



*Edenhope College
'Responding to the needs of all Learners'*

Information for Prospective 2019 Foundation Parents

Dear Parents,

We are writing to let you know some of the opportunities and facilities for learning that Edenhope College has to offer your child in their **2019 Foundation Year**, and the years that follow. Enrolling your child in the Junior School at Edenhope College provides the benefits of learning in **small classes**, with **experienced teachers** who provide a **welcoming, friendly and nurturing environment**. Edenhope College offers thirteen years of schooling from **Foundation – 12**.

Edenhope College is structured into three sub-schools. This arrangement places our school in an ideal position to embrace teaching and learning strategies that are ideally suited to the stages of schooling recognised as best meeting students learning needs.

The **Junior School** (Years Foundation – 6) focuses on maximising the literacy and numeracy skills of all students.

The **Middle School** (Years 7 – 9) focuses on maximising student engagement in and connectedness with their learning, and on minimising the anxieties associated in moving from primary to secondary education.

The **Senior School** (Years 10 – 12) focuses on preparing students for a range of vocational pathways, by providing access to applied and academic learning through Vocational Education and Training in



Schools (VETiS), School Based Apprenticeships, the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) and the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) programs.

At Edenhope College we are keenly interested in ensuring that all our Junior School students achieve the expected state wide standards of literacy and numeracy. We are committed to ensuring that extra resources go towards staffing, reading materials and other support material for our **Early Years Program**. Our Early Years Program focuses on **Literacy – Reading and Writing**, and **Numeracy**. Our teachers have undertaken extensive professional learning and training, and have devoted many hours of work to the preparation of resources for our students.



The Junior School teachers have regular meetings to share ideas and discuss student progress. This team approach and the use of specific information enable teachers to provide learning experiences that suit each child's needs. Parents are strongly encouraged to be a part of this vitally important phase of their child's learning, by listening to reading at home on a regular basis, and perhaps accepting the College's invitation to assist at school.

The key goal of our College Strategic Plan 2017–2020 is to improve learning outcomes for each student throughout the College, especially in literacy and numeracy. The good news is that our detailed planning and intervention programs have resulted in **excellent student learning outcomes** in our Junior School.

Ms Kim Thornton and Mrs Sarah Domaschenz were our Foundation teachers in 2018 and the 2019 Foundation teacher will be announced later this year. **Ms Alison Hausler** will continue as our **Primary Literacy Intervention** expert, which has proven to be extremely successful in lifting the reading skills of students in Year 1. **Mrs Alison Hausler** is a qualified Reading Recovery teacher.

A benefit for Junior School students in a Years F – 12 College is that they have **access to specialist staff and facilities**, including music, German, physical education and health teachers; the College Library; specialist foods centre, computer pods and the Kowree Sports Centre.

Our **Agricultural** program led by **Mrs Robyn Rainsford** allows all F-6 students to be a part of maintaining the school farm. Students learn how to care for the school animals and harvest produce from the garden.

We also have an extremely successful **Technology** program which exposes all primary students to lessons in Textiles and Foods. These hands on, practical lesson are very popular with the students.



At Edenhope College, we encourage all students to participate in all activities, and to have fun while building a healthy body. The **Kowree Sports Centre** provides our students with an excellent venue for indoor activities, with access to specialised gymnastics equipment, the stadium and an outdoor swimming pool.

Physical Education trained teachers teach our Junior School students for one hundred minutes each week across two lessons on separate days. Students also learn **German** for fifty (Years P – 2) or one-hundred minute (Years 3 – 4) lessons.



Mrs Vanessa Eastwood, our **Primary Welfare Officer**, implements a number of support programs for our Junior School students. Many individual students are also helped by sessions designed for their needs. The **College Chaplain, Mr Brian O’Leary**, is a member of the Student Wellbeing Team, led by **Ms Rachel Tiddy**, the College’s **Wellbeing Team Leader**.

We have a **Socialisation and Leadership Program F-12**, which addresses the well-being of students, and identifies the qualities that we all need to develop in order to live as responsible citizens. Programs that encourage students to develop their leadership skills and take on leadership roles are an integral component of our curriculum. After the first term, students in Foundation classes are placed into our



variable level Pastoral Care groups. These homegroups meet for roll-call each morning, and for a designated once-per-fortnight pastoral care lesson. Again, these groups improve socialisation throughout the College.

Our classrooms are complemented by many contemporary learning resources and exciting playground facilities. Our Junior School classrooms are ICT (Information and Communications Technology) and E-Learning

(Electronic Learning) rich environments, equipped with **Computer Pods, ipads** and **Interactive Whiteboards**. In the F-2 classes, students have unrestricted access to a bank of 20 iPods and the College has a 1:1 netbook ratio for all students from Year 3.

The ICT installed in all College classrooms, is an engaging teaching and learning tool. Our flexible learning space, **Connected Learning Environment**, will continue to create further learning options College-wide, with specialized equipment, including video conferencing and drama performance facilities.

The College uses Xuno (student management tool) as a communication tool for parents and staff. It is highly effective and fosters a positive relationship with parents. We send weekly diaries, assessment results, time tables, messages of students’ progress and events information. We receive messages and absence notifications from parents.



Foundation 2019 Enrolment Information and Orientation Arrangements:

- On **Thursday the 26th of July** our Foundation and Year 1 students and Mrs Sarah Domaschenz will visit the Edenhope Kindergarten to meet the students.
- The Kindergarten students are also invited to a Cooking session with Mrs Annabel Hawkins scheduled for **Thursday the 23rd of August** at Edenhope College.
- On **Wednesday the 29th of August at 6:30pm** there will be an **Information Evening** in the Foundation Classroom at the College, to which all parents are warmly invited. Information about the 2019 Foundation year will be presented and an enrolment package will be distributed. Parents will have the opportunity to ask questions both in a formal and informal setting and to tour the College. A **Crèche** will be provided. If you require child care then please let us know the number and age of children by sending an email message to edenhope.co@edumail.vic.gov.au or leave a message by ringing 5585 1277. If you would like to receive our 2019 Foundation Information and Enrolment Package but are unable to attend our Information Evening then we would appreciate you providing your contact details. Thank you.
- Foundation enrolments for 2019 at Edenhope College are invited by **Friday the 21st of September**, in order to assist with planning the staffing for next year, however, enrolments will be accepted at any time. Enrolment forms will be available at the Information Evening and from the College Office.
- During **Term 4 students who have enrolled** at Edenhope College will be invited to **attend the College every Friday morning for five weeks**, commencing in the third week of term on **Friday the 26th of October**. This **extended Orientation Program** will allow the 2019 Foundation children to become accustomed to their new environment gradually, and will minimise any anxiety early next year. Parents will be more than welcome to participate in or be observers during this orientation phase.
- There will be a **final Orientation Day on Tuesday the 4th of December**. The students will be placed in their 2019 classroom and meet all their classmates for the coming school year.

We trust that this information is useful to you. A number of parents have already indicated that they will be enrolling their children at Edenhope College. Others may wish to consider the information in this letter, attend our Information Evening and consider further information presented there, before they make their final decision. There will be an opportunity to tour the College during the evening.

We look forward to meeting you and we are pleased to offer our College to you and your child. If you would like either to discuss any issues with us, or to organize a tour of the College during an August or September school day, then please call the College Office to arrange a mutually suitable time.

Yours faithfully,



MS KIM THORNTON
Prep – Year 6 Leader



MR JON NEALL
Principal

