



# Tylden Primary School

**The right  
choice for  
your child's  
education**



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*Where every child is special*

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## WELCOME TO TYLDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL



It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Tylden Primary School. The school is situated in the picturesque township of Tylden in the Macedon Ranges Shire. Local families choose Tylden PS for their children, as do many families from the towns of Kyneton and Woodend and the rural areas of Glenlyon, East Trentham, Trentham, Fern Hill and Springhill.

Throughout a proud history of more than 155 years, Tylden PS has had a reputation as a friendly school that provides a comprehensive education to the children in the local community. Our students are motivated learners who are curious, articulate, socially capable and well equipped for the future.

Families are attracted by the pleasant, rural environment and value the strong sense of community and pursuit of high academic standards. Students particularly enjoy the spacious grounds and gardens that are so conducive to play, exploration and relaxation.

Our school grounds are meticulously maintained by the members of our school community, and there is an enduring and strong tradition of parent involvement in classroom and extra-curricular activities. The pride all our community has for our school is evident in everything we do.

I am fortunate to have the opportunity to lead this vibrant learning community and I am very proud of the achievements of our students, the high quality of our staff, and the warmth and friendliness that is renowned locally.

***Lee MacDonald***  
***Principal***



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## A CARING ENVIRONMENT

An outstanding feature of our school is the caring consideration shown by children, staff, parents and the community for each other. This culture of consideration and caring is carried through all programs including the school managed Out of School Hours Care service that operates every afternoon, and the Before School Hours Care service held prior to school starting for the day.

Tylden Primary School encourages each student to strive for their personal best. Our aim is for each student to develop into independent, well-skilled and capable future citizens.

A high level of parent participation is a great asset of our school. Parent involvement in the classroom programs and extra-curricular activities is encouraged and valued. A strong partnership between home and school is crucial to each child's success. Parents are involved in consultation and decision making through the School Council and feedback is always welcomed.

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## THE BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

The original school building was constructed a few years after Tylden Primary School was founded in 1862. It is still in use today, decorated with student art work, and functions as the Art Room. In 2002, the 'Red Brick' school building was completed comprising three new classrooms, a library, a shared activity area, toilet facilities and disabled facilities. This building provides classrooms for the junior and middle school grades. The senior grades work in the adjacent buildings.

In 2011, as part of the Building the Education Revolution Project (BER), a new building was added to the grounds. Providing a new staff room, administration areas, an art display space and an additional classroom, this building has helped to expand the programs that are offered at the school. Grade 3, Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program and Out of School Hours Care service share the classroom space in this building.

In a major upgrade in 2020, two new classrooms were added. These beautiful new rooms are home to middle and senior school students and bring all facilities to the best possible standard.

The school community takes great pride in developing and maintaining the school grounds at Tylden. These grounds are spacious and provide both active and passive play areas for students of all ages.

The school is a sustainable school that promotes many environmental programs. Children learn to care for the environment in classroom programs and by growing indigenous plants, looking after the organic vegetable gardens and the school chooks, composting and recycling. The Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program provides a garden and kitchen experience each week for students in the middle and senior grades. Fundraising over many years resulted in the installation of a modern kitchen in 2012 for use in the Stephanie Alexander sessions and other classroom and local community activities.





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## STUDENT LEADERS

Each year, our school elects School Captains, House Captains, a Wellbeing Leader and a Junior School Council (JSC). These leadership positions are voted by the students in grades 3 – 6 and the staff. School captains and Wellbeing Leader represent the school in the wider community and they lead school assemblies and special events. The House Captains lead their house in various competitions during the year, while JSC meets regularly and organises special activities and at times chooses to raise money for a charity or to purchase a piece of equipment for the school. JSC reports to the School Council at its monthly meeting.

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## CURRICULUM, TEACHING AND LEARNING



The Victorian Curriculum F – 10 guides the Tylden Primary School classroom program. The program is well planned and differentiated to cater for all abilities. There are high expectations for every student and the classroom program offers varied and interesting learning opportunities.

The Humanities curriculum includes History, Geography and Civics & Citizenship and Science classes incorporate hands on activities in physical, biological, earth and chemical science topics. The school develops ICT skills, including coding. All students participate in a Social and Emotional Learning program to develop resilience, interpersonal skills and wellbeing. Teachers integrate Critical & Creative Thinking and the Ethical, Intercultural, Personal & Social capabilities throughout the teaching and learning programs. The specialist subjects are selected from Art, LOTE (German), Library, Physical Education, Writers' Workshop and the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program.

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## LITERACY AND NUMERACY

Strong literacy and numeracy skills are essential and our school places the highest priority on developing children's skills in these two key areas. The school is focused on developing strong readers with excellent writing skills. Literacy instruction is phonics based with strong connections between the reading, writing and spelling programs. Teachers establish strong number sense from Prep through hands on learning activities, problem solving and a focus on developing fluency in number facts.

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## INTERVENTION AND EXTENSION

Students learn at different rates and there is diversity in every classroom. The school offers the Fountas & Pinnell Levelled Literacy Intervention and other individual and small group activities to assist with literacy and numeracy development. Extension activities for more able students are sourced from within the school and through external agencies in a variety of curriculum areas. The school regularly participates in the State Schools' Spectacular.

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## SPECIALIST SUBJECTS

Specialist subjects vary from year to year but are selected from:

Art, Writer's Workshop, Physical Education, Music, Library (Junior Grades),

LOTE (German), Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden (Middle and Senior Grades)



## STEPHANIE ALEXANDER KITCHEN GARDEN PROGRAM

The Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program is incorporated into the curriculum for children in middle and upper grades. The program involves garden and kitchen activities each week with each group of children working with an adult volunteer from the school or wider community. The school kitchen was installed in 2012 using money accrued from fundraising at our school fair.



## SWIMMING PROGRAM

A whole school swimming program operates annually in fourth term. The students are grouped by ability and the lessons are conducted by trained staff from the Kyneton Sports and Aquatic Centre. In recent years, School Council has determined that the swimming program be substantially subsidised from fundraising for all students, which minimises the costs for families.

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

Specialist instrumental music teachers offer tuition in piano, guitar and drums. Students are prepared for AMEB music examinations if required. Tuition fees are set by the visiting staff and costs are met by parents. The students learning musical instruments present a concert in fourth term to showcase their learning to each other and their families.

## EXCURSIONS/CAMPS/INCURSIONS

Excursion opportunities may be taken up each year to complement the learning in a variety of curriculum areas. Staff also engage agencies to deliver special performances and activities on site ("Incursions"). Students in Grades 3 - 6 attend an annual camp over two or three days. Costs for these activities are charged to families as they arise.



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## STARTING SCHOOL – PREP TRANSITION PROGRAM

Starting school is a major milestone in a child's life. Our school has developed a Prep Transition to School Program that ensures the move from pre-school to school is smooth and comfortable for all children (and their parents/carers.)

After our Open Days or a school tour, families may decide to enrol their child at Tylden PS. They complete an enrolment form and our transition program starts with contact between our school and each pre-school setting. Our prep teacher visits each setting a few times during the pre-school year to introduce her/himself to the children and start to get to know them.

We invite prep parents/carers to come to school for an information session and following this, the children come to school for at least three classroom sessions. These classroom experiences are in the morning and afternoon, and children get to know their future classroom, their way around the school and they meet their Big Buddy. Most children are very excited about starting school by the end of their class visits, but sometimes children need further experiences to help them to be ready for school. This is arranged on an 'as needs' basis.

Prep children and their families are invited to come to our House Athletics Sports and community picnic in November. The children can join in with some of the activities and families can get to know others in our community. This is an optional transition activity and is always a lot of fun.

The main thing to know is that our school will guide you and your child carefully and sensitively through the move from pre-school to school, and make starting school comfortable for all.

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## BUDDIES

Prep children starting at Tylden have a Grade 5 or 6 'Big Buddy' who helps them to make the transition to school. The buddy meets the Prep child during the special classroom sessions that are organised prior to the commencement of school. Big Buddies help in the school yard during the early part of the year, playing with the Prep children and assisting them as needed. There are classroom activities organised throughout the year with buddies to maintain the relationship.

Senior students look forward to having a buddy to look after and the younger children quickly become comfortable with the older children in the school as a result of the buddy program. Children who enrol in other levels at Tylden are matched with a 'class buddy' to help them to settle into their new school. The Buddy Programs lead to long-lasting friendships between students of all ages.





## OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE

Our school offers Out of School Hours Care (OSHC). This service runs as Before School Care (BSC) from 6:30am - 8:40am every morning and After School Care (ASC) from 3.30pm – 6pm every afternoon. Children can attend as many afternoons or mornings as needed. This is a “user pays” service and families are linked to all relevant government subsidies and rebates.

Before School Care provides a nutritious breakfast and various activities before the children commence school. After School Care (ASC) provides a healthy snack and a wide variety of organised and spontaneous indoor and outdoor activities for the children in attendance. The service is very popular and is well utilised by our families.

The school Principal and Tylden Primary School Council oversee the management of OSHC. Our wonderful OSHC coordinator manages the day-to-day operations of the service, including the invoices and payments. All OSHC staff are fully qualified for their role in the service. Our service was assessed at “exceeding the standards” at its last assessment.

## SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES

### Literacy and Numeracy support programs

Our students’ progress is monitored closely by teachers throughout the year. Targeted intervention is put in place where necessary in literacy and numeracy. The school runs Fountas & Pinnell Levelled Literacy Intervention for small groups and individual assistance as needed for both literacy & numeracy.

### Speech Pathology

A qualified Speech Pathologist is available through a referral to Student Support Services. The Speech Pathologist can conduct full speech assessments and deliver a program to support students with speech and language issues. Each child’s individual program includes regular home activities designed to support the work of the Speech Pathologist in each consultation and maximise the impact of the assistance.

### Educational Psychologists

Children can be referred to an Educational Psychologist for assessment. The psychologist can assist with the development of individual learning and behaviour plans and advise on applications for support through the Program for Students with Disabilities (PSD).

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### **Counselling Service**

A psychologist from Healing Minds psychology service visits the school once each week. Children can be referred to this psychologist if there is a need for professional counselling. The sessions take place at school and are bulk-billed through Medicare. The service is also open to staff and all school family members. Referral forms are available from the office.

### **School Nurse**

The school nurse conducts a Prep health assessment every year for the children who are commencing school. The nurse is also available for assessments on request for students from other year levels. At Tylden PS, our school nurse conducts the Personal Development Program for Grade 6 students and the biennial Mother-Daughter and Father-Son information evenings.

### **Head Lice Monitoring Program**

Trained Division 1 nurses conduct periodic whole-school head-lice checks. The dates for checks are publicised through the newsletter and all children who are checked receive a confidential note indicating whether head lice have been detected. There is an expectation that children who are infected with head lice will be treated immediately, and again after 7 days to ensure the infection has been controlled.

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## **COMMUNICATION**

Our school values the partnership it has with parents and carers, and we believe that open and respectful communication is fundamental to this relationship. We communicate quickly with parents/cares if we have concerns and also to let you know of significant achievements your child has made. We schedule regular opportunities for parent teacher interviews and parents are always welcome to make a suitable time to speak with their child's teacher. You can make an appointment by phoning the office, or speak to the teacher to sort out a time. Immediately before and after school can be busy times, so making an appointment is best.

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## **WEEKLY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**

The newsletter is produced weekly. It contains lots of important information about what has happened at school during the week and what is coming up. It should be a "must read" in every household. The newsletter is published on the school webpage and sent out on the Konnective app every Friday.

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## **KONNECTIVE**

At Tylden Primary School, we use the 'Konnective' app to send information and reminders to families via smart phones and emails. Being connected with Konnective is extremely important. Classroom teachers and the office will send information and reminders about upcoming events to help our parents/carers keep up with our busy school calendar. We will also send messages via Konnective in an emergency. You can download the app from the Apple Store or Google Play for both iPhone and Android, with a web version available for other phone types or users without a smartphone. Upon registration, users will be connected to feeds that are relevant to them. Families can also elect to receive their messages via email. For more information please go to <https://www.konnective.com.au>

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## **SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

You will quickly find out that our school has a busy calendar of events and special programs. These are eagerly anticipated by the whole school. Some examples are listed below:

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## **ANNUAL CONCERT**



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The annual school concert is held in the second semester. Every student participates and there are opportunities for parents to assist with costume and set construction and musical accompaniment.

The Annual Concert is a wonderful showcase of our students' talents in the performing arts.



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## SPORTING SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Sporting Schools program is an Australian government initiative designed to help schools increase children's participation in sport and to connect children with community sports. Our school applies for Sporting Schools' grants regularly, to allow us to run a wider variety of sports throughout each year.

The program offers children a positive and enjoyable experience of traditional and non-traditional sports and keeps them physically active. It aims to develop a love of sports that inspires them to join a local club. Sporting Schools is free to families and runs during school hours.

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## INTERSCHOOL SPORTS

Children in the upper grades participate in a variety of sports with other local schools. While there is opportunity for teams that are successful in local events to progress to region and district competitions, the emphasis on inter-school sports days is inclusion and participation.

Sports played at inter-school meetings include netball, softball, football, soccer, volleyball, athletics and cross country running. Parent assistance may be requested for inter-school events and parents are always welcome to attend sports days as spectators.

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## ANNUAL HOUSE ATHLETICS SPORTS DAY AND COMMUNITY PICNIC

The Annual House Athletics Sports Day is a highlight in the school calendar. The event is held on Melbourne Cup Day in November and includes a picnic lunch for the whole school community. Many past students attend the House Sports and the future Prep children are also invited to join the fun.

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## ANNUAL COUNTRY FAIR

The Annual Tylden Primary School Country Fair is held each year either at the end of term 1 or just after the start of Term 2. It is the major fundraising event for the year. Proceeds from the fair provide extra resources such as computers, library books, playground equipment and a substantial subsidy for the whole-school swimming program.

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The event includes rides for children and many stalls selling such things as local fresh produce, homemade cakes and preserves, plants, trash & treasure, crafts and toys. The Silent Auction always has a wonderful collection of goods donated by local businesses and the raffle has fantastic prizes. Visitors can enjoy Devonshire Tea or a delicious curry while they listen to the music provided by local artists, then wander amongst the Classic Cars and Trucks, or the CFA and SES displays.

This major event is a highpoint in our school calendar. All families are expected to get involved with the organising committee, setting up and packing up, sourcing items to sell and/or staffing the stalls on the day.



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## OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

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### ARRIVAL TIME

Arrival time from 8.40am unless you are using the school buses or OSHC. It is very important that children get to school on time. When children arrive as the bell is ringing or after the bell, they can feel anxious or unsettled. Frequent lateness adds up to a significant amount of lost learning time and may affect a child's progress at school.

If a child arrives after the bell, they should be signed in at the office by a parent or carer and receive a late pass to give to their teacher.

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### DAILY SCHEDULE

9:00am	Classes begin
10:00am	Healthy fruit or vegetable snack
11:00am	Morning play
11:20am	Classes resume
12:20pm	Lunchtime –eating under supervision
12:30pm	Lunchtime play
1:20pm	Classes resume
2:20pm	Afternoon play
2:30pm	Classes resume
3:30pm	End of school day

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### EARLY DEPARTURE FROM SCHOOL

If a child needs to leave early for an appointment or any reason, parent/carers must sign them out formally at the office.

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### HEALTHY EATING

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Students are encouraged to bring healthy food options to school for play lunch and lunch and to minimise the amount of rubbish they create with lunch wrappings etc. At 10 am every day, the classes enjoy a “fresh fruit/vegetable snack”

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## FEES, EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES AND BOOKLISTS

The School Council sets the voluntary fees and essential educational expenses annually. The costs are very reasonable and families can pay by instalment if required. All students have excellent access to computers and other technology. Most families place a booklist order for each child through the school office. The books and stationery items are then purchased through a bulk order from a supplier and are collected by families in January.

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## SCHOOL UNIFORM

Tylden Primary School students wear an attractive and functional school uniform that is approved by the School Council. The uniform can be purchased from the school, with second hand items usually available in most sizes. Tylden is a ‘Sun Smart’ school and a broad-brimmed school hat is compulsory for outside play for most of the year. Grade 6 students may purchase a special jacket for their final year of primary schooling.

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## SCHOOL COUNCIL

The School Council plays an important role in the management of the school. It collaborates with the school community to develop a vision for the school and to develop the School Strategic Plan. Through the sub-committees, the School Council monitors the school budget and resource allocation, develops and maintains the school buildings and grounds and it reports to and communicates with the school community.

There are 15 members on the Tylden Primary School Council. These include eight elected Parent Members, four DEECD Employee Members and three Community Members who are appointed by the School Council. Membership is for a two year period. Elections are held annually in first term. Roughly half of the positions on School Council are declared vacant each year.

School Council Meetings are open to all parents and are held in the evening two or three times each term. The meeting times are advised directly to School Council Members and publicised to all parents via the School Newsletter. Meeting times for the sub-committees vary depending on the purpose of the group, and are also publicised through the school newsletter.

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## BUS TRANSPORT

There are two free bus services that may be used by Tylden PS students who live in Spring Hill and East Trentham. The bus services are run by the Department of Transport and administered by the Bus Coordinator at Kyneton Secondary College. The school will advise you if your child is eligible for free bus transport. Maps of the routes are available at the office.



