

DEDERANG PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Where each child is challenged to be curious, creative and caring."



PARENT INFORMATION BOOKLET

This booklet is aimed at answering some of the questions you may have about your child's start at Dederang Primary School.

Please don't hesitate to contact the school with questions, or better still, call in. You are welcome to observe classes in action. The school newsletter is a great source of on-going information about what we do at Dederang Primary School. It is distributed fortnightly on a Thursday.

Should you require further assistance please contact me or our Office Manager, Noelene Goyen. Noelene is in on Mondays and Thursdays and can help you with any administrative queries.

We are hosting an Open Evening on Tuesday 3 September from 5.30-7.30, with light refreshments available, and invite you to attend. There is also a transition program for incoming preps through Terms 3 and 4. In addition, we can always organise a school tour and observation for you and, should your child be moving into our school from another school, we are happy to organise for he or she to spend some time in our classrooms, before commencing with us.

We look forward to welcoming you to our school community!

Regards,

Bronwen Martin

Principal

**Dederang P.S. #1772
4364 Kiewa Valley Highway Dederang, Vic. 3691
Principal: Ms Bronwen Martin
Business Manager : Mrs Noelene Goyen**

Visit our website: <http://www.dederang.vic.edu.au/>

DEDERANG PRIMARY SCHOOL
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SCHOOL PROFILE

Dederang Primary School is 48km south of Wodonga on the Kiewa Valley Highway in the picturesque Kiewa Valley. The school boasts a superb rural setting and serves the communities of Dederang, Upper Gundowring, Glen Creek, Kancoona and Kergunyah.

While the district is predominantly a farming community, there is a gradual increase in people driving to Albury/Wodonga for work. Two buses bring children to school each day. One bus comes from areas south of the school, (Gundowring, Kancoona, and Dederang), the other delivers children from Kergunyah and the Glen Creek area.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Our school values working in partnership with parents and the local community. We seek to continuously develop these partnerships.

Our school values of *Respect, Learning and Safety* underpin all that we do.

We aim:

- for children to develop **positive attitudes and values**
- for children to develop **curiosity, creativity and perseverance to learn,**
- to provide a futures oriented curriculum and relevant teaching with learning experiences that cater for children at **whatever stage of development** they might be, supporting them with explicit teaching to reach a new personal best and to become independent learners
- to nurture a learning environment that fosters **self-discipline, confidence, courteousness, cooperation and pride in achievement.**

We strive to work with parents and the community to nurture confident and resilient young people ready to face whatever life puts before them.

When something goes wrong and relationships break down, we practise restorative conversations with students, staff and parents to determine, what happened, how people have been affected by this, and what needs to happen to repair the situation. Through an extensive consultation process, as a school we have established three rules. These are used to frame our restorative conversations, form the basis of our student well-being policy and are summarised below.

1. **BE RESPECTFUL : Treat others as you would like to be treated, showing kindness and forgiveness**
2. **BE A LEARNER: Be a listener, be a thinker and take a risk**
3. **BE SAFE: Be physically safe to yourself and others**



CURRICULUM

Student learning includes the curriculum areas of **English, Health and PE, Mathematics, Science, Technology, History, Indonesian and Cultural Studies, Social Education and the Arts.**

The school community places great importance on Information and Computer Learning Technology to ensure students are equipped for 21st Century Learning.

Our school combines with other schools in the district to access additional activities such as **sports competitions and cultural experiences.**



Class structures may vary from year to year depending on enrolment and staffing. Presently we have an Prep-2 and a 3-6 class. We are flexible with student groupings and approaches to planning and organising so that we best meet student needs. We use a wide range of teaching/learning groupings: individual; paired; small cooperative; composite; age/grade and whole school. Staff work intensively to analyse student work and learning data to personalise learning for all students.

The school offers a **summer swimming program** (P - 6) and in winter, Years 3 - 6 students are offered **skiing** at Falls Creek. Camps are also offered to Year 3 to 6 students.

FACILITIES

In addition to our purpose built double classroom, we have a specialist art and science room, fully equipped music room, library, gymnasium and a staff room with cooking facilities. We have a space purposely set up for DPS Care, our daily 3-5 childcare facility, which also offers 15 hours of kindergarten each week. In addition we offer an Out of School Hours Care Program.

GROUNDS

Behind our striking blue wren, when visitors come to our school, they will note our spacious and welcoming school grounds. These consist of great spaces for sport and exploration, including our creek area, a paved and covered area, and a shaded play-ground equipment area.

When appropriate we tap into our immediate environment to support student engagement with learning, particularly in our specialist science programs. We are committed to caring for our rural environment, and host regular community working bees. A keen emphasis on our immediate environment reflects our inspiration from Reggio Emilia for our approach to early childhood education. A current project underway is the creation of an edible garden.

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE:

Before and after school care is available both during the working week and school holidays. Please contact Kath Lewinson, our OSHC Coordinator, on 0418399861 for more information about this service.

HOMEWORK

Students are expected to read each night. Teachers may set weekly homework tasks which will often include, but is not limited to, spelling and maths practice.

STAFF

We are child focussed with high expectations on both academic performance and social behaviour.

We value positive staff morale and aim for a team approach in the day to day organisation and curriculum provision of our school.

ABSENCES

We foster an *"It's not OK to be away"* ethos. Where possible please let teachers know either by note or a phone call, that your child will be absent from school. If your child is going to be away for a period of time, we will aim to provide some learning activities for your child whilst they are away. Please note that the Department of Education regards an average absence of one day per school fortnight as having a negative affect on student progress.



THE ARTS

A specialist art teacher, visits fortnightly, providing visual arts instruction for each class. The van provides all art materials. We also offer whole school singing, specialist piano and guitar lessons and regularly integrate drama and art, when appropriate, into other curriculum areas.

LIBRARY

A teacher-Librarian visits fortnightly and takes literature and library lessons. In addition, we have a well-resourced library to support children to read for enjoyment and with research



NEWSLETTER and MEMO

A full newsletter, including staff and student reports as well as photos of what has been happening at Dederang Primary School is sent home fortnightly. It is used to inform parents of coming events. Please make sure that you receive a newsletter each fortnight. The school is willing to place community advertisements in our newsletter. We prefer emailed contributions to save time, sent directly to Noelene Goyen. In addition to the newsletter, in the alternate week, we have a brief *Memo*, which we aim to limit to a page of important reminders. Our childcare service, DPS Care, also has an informative monthly newsletter. All of our communication can be received by email if requested.

LUNCH

Your child needs to bring adequate food /drink for morning recess and lunch times. We encourage and foster healthy food choices as much as possible and children have a daily fruit break at 10am and can access their water bottle during class time. On Mondays fruit is provided for children.

MOWING

We are grateful for a generous donation from the Kancoona Quilting Group, which recently allowed us to purchase a school lawn mower. Each family is asked to either place themselves on the school mowing roster or contribute towards the cost of having the school grounds mown. The contribution amount is to be determined by school council each year.

CHILD AND FAMILY HEALTH PROGRAM

All Victorian children are provided with a health assessment in their first year at school. School nurses deliver this program. It gives parents/guardians, teachers and nurses an opportunity to work together for the well-being and educational progress of children.

In order to carry out a health assessment, the nurses need to know information that only parents or guardians have about their child.

Prior to the school nurse's visit parents will receive a School Entrant Health Questionnaire, which will assist them to provide this information. Parents are encouraged to consult the school nurse at the time of her visit to school to discuss any concerns they may have. All information is confidential.

The health assessment is not intended to replace your normal source of health care. School nurses are also available to see children from other year levels causing concern to parents or teachers.

All new enrolments should produce an immunization certificate, which are available through the local Shire.



BANKING

Dederang Primary School is involved in both the Bendigo School Banking and Commonwealth Bank of Australia School Banking Schemes. Any enrolled child is eligible to open an account through the school. Children are able to take up this offer at the beginning of each year.

LITERACY/ NUMERACY ASSISTANCE

Children who need a boost or some extra one to one attention are invited to join our literacy or numeracy support programs. A concurrent commitment by parents to assist with the program's home tasks (around 15 minutes each day) is likely to enhance the benefits for children.



PERSONAL GOODS BROUGHT TO SCHOOL AT OWNER'S RISK

The Department of Education's policy is that: "Private property brought to schools by students is not insured nor is the Department of Education responsible for any loss." We advise that children should not bring their "treasures" to school.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious education is provided at the school for 30 minutes each week. Catholic and Approved Course are offered by volunteer instructors.

CHILDREN'S SUPPLIES

Each year parents are able to purchase some essential items through the school as a class pack. We also enrol students in online programs such as *Mathletics* and *Reading Eggs* and these subscriptions can also be accessed at from home. Requisite lists for the following year are issued late in Term 4. The school provides the majority of basic materials that students need.

Each child should have their own colouring pencils, eraser, glue stick, pencil case, sharpener, scissors, jotter, ruler and calculator. We work with students to foster care for one's own property and equipment.

Current advice on calculators is that all primary age children are encouraged to become familiar with their use. (They do not replace mathematical thinking and problem solving.) They are a required item in secondary schools. At primary level, a very basic calculator is recommended. In addition, for 3-6 students, we ask that they have a memory stick to save and back up their electronic files.

EXCURSIONS AND INCURSIONS

Excursions are those activities undertaken away from the school and include day excursions, cultural performances, Group Days, Theme Days, Sports Days.

EXCURSION/ACTIVITY FEES

The excursion/incursion levy for each child is set by the school council at the beginning of each year and is advertised in the newsletter.

This contribution will be used towards paying for all whole school excursions such as the swimming program and special events brought into the school for students. This fee also includes Student Insurance.

Skiing and Camps will be paid for by parents of those children involved at the time of the events. The fees may be paid in the first term or by instalments. Our policy is for no child to miss out because of financial disadvantage. Please talk to the principal if the excursion levy poses a difficulty and something will be worked out.

SWIMMING

Sessions in Term 1 are normally conducted at the Mt. Beauty Pool. Emphasis in term 1 is on stroke development and water confidence. Further sessions are taken in Term 4 with an emphasis on Water safety and Survival. Parents will be informed of dates and times in the Newsletter. The children are involved in activities at the pool for one hour and progress through the levels outlined by the Royal Life Saving Society.

SCHOOL CAMP

Older children are offered a camps program. We aim to vary destinations and experiences over the four years in the upper school.



SKIING PROGRAM

Older children are able to go skiing in Term 3 at Falls Creek. They initially participate in a cross country program and are subsequently able to elect also experience downhill skiing. The children are transported by bus. Dederang Primary School coordinates this program for several small schools, and parents are able to assist if space allows on the bus. We offer a snow experience day for our P-2s every second year.



INTER SCHOOL SPORTS DAYS

Dederang Primary School participates in cluster swimming and athletic sporting opportunities, allowing students the opportunities to progress to zone. We also offer students the opportunity to participate in Winter sports day, cross country runs, and some team sports at various times. On occasions parents will be asked to arrange transport of their children to and from these sports activities.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS AND REPORTING

The school has both oral and written reports. Written reports are sent home, mid- year and at the end of the year.

Parent teacher interviews are arranged through the newsletter and usually take place at the end of first and third term.

UNIFORM

At Dederang Primary School it is compulsory to wear school uniform. Basic school uniform items may be purchased from department stores, (navy blue track suits and navy shorts, maroon tops) and school logo T-shirts or polo shirts and windcheaters are available through the Parents Club. Should you require assistance with sourcing or purchasing uniform, please speak with the principal or the business manager. We ask for parent support to ensure that their children wear neat and tidy uniform each day to school, or write a note to teachers if this is not possible.

SUMMER: maroon school polo or T-shirt, navy shorts and a blue broad-rimmed hat during Term 1 and 4 to be Sun-Smart.

WINTER UNIFORM: Navy skivvy and navy track suit pants, choice of maroon rugby top or windcheater with school logo.

Please ensure that all clothing is named clearly as it is difficult for staff to return unlabelled clothing and personal belongings. Unclaimed items will be placed in the second hand uniform box at the end of each term

FOOTWEAR

On PE and Sport days students need good running shoes. As some sort of sport, jumping or skipping etc. is part of a normal school day, sensible flat runners or black school shoes should be worn every day. Elevated heels and elastic sided boots are not allowed and thongs are not permitted at school. During wet weather children may bring gumboots to school if they wish to.



PUPIL FREE DAYS

There will be four curriculum days during the year. Teachers only attend school on these days or attend elsewhere to undertake Professional Development activities. OSHC will notify parents if they are operating on pupil free days but do not operate on public holidays. Dates for public holidays and pupil free days will be notified in the newsletter.

BUS TRAVEL

Bus travel is available to and from school. At present our bus drivers are John Rooney (02 60271815) or Warren Larkin (02 60289 423). Any non-bus travelling child wanting to use the bus for some reason must gain permission from the principal and bus proprietor. Parents should notify the bus proprietor in the first instance of changed arrangements of an afternoon as we cannot guarantee that messages left on our answering machine will always be listened to and passed on before 3.30pm.

TRAVEL TO SCHOOL

Children walking or cycling to school should use the bicycle track where possible. Children are not permitted to ride bicycles in the school grounds. Bicycles must be stored safely, as discussed with the teachers.

STUDENT PICK UP AND DELIVERY

Please use the car park at the front side of the school to transfer your child to/from your vehicle and allow an easy and safe flow of traffic. Please "back in" to park. Please obey the exit and entry signs to the car park as these are official Road Traffic Signs.

Children must wait inside the school fence until they are collected.

Children can be left at school from 8.45am and need to be collected by 3.40pm. Teachers are officially on duty from 8.45am to 3.40pm. Please use and note that children will be signed into the Out of School Hours Care service outside of these official hours.

PARENT CLUB

The Parent Club meets once a month at a time advertised in the newsletter. It is a vital and appreciated support group for our school. They help in the organising of extra school activities and fundraising. Everyone is most welcome

SCHOOL COUNCIL

The School Council meets on a Monday evening once a month at 6.00pm. School Councillors are elected for a two year term by parents in March each year.



Please contact us if you ever have any questions or concerns and let us know if anything is missing from this booklet, that would be useful for you if it had been included.

We wish your child or children a happy and productive year with us, and warmly welcome you as parents to our community.

Regards

Bronwen Martin

Principal.