

Mount Dandenong Primary School



Top of the Mountain, Top Results.



Information Booklet 2017 Prep Parents

Mount Dandenong Primary School – Top of the mountain, top results.

Nestled amongst the tall eucalypts, Mount Dandenong Primary School is one of the hidden treasures of the Dandenongs.

The school was established in 1897 and our rebuilding program has resulted in modern buildings and surrounds that blend perfectly into the rural environment.

The 205 students at Mount Dandenong thrive in an atmosphere that is stimulating and encourages every child to discover the style of learning that best suits their needs.

Our programs ensure that everyone is heading in the same direction to the Top of the Mountain – for top results, while extra programs such as an extensive camp program (years 2 – 6), P.E. Sports (including Team Games, Athletics and Swimming), Healthy Lifestyles, Music and Performance groups and choirs, Drama, Art, Science and Technology supplement the core curriculum subjects of Maths and English.

Our Performing Arts groups are a feature of our school and are all well-known in our local community providing our students with many opportunities to perform and experience success.

Environmental studies are a priority for the school and the local community is very involved in the school's activity-based program centred on the local environment. Students develop skills in research, design and communication as they investigate changes to the local environment, and consider many issues relating to a sustainable future.

Our community is very supportive of the school and extensive parent participation is a strong feature of this school. We promote a friendly and caring atmosphere, where all parents are encouraged to be involved in school and community activities.

School Council operates with sub-committees which involve teachers, school councillors, parents and co-opted members as well as a very supportive group of parents, who work tirelessly and fundraise for the school.

Junior School Council works together for all students to support charities and the interests of the student community.

MISSION STATEMENT

Mount Dandenong Primary School values our unique environment and close community. It is a place for creative opportunities and academic excellence, nurturing respect, happiness and independence.

COMMUNITY VALUES – R.I.C.H.

- *RESPECT** - Consider and understand the feelings, qualities and beliefs of self and others. Acknowledge that all members of the school community are entitled to mutual respect and understanding, regardless of their cultural, religious, racial and linguistic backgrounds. Recognise that everyone has rights and responsibilities. Care for property and the environment.
- *INDEPENDENCE** - Display initiative. Regulate own conduct and not be controlled by others. Carry out tasks without constant supervision.
- *COMMUNITY** - Share knowledge and resources cooperatively and work together to benefit the wider school community.
- *HONESTY** - Act in ways that are sincere, truthful and fair.



What does our program offer you?

Our educational program is comprehensive and well-resourced covering all Learning areas.

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Health and Physical Education
- Technology
- Integrated Studies
- The Arts
- Languages other than English (German)

The Learning Areas are enriched throughout the school by the following programs:

- Physical Education program
- Library, Music and Visual Art programs
- Daily Brain Food and Brain Gym
- Healthy Lifestyles education
- Excursions
- Intensive swimming program
- Parent education programs
- Buddy system Year 6 and Preps
- V.I.P. program
- Weekly Friday performance assemblies
- Annual Presentation Night
- Music classes
- Music performance groups – Drumming Circle, School Ensemble, Choir, Jamming with the Juniors
- Camping program Years 2-6
- Annual School Production Year 6
- Interschool Sports
- House competitions
- Interschool Athletics Carnival

Mount Dandenong Primary School Transition Program

Starting School is the next very important step in your child's development. We aim to build on the physical, emotional, social and intellectual skills your child has already begun to develop. We support children and their parents as they begin their school experience together. There are many new things to learn... looking after belongings, saying goodbyes, getting ready for different routines, rules, waiting for your turn, sharing equipment, working with other group members and various staff.

School Experience Program – Term 4

Please find enclosed the **School Experience Brochure** explaining our transition to school program. The program begins early Term 4, and enables your child to come to school to take part in a variety of activities with children at the school. These visits are designed for the children to get to know the school, the staff and become familiar with the exciting things that happen at school. A special program for parents is held at the same time to keep families well informed about educational programs and school procedures. Up to date details of our program will be forwarded to families at the end of Term 3 or as parents complete enrolment requirements.

At the completion of this program, there will be an invitation sent to all parents to attend a **Prep Parent Information Evening** in December. At this meeting all parents will be given specific information about proposed classes and arrangements for starting school in 2017.



A fantastic Buddy program with Grade 6 students ensures a great start to the school year for all new Preps.

Questions new Parents often ask

How do we know if our child is ready to start school? You may wish to try some of these ideas during the Pre-School year.

Points to consider	Yes/ No
Can your child separate easily from a parent or carer?	
Can your child hold a conversation with an adult?	
Can your child follow directions – 1 or 2 at a time?	
Can your child ask to go to the toilet?	
Can your child use the toilet without assistance?	
Can your child take off and put on own jumper/jacket?	
Can your child put own shoes on and off?	
Can your child request things from an adult – Eg. Can I please have...?	
Is your child developing basic motor skills (running, hopping, jumping)?	
Can your child bounce a ball?	
Can your child undo buttons, zips, shoe laces, lunch boxes?	
Can your child be responsible for own belongings?	
Can your child unwrap packed lunches or undo drink bottles?	
Can your child speak clearly and be understood by others?	
Can your child say please, thank you or excuse me?	
Can your child use scissors, pencils, brushes or crayons?	
Can your child write own name?	
Can your child complete a task without close supervision?	
Does your child understand the words “wait please”	
Can your child take turns? Eg. Doesn't always have to be first!	
Does your child make friends easily?	
Can your child pack up after play sessions?	
Can your child share equipment and take turns to play with others?	
Can your child complete a task or activity from beginning to end?	
Is your child able to play in small groups with other children?	
Can your child follow directions from an adult?	
Can your child sort books, buttons, blocks?	
Can your child move to music?	
Can your child ‘have a go’... doing some things for themselves?	
Can your child make things for themselves?	

How can we give our child the best start to school? What could we be doing now?

Please find some time to **READ TO YOUR CHILD EVERY DAY**

Can we visit the school?

Yes, please come and meet the Principal, Michael Leonard and see our school day in operation.
Please phone the school 9751 1136 to make an appointment.

How do we enrol our child?

1. All children must turn 5 years old before the April 30th 2017.
2. Complete an **enrolment form** obtainable from the school.
3. Please start collecting your documents now to provide proof of the child's **birth date** and **immunisation** details. **Immunisation Certificates** are available from your local council office.

Please notify the school early if your child has any special learning needs which may require additional support during 2017.

Why are enrolments completed so early in the year?

Our school structure, staffing and organisation for the next school year 2017, depends very much on the number of Prep enrolments.

It is most important that enrolments with accompanying documents are presented at the school office, if possible, by **FRIDAY 26th AUGUST 2016**

**If you have difficulties collecting supporting documents, please contact our school office.
Please see Transition Timeline for Prep 2017.**

What time do the children usually start school?

Prep children usually start school between 9.30 and 10.30am depending on the number of new children enrolled. More information will be given at a later date. After the first day of school, all the children commence school at 9.00am daily.

School Times

School starts:	9:00am
Morning Recess:	11:00 – 11:30am
Children eat lunch:	1:30 – 1:40pm
Lunch Play:	1:40 – 2:30pm
All children dismissed:	3:30pm



Is school uniform compulsory?

Yes. School uniform fosters a sense of pride and identity with Mount Dandenong students. School uniform and all requirements can be purchased from the uniform shop at Mount Dandenong Primary School. **There is no uniform requirement for the Transition program in Term 4.**

Do the children stay at school all day?

For the first few days of school, the children go home at 1.30pm daily.

During February and March, Prep children will attend school for four days per week from 9am until 3.30pm with **A REST DAY** every **WEDNESDAY**. Our Wednesday at home program will assist your child to ease into the school routine. Early in the school year each child will be asked to attend school for one hour to assess their individual understandings in Literacy and Numeracy.

Can the children be cared for before and after school?

Before and After School Care Programs operate daily. The program is very well organised and offers a stimulating range of activities for all children. This fully supervised program is available for parents who work or for parents who would like to have their children cared for before and or after school. The program is available for occasional or emergency use as required.

How will I know how my child is progressing at school? Assessment and Reporting.

Parents will be encouraged to keep in close contact with the class teacher, especially during the first weeks. Parent Interview sessions will be offered at the beginning of the school year. Parents will receive written reports in June and December and will be offered an interview in June as well. Teachers will notify parents, if they have any concerns or for special achievements throughout the year.

Parents are welcome to make appointments with their child's class teacher throughout the year as required.

How can parents help at school?

Parents are encouraged to participate in the following activities.

- Class Parent Program
- Working Bees, gardening, covering books, classroom duties
- Help in the classroom – Maths workshops, Literacy activities, Sharing your talents and special skills.
- Accompanying excursion groups/swimming programs
- Fundraising for the school

Do Prep children have swimming lessons?

All Prep children participate in a swimming program. Regular swimming programs continue through each year level through to Year 6.

Do Prep children use computers?

The school has a networked computer system and iPads, which children use regularly as part of their classroom activities. Children use a variety of programs as tools to enhance and reinforce their learning in all areas of the curriculum.



How will my child be supervised in the playground during recess and lunchtime?

Staff members are always on duty in the playground before and after school and during recess and lunch times. In the first few weeks of school, Prep teachers are always available to make sure all children are supervised and happy.

All Preps will be introduced to a special Year 6 student during our Transition program late in 2016 for support and friendship at school. All new Preps will be closely monitored by staff in the playground, until they are ready to play happily and confidently with their friends.

The Buddy System – Preps and Grade 6

All Prep children enjoy having special Year 6 friends to help them settle into the routines at school. The school year begins with regular contact with their buddy in the playground or having lunch, sharing stories and playing games. Various activities and sharing time organised by the senior students continues throughout the Prep year to develop responsible young leaders in our school.

Will my child be in a class of only Prep children?

Class combinations depend on the numbers of children enrolled at each year level. Some years we have one or two Prep classes and/or a Prep/One class. It all depends on numbers of children enrolled. We will not know the composition of the classes until the end of this year. Our staff organise innovative programs for teaching children at their individual levels. Individual assessments on entry indicate there is a vast range of understanding at each grade level. Come and talk to us if you have concerns.



My child has special needs. How will my child be supported?

If your child has any special needs (physical, emotional, learning or speech difficulties) please inform the school as early as possible to ensure the necessary support for your child's future learning.

Will my child be in a class with his/her friends?

Please notify the school if there are any **special considerations required for your child** as you enrol. Our knowledge of a special friendship or additional information can greatly assist your child to settle into school, especially if your child has not attended the local Pre-schools. While we cannot guarantee to meet all individual requests for classes, we do try our best. We can only make informed decisions, when we have additional information about your child.

Join us for lots of fun and learning at
Mt. Dandenong Primary School.
School Experience Program. October 2016

What other special things should I know about Mt. Dandenong Primary School?

All children are given the opportunity to develop and extend their skills and interests in many different areas of the curriculum.

Weekly Merit Certificates

Children are rewarded for exemplary work and attitudes exhibited throughout the school by the presentation of these special awards at Monday morning Assemblies.

Friday morning school assembly

Children from classes at all levels are given the opportunity to organise, participate or perform individually or in a group on Friday mornings at a whole school assembly.

Musical performances

Older children in the school have the opportunity to participate in Ensembles, musical groups and choir which regularly perform for the school and the Local Community. Our students are well known for their excellent musical performances. The highlight of the year is a Musical Performance Evening held annually in October/November to showcase our musical talents.

Presentation Night

All children perform a group item on this special evening in December, to complete the school year and say farewell to the Year 6 students.

Camps program – Years 2-6

Children in Years 2-6 have the opportunity to participate in a school camp program. Camps vary from overnight in Year 2, to 5 days in Year 6.

Values Program Years Prep-6 R.I.C.H.

School Values of Respect, Independence, Community and Honesty are constantly reinforced through all our programs.

How much are the school fees?

School fees are set per year to provide all required books, reading and writing materials, photocopying, art and library materials, sporting equipment and other items necessary to resource our programs for the year. All parents are asked to support our various fundraising activities throughout the year. This enables us to keep our school well-resourced to meet the needs of all students and to maintain our pleasant surrounds.

What other costs are to be considered?

The school organises an excursion and some visiting performers to complement the class programs. Every effort is made to spread these across the year, one per term where possible. Sometimes we do take advantage of a special program, but we try to give you notice in advance. The Swimming program costs approximately \$75 for two weeks including the bus fare. A typical excursion costs approximately \$25.

For further information or to make an appointment, please contact:

Principal – Michael Leonard
Mount Dandenong Primary School
Farndons Rd, Mount Dandenong. 3767
P. 9751 1136. F. 9751 2332.
E. mount.dandenong.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

How to Enrol your Child:

Enrolments for 2017 are now open.

- Fill out the special admission forms, extras available from school.
- Provide proof of the child's age (eg. **Birth Certificate/Extract of Entry**) - this can be photocopied at school.
- Bring your child's **Immunisation Certificate** which may be obtained from Shire of Yarra Ranges Council Offices. Apply now for this documentation.

PLEASE ENROL AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE to enable our staff to plan for the next school year.



Prep 2017 Transition Timeline

<p>May 2016</p>	<p><u>Enrolments Open</u></p> <p>An open invitation is extended to families who wish to visit our school. Come and see our classes in action and discuss your child's educational needs.</p> <p><u>School Tours</u> are available on request.</p> <p>Please phone our school on 9751 1136 to make an appointment.</p>
<p>August 2016</p>	<p>Enrolments Due Now</p> <p>All enrolments should now be completed ,accompanied by supporting documents and delivered to school by close of business on</p> <p><u>FRIDAY 26th AUGUST 2016</u></p> <p>If your child has any special needs (physical, emotional, learning or speech difficulties) please inform the school as early as possible to ensure the necessary support for your child's future learning.</p>
<p>September 2016</p>	<p>Letters will be sent to Parents confirming enrolments together with an update of "School Experience Program" details.</p>
<p>October 2016</p>	<p>School Experience Program... once every week for 4 weeks. See separate brochure for details of activities for this program.</p>
<p>December 2016</p>	<p>Prep 2017 Information Session – Prep classes and staff will be announced and discussed together with Starting School times, routines & procedures for the first weeks of Term 1, 2017. Date TBA</p> <p>Prep Orientation Day & Family BBQ – <u>Date TBA</u> Prep 2017 students spend the morning at school followed by a family BBQ lunch.</p>