Welcome to Whorouly Primary School

The principal, staff and students of Whorouly PS would like to extend a warm welcome to our school.

We would like to offer to share our school with you through a school tour at any time.

At Whorouly Primary School we value:

- Learning
- Relationships
- Persistence
- Respect
- Teamwork

The Whorouly Primary School provides a caring, stimulating, cooperative 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 that promotes academic success along with social, physical and emotional wellbeing, where all students are supported to reach their full potential to enable them to function effectively in a global community.

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

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

This booklet is designed to explain many aspects of our school and to assist...
Whorouly Primary School is located in the small rural community of Whorouly in the Ovens Valley between Wangaratta and Myrtleford in North Eastern Victoria, about 250 kilometers from Melbourne. Students are drawn from the town itself and a school bus service transports students from the surrounding district. We currently have around thirty students enrolled.

Whorouly Primary School stresses the importance of literacy and numeracy and encourages the use of technology to support all learning. The school provides programs in all domains of the AusVELS and Australian Curriculum. Students also complete multi-age sessions working as a whole school group. Specialist teachers present the Library and Science, Art and Italian programs. The classroom programs are enriched through camps, excursions, musical performances and Ovens Learning Cluster (OLC) activities and events.

The school strives to create a personalized learning experience for each child. We have small class sizes which provide an excellent student teacher ratio. We also prepare Individual Learning Plans for our students that personalise teaching to the precise needs of each child.

The Whorouly Primary School buildings consist of a semi-open plan learning space with three teaching areas, a multi-purpose classroom, large covered deck, kitchen/staffroom and office. The grounds are well maintained and established trees provide shaded playing areas. The school location enables easy use of the Whorouly Memorial Hall and Recreation Reserve facilities.

The school currently operates with a three classroom structure: Foundation to Year 2, and a Year 3 to Year Six Room, with a Years 2 and 3 stand alone class operating for over 300 minutes each week. However students move fluidly between the Junior and Senior rooms based on learning ability and needs.

Whorouly Primary School is the license holder for the local pre-school, which is adjacent to the school. Most of our Foundation enrolments have attended this pre-school. Joint programs with the pre-school make the transition into Foundation very smooth.

Whorouly Primary School places great emphasis and value on being a community school with parents, students, teachers and community members and groups working together to provide a quality education. Many of our school programs could not operate without the support of parents.

We welcome your interest in the quality education that Whorouly PS can provide for every child. Please make a time to speak with our highly skilled and approachable staff—or best of all, spend some time with our students of whom we are justifiably proud.
Our staff have are committed to excellence and nurturing.

We strive to deliver personalised learning, model best practice teaching and be innovative educators.

Contact Us:
18 Church St, Whorouly, 3735
whorouly.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
Ph: (03) 5727 1363
Mob: 0467 793 905

Staff List 2014:

Principal: Fran Waterman
Junior Classroom Teacher: Renee Morgan
Middle Classroom Teacher: Fran Waterman
Senior Classroom Teacher: Pauline McPherson
Business Manager: Mirella McKinnon
MACC Art: Jo Briscomb
MARC Library/Science: Anthony Lawler
LOTE—Italian: Mrs Maria Rinaldi
Pre-School Director: Cheryl Lowe
Pre-School Educator: Bec Davern
Cleaners: Sue and Phil Ferguson

Enrolments:

We currently have 31 students enrolled in our school. This affords us three small, personalised classes with excellent student to teacher ratios, as well as a group that works together to complete rich and engaging multi-age learning tasks.

- Foundation: 5 students
- Grade 1: 6 students
- Grade 2: 3 students
- Grade 3: 6 students
- Grade 4: 5 students
- Grade 5: 4 students
- Grade 6: 2 students

Students also work in fluid groups depending on their capacity as learners. We have students from junior years working in the senior room to be extended and continue to grow and meet their full potential.
At Whorouly Primary School we have a vibrant and enthusiastic cohort of students. Each of our students feels a sense of belonging and connection to our school and to fellow students. We forge close relationships where each individual is valued and everyone is equal.

We begin allocating responsibilities to our student as soon as they begin Foundation. We have high expectations of our students and scaffold them to be active participants in all areas of the school from their first year.

We provide personalised learning and tailor our teaching to the interests and abilities of our students. We also actively seek student voice and the opinions, ideas, wonderings and feedback from our students is used in planning and decision making.

While we nurture our students to be their best academic, social and emotional selves, we also are active in ensuring we build broad partnerships and social networks for our students.

We have a sister-school partnership with Everton PS. Once a fortnight these two small schools come together for a combined day of learning. We combine to create larger classes and our students complete varied academic tasks and challenges.

We are also members of the OLC, which comprises Carraragarmungee PS, Everton PS, Glenrowan PS Milawa PS, Oxley PS, Springhurst PS and Winton PS. Together we are able to combine resources and numbers and attract exhibitions and events and performances to our schools each term. We also participate in shared camps and sporting experiences, and create transition opportunities for our older students in preparation for entering secondary school.
Whorouly and District Pre-School - Philosophy

At Whorouly and District Preschool we believe all young children have access to a high quality educational program, in a stimulating and nurturing, natural environment.

We believe and acknowledge that children learn at different rates in different ways and at different times, and their development and past experiences are varied. Parents are identified as significant contributors to provide information to support staff in the education and development of their child. Communication with parents is therefore valued in the sharing of knowledge and skills and working together in support of the child.

Staff are committed to respecting and acknowledging each child’s identity and culture and develop practices that provide an inclusive program for all individuals. We (staff) aim to promote in children a sense of belonging – who they are and their connectedness to others. We promote a shared identity as Australians thus providing an inclusive program for all individuals sharing knowledge of Australia’s rich Indigenous culture.

We provide an Emergent Curriculum, play based, where ideas emerge from the children, families, events or moments that occur. The integration of child-directed play and learning; guided play and learning and adult led learning forms the basis of programmed activities. Through interactions, experiences, activities, routines and events, both planned and unplanned, we aim to foster children’s learning and development to allow them to reach their optimum learning level in a safe, supportive environment. The use of natural play materials is promoted and facilitated by our unique and aesthetic outdoor play area including a vegetable garden, fairy corner and naturally shaded country setting. We promote environmental sustainability into our program with the children and strive to find ways to improve our knowledge on this.

We aim to provide learning opportunities that:
⇒ meet individual needs and interests of children
⇒ develop skills in all learning areas
⇒ encourage exploration and experimentation in play
⇒ teach children to develop an awareness of themselves, others and the world.
⇒ are fun and challenging to support personal achievement
⇒ encourage children to be independent and to develop strategies to assist them to be resilient in their day to day life experiences
⇒ support Learning Outcomes of the EYLDF (Early Years Learning and Development Framework) and reflect guiding Principles of the National Quality Framework.
⇒ are inclusive and support, promote and embrace cultural differences.

Staff are committed to establishing equitable relationships with children and families in a supportive and friendly environment which continues within the local community. We share and interact with children and staff from our local primary school developing a strong transition program. Local community groups are involved in decision making that affect our Centre and provide links and support within our small rural community.

Planning, documenting, reflection and evaluation are critical components of the Early Years Learning and Development Framework implemented at our Centre including ongoing Professional Development supported by our Committee and Approved Provider (The Whorouly Primary School Council).

This philosophy reflects the views, the commitments and the experiences of staff and families and the Whorouly community.
Transition and Enrolment:

Whorouly 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 Whorouly 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:

Fran Waterman—Principal

Mirella McKinnon—Business Manager

(03) 5727 1363
whorouly.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 Whorouly PS and Whorouly Pre-School, both at the school and at the kindergarten.

We also run several transition sessions and a full day in the lead up to starting school the following year.

These sessions will include school tours, meeting an older buddy, eating and playing outside and participating in Junior classes and some specialist classes.

There are also information sessions for parents and invitations to attend school events.

For more information, contact the school.
The School Council consists of elected parents, 3 Department of Education employees, including the Principal, and a pre-school representative. Councillors serve for two years, half retiring each year. The School Council meets each month and meetings are open for all parents to attend.

Whorouly School Council currently meets on the third Tuesday of each month. The School Council represents the school and its community and plays a major role in the operation of the school.

Responsibilities of School Councils include:

**POLICY:**
- Determining the educational policy, goals and priorities.

**FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT:**
- Approving the school budget and supervising implementation

**FACILITIES MANAGEMENT:**
- Maintaining and improving buildings and grounds.

**REPORTING:**
- Report annually to the school community and to the Department of Education, Employment and Training

The School Council operates 3 sub-committees - Finance, Pre-School, and Building and Grounds.

---

**Parent’s and Friend’s Association:**

The school has a very active and enthusiastic Parents and Friend’s Association. This committee meets on the same night as School Council, prior to that meeting (every third Tuesday of the month).

They provide essential support in fundraising and involvement in school activities and work with the school council and school staff to provide vital links and insights into the school community.

They provide resources such as books, and subsidise programs such as camps and our swimming program to ensure every student can attend. New members are always welcome.

**President: Cathy La Spina**
Parents helping Learners:

THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL AND PARENTS:

The responsibility for the education of all students must be shared between the school and parents.

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’ 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.
- Providing support to the teaching staff and the school.
- Contributing their insights about their children and by complementing the teacher’s activities from their own experiences.
- We encourage parents to contact the school 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.

The school actively fosters parent and community involvement in both the educational development of the children and the physical maintenance and improvement of the school.

At different times throughout the year we will continue to seek assistance from parents for particular educational programs such as swimming, reading, camps and excursions. In some of these areas we may be able to provide training to develop volunteer’s skills.

Parents are also requested at times to assist with school fundraising activities.

We support new parents to our school and make them feel welcome. There will be opportunities to get to know other parents and families. We will follow up with the well being and progress of all students, and communicate often and in many ways with parents.

Your questions, ideas, feedback and expertise is welcome.
Dates:

2015:
Term 1: 28 January to 24 March
Term 2: 11 April to 24 June
Term 3: 11 July to 16 September
Term 4: 3 October to 20 December

SCHOOL TIMES 2014/15:

8.45 am: Students arrive at school for outside supervision
9.00 am: School Commences.
11.00 - 11.30 am: Recess.
1.00 - 2.00 pm: Lunch.
3.30 pm: Dismissal.

We also offer an early drop off policy from 8:15am, and late pick up until 4:15pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. This is by arrangement with the principal.

During the first four weeks of school Prep children will not attend school on Wednesdays. Attendance on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday is from 9:00am to 3:30pm. Full time attendance for preps commences from 1st March.

Children are supervised at recess and at lunch time with a staff member on duty in the yard at all times.

Staff enjoy the chance to eat with students and many of our staff are outdoors even when not rostered to Yard Duty.

Being present with our students is another way we build solid relationships and show our genuine interest and enjoyment in being part of each student’s lives.
School Uniform:

SCHOOL UNIFORMS:

The Parents’ Club have developed a total School uniform. These uniforms can be purchased through Steer Clothing in Wangaratta.

Children are required to wear a hat which protects their face, neck and ears whenever they are outside during terms one and four. Parents are asked to ensure their children have suitable hats at school during these times. Sun hats are available from the school office at the subsidised price of $10. Sunscreen is provided in each classroom.

All clothing and other personal items such as lunch boxes etc... must be CLEARLY named. Lost property is housed in a large bin on our back deck.

GIRLS: Blue and white checked dress
Jade green polo shirt with navy trim and emblem
Jade green windcheater with emblem
Navy tracksuit/Navy shorts
Navy tights

BOYS: Jade green polo shirt with navy trim and emblem
Navy tracksuit / Navy shorts
Jade green windcheater with emblem
QUALITY LEARNING:

At Whorouly Primary School we offer our students a personalised approach to learning and each student has their own individual learning goals. Our classroom teachers are the strength of the school. Classroom teachers are assisted by specialist teachers in the delivery of Italian, Art and Craft and Library and Science. Our school also participates in the Blueearth Program, a holistic movement and activity program.

We teach according to the AusVELS Curriculum and will align ourselves soon with the incoming Australian Curriculum. We explicitly teach literacy, numeracy, emotional intelligence and ICT. Content areas such as science, history, geography and humanities are integrated into the program. We also address the cross-curricula priorities of sustainability, indigenous Australian culture and our relationship with Asia.

Program Achieve (You Can Do It!) operates in all classrooms. This program focuses on the four fundamental skills that underpin all learning- Confidence, Organisation, Persistence and Getting Along. We focus on a different skill each term and recognise students who display exceptional skills in these areas with an annual awards program.

Each year we offer a range of specific programs which also support our student and community needs. These may be offered as whole school programs or to specific grade levels. During 2014 these will include Swimming, Bicycle Education, Human Development and Life Education.

Our staff teach according the Hume Region Classroom Teaching Techniques. These incorporate the best practice of modern teaching and include:

1. Positive Relationships
2. Protocols for Teaching
3. Knowledge of Content
4. How Students Learn
5. Explicit Teaching
6. High Expectations
7. Feedback and Reflection
Literacy and Numeracy:

Literacy at Whorouly PS is based on the Hume Region Literacy Strategy. We explicitly teach reading, writing and speaking and listening skills. Within this we cover spelling, grammar, comprehension, handwriting and more. Literacy is also incorporated into other areas of the curriculum and supported by ICT.

A Literacy lesson includes:
- Whole class teaching—A teacher reads/writes with the class.
- The lesson expectations are made clear and are visible for students to refer to.
- Explicit teaching groups—small groups of students work with the teacher according to their needs. The teacher uses this time as a workshop to reinforce concepts and the learning intention.
- Independent Practice—sustained independent reading/writing and practice of a skill.
- Whole class reflection and sharing.

Numeracy at Whorouly PS is also based on the Hume Region Numeracy Strategy. We ensure a committed 60 minute Numeracy Block daily.

Each Numeracy lesson contains:
- Number Fluency—Individual practice time for strategies.
- Whole-Class Mini-Lesson
- Independent and Group Learning—differentiated tools and approaches are used to match tasks to students needs.
- Whole class reflection and summary.
Blueearth’s Mission:
To improve health and prevent diseases of sedentary living by facilitating the development of communities and individuals through participation in physical activity.

The Bluearth Foundation:

The Bluearth Foundation is a national not-for-profit organisation whose focus is to increase the levels of physical activity amongst Australians, in particular school aged children.

The Foundation was established in 2000 by Australian businessman and philanthropist, Malcolm Freake, to help improve the health and wellbeing of our citizens with the delivery of best practise physical activity back into the community. Whilst the Foundation’s goals is to increase the levels of physical activity in all Australians, its core program focuses on engaging children in movement and instilling in them a lifelong love of physical activity.

Through consultation with leading experts, the Foundation developed the Blueearth Approach, a holistic approach to physical activity and wellbeing. The Approach utilises movement, motivation and learning to support, encourage, enable and challenge active living. It not only teaches children and adults the enjoyment and fun of being physically active, it also draws on their feelings, reactions and thoughts that resulted from their participation and draws key developmental learning back into classroom settings and into their lives.

Whorouly PS delivers Blueearth each week. Trainer Matt Dillon delivers the program once a fortnight, and then the teachers replicate the session the following week.

Whorouly and District Pre-School is the national pilot pre-school for Blueearth. They are the first kindergarten to trial delivering Blueearth to pre-school aged students.
The OLC:

The Ovens Learning Community provides vital links between seven local schools. Our partnerships within the OLC enables greater learning, sport, cultural and social links to be developed amongst a broader group of staff and students.

The OLC is important in developing friendships and forging relationships for older student preparing to transition into High School.

This year the OLC have extended the Secondary Transition Program by organising to spend additional time as a group of Year 4-6 students at a local High School, familiarising themselves for a large secondary school setting.

We also combine for camps, excursions, incursion and events such as our athletics carnival and cross country.

Our teachers benefit from fortnightly meetings with our OCL colleagues to ensure we are all utilising best teaching practice within our school and achieving the goal of having small schools being vibrant places of exceptional learning. Our Principals also meet each term for planning and professional support.

OLC Schools and Principals:

Carraragarmungee PS
Marie De Prada

Everton PS
Haley Quayle

Glenrowan and Winton PS
Colin Robson

Milawa PS
Ashleigh Campbell

Oxley PS
Jeremy Campbell

Whorouly PS
Fran Waterman

Contact Us:

18 Church St, Whorouly, 3735
whorouly.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
Ph: (03) 5727 1363
Mob: 0467 793 905
Join us at Whorouly PS:

Why Whorouly?
Start Prep being taught by an experienced teacher and the school’s educational leader.
Start your schooling in a class of 10 students.
Start your schooling with an individual learning plan, updated every term.
Be part of a school where every individual is known and valued.
Be part of a local school which is proactive in creating local partnerships.

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

Fran Waterman—Principal
Mirella McKinnon—Business Manager
(03) 5727 1363
whorouly.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Enrolling for 2016:

Whorouly PS is now taking enrolments for 2016.

Please contact the Whorouly Primary School or Whorouly and District Pre-School if you would like enrolment forms.