



MEREDITH PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT INFORMATION BOOKLET



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Introduction

At Meredith Primary School we provide our children with an innovative learning environment and a caring, nurturing approach to student well-being. We are a rural school with excellent facilities and stimulating grounds that provide many options for students. The students take an active role in maintaining various areas within the school grounds such as our wicking garden beds and veggie gardens.

We welcome new enrolments and value parent participation. We have established strong links beyond the school and take great pride in the role that we play in the local community.

Apart from providing a curriculum that has a strong focus on literacy and numeracy we provide a range of extra-curricular activities such as camping, interschool sport, after school activities and swimming. The various programs are also well resourced and supported by an extensive range of Information Communication Technologies that includes laptops, iPads, iPods, and smart TV's.

We also have an Outside School Hours Care program that offers quality care after school. This service operates according to Commonwealth Regulations and is approved for Child Care Benefit.

I welcome you to visit if you are considering enrolling your children with us. If you wish to pay a visit and see what our school has to offer please feel free to contact us on (03) 5286 1313 during business hours.

“Achieving Together”

Contact Details

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Email: meredith.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

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School Values

Meredith Primary School has a mission statement:

To create a positive learning community in the classroom and whole school community

And to value:

Mutual Respect

- To respect the value and uniqueness of each person
- To resolve conflict and encourage co operation

Attentive Listening

- To listen with one's eyes, ears, head and heart
- To give the speaker undivided attention
- To respect the expressed opinion though you may not agree with it

Appreciation / No Put Downs

- To give public recognition to another person's contribution, skill or action as valuable and helpful, and to refrain from remarks (subtle as they may be) that hurt, ridicule or diminish a person in any way

Right to Pass / Participate

- Every student has the right to pass in an activity that is not academic if he / she does not feel comfortable
- Work together in teams

Students achieve because they:

- feel included and appreciated by peers and teachers
- are respected for their different abilities, cultures, gender, interests and dreams
- are actively involved in their own learning
- have positive expectations from others that they will succeed.

Daily Routine

9.00am-	Bell rings and classes commence
10.55am -	Recess, eating morning tea inside
11.00am -	Recess, children go outside
11.20am -	Classes commence
1.20pm -	Lunch, eating lunch inside
1.30pm -	Lunch children go outside
2.15pm -	Classes commence
3.15pm -	Students are dismissed

Term Dates 2017

Term 1: 1 February to 31 March

Term 2: 18 April to 30 June

Term 3: 17 July to 22 September

Term 4: 9 October to 22 December

NOTE: Preps do not attend school on Wednesdays in February. Early in the year they need a day off to rest up.

Public Holidays

Meredith Primary School observes the following holidays –

- Labour Day 13th March
- Easter Monday 17th April
- Anzac Day 25th April
- Queen's Birthday 12th June
- Ballarat Show Day 10th November

Curriculum

The curriculum for Foundation (prep) to year 10 in Victoria is known as AusVELS. At Meredith we ensure that our curriculum is delivered in a meaningful and relevant way, to the students and that it captures their interests and is personalised to meet individual needs. Coverage of all learning areas is important, with emphasis on the core areas of English and Mathematics.

Learning Technologies

Meredith Primary School has heavily invested into Learning Technologies in recent years knowing that this is a significant part of the world we live in today. Our students have access to laptops, iPads, iPods, Nintendo DSis, Gaming Consoles and a Video Conferencing Unit. Using these technologies in our classes also allows us to provide an enormous range of learning opportunities which suit each child's individual needs.

Currently each grade has access to their own group set of iPads as well as access to a further 20 iPads. We have a class set of 20 laptops which can be used by all grade levels. With a focus on using our technologies for creative purposes, we are now able to allow students to create things that wouldn't have been possible in the past such as digital books, movies and animations. We understand that our students are growing up in the 21st century and we aim to give them a curriculum that is appropriate for the needs of the digital age. We aim for all of our students to leave us with highly competent ICT skills and a creative and inquisitive mind.

Investigations Program / iLearning

A school initiative is our integrated learning program. Our Grade F-2 students participate in our 'Investigations' program and our Grade 3-6 students do 'iLearning'. These programs run each day and incorporate the Arts (visual, music & performing), Science and Technology as well as supporting skill development in Reading, Writing and Maths. It provides students with a variety of activities designed to cater for differing learning styles and gives them opportunities to explore and use their creativity. Students have the opportunity to choose their tasks and can work both individually or as a group, depending on the task. The program is based around learning needs as well as student interests and creates an environment that allows students to:

- *use problem solving strategies*
- *collaborate with their peers*
- *become independent learners*
- *actively engage in learning*

School Council

School Councils play a key role in Victorian government schools. Participating as a school council member is a rewarding and challenging experience. The school council supports the principal to provide the best possible educational outcomes for students.

Assembly

Each Friday at 9.00am the whole school gathers together to celebrate the week. Individual students are presented with weekly achievement awards and parents and friends are invited to attend and join in the celebrations.

Newsletter

A school newsletter is published each week and distributed on Fridays. It is extremely important for parents to read the newsletter as it is our main source of communication between families and the school. The newsletter is sent home with the youngest student in the family. The newsletter is also available by downloading the Tiqbiz app on your smartphone. If you would prefer your newsletter emailed, please contact Belinda Gear at the office with your current email address. The newsletter includes a Principal's report, student achievements and activities, the school calendar as well as some local community news.

Tiqbiz

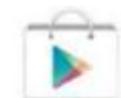
Meredith Primary School uses an app to send out messages, newsletters and notices. For details on how to download the Tiqbiz app to your phone, tablet or computer please see below.

We're using an app
to communicate
with you.

You'll be notified of our news, messages,
events and other communications.

Simply download the tiqbiz app
to your phone or tablet.

Search in your app store: tiqbiz



Android Device



iPad & iPhone



Windows Phone
(Version 8.0 and above)

IMPORTANT NOTE TO APPLE USERS:
Click 'allow' notifications when asked.

Don't have a smartphone or tablet?

Download tiqbiz on your PC or Mac at www.tiqbiz.com

Find and tick



Log-in

Open tiqbiz and register/log-in.



Find

Click the 'Find Boxes' and type our name into
the search bar. Select us from the results.



Tick

Click the grey tick on the boxes that apply to you.
When the tick turns green, you're connected.



Inbox

Click on the Inbox icon.
This is where you will receive our instant messages,
newsletters, notices and calendar events.

For technical support,
please email our friendly team.

Email: team@tiqbiz.com

tiqbiz

www.tiqbiz.com

Outside School Hours Care Program

The ***Meredith Primary School OSHC Program*** is sponsored by the Meredith Primary School Council and offers a quality After School Care program for up to 20 children. This service operates according to Commonwealth Government Regulations and is approved for Child Care Benefit. The service offers families in the local Meredith community with an After School Care program that provides friendly, safe and well supervised care with stimulating activities for school-aged children. In addition, the service provides healthy snacks and drinks to assist in maximising the education opportunities offered at school. The program enables parents to benefit by having their children in enjoyable, quality care while they meet work or study commitments.

Bus

Meredith Primary School is supported by two bus runs. For the bus routes and further information please contact the office.

Conveyance Allowance

A conveyance allowance is payable to families who attend their nearest school and live more than 4.8kms by the most direct route or 4.8kms from the nearest school bus stop. The allowance is paid each term and credited directly to your school account.

Lunch Orders

Lunches can be ordered on Wednesdays and Fridays each week. Our supplier for our lunch orders is The Corner Store. The menu is approved and monitored by School Council to ensure that lunches comply with our school Healthy Eating Policy. Lunch orders are posted in the black post box at the school office. Ordering envelopes and price lists are available at the office.

MARC Van

Meredith Primary School is visited on a fortnightly basis by the Marc Van and librarian teacher Mr Andrew Donnelly. The Marc Van is a mobile library and offers our students the opportunity to borrow books from an extensive range. It also includes a 45 minute library lesson which includes a range of exciting activities and music.

Student Banking - CBA Dollarmites

The CBA Dollarmites School Banking Program helps children develop good saving habits. Information is available from the office to assist parents to open student Dollarmite accounts and then make deposits at school each week. The CBA offers a reward system for regular depositors. These fun and enjoyable rewards are a great way to keep your kids motivated and to demonstrate the value of saving. Participation in the School Banking Program is not mandatory.

Uniforms

The wearing of school uniform is compulsory. The Meredith Primary School colours are navy blue and red. Our uniform options consist of:

Tops:

Navy blue polar fleece jumper with/without school logo

Red polo shirt with/without school logo

Red polo shirt (long sleeves) with/without school logo

Red and white checked school dress

Navy blue tunic (which may be worn with a white shirt or long sleeved top)

Bottoms:

Navy blue shorts with/without school logo

Navy blue tracksuit pants with/without school logo

*Winter kilts may be ordered through the office

Grade 6 students have the option to purchase a special **red** polar fleece jumper with the school logo for their final year.

Uniforms with the school logo can be ordered through the office. Major retail outlets such as Target, Big W and Best and Less also stock an extensive range of plain school uniforms in our school colours.

SunSmart

Meredith Primary School is a Sunsmart School. The wearing of a broad brimmed or bucket hat is compulsory FROM September 1st through to May 1st. School hats are available for purchase at the school office. Students are also expected to wear sunscreen to school and also supply sunscreen to re-apply for extra protection throughout the day.

Camps

Meredith Primary School has a very exciting and extensive camp program. We are part of the Moorabool Valley Association and join with Lethbridge, Shelford, Inverleigh, Anakie and Little River Primary Schools for our Years 3 to 6 camps program.

Grade 3 Baanya Biami - Bush Setting

Description:

Baanya Biami provides our year 3 children with a comfortable and secure start to the Moorabool Valley Association (MVA) camping program. Baanya Biami is approximately 10km north of Anakie.

The camp is set in 60 hectares of natural bushland and has excellent recreation facilities, food and sleeping quarters. There is abundant wildlife and a variety of outdoor and environmental learning experiences for students to enjoy. The camp is over three days and two nights in Term 3

Activities:

Activities provided include: environmental games, rope courses, flying fox, giant slide, bushcraft and survival skills, art and craft activities, bushwalking, initiative activities and nature trails.

Grade 4 Anglesea Camp

Description:

Camp Wilkin is situated on 6.5 hectares at Anglesea. It is walking distance to the beach and Coogoorah Park for a close look at rich swamp and river environment. The camp is three days, two nights in term 4.

Activities:

The children will be participating in a variety of activities that focus on the unique environment and team building and initiative activities.

Grade 5 Maldon Bike Camp

Description:

The camp takes place at Derby Hill Youth camp in Maldon. The camp is a Blue Light Organisation and is extremely well organised and structured. This camp is four days and three nights and takes place in term 3.

Activities:

Riding a bike is an important part of the camp program and children ride to various venues in and around Maldon on bikes supplied. All the proper precautions and conditions are taken into account as you would expect of a camp run by the police. The children have the opportunity to explore the Historical Township, which include the railway station and lolly shop.

Grade 6 Melbourne City Camp

Description:

The grade 6 camp takes place in Melbourne the camp will be 5 days and 4 nights. The students stay at the 'Miami Hotel located near the Queen Victoria Market within the Melbourne CBD. The aim of the camp is to expose children to a number of facilities and attractions located in Melbourne, as well as give students the opportunity to use a range of public transport available.

Activities:

During their stay in Melbourne, students visit the following sites and attractions:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ✓ Queen Victoria Market | ✓ Old Melbourne Gaol |
| ✓ Eureka Sky deck | ✓ Shrine of Remembrance |
| ✓ Melbourne Sports & Aquatic Centre | ✓ Parliament House |
| ✓ Melbourne Cricket Ground | ✓ State Library |

Evening meals will also be held in different locations and these include "Chinatown", Lygon St and Southbank.

Day Excursions

Our Meredith students are involved in a number of excursions throughout the year. These are seen to be of enormous benefit to the children, giving them broadened educational experiences which

also have a great social benefit. Permission forms to participate are included on notices containing information about the excursion.

Book Club and Book Fair

Each term students are offered the opportunity to order books from the distributed flyers from the Scholastic Book Club. Each purchase earns the school rewards which we can use to purchase new books for the school library.

A Scholastic Book Fair is held each year in last term. Books are offered for families to purchase during lunchtime and after school for the week. Once again, the school receives rewards to buy new books.

School Garden

Meredith Primary School has a very extensive gardening project which includes a number of large vegetable garden beds. The children spend time cultivating home produce and tending the garden beds throughout the year. We will often use this produce in cooking projects and sometimes offer it for sale. We were very grateful to have received a generous grant from the Bendigo Bank in Bannockburn to establish our wicking garden project complete with solar pump to pump water from our school water tanks. Recently we welcomed some chooks to the school, and have been busy feeding and tending to them as well as collecting their eggs. The eggs are offered to the community for a gold coin donation per 1/2 dozen.

Student Reports and Parent Teacher Interviews

Two written reports are issued to parents during the year, one in June and the other in December. Formal interviews are conducted in June, however parents are encouraged to organise an appointment with their child's teacher to discuss their child's progress at any time during the school year. If any problem arises, please contact the School immediately to arrange an interview.

Payments to school

Each year, our annual Student Payment is reviewed each year by School Council. The government provides funding directly to the school and parents are asked to compliment this funding. This payment covers the cost of all **essential education items** which includes all classroom materials and supplies for Art & Technologies, as well as the MARC Van program. Not included are excursions, camps, swimming, school photos and uniforms which are classed as **optional extras**. Families are notified well in advance of any upcoming expenses and payment plans can be arranged if required.

We provide a range of options to parents to make payments as convenient as possible. As well as cash and cheques, we offer BPAY, credit card and EFTPOS facilities. A family statement is issued to

all families on a regular basis and includes a BPAY reference. A secured express deposit box is also available in the office foyer for parents to post payments and notices.

Student Attendance

If your child is absent, you are required to call the school on 52861313 or complete the absence form on the Tiqbiz App.

When a student is absent, the parent/guardian is required to provide an explanation for the absence.

The DEECD has an attendance policy and teachers and schools are required to follow up student absences.

If your child is late to school, or is required to leave before the end of day, a parent must sign the register in the office foyer. Only parents and emergency contacts listed on the student's enrolment form are permitted to sign a student out of the school.



First Aid

The school has Level 2 trained First Aid staff. Children are attended by one of them if the need arises. If your child sustains a serious injury, you will be contacted immediately. Where possible, parents will be notified of any bump to their child's head, which has occurred at school. A slip regarding the incident is sent home. It is critical that parents are covered by ambulance cover as if the child requires transport to hospital via ambulance it is extremely expensive.

Immunisation

As part of enrolling in a Victorian government primary school, or transferring between schools, you need to show your child's immunisation status certificate to the school. Children who are not immunised can still attend school but they will still need to present an immunisation status certificate. The Child History Statement from the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register may be used, but is only valid if it contains the statement 'this child has received all vaccines required by 5 years of age'.

If an outbreak of an infectious disease occurs at the school, children who have not been immunised will be sent home until the danger has passed.

Head lice

While children are at school many families will have contact with head lice. Parents are invited to include their child in the Meredith School Council Funded 'Headlice Management Program', which runs at regular intervals throughout the school year. The management of head lice infestation works best

when all children are involved in our screening program. The school is aware that this can be a sensitive issue and is committed to maintaining student confidentiality and avoiding stigmatisation. In cases where head lice are found, the person inspecting the student will remove any live lice and eggs using conditioner and a fine tooth comb so they can return to class immediately. The school will send a written notice home with the child and provide parents with this information.

If you would prefer to screen your child yourself, information on the best techniques is available from the school office.

Interested parents are welcome to participate in the screening program. For further details and information please feel free to contact the school.

Infectious Diseases

DEECD (Department of Educations, Employment and Childhood Development) has clear guidelines relating to infectious diseases. These stipulate when students ought to be sent home and for what period of time. A copy of the ***Minimum Period of Exclusion from Primary Schools for Infectious Disease Cases and Contact Schedule*** is attached to this document.

Minimum Period of Exclusion from Primary Schools for Infectious Disease Cases and Contact

In this Schedule, medical certificate means a certificate of a registered medical practitioner.

Condition	Exclusion of Cases	Exclusion of Contacts
Chickenpox	Exclude until all blisters have dried. This is usually at least 5 days after the rash appears in unimmunised children, but may be less in previously immunised children.	Any child with an immune deficiency (for example, leukaemia) or receiving chemotherapy should be excluded for their own protection. Otherwise not excluded.
Conjunctivitis	Exclude until discharge from eyes has ceased.	Not excluded.
Diarrhoea	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours.	Not excluded.
Diphtheria	Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is received following at least two negative throat swabs, the first not less than 24 hours after finishing a course of antibiotics and the other 48 hours later.	Exclude family/household contacts until cleared to return by the Secretary.
Hand, Foot and Mouth disease	Exclude until all blisters have dried.	Not excluded.
Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)	Exclude until at least 4 days of appropriate antibiotic treatment has been completed.	Not excluded.
Hepatitis A	Exclude until a medical certificate of recovery is received, but not before 7 days after the onset of jaundice or illness.	Not excluded.
Hepatitis B	Exclusion is not necessary.	Not excluded.
Hepatitis C	Exclusion is not necessary.	Not excluded.

Condition	Exclusion of Cases	Exclusion of Contacts
Herpes ("cold sores")	Young children unable to comply with good hygiene practices should be excluded while the lesion is weeping. Lesions to be covered by dressing, where possible.	Not excluded.
Impetigo	Exclude until appropriate treatment has commenced. Sores on exposed surfaces must be covered with a watertight dressing.	Not excluded.
Influenza and influenza like illnesses	Exclude until well.	Not excluded unless considered necessary by the Secretary.
Measles*	Exclude for at least 4 days after onset of rash.	Immunised contacts not excluded. Unimmunised contacts should be excluded until 14 days after the first day of appearance of rash in the last case. If unimmunised contacts are vaccinated within 72 hours of their first contact with the first case, or received NHIG within 144 hours of exposure, they may return to the facility.
Meningococcal infection*	Exclude until adequate carrier eradication therapy has been completed.	Not excluded if receiving carrier eradication therapy.
Mumps*	Exclude for 9 days or until swelling goes down (whichever is sooner).	Not excluded.
Pertussis* (whooping cough)	Exclude the child for 21 days after the onset of cough or until they have completed 5 days of a course of antibiotic treatment.	Contacts aged less than 7 years in the same room as the case who have not received three effective doses of pertussis vaccine should be excluded for 14 days after the last exposure to the infectious case, or until they have taken 5 days of a course of effective antibiotic treatment.
Poliomyelitis*	Exclude for at least 14 days from onset. Re-admit after receiving medical certificate of recovery.	Not excluded.
Ringworm, scabies, pediculosis (head lice)	Exclude until the day after appropriate treatment has commenced.	Not excluded.
Rubella (german measles)	Exclude until fully recovered or for at least four days after the onset of rash.	Not excluded.
Scarlett Fever	Exclude until the child has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours and the child feels well.	Not excluded.
Tuberculosis	Exclude until receipt of a medical certificate from the treating physician stating that the child is not considered to be infectious.	Not excluded.
Worms (Intestinal)	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours.	Not excluded.