Footscray North Primary School

Information Booklet
2017/2018

Principal: Mr. Davide Lombardi
Assistant Principal: Ms. Kay Willmott

Address: 14 Rosamond Road, Footscray 3011
Telephone: 03 9317 9047
Fax: 03 9318 4553
Email: footscray.north.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
Website: http://www.footsnth.vic.edu.au
Welcome to
Footscray North Primary School

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome both you and your child to our school community.

Our school motto is ‘Opening up Learning to a World of Possibilities’.

Our mission at Footscray North Primary School is to graduate empowered students who are high achieving, socially and emotionally intelligent, globally aware and active citizens in the community.

Our School Values are: Excellence, Inclusion, Respect and Responsibility.

We aim to give our students access to a range of learning experiences during their seven years at primary school. In order to ensure that children have the skills to access all areas of learning, our school has a strong focus on Literacy, Numeracy and I.T. In 2015, our students in Years 3 and 5 exceeded or equalled State Level in all areas of NAPLAN. We are very proud of this achievement and we will continue to build on these excellent outcomes in the coming years.

Our curriculum and specialist programs offer high quality academic learning, with a focus on nurturing the whole child. Our specialist programs include Visual Arts, P.E., Performing Arts and Spanish. Our school has strong links with Melbourne University and is a hub school for its Masters of Teaching Program. Our staff are highly skilled and motivated and are committed to providing quality teaching programs.

I am delighted to introduce you to our school and I know that your stay with us will be a rewarding one.

This booklet will provide you with a range of information about our school.

If you have any questions, please contact us on 9317 9047.

Regards

Davide Lombardi
Principal
Teaching Programs

At Footscray North Primary School, we are very proud of our strong academic growth in recent years. The focus of our teaching programs is on developing Literacy, Numeracy and I.T. skills in all students whilst offering a broad curriculum which includes Performing Arts, Spanish, Art and PE. We provide a focused and varied curriculum in order to engage our students in their learning whilst ensuring a strong foundation in the key areas of Literacy and Numeracy.

Each week, your child will be involved in at least 10 hours of Literacy and 5 hours of Numeracy learning. Each classroom has a range of resources that are proven to assist all children in their learning. This includes classroom libraries, mathematics materials trolleys, and plasma screens. Students in Years 3-6 are also able to access our 1:1 iPad (BYO) program and are introduced to the skills that they need in order to use this resource to assist with their learning.

An overview of the curriculum that your child will be involved in will be available each term on the school web-site. If you are unable to access this, please let the school know and we will send you a copy.

School and Classroom Libraries

Each week, students are involved in a session in the school library which is taken by their class teacher. A focus on a love of literacy is fostered through the library program. Creative and critical thinking skills are encouraged through the analysis of books. Students also become familiar with how libraries are set up so that they can readily access what is in our library. Library books are borrowed during library sessions. Children are encouraged to return and borrow books weekly. Please take time to share these books with your child.

In addition to our school library, each classroom has its own classroom library. The Classroom Library is designed to encourage a love of reading as well as developing strong reading skills.
Specialist Programs

Physical Education
Each week students participate in our Physical Education program. The focus of these sessions is developing skills and fitness to support participation in a range of physical activities as well as promoting safety and sportsmanship. Each year an intensive two week swimming program is offered to all students. Our students are strongly encouraged to attend this program as developing competence in the water and an awareness of safety in this environment is an essential part of a child’s learning.

Visual Arts
The Visual Arts program focuses on developing skills and techniques to produce pieces of art work. Creating these pieces of art involves imagination, experimentation and planning. Each week, students attend the Art Room where the art teacher takes them through a variety of art experiences designed to encourage a love of Art and to use each child’s imagination in creating art work using a variety of materials. We also have a bi-annual Art Show where our students’ art work is showcased to the whole community.
**Spanish**
The study of Spanish at FNPS provides opportunities for students to become more aware of diversity and of their place in the international community. The process of teaching and learning Spanish at FNPS focuses on linguistic systems and patterns. The curriculum content is expressed in the form of *learn about* and *learn to* statements. These statements aim at enabling children to explore a variety of topics, maximize their learning in Spanish and demonstrate outcomes.
The aim of the *Spanish P-6 program FNPS* is to enable students to develop communication skills, focus on languages as systems and gain insights into the relationship between language and culture, leading to lifelong personal, educational and vocational benefits.

**Performing Arts**
The Performing Arts Program involves all students from Prep to Year 6. Areas that are covered include Music, Dance, Drama and Media. Throughout the Music component, the students are exposed to various musical instruments, music theory, song writing, beat, rhythm and tempo. Within Drama, students are able to explore the subject through improvisation, puppetry, script, masks and mime. During the Dance modules, various genres are explored and students have the opportunity to choreograph their own routines. The Media unit introduces students to the art of film making, directing, producing, editing and recording. The performing Arts program also offers a lunchtime choir that is open to all students who want to explore voice, harmony and performance skills. Each year, a major whole school performance is undertaken by all students and this year, we are taking it on a different path which will be exciting for students, staff and parents.
Resources and Facilities

Footscray North Primary is very fortunate to have a wide range of resources and facilities which are designed to support and enhance your child’s learning.

There are four separate buildings which are set in extensive grounds with safe recreation and sporting areas. Other features include:

- A separate Junior and Senior playground
- Two soccer fields
- Sand pits
- 4 onsite tennis courts
- Gymnasium and indoor assembly area
- Basketball, netball, softball and cricket playing areas
- Well-resourced library – upgraded in 2017
- Bike Shed
- Plasma screens in all classrooms
- Banks of iPads and netbooks
- Vegetable garden
Student Well-Being

At Footscray North Primary School, we have a whole school approach to our student’s well-being. Our Student Well-Being policy is the foundation of a strong commitment to ensuring that all of our students understand the high level of behaviour that is expected. The underlying belief of our policy is that all students have the right to reach their full potential in an environment that acknowledges the rights and responsibilities of everyone at FNPS. We encourage a community where students are able to share responsibilities and celebrate achievements.

Our Student Code of Conduct is underpinned by our School Values. These values are:

- **Excellence**
- **Inclusion**
- **Respect**
- **Responsibility**

Students and staff use these values in all areas of their work and in their interaction with others. These values are displayed in all classrooms and students are aware that these values inform not only their daily interactions with others, but their approach to their work.

Our school also has a Code of Conduct which is an integral part of the Student Well-Being and Engagement Policy. This has recently been updated and highlights our school values as well as student’s rights and responsibilities.

The Code of Conduct is based upon the following principles:

- All members of the school have the right to be valued, respected and treated without discrimination.
- All students are expected to develop responsibility for their own learning and behaviour.
- All students have the right to work and play in a cooperative, supportive and safe environment without interference, intimidation, harassment or bullying.
- All students will be encouraged to be polite, courteous and well-mannered.
- All students will be encouraged to exhibit pride in their school.
- Teachers have the right to be able to teach in an atmosphere of order and cooperation.
- Parents have an obligation to support the school in its efforts to maintain a productive teaching and learning environment.
- Principal and staff have an obligation to implement the Code of Conduct fairly, reasonably and consistently.
STUDENT LEADERSHIP
Student leadership is strongly encouraged throughout our school. To support this, we have School Captains, School Vice-Captains and Sports Captains. We also have a Junior School Council (JSC.) where representatives from classes across the school meet regularly to put forward ideas and to assist with activities. This important forum is a place where students can have an input into many areas of the school.

PARENT PARTICIPATION
A strong partnership between school and home, specifically between the teacher, parent and student, supports the success of each student. At Footscray North Primary School partnerships between parents and the school are fostered through a range of opportunities. Some of these partnerships include:

- School Council
- Education Sub-Committee
- Facilities, Finance and Marketing Sub-Committee
- Kids Matter Action Team
- Fundraising Team
- Classroom helpers programs
- Attendance on excursions
- Participation in whole school events
- Attendance at information sessions throughout the year
- Attendance at Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences

Some of the responsibilities shared by the School Council include setting priorities and policies for the school, deciding how the school’s budget is spent and monitoring the school performance. The FNPS School Council has two committees that meet each month to discuss the management of resources, education and community issues. School Council elections are held each year towards the end of Term 1 with details regarding these elections in the school newsletter during Term 1.

ASSEMBLIES:
Parents are encouraged to attend all assemblies. A whole school assembly is held each Monday morning at 8.45 am in the quadrangle. Whole school assemblies are also held each Friday at approximately 2:55 pm. Classes present items each Friday and it is a great opportunity to see what the children across the school are involved in as well as hearing information about our school.
SCHOOL WEB-SITE
The school web-site has a great deal of up-to-date information about our school. The school newsletter and other school forms can also be accessed through our web-site. Please take the time to look at all of the items about our school. The web-site can be found at http://www.footsnth.vic.edu.au.

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER & NOTICES
The school newsletter is published every second Monday. It is a very important way of letting you know what is happening in the school. If you would like extra information regarding any newsletter item, please feel free to contact the school. We endeavour to send all other notices home to parents with the school newsletter. It is therefore important to check your child’s bag so that you don’t miss out on any news.

FACEBOOK
Reminders and information is shared with members of our school community via our Facebook page. If you have a Facebook account, please ‘like’ our page.

TiqBiz
Currently, we are using the app, TiqBiz to share information with members of our school community. Each year parents are invited to join the groups their children are a part of, to receive reminders about upcoming events.

STUDENT REPORTS and INTERVIEWS
Parent/teacher interviews are organised throughout the year. The first of these is the “Meet the Teacher” Night in Term 1. Formal written reports are sent home in June and December. There are two further scheduled Parent/Teacher/Student interviews. These are held in June and December. If you wish to see your child’s teacher at other times, please contact the teacher concerned or the school office so that an appointment can be arranged.
GENERAL INFORMATION

WELLBEING OFFICER
Our Assistant Principal, Ms. Kay Willmott, oversees the wellbeing component of our school. She is supported by Samantha Molloy, our school Primary Wellbeing Officer. Samantha is at the school on four days each week. She is available to assist with student wellbeing needs and provides support to families as necessary. Please contact Kay or Samantha if you would like to discuss a wellbeing issue.

CANTEEN
Footscray North Primary School’s canteen is open every day during the first 15 minutes of lunchtime. Please note that the canteen is only open for snacks during this time and that it does not sell items for lunch. Students are able to order their lunch each Thursday, for delivery on Friday. Details regarding this will be sent home early in the school year.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE (CAMP AUSTRALIA)
Our school offers on-site before school care from 6.30 am each weekday morning. Our after school care program operates until 6.30 pm each weekday evening. This program also operates on Curriculum Days as well as during the school holidays. Enrolment forms for all of these programs are available in this information pack or at the school office.

CREATIVE MUSIC PROGRAM
The Creative Music Program is a private company which offers keyboard and guitar lessons at the school. These sessions are conducted immediately at the end of the school day. Please contact our office to obtain a brochure and enrolment forms for this program.
Calendar 2017/18

SCHOOL HOURS:
Start 8:45 am - finish 3:15 pm
The yard is supervised between 8:30 am and 8:45 am, at recesses and lunchtimes and from 3:15 pm - 3:30 pm.
The daily timetable is:

- 8:45 am - 10:45 am  
  Session 1 & 2
- 10:45 am - 11:15 am  
  Recess
- 11:15 am - 1:15 pm  
  Session 3 & 4
- 1:15 pm - 1:30 pm  
  Lunch eaten inside
- 1:30 pm - 2:15 pm  
  Lunch break
- 2:15 pm - 3:15 pm  
  Session 5

TERM DATES 2017
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

TERM DATES 2018
Term 1: 29 January (school teachers start) to 29 March (Thursday) *
Term 2: 16 April to 29 June
Term 3: 16 July to 21 September
Term 4: 8 October to 21 December

* The first day of Term 1 is a student-free day in all government schools to allow for appropriate planning to take place for the arrival of students. Each year government schools are provided with four student-free days for professional development, school planning and administration, curriculum development, and student assessment and reporting purposes. The remaining three student-free days are determined by each individual school, so contact your school for details.

END OF TERM PROCEDURES:
Students will be dismissed at 2.30pm at the end of term 1, term 2 and term 3.

END OF YEAR PROCEDURES:
Students will be dismissed at 1.30pm at the end of term 4. (Last day of the school year)