

Be a Learner

Be Responsible

Be Respectful



**Yarrunga
Primary
School**

Information Booklet 2024

Yarrunga Primary School provides a caring, stimulating, co-operative and safe learning environment that will best allow children to reach their full potential. The school works to develop children's social skills, self-esteem, self confidence and individual responsibility.

It is our purpose to continually develop an engaging learning environment and program that promotes academic success along with social, physical and emotional well-being. We make sure all students are supported to be their very best to enable them to lead their happy and successful lives, now and in the future.

We are proud to provide a safe, happy and caring environment for students and an approachable and consultative atmosphere for all families.

We see ourselves as a school family and hope that you will as well.



Learning Today for Tomorrow

White Street, Wangaratta, 3677

Ph: (03) 5721 2682

email: yarrunga.ps@education.vic.gov.au

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Principal's Message

To all Parents and carers;

Thank you for your interest in Yarrunga Primary School. I am proud to be the Principal here at Yarrunga PS, a school which has a commitment to providing the best possible education for all every child who walks through our doors.

Underpinning all we do at Yarrunga PS is a strong sense of purpose. As we make every decision, we continually ask ourselves and each other the most important questions—how will this help the students and our community? Some of our latest changes to enhance the school for students have been the purchasing of our iPads, the upgrade of our garden and working towards a beautiful front garden and entrance.

Yarrunga PS is an exceptionally well-resourced school that is able to provide personalised learning opportunities for all students. Our dedicated classroom teachers strive to create a bright, happy and engaging classroom. We provide work that is stimulating and tailored to individuals. We include the students in decision making processes, listening to their ideas about learning.

Students are supported to manage themselves. We help them understand the importance of play, caring for others, respect and how to successfully manage social relationships and conflict when it arises.

I look forward to continuing to work hard for your children to ensure Yarrunga PS provides the best education possible to local students.

Ms Frances Waterman



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Our Commitment to Child Safety

All students enrolled, and any child visiting, have a right to feel safe and be safe at Yarrunga Primary School. The wellbeing of children in our care will always be our first priority and we have zero tolerance to child abuse. We aim to create a child safe and child friendly environment where children feel safe and are free to enjoy life to the full without any concern for their safety.

Children's Rights to Safety and Participation:

The staff and volunteers of Yarrunga Primary School encourage students to express their views. We listen to their suggestions, especially on matters that directly affect them. We actively encourage all students to openly express their views and feel comfortable about giving voice to the things that are important to them.

We teach students about what they can do if they feel unsafe. We listen and act on any concerns from students, or their parents or carers.

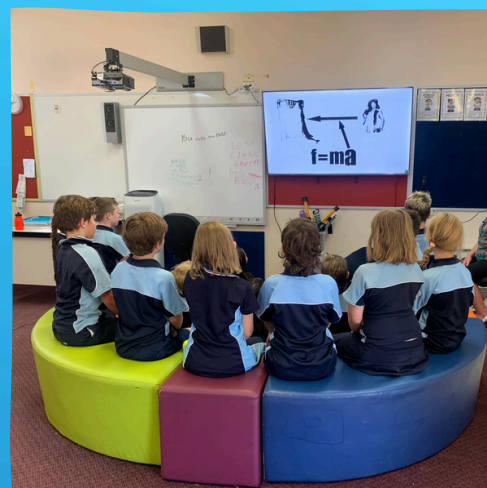
Valuing Diversity and Inclusion:

We value and celebrate diversity, including cultural diversity, and we do not tolerate discriminatory practices. To achieve this we:

- promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal students and their families, through our Bindi Club and the introduction of an Indigenous Languages Program in 2020.

Recruiting Staff and Volunteers:

Yarrunga Primary School will apply the most thorough and rigorous standards in the recruitment and screening of staff and volunteers. We interview and conduct referee checks on all staff and volunteers and require police checks and Working With Children Checks (WWCC) for all staff and volunteers.



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**Yarrunga
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**Principal: Ms Frances Waterman
Pastoral Care Leader: Mr Michael Jenkins
Business Manager: Ms Olivia Sewell
Administration Assistant: Rachel Dal Zotto**

CLASSROOM TEACHERS

**Years P-1 Teacher: Mrs Judith Powell
Years P-1 Teacher: Mrs Emily O'Brien & Mrs Bec Gathercole
Year 2 Teacher: Ms Kelly Allan
Years 3/4 Teacher: Mrs Angela Craven & Mr Riley Minns
Years 3/4 Teacher: Mrs Cindy Rebbechi
Years 4/5 Teacher: Ms Robyn Clarke
Years 5/6 Teacher: Ms Mel Campbell
Years 5/6 Teacher: Mr Matthew Raison**

SPECIALISTS

**Outdoor Ed/Art/Discovery: Mr Matt Lorback
P.E.: Mr Riley Minns
SAKG Teacher: Mrs Emily O'Brien
Bpangerang: Mr Michael Jenkins
Inclusion: Mrs Cass Hines**

INTEGRATION AIDES

**Cheryl Coatsworth
Janine Stone
Simone Brown
Michelle Oats
Karen Auger
Joan Comer
Bonnie Shanley**



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Our Programs

At Yarrunga Primary School, we have approximately 140 students spread across 8 classes. This ensures smaller class sizes with an emphasis on knowing and caring for every child in every grade.

Classroom teachers deliver high-quality Literacy and Numeracy Programs each day. Our Tutor Mr Lorback also supports small groups of students to achieve their best in Reading and Writing, Numeracy and Thinking.

We also offer specialist Art, PE, and Discovery classes for all grades every week.

In addition to this, we have some other special programs:

We have started an Indigenous Languages Program, teaching the Bpangarang Language. This also supports our Bindi Club, which is an inclusive group that explore Indigenous Culture and celebrates our Indigenous Students.

We are proud participants in the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program for students in Years 3-6.

Our school is a recognised Apple ICT school. We utilise iPads and Google Classroom as a modern example of technology. This is used when appropriate to give students the ICT skills they will need for the future.



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Our Programs



Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program:

The Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program is an integral part of Yarrunga Primary School and allows for parents, volunteers, teachers and students to all work together to develop a more sustainable future for our world. The program's aim, led by our garden and kitchen teachers, is to develop lifelong healthier and happier eating habits in children by having them grow, harvest, prepare and share delicious and healthy food.

All students in Years 3 to 6 participate in the program enjoying both a kitchen and a garden session each week. Their weekly kitchen session culminates in everyone sharing a vegetarian meal. A recent menu included a lentil and pea soup, cheese dumplings, a warm cabbage side dish, a broccoli pasta salad and wholemeal banana bread.

The program helps children learn; new language to describe foods, plants, textures and flavours; use maths to measure and weigh; to work as a team; to develop greater self-confidence; to develop awareness of the environment, sustainability and plant diversity.

In addition to this, we use our purpose-built kitchen to our Breakfast Club, which operates 5 mornings a week to provide a nutritious breakfast or top-up for any student.

Students at Yarrunga identify SAKG as making our school special from other schools, is the best, works well and is enjoyed by all.



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Values and Behaviour

Our school aims to teach the children to be responsible for their actions, respect other peoples' feelings and property, so that everyone can work and play in a happy, safe environment.

Playground behaviour is closely supervised by teachers on yard duty at all times according to a yard duty roster and procedures which are regularly reviewed by staff. Staff all wear brightly coloured vests so that they are clearly visible in the playground. If students see issues in the yard, they need to 'raise a flag' and tell an adult so we can address it.

The school has a strong anti-bullying approach in place. Violence and bullying behaviour is not tolerated at this school.

School Values

There are three basic school values.

- Be a Learner.
- Be Responsible.
- Be Respectful.

Students are supported to understand and demonstrate by these values. We require students to manage themselves at school, including before school, in classes and in the yard.



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Yarrunga
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School Values

Be a Learner

At Yarrunga Primary School, to Be a Learner is to be brave and step into challenging tasks. It is to give one's best effort in all their classes. It is to listen to their teachers, aides and peers. It is to come to class with the positive mindset that 'I can learn' and to know that mistakes help our brain grow.

- Be brave, step into tasks
- Give my best in all subjects
- Know that "I can learn"
- Mistakes help my brain grow



Be Responsible

At Yarrunga Primary School, to Be Responsible is to do the right thing even when nobody else is watching. It is to be trusted to do jobs to help the school and others. It is to look after and care for the property of the school and others. It is the ability and willingness to be accountable for our own actions.

- Do the right thing
- Complete jobs properly
- Look after property
- Own our actions



Be Respectful:

At Yarrunga Primary School, to Be Respectful is to actively listen to others when they are speaking. It is to show appreciation when someone is helping you or doing the right thing. It is to speak to people using kind and appropriate language. It is to take turns and be inclusive of everyone.

- Actively listen
- Show your appreciation
- Use kind words
- Take turns and include others



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Parents as Partners

The responsibility for the education of all students works best when shared between the school and families and carers.

The school's role is to guide learning by providing resources, assistance and encouragement, and work with students to establish a classroom environment marked by co-operation, friendliness and challenging activities.

The parents and carers role is to share in the teaching and learning by:

- Encouraging the children and taking an interest in the work they are doing at school, in particular their reading and assisting with tasks to be completed at home.
- Encouraging students to display appropriate and respectful behaviours at school.
- We encourage families to contact the school and their child's teacher at any time if they have any concerns about their child or want specific information as to the best way to assist with their child's learning.



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Dates

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2024:

Term 1: 30th of January to 28th March

Term 2: 15th April to 28th June

Term 3: 15th July to 20th September

Term 4: 7th October to 20th December

SCHOOL TIMES 2024

9:00am: School Commences.

11.00 -11.30am: Recess.

1:00–1:15pm: Supervised Eating

1:15 - 1:45pm: Lunch.

3.15 pm: Dismissal.

As the grounds and classrooms are unsupervised before 8.45am, parents are to send their children to school after 8:45am.

As part of the school's safety and security policy, entry to the school after 9:15 am and before 3:00 pm is via the school office.



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School Uniform

We supply all new students to our school with a free Yarrunga PS Polo and Hat . This way, everyone belongs at Yarrunga from their first moment with us.

There is also a special Year Six T-Shirt to symbolise their special final year.

Summer:

- Navy and sky blue dress
- Navy skirt, shorts or school skorts.
- Yarrunga Primary School navy and light blue short sleeve polo shirt.
- School shoes, sneakers/runners.
- Socks - Black, White or navy blue.
- Navy wide-brimmed/bucket school hat

Winter:

- Navy skirt, plain navy track pants or school trousers.
- Yarrunga Primary School navy and light blue short/long sleeve polo shirt.
- Navy school windcheater
- Navy polar fleece jacket/Spray jacket (No hoodies)
- School shoes/sneakers and socks.

School uniforms are available from:

Steers Co.

52 Norton Street, Wangaratta

5721 7773



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Transitions and Enrolments

Yarrunga Primary School is always welcoming new enrolments from Foundation to Year Six. Your child is welcome to start with us at any time of the year and there will always be a place for your child here at Yarrunga PS.

We value and respect each child as an important member of our school.

For a personalised tour of the school with our Principal or students, please contact us:

Ms Frances Waterman–Principal

Ms Olivia Sewell–Business Manager

(03) 5721 2682

yarrunga.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au



Transition Days:

We like our new Foundation students to feel as if they already belong when they start at our school. For this reason, we have a comprehensive transition process for our students.

From the beginning of the year, we have been coordinating regular visits between the Yarrunga PS and James Tilson Pre-School, both at the school and at the kindergarten. We also visit all other pre-schools in Wangaratta.

We also run several transition sessions each year, and will happily tailor transition to the needs of any child and family.