is a priority at Nathalia Primary School.



Emergency Contact Information

At the commencement of each school year you will be asked to fill in an emergency information form, which is kept in the office. This includes your contact numbers and at least two separate emergency contact numbers of a friend or relative. This information is essential so that we can contact you quickly should an emergency arise.

If there is a change in any of the information that you initially provided, for example a change of phone number, address or health details, please notify the office as soon as practicable.



School Levy

Every effort is made by the school to make the education of the children as affordable as possible for all families. The school levy is determined each year by the School Council. Nathalia Primary School purchases all classroom requisites and the cost of these form a large part of school fees. If you are unsure how to manage paying your fees, please come in and discuss this with the Principal. We have many different ways to assist you, such as Direct Debit, negotiated payment plans and an EFTPOS facility.

The School Council sets a levy per student for the school year. Should there be any difficulty in paying this levy please contact the Principal or the Business Manager.

The current annual school fees in 2016 are:

Prep, 1 and 2—\$173

Grade 3 and 4—\$180

Grade 5 and 6—\$201

This fee includes all student stationery, classroom activities, printing, visiting performances, winter sports, interschool athletic sports and access to the Life Education Van. An itemised breakdown of the fee structure is provided to parents at the start of every school year.

Sick Children

If your child is ill it is expected that they will stay at home until they have recuperated. If your child becomes unwell at school we will contact the parents or the emergency contact that you have provided. The same process will take place if your child requires medical attention while they are at school. In cases of emergency, an ambulance will be called immediately and every endeavour will be made to contact the parents as quickly as possible.

School Dental Service

The School Dental Service is now located permanently in Shepparton, at G V Health, Graham Street, Shepparton. There are clinics available from Monday to Friday. The School Dental Service can be contacted on 03 5832 3050 or contact the school office for further information.

School Attendance

If your child is away from school at any time, a brief note is required. In cases of extended absences a phone call to the office the classroom teacher would

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office the classroom teacher would



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Curriculum

The school provides a broad and varied curriculum that caters for the needs of all children. Every day there is a two hour block dedicated to the teaching of Literacy. One hour of every day is assigned to the teaching of Mathematics. The school has specialist programs in Physical Education, Music, Art/Craft, Library and Literacy Intervention. The children at the school also participate theme days, school camps, the swimming program, sports clinics, youth mentoring, athletic sports, winter sporting program, the RACV Energy Breakthrough and many more curriculum enrichment activities throughout the year.



Student Progress Reports

Student progress reports are distributed to families at the end of terms 2 and 4. These reports are informed by a thorough assessment process that is staged throughout the school year. Parents are invited to meet with the teachers and Principal at a mutually convenient time anytime through the year. Classroom teachers are always willing to meet with parents to discuss student progress.

If you have any concerns, please don't wait for a formal parent teacher interview. We endeavour to have parents and teachers working together to support positive outcomes by open communication on a regular basis.

Transition Programs

The transition to Prep program operates in November every year and is available to all pre-school students who will enrol at the school the following year. The Prep transition day runs over four weeks with prospective students attending the school for two hours on one day each week.

The school also participates in transition activities at grade six level with activities planned by Nathalia Secondary College.

School Council

School Council is the school's governing body and meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month during school terms at 7pm. The School Council has an extremely important role in the operation of the school in the development of Policy and overseeing Grounds and Maintenance. Participation on School Council gives parents an insight into the operation of the school and a say in the direction, policies and practices.

School Council elections are held annually.

Parents Club

The Parents' Club meets on the 3rd Monday of the month during school terms following the assembly at the school. All parents are welcome to join in this vital group and support your child's education. It is also a great way to meet other parents and catch up for a social chat.

Junior School Council

Each year two representatives from every classroom from Grades 3 to 6 are selected to be on Junior School Council. The Junior School Council meets once a month. Our School Captains play a significant role in the Junior School Council and student leadership.

