Principal Message

Strive, Learn, Excel

At Park Ridge Primary School, we pride ourselves on having a friendly and supportive learning environment that has a strong focus on high quality teaching and learning, the fostering of positive relationships within the school community and on student well-being. As a school community, we are proud of our fine achievements and traditions in student learning across all curriculum areas, especially in the areas of literacy and numeracy. We offer diverse and dynamic programs that target the individual needs of children, ensuring that each child attains their full potential. The current specialist programs that we offer are Physical Education, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Science in Years 2-6, and our Language other than English (LOTE) is Indonesian. Learning programs are designed to cater for all student learning needs and provide learning for each student at their individual level.

At Park Ridge, our students learn and play in an atmosphere of care and respect and are supported by our Leadership, Peer Support, Values and Buddy programs. Our staffing profile reflects a breadth of experience and expertise and this contributes to quality classroom programs. Just as our students inquire, solve problems and work cooperatively together, so too do our teachers. Teachers work and plan in teams and are continually improving their teaching and learning techniques through quality professional development and peer coaching and mentoring programs.

Our school facilities are outstanding and provide a wonderful learning environment for our students and staff. The school has exceptional teaching and learning spaces that are large, bright, functional, heated, air conditioned and welcoming. We also have a large library, multi-purpose gymnasium facility as well as LOTE, Science, Visual Arts and Performing Arts rooms. The school also has a thriving before and after school program. A strength of the school is certainly the strong school/home partnership that exists in our school community. Parents are warmly welcomed into the school to assist and become involved in many different areas of the daily operation of the school. Choosing the right school for your child is an important decision.

We are very proud of our school and the achievements of our students and believe that you should consider Park Ridge Primary School before making that decision. Come and see our great school – you won’t be disappointed.

Tours can be arranged with the Principal, David Mann, by contacting the office on 9752 8555.

School Profile

Celebrating 28 Years of Educational Excellence

Park Ridge Primary School is located in Rowville, in Melbourne’s outer eastern suburbs. It presently has an enrolment of approximately 610 students. The school is situated on a very large site with a large oval and two adventure playgrounds, a sealed fitness track, a large synthetic double basketball area and numerous quiet retreats. All classrooms are well maintained, with access to Netbook Computers and iPads to support student learning in the classroom, at no extra cost to parents.

The teachers provide a dynamic learning environment that enables children to become lifelong learners who reach their full potential and become socially well-adjusted and responsible citizens. Park Ridge Primary School has forged strong links with its community and feeder kindergartens. The school has a very active School Council and Parents and Citizens Association.

School Mission, Vision, Values

The Aspirations, Guiding Principles and Beliefs of our School Community

School Mission

Park Ridge Primary School is committed to providing high quality education and preparing young people to become active, engaged and responsible citizens of the local and global community. The school aims to prepare students to contend with a very dynamic 21st century in which creativity, cooperative work, connectedness to the world and adaptability are key features.

School Vision

Our school vision reflects the aspirations of our school community and is: Preparing our students to develop the knowledge and skills that will help them become life-long learners who are successful and happy individuals who participate fully in and contribute to our community and the world around us.

School Values

The Park Ridge Primary School values represent the guiding principles and beliefs of our school community. Our school values are:

- **Respect** – accept, value and appreciate others and our differences and treat others the way you would like to be treated
- **Resilience** – being able to control your emotions, overcome challenges and believe in your ability to achieve
- **Positivity** – developing a growth mindset, being grateful and putting your best effort into everything you do
- **Integrity** – always do the right thing, own your mistakes, be honest and make good choices
- **High Expectations** – encouraging and supporting all members of our school community to strive for excellence

Explicit Teaching

A School Based Approach to Teaching

Explicit teaching is an instructional strategy used by teachers to meet the needs of their students and engage them in unambiguous, clearly articulated teaching.

Teachers plan for explicit teaching to make clear connections to curriculum content, through a concise focus on the gradual and progressive steps that lead to a student’s development and independent application of knowledge, understanding and skills associated with Victorian Curriculum content.

Positive Education

A School Based Approach to Wellbeing

At Park Ridge Primary School we believe that all children can flourish when they are supported in their own learning, growth and wellbeing. To do so, we have developed a strong whole school Positive Education Program which is underpinned by the Berry Street Education Model.

Our Positive Education program brings together the science of Positive Psychology with best practice teaching to encourage and support individuals, our school and our community to flourish. Positive Education focuses on specific skills that assist students to strengthen their relationships, build positive emotions, promote a healthy lifestyle and enhance resilience, mindfulness and gratitude.

The Berry Street Education Model is a high researched, best practice approach to the teaching of Positive Education in schools in order to improve a school’s capacity to address the engagement of young people so that they can achieve their full personal social potential through academic achievement. The model is made up of lessons, strategies and brain breaks and is broken up into five key areas: Body, Relationship, Stamina, Engagement and Character.
**Preptastic Program**

*Ensuring a Smooth Transition to Primary School*

The Preptastic Program is a transition program designed to assist children with the transition from Kindergarten/Childcare to Primary School. The Program generally runs for eight weeks, in the fourth term of the year prior to the child starting School. Children will spend one hour a week at school participating in many different activities including Art, Music, Library, Physical Education, an Introduction to Buddies and Classroom activities.

The program has proven over many years to be a huge success, preparing children for the many years ahead of learning.

**Uniform**

*Quality Clothing Available Onsite*

Park Ridge Primary School has a compulsory school uniform that is worn by all children. The uniform is available from the Uniform Shop at school. The Uniform Shop is open on Wednesdays from 3:00pm until 3:30pm and Fridays from 8:30am until 9:00am. Orders may be placed at any time using the order form available from the office or via the link on the school website. There is also a good quality pre-loved uniform supply that is available at the school via a stall held once per term. Students should wear closed toe school shoes or runners, no bright colours please. White or navy socks should be worn. School bags are available from the Uniform Shop, however, are not compulsory, students may bring a school bag from home. School hats are worn outdoors during Term 1 & Term 4.

**Out Of School Hours Care**

*Program – A Convenient Option for Working Families*

Park Ridge provides both a Before School Care and After School Care program. The program is run in the Wentworth Building with fantastic facilities including a designated kitchen/eating area, large multipurpose room and use of the surrounding playgrounds and ovals. Before School Care operates every morning from 7:00am – 8:30am, a healthy breakfast is served between 7:00am – 8:00am followed by fun activities until about 8:30am. The children are then released to the supervised yard. After School Care operates from 3:35pm to 6:00pm, the children enjoy a healthy afternoon tea, followed by art and craft, cooking and indoor and outdoor games. All activities are planned for children from Foundation to Year 6. An enrolment form must be completed before a child can attend the Program. Enrolment forms are available from the coordinator, school office or on the school website.

**Compass**

*Using 21st Century Technologies to Provide Regular Communication to Parents and Carers*

Compass is an online student-centred learning environment that supports high quality learning and teaching and connects teachers and parents. It is a 21st century online learning platform that takes learning beyond the walls of the classroom and provides a rich knowledge management framework for our school. All parents will be provided with an individual log-in to access Compass. Some of the benefits of the program are:

- Online Student Report Cards
- Online facility for the booking of Teacher Parent Interviews
- Payments for Parent Contributions, Excursions, Camps and Excursions.
- Safe and secure environments for school communities to collaborate and share information and content

**Canteen**

*Healthy, Nutritious Food Option*

Park Ridge Primary School offers daily lunch orders and is open during recess and lunch for over the counter sales. The canteen is run by H&H catering, they emphasize on healthy foods for students, with gluten free, vegetarian and Halal options available. If you have any questions regarding menu items or your child has allergies or dietary requirements, please feel free to speak to one of the friendly Canteen staff.

If you wish to place an order please put your child’s Name, Grade and Order printed clearly on a brown lunch bag or in a re-usable lunch bag (available for purchase from the school office). Alternatively, you can order online using QuickCliq. QuickCliq provides a safe way for ordering meals from our canteen online at your convenience. QuickCliq allows you to set up an account from which your lunch order money is directly debited. There is no need to worry about having the correct money for your child’s lunch order, and orders can be placed at any time that is convenient to you. No orders can be accepted online after 9:00am **for the same days lunch**. If you have any trouble registering or setting up your account please contact QuickCliq – info@quickcliq.com.au or call 1300 116 637. To get started visit www.quickcliq.com.au

**THRASS**

*Teaching Handwriting, Reading And Spelling Skills*

THRASS is a phonetics teaching-tool that has made a paradigm shift in the teaching of phonetics. It has a phonographic, multisensory focus, complemented by an learning model that makes reading and spelling acquisition much simpler, faster and more sustainable than conventional ‘phonic’ approaches. As a classroom strategy, THRASS is fun, systematic, explicit and linguistically correct.

Research has shown that students with a more comprehensive vocabulary and a greater understanding of the meanings of words will more successfully apply words to memory for spelling and more competent in comprehension and writing.

At Park Ridge we use THRASS as the basis for phonics teaching and its MASUTA Spelling Sequence to develop student’s spelling skills and strategies.