



**St Paul's**  
ANGLICAN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

# It's time!

## Starting Primary School



Prep to Year 2  
2023 Warragul



# The education journey begins

## Welcome From The Principal

At the heart of St Paul's is the belief that happy students thrive. We know that the happiness of our students is of paramount importance, and we create an environment in which each learner feels included, respected and valued. Our teachers are kind, talented and dedicated to inspiring, educating and supporting each child to pursue their personal potential.

During the Early Years (Kindergarten through to Year 2), we take a best-practice play-based and inquiry approach to support every child's creativity, brain development and emotional intelligence. Utilising our teachers' expertise in our high-quality early learning programs, we support every child to achieve their purpose. We believe that children learn best through discovery and exploration, embedded within our nature play and kitchen garden programs. When children play, they are exploring their knowledge and understanding of the world. St Paul's Prep classrooms are designed to provide captivating environments to engage our curious young learners and promote wellbeing.

The beginning of our learners' educational experience provides opportunities for wonder, excitement and creativity. With specialist subjects starting in Pre-Prep, our children have opportunities in Physical Education, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Library and Christian Studies as part of their St Paul's learning experience.

We look forward to getting to know you and your family, and wish you all the best for an exciting learning journey for your child.

**Cameron Herbert**  
Principal

## Philosophy & Values

St Paul's prides itself on offering a unique learning environment that not only provides an outstanding education but in addition develops each student in the spiritual, social, emotional, physical and intellectual domains.

We are a school where happiness comes first and success in whatever area your child chooses to pursue will follow. We support every child to pursue and achieve their personal best, whatever that may be.

We offer a safe, inclusive and caring environment, where thought can be expressed, achievement can be celebrated and where each student belongs to a community that supports them to achieve their potential.

Underpinning all of our actions are our ethos and the embedded values of:

- Wisdom
- Integrity
- Compassion
- Respect

## Spirituality

St Paul's is a happy Anglican school founded on the ethos and values of the Anglican Church. We nurture learners from all faiths and beliefs to pursue their potential.

We provide opportunities for every child to find and follow their purpose, and foster an environment where every faith and belief is respected and valued. We do not expect students, families or staff to share our Christian beliefs. Instead, we ask that our learners develop and share their perspectives on spirituality and faith with openness, respect and humility.

Our Anglican tradition is observed through chapel services and faith study which all students are required to attend. These provide a space for each student to experience encouragement and exploration of faith within a strong and supportive community.

## Acknowledgement Of Country

We acknowledge the Gunaikurnai people as the original custodians of the land upon which we learn.

We acknowledge their elders, past and present and their children, who are the hope for their future.

# Happy students thrive

## Being Known Student Wellbeing

At St Paul's, student wellness is the focus and core purpose of each school day. We aim to understand the 'whole' child to create a meaningful connection between our students and staff.

Every student has access to support staff, the school counsellors/psychologists and Chaplaincy staff to provide balance for our students to thrive, both as learners and as individuals. We understand that wellbeing is dynamic and our program changes to meet the unique needs of students.

We cultivate a safe, caring environment where each student is comfortable and can strive to achieve their personal best.

From the very young learners in the Early Learning Centre (ELC), to the Year 6 students who are entering adolescence, St Paul's students are provided with an exciting and stimulating learning environment. We provide a comprehensive skills-based curriculum and an engaging and interesting co-curricular program that nurtures each and every student.

To give children physical freedom in their activities, the School Sports Uniform is worn from Pre-Kinder through to the end of Year 2.

Staff work together to ensure that all students feel valued, and that the learning environment we offer is positive and caring.

The individual care of students remains at the forefront of each school day. Getting to know the 'whole' child enables staff to meet their individual needs and assist them to thrive.

## Classroom Teachers

Students spend the majority of their school day with their classroom teachers, who quickly discover how each student learns, socialises and behaves. They are well-placed to identify any issues or concerns.

Classroom teachers are always available by email or by making an appointment to discuss your child's academic, social or emotional wellbeing.

## Growing With Your House

We are known for creating a sense of family amongst our students and staff through our house system.

Our school has four houses which form the foundation of interhouse activities and competitions. Each student is allocated to a house, with members of the same family placed together.

Our houses are: Burgundy, Navy, Emerald and Gold.

## Bounce Back

Our school utilises the *Bounce Back* program from the ELC through to Year 6. *Bounce Back* is a positive education approach to wellbeing, resilience and social-emotional learning for primary school children.

This program supports our efforts to promote positive mental health, wellbeing and resilience for both students and teachers and builds safe and supportive class and school learning environments.





# Our partnership with parents

## Communication Partnerships

We work in partnership with the student, teacher and parents – and are committed to providing proactive and responsive communication to parents. We recognise that parents are the first educators in their child's life and continue to support and provide knowledge for the development of their future lives.

## Daily Updates

Communication with parents occurs through the diary system or by direct emails or phone calls to ensure that parents and carers are kept informed as key contributors to their education.

## MyStPauls Portal

Our learning management system, MyStPauls, provides constant information, calendar dates and information for parents to support their child's learning experience. It is useful to regularly check our Junior School page for valuable information and access posts about our classroom programs, exciting learning activities and photos of our wonderful students.

MyStPauls also provides access to our continuous online reporting, giving parents and carers regular updates and feedback about how each student is progressing.

During any periods that require online learning, we have proven ourselves adept at ensuring student learning continues seamlessly via MyStPauls and Microsoft Teams.

## Grammarian

Every fortnight we publish an online

school newsletter 'The Grammarian' which contains information regarding upcoming events and opportunities available to you and your child. The newsletter is a resource for our community to celebrate special events and personalised learning achievements.

## Teacher Contact

All parents are welcome to contact our teachers and leadership team, we do however recommend booking an appointment if you wish to privately speak to one of our team for a considerable amount of time.

## Family Involvement Visiting The Classroom

Parents and carers are welcome to visit the primary school throughout the year.

In accordance with our school policy, parents participating in school activities must provide the school with a current Working with Children's Check, have completed the school's Child Safety Modules and undertaken a 'Parent Helper' briefing.

## Going Beyond Child Safety

We are committed to providing a safe, caring environment for all learners to feel valued, celebrated and respected. Our students, staff and parents work in unison to provide a learning journey where each child is always safe and we have well-embedded structures to ensure this.

## Respectful Relationships

We believe everyone in our community deserves to be respected, valued and treated

equally. Embedding this culture within our students, staff and environment leads to positive impacts on students' academic outcomes, their mental health, classroom behaviour and relationships between teachers and students. We encourage respect and equality, and work to ensure every child has the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

## Exceeding Standards

Our Warragul Early Learning Centre achieved an overall rating of Exceeding the National Quality Standards in 2022, recognising that we have gone above and beyond what is expected of our service to meet the quality standards. This highlights our consistent high-quality practice, commitment and understanding across all seven Quality Areas, and has shown our practices are shaped by meaningful engagement with our families and community.

The Exceeding rating demonstrates our ongoing commitment to children, families and education, and we are dedicated to maintaining the highest quality learning environment.

## 2024 Transition Important Dates

**Prep Information Night**  
11 October

**Prep Play Afternoons**  
18 October  
25 October

**Transition Sessions**  
1 November  
8 November  
15 November  
22 November

# Getting ready for Prep!

## How to Prepare 7 Steps to Transition

Starting school is a significant and exciting milestone in a child's life. At St Paul's, the extended Prep Transition Program encourages children to be eager to start school, creates enjoyable memories and provides an excellent beginning to their learning journey.

In addition, our Prep staff spend some of their planning time in the Early Learning Centre and external Kindergartens, where they mix with and get to know the students they will be teaching the following year.

### 1. Information Session

An Information Session is held for families in October. During this session, the teachers will provide a 'Handbook' that will include information about the School, subjects and tips to read over the Christmas break, to help make the transition to school a little smoother.

### 2. Play Afternoons

You and your child are invited to two play afternoons in October where your child can become familiar with the Prep environment. These informal sessions allow children to talk to Prep teachers and play with each other, all in a nurturing friendly environment.

### 3. Transition Days

The Transition Days span four weeks during November and early December. On these days your child will participate in specialised activities that are designed to bring out their confidence as they transition to school. They will begin to develop an understanding of what takes place during a school day, making the thought of change less worrisome.

During the first session, students are presented with their special hats at an official 'Hat Ceremony' and parents are invited to stay for morning tea. This is a great opportunity to meet the parents of other Prep-age students. An orientation is held as the final transition activity and students spend the day at school.

### 4. Buddy Program

The Buddy Program commences during transition and continues into Term 1. The Year 5 Buddies are a friendly mentor to our young learners as they start school. Completing a variety of activities together, Buddies forge friendships, connections and memories that last for years to come.

### 5. Personalised Meeting

In December you will have the opportunity to have a one-on-one discussion with your child's Prep teacher. Here, teachers will learn more about your child to understand them better and determine any underlying needs as they make the big step to primary school. This personalised meeting also allows our teachers to provide you with

important information about starting Prep and help to alleviate any residual fears your child may have about the change.

### 6. Early Finish

Prep students finish at 3:00 pm during their first few days of school, leaving prior to the rest of the student body and allowing them to establish some routine before merging with older students.

### 7. Rest Day Wednesdays

Within the first four weeks of the school year starting, Wednesdays are a rest day and children are invited to come in for an assessment on one of these days. This assessment provides our educators with useful insight and knowledge about your child.





## Prep – all about learning

### Strong Foundations Curriculum

At the heart of St Paul's are our students' health and happiness. We foster a love of learning in our students to develop their curiosity through an engaging Prep curriculum, specifically designed to meet the needs of each individual learner.

The Prep year is crucial in building strong foundations for the rest of the primary years. Accordingly, our educational programs at these levels focus on literacy and numeracy skills and educational support is provided each day within the Prep classroom.

Social behaviours such as courtesy, manners and respect for others and our environment are integral features of our teaching programs. Independence is fostered in learning, joining in activities and making friends.

We recognise that students bring with them a wealth of experiences and learning from which they develop an understanding of how the world works. These understandings become a starting point for the teaching and learning process. Our role is to encourage effort, and to challenge and build upon these skills and understandings.

### A Love Of Learning In The Classroom

We foster a love of learning in our students and develop their curiosity through an engaging Prep curriculum, specifically designed to meet the needs of each individual learner

Prep children are immersed in a diverse range of studies in the classroom which cater to their individual needs and interests. Each day is divided into six lessons, with breaks for recess and lunch and the curriculum immerses children in Literacy, Numeracy and Humanities/STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

Our curriculum provides students with the opportunity to learn through exploration in both indoor and outdoor spaces, fostering a lifelong love of learning among our students.

Preps attend specialist classes of:

- Visual Arts
- Performing Arts
- Physical Education
- Japanese Language
- Christian Studies
- Chapel
- Assembly
- Library
- Bounce Back and Protective Behaviour Programs

### Building Connection

Our Buddy Program partners Prep students with Year 5 students who support their transition into primary school. Buddies provide company and create supportive connections with our Prep students to help your child quickly establish a sense of belonging in their new environment.

Commencing at transition, Buddies continue to engage with students throughout the year. They support the younger children in a range of activities, offering encouragement and a friendly face in the playground that often evolves into a very special bond.

All students participate in Chapel services and assemblies, broadening their experience and providing an understanding of their place in the school.

### Meet The Team



**Rowan van Raay**  
Head of Junior School



**Phil Barkla**  
Deputy Head of Junior School



**Lois Smethurst**  
Head of Horizon



**Joanne Farr**  
Director of Teaching & Learning



**Helen Kooloos**  
Director of Pastoral Care

# Specialist Subjects

## Beyond the Classroom Physical Education

Each week, students participate in a wide variety of activities. Our Health and Physical Education program focuses on the importance of a healthy lifestyle and physical activity in the lives of our students. It promotes the development of motor skills and movement competence, health-related physical fitness and sport education.

Engaging in physical activity, games and sport contributes to a sense of community and social connection.

Athletics and swimming carnivals are enjoyed by students from Prep to Year 12, and students in Years 3 through to Year 6 have the opportunity to represent the School at interschool competitions.

## Library

All students attend one library session each week. Students learn about authors and illustrators as well as the parts of a book and different sections of the library. Students in Years 3 to 6 are able to take advantage of the library's literature appreciation resource and are taught the efficient and effective use of the computer catalogue system.

All students at the Junior School are encouraged to discover different books and genres, and are inspired to develop a love of reading.

## Visual Arts

The Visual Arts program provides opportunities for children to experience, develop, represent and understand ideas, emotions and values. They learn to take risks, be imaginative, question, explore, practise and refine techniques.

Within the Visual Arts program, your

child will have the opportunity to experiment with a range of mediums and create a variety of 2D and 3D artworks. By exposing students to a vast assortment of art materials, they have an opportunity to discover and pursue their own creativity and flair.

## Performing Arts

Each year level from Prep to Year 6 has a weekly session in Performing Arts. There are also Performing Arts ensembles and clubs to which the students can belong. These groups perform at assemblies as well as our Performing Arts Concert.

Each year, all students are involved in a musical production at the West Gippsland Arts Centre, Warragul.

Students in Year 2 undertake a semester in our strings program including the provision of an instrument and tuition, and in Year 5 students choose a brass or woodwind instrument as part of the Band program which runs across Semester 1.

There are opportunities for students to perform at school soirees, events or Eisteddfods. Students are also able to access private music tuition across a wide range of instruments.

## Japanese Language

The study of a second language is considered important at St Paul's and assists students with a smooth transition to Secondary School where LOTE (Language Other Than English) is taught as a compulsory subject.

From ELC to Year 2, our Japanese Language studies focus on broadening students' horizons by developing an awareness of another culture and highlighting our expectations around understanding diversity and difference.

In Years 3 to 6, students undertake Japanese Language lessons every week.

## Christian Studies

Our Christian Studies classes enable students to engage in values-based learning activities, which develop their sense of belief in themselves and a responsibility to their community. Our School's Christian ethos allows students to engage in messages of hope in a respectful and joyful environment.

## Kitchen Garden

We have an established 'hands-on' Kitchen Garden program using the well-known Stephanie Alexander model.

The garden is a shared learning centre for the whole school, with a focus on participation by Years 3 and 4 students who are actively involved in the design and construction of the garden, learning 'by doing' about the planting, harvesting and cooking of food.

The Kitchen Garden also brings the community into our school, with volunteers assisting alongside parents, staff and students to enjoy the fruits (and vegetables!) of their labour.



## Each child is unique

### Enrichment & Support Personalised Learning

We recognise that every student is an individual, with skills and abilities that are unique to them. While support and enrichment occur in every classroom, some students may benefit from a greater amount of support or differentiation in pace, level, and content from the regular curriculum and others may have strengths that are important to identify and foster. Regardless of your child's needs, we will encourage and support them in their learning in every way possible.

Through early and systematic assessment processes, students' individual capacities are identified early in the year to offer maximum benefit. The decision about which students access support and enrichment programs is a joint process between classroom teachers, specialist staff and parents. It is intended that students utilise the programs over varying periods of time, depending on their individual needs and circumstances.

The objective is to ensure the individual needs of every child are catered for, that learning is

personalised to them, and that they are given every opportunity to not only achieve their personal best but to thrive.

### Horizon Centre

Our Horizon Centre support and enrichment specialist program offers support programs for students with learning difficulties and provides a range of enrichment programs that support highly able students – beyond the regular curriculum.

The Horizon Centre further enhances learning for students with differing needs by offering individualised and small group support, extension, and enrichment classes for selected students.

The Horizon Centre facilitates support for students who are experiencing learning difficulties. Students at risk or who need an extra boost will join a small intervention group for explicit teaching by our Horizon Educational Support Staff, who are trained in the implementation of well-researched programs known to improve results. The students attend three or four sessions per week for a semester at a time. Parents are kept well informed of the goals and progress of the

program through Individual Learning Plans.

Extension classes are offered in Maths and Literacy for students in Year 3 to Year 6. Students come together with others of similar ability to be challenged and extended in smaller, highly focused sessions.

Enrichment classes aim to foster and develop the general abilities of selected students. Students are provided with an opportunity to extend their learning through competitions and co-curricular activities such as Public Speaking, Maths Olympiad, Australian Mathematics Competition, robotics, story writing competitions and debating. The classes regularly integrate digital technology, for example producing short videos or computer coding, to demonstrate student understanding of a concept. In this way, students develop their creative skills as well as research skills, technical know-how and presentation skills.





# Discovering themselves



## Co-curricular Options

Students participate in a variety of co-curricular activities, clubs and competitions beyond their classroom curriculum offerings.

All activities and clubs are facilitated by teachers and respond to the current interests and passions of students.

### Activities

- AFL
- Art and Craft Club
- Band
- Basketball
- Bike Ed Team Book Club
- Celtic Club
- Choir
- Cricket
- Dance Club (Mixed)
- Dodge Ball Club
- Drama Club
- Gardening Club
- Hot Shot Tennis Netball
- Robotics Club
- Scooter Club
- Ski Camp
- String Orchestra
- Soccer
- Symphonic Band
- Technology Club Vocal Group

## Competitions

- Athletics
- Australian Mathematics Competition
- Bike Ed Challenge
- Cricket T20 Blast
- Equestrian
- Hoop Time Basketball
- House Athletics
- House Cross Country
- House Swimming
- ICAS English
- ICAS Mathematics
- ICAS Science
- ICAS Spelling
- Lions Public Speaking
- Maths Olympiad
- RoboCup
- Short Story Writing Competition
- Tournament of Minds
- Vicspell
- Winter Round Robin Sports Competition

*\* Co-curricular options are subject to change, may be based on student numbers or may alternate every two years. Clubs alternate each term. The continuation of activities is also subject to current restrictions.*

## Leadership & Service

We take pride in watching our students become confident, articulate, and resourceful young leaders capable of contributing to the wider community. As they progress through primary school, we offer a range of leadership, service and fundraising opportunities.

- Co-curricular Captains
- House Captains
- School Captains
- Student Buddy
- Student Leaders
- Student Representative Council
- Tour Guides



# Everything in one place!

## **Little Lorikeets Playgroup**

Our Little Lorikeets Playgroup is led by qualified early childhood teachers, who facilitate a play-based indoor-outdoor program within our beautiful purpose-built facilities.

The program includes activities such as music time, story time and craft, all designed to support children's growth at various stages of development.

Children will explore early literacy and numeracy concepts, and be introduced to some of the specialist areas on offer at St Paul's.

Little Lorikeets Playgroup is a fabulous opportunity for families to network and for children to connect with their peers while developing new friendships in a fun and relaxing environment.

**Little Lorikeets runs from 9:15am to 10:45am on Thursdays and Fridays during 2023.**

## **Visiting Professionals Allied Health Services**

St Paul's partners with a range of speech therapists, occupational therapists, psychologists, counsellors and educational experts to provide on-site services.

**To learn more, please contact: Jen Christensen on 5623 5833 or email [enrolments@stpaulsags.vic.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@stpaulsags.vic.edu.au)**

## **Out Of Hours Care**

An independent service, Club House Boot Camp, offers before and after school care and a school holiday program at each of our campuses.

Operating independently from St Paul's, the service provides care to children aged between four and twelve years of age, utilising our spacious classrooms, playgrounds and facilities.

The before school care program offers care from 6:45am to 8:45am every weekday.

After school care provision offers care from 3:00pm to 6:00pm.

The school holiday program operates every weekday from 6:45am to 6:00pm.

### **2023 Charges**

Before School Care \$35 per day  
After School Care \$43 per day  
Holiday Full Day \$103 per day

Find out more by visiting our website.

# A Specialist Snapshot

## Extending Young Minds Prep to Year 2

- Language (Japanese)
- Visual Arts
- Health and Physical Education
- Prep-2 Sport
- Christian Studies
- Performing Arts (Dance, Music and Drama)
- Library
- Strings (Year 2)
- STEM Program (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)
- English
- Humanities (History, Geography, Economics)
- Buddies (Prep)
- Students also attend Chapel and assembly sessions each fortnight.

To learn more, please contact: Jen Christensen on 5623 5833 or email [enrolments@stpaulsags.vic.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@stpaulsags.vic.edu.au)



## Year 3 to Year 6

- Visual Arts
- Health and Physical Education
- Sport
- Christian Studies
- Performing Arts (Dance, Music and Drama)
- Library
- Language (Japanese)
- Kitchen Garden (Years 3 and 4)
- Symphonic Band (Year 5)
- Rock and Water (Year 5)
- Year 6 Community Service
- STEM Program (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)
- English
- Humanities (History, Geography, Economics)
- Buddies (Year 5 only)
- Academy of Music (From Year 4)
- Students also attend Chapel and assembly sessions each week.

All students from Prep to Year 6 have access to iPads or laptops in the classroom.





**St Paul's**  
ANGLICAN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

**Warragul Campus**  
150 Bowen Street, Warragul, 3820  
Ph: 03 5623 5833

[stpauls@stpaulsags.vic.edu.au](mailto:stpauls@stpaulsags.vic.edu.au)



[stpaulsags.vic.edu.au](http://stpaulsags.vic.edu.au)