

Omeo Primary School



2016 Information Book

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Welcome to Omeo Primary School.

We look forward to working with you to provide educational programs which meet the needs of your child.

We are a family oriented school where all students look after each other and parents and carers are welcomed and encouraged to be a part of their child's education. We believe that education is a partnership between home and school and look forward to a happy association with you.

We hope that you find the following information useful as a starting point in getting to know our school. Please feel free however, to visit the school at any time to see first hand what our school has to offer or ring the school to make an appointment with the principal.

We hope that you will enjoy being part of our school community.



Respect Inclusion Persistence Enjoyment Excellence

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Our School Song

First Verse

We come from near and far
 To make up our community
 And it's here where we belong
 Here at Omeo Primary School
 From Dinner Plain to Benambra
 And everywhere in between
 We all come together
 To turn our dreams in to reality

Chorus

I know I can
 I'm reaching high to touch the sky
 I'm not afraid to try
 To realise my dreams
 I show respect
 I'll do my best
 To be all that I was meant to be
 I'll shout it to the world
 I can, I will.



Verse

The road will not be easy but no matter how long it seems
 I'll just keep walking on
 I'll never give up on my dreams
 There'll always be a helping hand and someone who will be a friend
 In our great school in Omeo
 I'll know I'll never have to walk alone

Chorus

OMEQ PRIMARY SCHOOL PROFILE

Omeo Primary School enjoys the privilege of being located in one of regional Victoria's most picturesque landscapes. Our small regional centre is situated in the High Country of East Gippsland and is gateway to the Alpine Region. We are situated 120km north of the main regional centre of Bairnsdale and the Gippsland Lakes and 50 km from the alpine resort of Mt. Hotham. The student population draws from surrounding towns including; Benambra, Hinnomunjie, Anglers Rest, Omeo Valley, Cobungra and Dinner Plain.

A former gold mining town, Omeo now draws its population from; Primary production, Alpine Tourism, Health Care, Mining Resources, Government Services, Retail and light industry providing a workforce that is as varied as our environment. The student family Occupation index is 0.66. Encouragingly the schools population has been on a steady over the last 3years due to positive changes in the local employment market.

Omeo Primary School is part of the Lakes High Country Cluster and takes an active role in the professional development which is part of this group. Video Conferencing is used by staff and students to access PD and support students with their learning. The school has a strong partnership with Omeo District Health, and neighbouring schools. We participate in the 'School as Hubs' program, developed between the schools to improve outcomes in the early years.

The School is fortunate enough to enjoy well maintained historic sections complimented by recently refurbished modern classrooms incorporating the use of ICT. Student learning is supported by magnificent facilities including but not limited to; a purpose built art room, extremely well resourced library, large undercover sports area, well maintained oval and extensive grounds benefited to us over the years by the efforts of dedicated School Council and Active Parent Club members.

Our school atmosphere is friendly and supportive. We provide a wide range of learning experiences which cater for individual learning styles aimed at maximising individual potential. 2015 Specialist programs were Art, PE, Science and ICT, Performing Arts and Introduction to Indonesian. Computers are utilised in every classroom to support effective teaching and learning.

The school utilises its location to provide endless opportunities for rich extra curricula activities. We already have a well-established ski program during the winter term and the summer sees our students participate in a two week intensive swimming program. Camps are a key feature of the educational experience for our students in years 3-6. Students participate in a wide range of interschool sporting activities on occasions joining with Swifts Creek to form a combined High Country Team.

Parents are invited to become partners with teachers in developing positive educational outcomes for their children. Involvement in all aspects of the school's operation is welcomed and encouraged. Parents are involved in supporting classroom programs, the school's committee structures, curriculum programs, the library and the development of facilities and resources.

We treasure our history and community uniqueness, and balance this with the need to prepare our children to be successful in wider society. Omeo P.S. is a community school with a strong sense of ownership and pride.

We are committed to excellence and best practice in education.

Trish Lynn Principal

SCHOOL DETAILS

PRINCIPAL	Trish Lynn
BUSINESS MANAGER	Andrea Sheperd
EMAIL	omeo.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
FAX	5159 1525
SCHOOL ADDRESS	167 Day Avenue Omeo 3898
POSTAL ADDRESS	PO Box 40, Omeo 3898
School Website	http://www.omeops.vic.edu.au/

Meet the Staff- from 2015

Principal: Trish Lynn

Teachers: Kylie Lake, Judith Wong, Daniel Anglim

Teaching support: Frank Mason, Glenys Donovan, Gemma Rendell

Administration staff: Andrea Sheperd

Our Wonderful Cleaner: Pauline Sim

Term Dates for 2016

- Term 1 *Staff begin Wednesday 27th January 2016
 Children begin Thursday 28th January to Thursday 24th March
 On the last day of each term dismissal is at 2.15 with buses leaving at 3pm.
- Term 2 Monday 11th April to Friday 24th June
- Term 3 Monday 11th July to Friday 16th September
- Term 4 Monday 3th October to Tuesday 20th December

*Each year government schools are provided with four student-free days for professional development, school planning and administration, curriculum development, and student assessment and reporting purposes. The first day of Term 1 is a student-free day in all government schools to allow for appropriate planning to take place for the arrival of students. The remaining three student-free days are determined by each individual school, and will be advertised to parents in the newsletter.

Daily Timetable

- 8.45 School starts
- 10.15 Morning recess
- 10.45 Start of second morning session
- 12.45 Lunch
- 1.35 Afternoon session
- 3.15 Dismissal.

Prep children will be given time to adjust to school routines.

For Term 1 Prep children will not attend school on Wednesdays in February.

Preps will commence on Thursday 28th of January with all other children.

Yard Supervision

Yard supervision commences at 8.10 am for bus children and 8.30 for town children. We request that children do not arrive before this time. After school supervision is maintained until the buses leave at around 4pm.

Assembly

A whole school assembly is held at 8.45 each Friday. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend our assembly. Our assembly is led by our school leaders. Small items are performed by the classes, together with celebrations and recognition of special efforts or events.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Attendance

Omeo Primary School strives for an excellent record of attendance. We continue to promote the importance of coming to school daily and being on time each day.

"It's Not OK To Be Away" and "It's Not Great To Be Late"

Please ensure that your child is at school on time, every day. Of course, if he or she is sick, the best place is at home. An absence note, phone call or direct conversation with staff is required by the Department of Education following an absence.

Sign In & Out Book

If you are late or need to pick up your child/ren during school hours you must sign the "Sign-In & Out" book at the office. Bus travellers need to have a bus note stating that they are not on the bus. Notes are available at the office.



Communication

Ongoing communication between teachers, students and parents is essential. Parents are asked to maintain regular contact with the school. Any issues or concerns should be brought up openly and immediately so that they can be discussed and resolved. We all want the best for your child!

Newsletter

The Omeo Primary School newsletter is sent home each Wednesday with the eldest child in the family. Our newsletter is a vital means of communication between the school and our families, so please encourage your child to be responsible for the safe delivery of the newsletter. The newsletter contains information and articles by the principal, teachers, parents, children and a calendar of coming events. Articles from the community for the newsletter need to be in at the office by Monday afternoon, email is great as we can copy and paste.

The newsletter can be viewed on our website <http://www.omeops.vic.edu.au/> and can be emailed to parents if desired. Please provide your email address to the office for inclusion in the distribution list. omeo.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Each term we also send home a term calendar with known events, dates and costs if applicable, to keep families informed. (Any changes are notified in the newsletter.)

Reporting to Parents

- Term 1 Getting to know you and your child with informal chats aimed at sharing information about your children that will assist us in working together to support your child's learning.
- Term 2 A written report together with an interview towards the end of term.
- Term 3 Interviews by request
- Term 4 A written report at the end of the term.

Your child's education represents a partnership between the teacher and you, as parent. Regular interactions strengthen this partnership and parents are encouraged to speak regularly to teachers about his or her child's progress.

If you have any concerns you wish to express or simply wish to chat about your child's progress, please contact your child's teacher or the principal. We would, however, request that you arrange a mutually agreeable time to prevent disruption to classes or valuable preparation time.

Returning forms & Money

During the year, permission forms and requests for money are sent home for events such as special lunches, excursions, sports days, barbecues and camps. The prompt return of these is appreciated by teachers and office staff.



School Fees and Costs

All families are expected to pay a flat rate of \$50 per student. This will cover all books, stationary, two cultural performances, ICT membership for some programs with some grades. Families are expected to pay this by the end of February.

Families will still need to pay for all camp costs, swimming and skiing programs and any additional events that occur such as additional sport or excursions. The school will continue to subsidise travel costs.

Children will not receive individual supplies and will be expected to carry over items such as the book bag, writer's notebook etc. Children who are prolific workers and need extra books will be supplied at no extra cost. Where children need extra books, pencils, diaries etc. because of neglect, wastage, graffiti or loss, parents will be required to pay for the additional items. Children are expected to look after all personal and shared classroom materials.

School Parking Areas

Parking space in Day Avenue is very limited. Parents who transport their children to school are encouraged to use, Botany Street, Short St. or the school car park near the oval. Please park on the school side of these areas and supervise your child's entry into the school grounds to ensure their safety.

Town children must use the supervised crossing in Day Avenue before and after school.



Student Free Days

Each year government schools are provided with four student-free days for professional development, school planning and administration, curriculum development, and student assessment and reporting purposes. The first day of Term 1 is a student-free day in all government schools to allow for appropriate planning to take place for the arrival of students. The remaining three student-free days are determined by each individual school, and will be advertised to parents in the newsletter. Public holidays will include Melbourne Cup day.

Uniform

All children are expected to wear neat, clean uniform throughout the year. **Please name all items.** All uniform is available from the office at very reasonable rates.

Our Uniform:

Royal blue - Polo shirts or skivvy

Royal blue windcheater, bomber jacket, vest and broad brimmed hat

Navy - Track Pants, shorts, skorts

School check dress available from the uniform order

These items (except skivvy) can be purchased from the school. Price lists are sent home periodically.

School Hat: Wide brimmed hats are encouraged all year and are compulsory during terms 1 and 4. School beanies (royal blue) can be worn term 2 & 3. Hats are for outside times only.

Footwear: Suitable footwear must be worn at all times. Thongs or sandals which leave the toes unprotected are dangerous for school activities and should not be worn to school. Shoes and boots with higher heels are also discouraged.

Sports Gear: Please encourage the wearing of appropriate clothing and footwear for P.E. and sports sessions. Children wearing inappropriate clothing, especially footwear, to designated sports/phys. ed. sessions may be excluded for safety reasons.

Jewellery: Jewellery other than studs should not be worn at school as items such as rings, chains or pins can be dangerous to the wearer or others during play activities.

Occasionally children are unable to wear uniform. A written note outlining the reason should be provided with the child for their teacher. School uniform must be worn on excursions, sports days, school photo days etc. Our uniform shop is run by a committed parent.

PLEASE NAME ALL UNIFORM CLEARLY WITH PERMANENT PEN OR SEW IN LABELS.

Lost Property

Please clearly label all clothing items including hats so that lost clothing can be returned promptly to the correct child. Unnamed lost property is stored in the office foyer with items unclaimed at the end of each term being washed and placed in our second hand section. These can be purchased for \$2 per item.

Lunch Orders

Lunch orders are available on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Lunch orders are supplied by the Omeo Milk Bar. A lunch order list is sent home at the start of the year. Parents are expected to follow the options for the different days, e.g. pies & chips only on Friday.

Wet Weather Supervision

If a wet day timetable is needed, students will be supervised in the classrooms during recess and lunch breaks.

ENROLMENT DETAILS

Access & Custody

Where conflict exists over access to your child, the school is bound only to recognise formal court orders or intervention orders that we have sighted.

Custody matters should be settled out of school. Staff should not be expected to deal with and solve custody situations.

Conveyance Allowance

Conveyance Allowance application forms are available at the office. To be eligible to receive a conveyance allowance a student must live more than 4.8 km from the nearest school or bus collection point. Please check at the office if you have any queries.

Emergency Contacts

When parents fill in their enrolment form, they will be asked to nominate two emergency contacts to look after their child/ren in the event that they themselves cannot be contacted. Please ensure that the 2 people you nominate are able to be contacted by phone and are happy to take on this responsibility for you. By listing these people, you are authorising the school to allow them to take your child/ren home in the event that they are unwell or in an emergency situation.

You are asked to update this information at the beginning of each year and throughout the year when your details change.

Parental Permission

Before a child participates in a major excursion, camp or the swimming program, parental permission is necessary. Please assist by returning the form by the date requested. A general form giving permission for "local" excursions (within the township) will be sent home early in the year.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

Anaphylaxis

Children with diagnosed anaphylaxis need to have management plan from their doctor which is updated annually. Epi pens are provided by the parents for use at school and on excursions.

Asthmatics

All asthmatics must have an up-to-date Asthma Management Plan filled in by parents in consultation with your doctor. These forms are available from the office and must be updated annually. Although emergency supplies are kept in the staff room a diagnosed asthmatic who requires a "puffer" should carry the puffer with him/her at all times.

Head Lice

Head lice are not a medical issue; however the school endeavours to support families in managing these pests and keep the prevalence of outbreaks to a minimum. The school can conduct head checks (a permission slip is sent home at the start of the year,) parents are informed of any eggs or lice found and the recommended treatment. Eliminating head lice is greatly assisted by parents informing the school when their child has them so we can inform the rest of the school to be diligent and to check their child's hair.

Infectious Diseases

Please seek advice from the school or the Health Department if you would like more information about infectious diseases.

Minimum Period of Exclusion from Schools and Children's Services Centres for Infectious Diseases Cases and Contacts

The following table indicates the minimum period of exclusion from schools and children's service centres required for infectious diseases cases and contacts as prescribed under Regulations 13 and 14 of the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001 – Schedule 6. In this Schedule 'medical certificate' means a certificate of a registered medical practitioner.

Conditions	Exclusion of cases	Exclusion of contacts
Chicken pox	Exclude until fully recovered or for at least 5 days after the eruption first appears. Note that some remaining scabs are not a reason for continued	Any child with an immune deficiency (for example, leukaemia) or receiving chemotherapy should be excluded for

	exclusion	their own protection. Otherwise not excluded
Conjunctivitis	Exclude until discharge from eyes has ceased	Not excluded
Diarrhoea	Exclude until diarrhoea has ceased or until medical certificate of recovery is produced	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
Haemophilus type b (Hib)	Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is received	Not excluded
Hand, Foot and Mouth disease	Until all blisters have dried	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
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
(HIV/AIDS)	Exclusion is not necessary unless the child has a secondary infection	Not excluded
Impetigo	Exclude until appropriate treatment has commenced. Sores on exposed surfaces must be covered with a watertight dressing	Not excluded
Influenza like illnesses	Exclude until well	Not excluded
Leprosy	Exclude until approval to return has been given by the Secretary	Not excluded
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 they may return to school
Meningitis (bacteria)	Exclude until well	Not excluded
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
Poliomyelitis	Exclude for at least 14 days from onset. Re-admit after receiving medical certificate of recovery	Not excluded
Ringworm, scabies, pediculosis (head lice)	Re-admit 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
(SARS)	Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is produced	Not excluded unless considered necessary by the Secretary
Streptococcal infection (including scarlet fever)	Exclude until the child has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours and the child feels well	Not excluded
Trachoma	Re-admit the day after appropriate treatment has commenced	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
Typhoid fever (including paratyphoid fever)	Exclude until approval to return has been given by the Secretary	Not excluded unless considered necessary by the Secretary
Verotoxin producing	Exclude if required by the Secretary and only for the period specified by the Secretary	Not excluded

Escherichia coli
(VTEC)

Whooping cough

Exclude the child for 5 days after starting antibiotic treatment

Exclude unimmunised household contacts aged less than 7 years and close child care contacts for 14 days after the last exposure to infection or until they have taken 5 days of a 10 day course of antibiotics

Immunisation

The School Entry Immunisation Certificate, issued to you by the local Health Department shows that:-

- Your child has been immunised against measles, mumps, diphtheria, tetanus and polio.
- There is a good reason why your child has not been immunised
- Or you, as a parent or guardian, have undertaken to have your child immunised within the next six months.

Without this certificate, your child cannot, by law, be enrolled in any Victorian school. The Health Act, introduced in 1991, states that all children starting in primary school must have an immunisation certificate. If your child is not immunised, she or he will be excluded from school if there is a case of measles or diphtheria at the school.

Medication

If your child requires daily medication then generally the best place for him/her is at home. For legal reasons, the school staff are unable to administer medications except in exceptional circumstances. Parents are encouraged to administer medication during the day.

Emergency Services Information

FIRE, AMBULANCE, POLICE		000
HOSPITAL	Omeo	5159 0140
DOCTORS	Omeo	5159 0140
FIRE BRIGADE	(fire only)	5159 1321
POLICE	Omeo	5159 1222
	Swifts Creek	5159 4333
KINDERGARTEN	Omeo	5159 1451

Emergencies

PLAN OF ACTION IN CASE OF BUSHFIRE OR OTHER EMERGENCY:

The SAFETY of all children at school is paramount. In the case of an emergency:

The Local Authority (Police) will be contacted to ascertain the extent of the emergency. If this Authority gives the all clear, children will be dismissed at the normal time in the normal manner.

If the Local Authority warns against the above (some or all of the pupils being dismissed), pupils will not be permitted to leave the school grounds except in the company of their parents or a person nominated as their emergency contact by their parents.

The children will be supervised at school until collected by their parents or other authority (e.g. Police, S.E.S, Red Cross, etc.)

If the school has to be evacuated, the pupils and staff will move to the Shire Hall, Day Street and the preceding guidelines followed.

All staff, as far as possible, train annually to upgrade C.P.R. qualifications.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Our Goals

To nurture the development of happy, responsible individuals and to ensure that all children reach their full potential academically, socially and emotionally so as to make positive contributions to school life, community and society.

Our Curriculum

The Omeo Primary School Curriculum is based upon AusVELS. AusVELS incorporates the Australian Curriculum F-10 for English, Mathematics, History and Science within the curriculum framework first developed for the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS). AusVELS uses an eleven level structure to reflect the design of the new Australian Curriculum whilst retaining Victorian priorities and approaches to teaching and learning.

Our Priorities

Our School Strategic Plan for 2012-2015 has highlighted the following goals for the school.

- To achieve high quality educational outcomes for all students across all areas of the curriculum with a particular focus in literacy and numeracy.
- To grow and sustain a supportive school culture that fosters relationships and connectedness for students, staff and parents
- To improve transitions into, through and from the school.

Our daily timetable supports the delivery of the key learning areas in literacy and numeracy and is usually split along these lines.

8.45	School starts -Classroom admin, silent reading + Maths
10.15	Morning recess
10.45	Second session - The literacy block - reading and writing hour
12.45	Lunch
1.35	Afternoon session - silent reading + specialist subjects
3.15	Dismissal.

Literacy has a two hour focus daily while numeracy has one hour. Reading acquisition in the junior classroom is supported through the use of daily guided reading for small groups, allowing the teacher to monitor and target reading strategies, skills and progress closely. In the middle and senior grade 'independent reading' sessions consolidate and extend reading and comprehension skills with focused teaching and increased student engagement through self-selected reading material. Writing, spelling and grammar skills are the focus of the second literacy hour and often linked to reading, class units of learning and special events. Children are taught specific styles of writing depending on year levels.

Learning in all areas is supported by the explicit teaching and use of seven highly effective literacy strategies.

- Getting knowledge ready
- Vocabulary
- Reading aloud
- Paraphrasing
- Questioning
- Summarising
- Reviewing and consolidating

Literacy is also supported by our well-resourced school library, and we have access to the East Gippsland Library in Omeo.

Numeracy including: Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, Statistics and Probability with proficiency strands of: Understanding, Fluency, Problem Solving and Reasoning

Assessment in Literacy and Numeracy is carried out at the beginning and end of the year, with teachers monitoring progress during the year as units are introduced and completed.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

Camps

Our Camp program includes

Prep - tea at school, collect at 7pm. Approximate cost \$5

Grade One - tea at school and sleep over at school. \$10

Grade 2 - one night camp in the local area. Approx \$30

Grade 3&4 - a three day camp Approx cost \$250

Grade 5&6 - a 5 day camp Approx cost up to \$400. This alternates between a city camp and outdoor initiative camp.

Our camp in grades 3/4 and 5/6 are combined with Swifts Creek School to build social links between the students to assist with transition to secondary school.



Skiing Program

In August a skiing program is offered for one day a week over four weeks. This program is depended on suitably qualified staff and community support. Students can attend all four days or elect to attend part of the program. Cost for this program in 2015 was \$160 per day. The cost could rise in 2015 depending on Mt Hotham prices.

Library & Book Club

The School Library is open regularly, and the children are encouraged to borrow. Books may be borrowed for a fortnight at a time and should be returned by the due date. Children are expected to use a library bag when borrowing. Library bags are available from the school. A Book Fair will take place in September. The school library benefits from sales, the greater the sales, the greater the percentage donated back to the school. A Scholastic Book Club also operates offering reasonably priced books. Order forms are distributed to children twice a term.

Personal Development Grade 5/6

The program covers physical changes, concerns and issues that are involved as they develop and may be delivered by our teachers with the support of Heather Daly, school nurse.

Specialist Programs

In 2015 our school offered visual art for 1.5 hrs and PE for the year, Semester focuses subjects were Science and Design, Communication and Technology (DCT) and Introduction to Indonesian for 1 hour. We always endeavour to support local and community programs as much as possible. Specialist programs may vary from year to year.

Sport

Omeo Primary School understands the importance for our children to be active and physically fit. We provide school based classes in physical education. The school participates in a range of local sport events and through our Lakes and High Country cluster. We participate in shared events across the cluster providing additional sporting and social contact for our students.

Transition to school

All new prep children are encouraged to take part in a transition program where he/she will visit the school on a number of occasions to get to know teachers and the school environment. The transition from home to school or from kindergarten to school is assisted when parents:-

- provide a wide range of experiences for their children
- talk to their children about school and other happenings
- read to their children
- are positive about school and teachers
- provide opportunities for their children to mix with and trust other adults
- look on school as a happy place

It is important to consider that each child is different. Some children will be just starting to handle writing implements while others will be writing their names. Some will want you to read to them while others will be beginning to read. Remember that both 'the school and home', 'the teacher and the parent', need to work together to ensure that your child has the chance to develop at his or her own rate.

If you are concerned about any matter or you have some questions, you are always welcome to come to the school to discuss it with the Principal or any of the teachers.

Linking with our families at Omeo PS Contact with school / transition

Timeline	Event	Audience
February	Welcome BBQ week 2/3	School families
March	Information session week 4/5	School families
June	Reports and parent teacher interviews	School families
July/ Aug	Open session/ afternoon with Gr 6 acting as tour guides	New families Existing families Interested community
Sept	Transition brochure to families for following year	New enrolments
November	3 Transition sessions 1 st to recess 2 nd to lunch 3 rd all day	New enrolments Existing students
Dec	State wide transition whole day	New enrolments Existing students
	Reports to parents/ interviews by request from families or staff.	School families

Across the year we contact parents by phone or in personal for celebrations and concerns.

Transition to Secondary College

Our school works closely with Swift Creek P-12 School to provide a smooth transition from primary school to secondary school. Children participate in a number of transition experiences.

Welfare The wellbeing of each individual is extremely important to us. A harmonious, co-operative school atmosphere fosters positive attitudes to learning, the development of social skills, a positive self-identity and the building of self-reliance.

In order to create and maintain a caring and supportive environment, we work hard to ensure that we support the well-being of each child, supporting his/her:

- need for safety & security in a predictable, orderly & non-threatening environment.
- need to belong and to receive acceptance and approval from others.
- need for positive self-esteem and to experience a sense of personal worth.
- need to know and understand one's environment.
- need to become a valued individual and to develop one's own identity.

Omeo Primary School supports children to accept responsibility and manage their own behaviour.

We aim to:

Foster in each person an awareness of themselves as individuals, a responsible member of a group and community.

Promote, through example and guidance, the development of respect for oneself, others, property and personal belongings.

These aims are based on the assumption that all members of the school community should be able to

*be successful learners	*express their own opinion	*feel safe and secure
*be cared about	*have support from others	*be shown courtesy and respect
*care about themselves	*be heard	*make mistakes
		*be happy

BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

We expect that children will:

- allow teachers to teach,
- children to learn without disruption
- treat everyone fairly so that they feel safe in the classrooms and playground.



When individuals choose to behave in a manner that disrupts teaching and / or learning time, and / or results in members of our school community feeling unsafe they will be asked to move to another area in the classroom or school.

They will then need to develop a plan with strategies to address the behaviour before returning to the class or yard. All work is expected to be completed and if this is not done in class time then using break time to complete work will be expected. If behaviour is again inappropriate or disruptive the children will need to develop a new plan. Each plan can only be used once. Staff will support children through this process.

What Happens When Behaviour Is Unacceptable?

Should behaviour continue to be unacceptable or place others in danger, parents and guardians will be contacted and together we will establish a support group for the child. The student engagement policy will be followed and suspension may be used as part of this process.

Process

Establish classroom expectations with students at the beginning of the year. These will link to our values and focus on the behaviour expected.

When behaviour interrupts teaching and learning

1. Reminder of expected behaviour
2. Warning that if behaviour continues removal will be implemented
3. Removal to another class
4. Written plan to be completed
5. Parents informed.

Where behaviour causes harm: immediate removal with plan. The child may work in another room until the plan is completed.

Prevention-

At the beginning of each year each classroom will develop a set of expectations that they agree to respect. It can include items such as: 'Put up your hand to speak during discussion and floor time, listen to and follow instructions, use your manners' etc. Classes will also discuss work presentation standards for quality work - e.g. ruled pages, no graffiti on book covers etc.

Yard expectations and areas for different types of play are outlined at the start of each year. All of these have safety at the core. E.g. Footballs on the oval or basketball court (wet grass time).

Sometimes children are over-sensitive to normal childhood interactions. These children take to heart little things that others don't even seem to notice. In order to be happy and successful, children must develop the ability to bounce back from negative experiences - i.e. they must learn to be resilient and put things into perspective e.g. 'No one played with me today.' - could actually be 'I wanted to play tiggy with Betty but she was playing a different game today'.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT How can you help?

By understanding that learning to read, write, and understand maths is just like learning to walk and talk. Children learn to walk and talk slowly, making mistakes or unsuccessful attempts along the way. Parents support and praise children's first attempts at walking and talking, gently correcting and encouraging them as they develop the skills.



Learning to read and write is no different. Errors, by adult standards, will occur. We need to accept children's efforts to read, to draw or write as stages in learning. Trying new things and making mistakes as they go are essential to effective learning. Responsible risk taking is essential to learning and parents can support this by allowing children to have a go, recognise attempts, praise efforts and prompting further attempts.

Pause - give your child time to work it out

Prompt - remind them of strategies they could use

Praise - all attempts

When learning to read and write not everything has to be perfect - it is the process of learning that is important. By challenging themselves and making mistakes children refine the strategies that they are developing as effective and independent learners.

Be positive and praise work that is correct.

Accept mistakes that lead to progress.

Role of the Classroom Teacher

The classroom teacher has the primary responsibility for the education of each student. The classroom teacher is responsible for:

- developing a program to meet the student's needs
- using teaching strategies that support his/her learning style
- evaluating and reporting upon the student's progress

The principal and other staff will support the teacher in achieving this.

Role of the Parent

The parent knows his or her child better than anyone else, and your input and knowledge is welcomed and encouraged by the school. The education of students is a partnership where teachers and parents work together to meet the learning needs of the student.

Responsibilities of the Parent

Attendance: Ensure that the student attends regularly and is on time. **It's not OK to be away or late!** If your child misses school they often miss new learning and find work difficult to catch up on. Please let your child's teacher know if you are going to be away.

Programs: Assist teachers to set goals (short and long term) for your child. Follow up and support the student at home as discussed with the classroom teacher.

Information: Provide the teacher with all information relevant to your child so that we have a good understanding of his/her needs and how best to support them.

Involvement: Show an interest in your child's schooling.

Visit or assist in the classroom wherever possible - you are welcome and encouraged to actively participate in your child's schooling so please organise this with the teacher.

Praise your child for effort, a positive attitude and all success & achievement

Community & Parent Input

This school welcomes community assistance; in fact many of our programs could not operate efficiently without this input. Parents and community members are welcomed and encouraged to assist in the classrooms, at special events or as School Council or Parents Club members.

Parents and community members are welcome in everything we do:

Daily Classroom Activities	Reading Helpers	Special Events	Library support
Excursions	Parents & Friends club	Gardening	Cooking
Helping in the classroom	Skiing and snow programs		

Classroom support

Parents are welcome and invited to assist in everyday classroom programs. Many parents assist with literacy while others help out in Maths or the arts. Classroom helpers program will be offered during term 1/ 2 and will provide information that will assist parents in supporting education of our children both at home and school.

Camps: Parents are sometimes needed to assist on school camps.

Excursions: Due to the prohibitive costs of transportation by bus for most class excursions, parents are sometimes called upon to transport children by private car. This method reduces costs and enables parents to take part in the wider learning experiences of their children. You must have comprehensive insurance and working with children check (WWCC) to transport other people's children on school excursions.

Grounds and Gardens: The gardens are maintained and improved by the school community. We usually hold working bees during the year to tidy the gardens and grounds. Other assistance is appreciated at any time.

Library: Community involvement in our computerised Library is welcome and encouraged. Assistance is needed on a regular basis to help with Library resource maintenance and student/class borrowing. Please see the library co-ordinator if you would like to be involved.

Sport: From time to time it is helpful if parents with expertise in particular areas of sport can help out with coaching. In the past, this has been beneficial during the inter school competition games and during the athletics programs. If you would like to help, please contact the sports co-ordinator. Some sporting events involving small groups outside Omeo may require assistance with transport. Parents with appropriately insured vehicles may be asked to help.

Special Events

Special occasions such as our book parade, sporting programs or fundraisers provide additional opportunities for involvement. Keep an eye out in the newsletter for information on these events.

Parents & Friends

The Parents and Friends Club is open to all parents. Regular meetings are held at the school and parents are notified through the weekly newsletter of dates and times. PFC works to provide resources for the school. A representative from the PFC attends School Council meetings to keep them informed of activities. Parents have the opportunity to participate in the decision making processes at our school through their PFC via their representative on School Council.

Your PFC members are a hard - working and devoted group of people who help provide equipment and amenities for all the children in the school. The only way that they can function efficiently is with your encouragement. Please give them the support they need to function effectively and profitably.

School Council

The Omeo Primary School Council has a constitution that allows for 7 parent representatives, 1 community member, 1 staff and the Principal. Meetings of the School Council are usually held at the School at 6.00 pm on the 2nd Tuesday, each month. The School Council is responsible for many areas of school operation. Elections are held each March for approximately 1/2 of these positions.

WE UNDERSTAND HOWEVER, THAT MANY MUMS AND DADS WORK AND CANNOT BE REGULARLY INVOLVED AT THE SCHOOL. OUR AIM IS TO PROMOTE TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION WITH WORKING PARENTS SO THAT THEY CAN STAY IN TOUCH WITH WHAT IS HAPPENING AT SCHOOL.