

Yawarra Primary School
5429

School Strategic Plan
2008 -2011



<p>Purpose</p>	<p>Yawarra” means to watch over and care for. With a school focus on student, family and community we aim to foster in our students enthusiasm and a desire to learn from the world around them, and to equip students with skills for lifelong learning and future success as responsible citizens.</p>
<p>Values</p>	<p>The following core values reflect the beliefs we hold about how children learn, how our school will operate, and how we relate to one another. These values underpin all school programs, relationships and endeavors -</p> <p>Responsibility Being accountable for your own actions</p> <p>Respect Displaying an attitude of courtesy, honesty and sensitivity towards all others</p> <p>Excellence Striving for personal best and recognising and celebrating progress and achievement</p> <p>Teamwork Maintaining positive and effective relationships, showing tolerance and understanding of others</p> <p>Optimism Having a positive attitude and not giving up</p>
<p>Environmental Context</p>	<p>Social – community and demographics Yawarra Primary School is located at the foot of the Dandenongs in the outer eastern suburbs of Melbourne in the City of Knox. The school was established during the 1970s and continued to grow in the 1990s through the merger of Studfield with Studfield East Primary School.</p> <p>Children attending Yawarra come from the surrounding suburbs of Boronia, Studfield, Bayswater and Wantirna South. The current student enrolment is 223 students. Local Council data predicts this number is to remain relatively constant as first homeowners and young families begin to move into the area.</p> <p>The school has a relatively high proportion of families (40%) receiving the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA), a socio-economic indicator, and a moderate proportion of families with a non-English speaking background,</p> <p>A striking feature for a visitor to the school grounds is the impressive community mural which dominates the entry to the school and helps convey the positive, active ethos that exists at Yawarra. School council, parents and community maintain an active and interested involvement at Yawarra.</p> <p>The profile of the staff has changed recently after an extended period of very little personnel change. This has enabled employment of a number of graduate class teachers and the relocating of teachers to lead in implementing change in teaching and learning</p> <p>A school Chaplain will be on staff for two days a week over the next three years.</p>

Educational

The school offers a broad range of educational programs including Visual Arts, Japanese, Physical Education as well as Reading and Mathematics support for students with special needs. The school also boasts an extensive student leadership development program and affords extensive opportunities for student involvement in school operations and governance. The Junior School Council meets regularly to discuss and propose changes which will improve student engagement and connectedness to school. Members attend Council meetings, present their reports and discuss the implementation of their ideas. Classes across the school participate in the 'Buddies' program with cross-age tutoring a feature of specialist and classroom programs.

The current leadership team is committed to the full implementation of a number of key Blueprint initiatives including the Victorian Essential Learning Standards and PoLT (Principles of Learning and Teaching). In 2007 new assessment and reporting procedures were implemented and in 2008 the school will seek accreditation in Performance and Development Culture.

School Council participates actively in school policy review with sub committees working to assist in the implementation of policy. General parent participation has grown recently and is reflected in the large number of parents (40+) who participate in weekend working bees. A formalised parents / friends association will be in place from 2008.

Although the continuity of the local school feeder kindergarten is threatened by low enrolments, the school has continued to expand its links with all district kindergartens and preschool groups. Yawarra also maintains strong links with neighbouring primary schools and secondary colleges.

Technological

With greater emphasis on ICT (Information, Communication Technologies) new classroom technologies are regularly researched and initiatives introduced. Four staff are trained in the 'Intel' program. All teachers have notebook computers which are networked with classroom desktops across the school.

Environmental

We have access to an extensive range of facilities including a multi-purpose gymnasium, library, computer lab, art room, music room and Japanese language centre. The school grounds provide an extensive range of play spaces for children. These include appropriate play equipment for each level, asphalt areas for formal and informal ball games, a grassed oval and sandpit.

We are currently working to become a more sustainable school through the inclusion of water tanks for toilet flushing and gardening. Gardens are gradually being replanted and areas requiring attention identified. A need for more seating and shade areas is to be addressed in the near future. Modification of facilities to accommodate an improved learning environment is perceived as a future need.

The school also hosts a before and after school care program as well as a vacation and active after school program

Key Improvement Strategies	<p>1 Develop and implement a whole school teaching and learning policy that draws together best school practices in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early Years teaching,• PoLT (Principles of Learning and Teaching)• eLearning• considering needs for all students and personalising student learning• Assessment and Reporting <p>2 Further develop teacher understanding and capacity through the implementation of a Performance and Development Culture</p> <p>3 Review School Policy and implement practices to ensure an agreed and consistent approach to Student Wellbeing and management and</p> <p>4 Improve current student transition programs and processes through the development of a whole school approach to transition for kinder to Year 7 and document these processes</p>		