



## **SCHOOL TOUR- FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.**

### **How many students at the school?**

Approximately 200 students. We are a small, caring school with a strong community atmosphere, offering focussed and challenging learning. We know all of our students well and Stonnington is a friendly, positive place for all students and staff.

### **What specialist subjects are offered?**

Visual Arts, LOTE Greek, Library, Physical Education and Performing Arts are our specialist subjects. Social Skills, Music and Science are covered during inquiry units.

### **What is your sports program like?**

We offer Physical Education for all our students, Perceptual Motor Program, (PMP) for Prep to Year 2, fitness activities from Prep to Grade 6. Interschool sport in the form of special gala days for students in years 3-6. We have an intensive swimming program for Prep, right through to Year 6. We take part in Cross Country, Swimming and Athletics and Interschool competitions.

### **Do you have musical instrument classes?**

These take place during the school day. We offer, on a user pays system, keyboard, guitar, percussion, woodwind and brass.

### **How do you manage discipline at your school?**

We take a restorative approach to behaviour management where students are involved in conferences regarding any rule breaking, bullying or behaviour issues. We look at what happened, who has been affected and how we can restore wellbeing. We have a re-think room where conferences may take place or where students may reflect on their behaviour and future actions/directions. Students, therefore, take an active role in the discipline process. Our school received a national award from the Allanah and Madeline Foundation in 2004 for our Restorative Practices.

### **Do you teach social skills?**

Social development is an important part of students' learning. At Stonnington, we approach this in a number of ways. Our circle time activities are based on social and emotional competencies and all students experience social skills lessons based on the Values for Australian Schooling program. Each learning space usually begins and ends each day with a 'class circle' which addresses relationship building and this is at the core of social skill development. Other programs that support this area of learning are Life Education, Family Life, etc.

### **Do you have a canteen?**

We are trialling a new service in 2013 called Classroom Cuisine. You can look at the website [www.classroomcuisine.com.au](http://www.classroomcuisine.com.au) for further information

### **What extra-curricula activities do you offer?**

We offer an extensive free lunchtime program which offers a variety of activities at various times such as craft activities, cooking, sport, games, dance, etc. We also run an Active Afters School program involving numerous activities.

**What are your playgrounds like?**

Stonnington P.S. has a running track and mini soccer field for the students to play a variety of ball games. There is also an asphalt area with marked courts for netball, basketball etc. We also have an exciting Adventure Playground, a community shelter with rubberised coloured asphalt floor adjacent, for the students to relax and play in the shade next to our sensory garden. We have a wonderful fitness/play equipment area and shade sails to support our Sun Smart policy.

**Do you have Out of School Hours Care?**

Yes, we operate a Before and After School Care Program. Our Before Care Program begins at 7.30am which is run as a Breakfast Club for all students at a cost of a gold coin donation per day. The After School Program provides a variety of activities for the students as well as a quiet time for students to read or complete their homework. This is run by Camp Australia. The program runs from 3.30-6.00 daily. Parents may receive a child care benefit and tax rebate by applying through the Family Assistance Office.

**Why do you have multi-age groupings?**

The main reason is team work! Our teachers plan and work together making sure that we have shared values and continuity in our Curriculum across the grades. This class structure offers opportunities for leadership development, role modelling and for a broader range of ability groupings. In addition it takes two years to move through Victorian Essential Learning Standards. Each level apart from Prep is covered over a two year period.

**Is school uniform compulsory?**

Yes. Families may also purchase clothing from other sources as long as they are our school colours eg navy tracksuit pants. Our uniform shop is located at reception and is run on Wednesday mornings by one of our parents.

**Do you have parent involvement?**

Absolutely! Our school promotes a partnership between home and school. Parents belong to our School Council and also attend many of our social and educational sessions during the year. Parents often assist our teachers by helping in the classrooms, listening to reading and much more. We are also very fortunate to have a partnership with the Ardoch Youth Foundation which supports our school and provides many trained volunteers who help to enrich our students' lives.

**What is the Walking Bus Program?**

This is a program organised by the Stonnington City Council Youth Services. This is a supervised walk from Malvern Rd to Stonnington P.S. We are hoping to establish more walking bus routes with the assistance of parents or volunteers.

**Do we have a Buddy System?**

Yes we do. Our Grade 4 students are involved in our Transition Program at the beginning and end of the year. We also have a multi-age program for fitness activities, Buddy reading, buddy maths and students work together in multi age groups when celebrating special days.

**Current parents are happy to answer any questions. For further information please contact our Parent Coordinator, Michelle Homberg, on 0449 913 968 or [mhomberg@bigpond.com](mailto:mhomberg@bigpond.com).**