



**2020**

Principal: Steven Trotter

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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 vegie gardens.

We welcome new enrolments and highly 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 school camps, interschool sport, and swimming. The various programs are also well resourced and supported by an extensive range of Information Communication Technologies that includes laptops, iPads, and smart TVs.

We also have an Outside School Hours Care program that offers quality care before and 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”

Steven Trotter  
Principal

## Contact Details

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**Phone: (03) 5286 1313**

**Mobile: 0439 611 476**

**Email: [meredith.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:meredith.ps@education.vic.gov.au)**

**Website: [www.meredithps.vic.edu.au](http://www.meredithps.vic.edu.au)**

**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/meredithprimaryschool](http://www.facebook.com/meredithprimaryschool)**



# 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:

**Respect**  
**Excellence**  
**Resilience**  
**Pride**

Students achieve because they:

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

## Daily Routine

7:30am – 8:30am	OSHC – Before School Care
9.00am-	Bell rings and classes commence
10.55am -	Recess, eating morning tea inside
11.00am -	Recess, children go outside
11.30am -	Classes commence
1.30pm -	Lunch, eating lunch inside
1.40pm -	Lunch, children go outside
2.20pm -	Classes commence
3.20pm -	Students are dismissed
3.20pm – 6.00pm	OSHC – After School Care

## Term Dates

Term 1: 28<sup>th</sup> January to 1<sup>st</sup> April

Term 2: 19<sup>th</sup> April to 25<sup>th</sup> June

Term 3: 12<sup>th</sup> July to 17<sup>th</sup> September

Term 4: 4<sup>th</sup> October to 17<sup>th</sup> December

**NOTE: Preps do not attend school on Wednesdays in February to allow for 1:1 assessments to take place.**

## Public Holidays

Meredith Primary School observes the following holidays:

- Labour Day 8<sup>th</sup> March
- Good Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April
- Easter Monday 5<sup>th</sup> April
- Anzac Day 25<sup>th</sup> April
- Queen's Birthday 14<sup>th</sup> June
- Geelong Show Day 14<sup>th</sup> October

## Curriculum

The curriculum for Foundation (prep) to year 10 in Victoria is known as Victorian Curriculum. At Meredith Primary School 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, and Video Conferencing technology. Using these technologies in our classes also allows us to provide an enormous range of learning opportunities which suit each child's individual needs.

## 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 2:45pm 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.

## Communication with Families

### Newsletter

A school newsletter is published each fortnight and is distributed to families via Compass on Thursdays. It is extremely important for parents to read the newsletter as it is the main source of communication between families and the school. The newsletter includes a Principal's report, student achievements and activities, the school calendar as well as some local community news.

### Compass

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



### SeeSaw

SeeSaw is a digital portfolio that allows teachers to provide families with real-time insight into what students are learning and doing at school. Families are connected with their child's classroom and will be instantly notified through their smartphone when their child's teacher has uploaded content that relates to their child.



### Facebook

A great way to stay connected with our school is to connect to our Facebook site. Our Facebook site constantly updated with information to share with our local community. We often put information and pictures of thing happening at school on Facebook. Please fill out the permission for photos for your child to be a part of these.



## 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 40 children. This service operates according to Commonwealth Government Regulations and is approved for Child Care Benefit. Prior to Childcare Benefit (CCB) the **fee** has been set by School Council at \$25.00 per child per session for After School Care and \$15 per child per session for Before School Care. The service offers families in the local Meredith community with a Before/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.

### Early Finish Days

OSHC will operate from end of school to 6.00pm. There will be an extra \$5.00 per session charge to cover increased costs on these days. Parents/guardians must sign attendance records (Sign out sheet) to verify the child's attendance for Commonwealth Accountability Reports.

### Curriculum Days

OSHC offers a service to families during Curriculum days with a tiered payment to cover the costs of running the program. More information for this is available through our OSHC Coordinator.

## 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.

## MARC Van

Meredith Primary School is visited on a fortnightly basis by the librarian teacher with the MARC Van. The MARC Van is a mobile library that 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.

## 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 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.

Second hand uniforms can be bought from our local Meredith Opp Shop.

## SunSmart

Meredith Primary School is a Sunsmart School. The wearing of a broad brimmed or bucket hat is compulsory for 1<sup>st</sup> term and 4<sup>th</sup> term. 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 Angahook - Bush Setting**

#### **Description:**

Angahook provides our year 3 children with a comfortable and secure start to the Moorabool Valley Association (MVA) camping program. Angahook is located at Aireys Inlet.

The camp is set within 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 Cave Hill Creek**

#### **Description:**

This camp takes place in a beautiful bush setting. Students have camped in 'Glamping' tents and experience a range of outdoor activities.

#### **Activities:**

Students have completed activities such as canoeing, archery, hut building, bush cooking, night walks and much more.

### **Grade 6 15 Mile Creek**

#### **Description:**

This is a new camp that we have not experienced as of yet. It is located on the edge of state parks and run by the Education Department. Students do a vast range of outdoor education activities focussing on leadership and resilience.

#### **Activities:**

During this program students will be participating in a range of outdoor adventure activities that promote leadership and resilience. Students will be challenged.

### **Grade 1-2 Activity Night – Meredith Students Only**

The camp program also includes dinner for our Year 1-2 students followed by an overnight stay at school for the Year 2 students.

### **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 that 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.

## **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 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 secure deposit box is also available in the office foyer for parents to post payments and notices.

## CSEF

Schools are required to use the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) payment for expenses relating to camps, sport and/or excursions for the benefit of the eligible student.

Some common examples of school-organised programs for which the CSEF payment may be used include:

- school camps/trips
- swimming and other school-organised sporting programs
- outdoor education programs
- excursions/incursions

The CSEF payment cannot be used towards voluntary school charges, nor towards books, stationery, school uniforms, before/after school care, music lessons, graduations, etc.

### **Eligibility**

To be eligible\* for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

- on the first day of Term one, or;
  - on the first day of Term two;
- a) Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the *State Concessions Act 2004*, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR
- b) Be a temporary foster parent, and;
- c) Submit an application to the school by the due date.

\* A special consideration eligibility category also exists. For more information, see:

[www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef)

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above.

### **CSEF payment amount**

The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student.

- Primary school student rate: \$125 per year.

The CSEF is paid directly to your child's school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child.

## Student Attendance

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

**IT'S NOT OK  
TO BE AWAY**

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

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

MEREDITH PS

# School Readiness Support Program

Students can enter school with over '200 Worries' like...

'Do I have the right pencils?' 'Am I wearing the same uniform as everyone else?' 'Who am I going to play with?'

Meredith Primary School acknowledges the challenges involved in transitioning from Kinder to Foundation at any school.

The aim of this program is to reduce the '200 Worries' of our youngest students through exposure, confidence and the ability to build relationships in a safe and friendly school environment. To do this we are providing a structured opportunity for all Foundation enrollments at Meredith PS to join our

## School Readiness Support Program

To join, you must live in our zone, and simply hand in your enrollment form (available at MPS office - 52861313).

Once received you will be provided with the below transition package

Please call or drop in for more information -  
Principal - Steven Trotter - 52861313

### Student Starter Pack

A basic summer uniform including:

1. MPS Shorts
2. MPS Polo Shirt
3. MPS Bucket Hat

Valued at approximately \$60

Basic Stationary Pack (provided at the end of 2020 school year)

Valued at approximately \$50

Reducing your Parent Payments Levy (School Fees) from \$200 to \$150

Total value of \$110

### 5 Free Transition Sessions

At your convenience\* your child will receive 5 individual 1 hour sessions in the Foundation/Year 1 Class to support exposure to the school environment and to give each child an opportunity to establish relationships prior to their first year of school.

\*These transition sessions will have to be booked 1 week prior to participation to ensure there are no other events happening that may interrupt each student's session.