Friendship Seat
Once upon a time, a boy named Bob was on the friendship seat, sad and alone. Then Steve came and asked, "Do you want to play with me?" "Yes, please!" said Bob. They became best friends.

The End! By Brian and Ryan
Teaching Staff and Program Support Staff: A list of all teaching and program support staff will be published and updated throughout the year. The aim of this booklet is to provide an introduction to the school’s programs and routines. The overview presented is a starting point in providing information which will facilitate your involvement in your child’s education. Please keep it at hand as a useful reference.
Dear Parents,

We welcome you and your family to Wantirna Primary School.

At Wantirna Primary our focus is to provide a safe caring and supportive learning environment which encourages students to become independent and confident lifelong learners. Our school is proud of its reputation of delivering a high quality, balanced educational curriculum for all students. We actively promote social responsibility, resilience and tolerance and support the development of the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for success in our global community.

Our school values are fundamental to the life of our school and underpin everything we do at Wantirna Primary School. We are committed to a student-centred, personalised learning approach which is designed to prepare students for their future. Our CARE values are Compassion, Achieve, Respect and Engage.

You, the parents, are part of our learning community and a vital link in your child’s education. A sense of community evolves when parents and staff work in partnership for student achievement. We encourage active parent participation in the school through various avenues. You are welcome into the classroom as a classroom helper, and to be involved in various groups and activities.

Through open communication and shared goals for your child’s development, we will strengthen the partnership.

We look forward to celebrating your child’s learning through their primary years of schooling with you.

Ms Sue Fergeus - Principal
and staff of Wantirna Primary School
Congratulations on choosing Wantirna Primary School for your child’s education. Wantirna Primary School is a unique school and the right choice for your child because we have some excellent features and facilities -

- Junior Learning Centre (Foundation-2);
- Camps and excursions;
- Better Buddy Program (Foundation and Year 5 students);
- Victorian Curriculum;
- Excellent ICT facilities – Interactive Whiteboards, iPads, Netbooks;
- Inquiry Approach;
- Kindergarten - Foundation Transition;
- Year 6- Year 7 Transition;
- Inter-School Sport;
- iPad Program;
- Outstanding Facilities and Resources;
- School Productions;
- Physical Education;
- Spanish;
- Visual Arts;
- Student Leadership Opportunities;
- Sustainability;
- Swimming Programs.
- Instrumental Music (in school private tuition);
- Chinese Language Program (after school private tuition)
TERM DATES FOR 2017

- **Term One**: 31\textsuperscript{st} January to 31\textsuperscript{st} March
- **Term Two**: 18\textsuperscript{th} April to 30\textsuperscript{th} June
- **Term Three**: 17\textsuperscript{th} July to 22\textsuperscript{nd} September
- **Term Four**: 9\textsuperscript{th} October to 22\textsuperscript{nd} December
Wantirna Primary School possesses a strong commitment to fostering student wellbeing by teaching students skills and strategies to interact with others. Our Tribes program and restorative chats are implemented to support classroom agreements and ongoing positive behaviour.

At Wantirna Primary School we **CARE** –

- **C** – Compassion
- **A** – Achieve
- **R** – Respect
- **E** – Engage
Starting school is an exciting time in your child’s life. Show by your words and actions that you are confident about the school and your child’s ability to experience success. Be positive that it is a happy place where the child will learn and develop friendships.

Children beginning school have had varying experiences and are at varying stages of development. As a result, each child will have mastered different skills. However, the following would be of assistance to children when starting in Foundation:

- To be able to speak clearly or confidently to each other and adults.
- To eat lunch independently. (Unwrapping and eating sandwiches during the holidays would be good practice).
- To cope with correct toilet procedures. It is important that boys are shown how to use the urinal.

**All children should be able to:**

- Flush the toilet;
- Wash their hands; &
- Manage the taps.

Accidents can happen at this stage. Foundation teachers try to prevent these by programming regular visits to the toilet during the first weeks. It is wise for all Foundations to have a spare set of underwear in their bags.

**All children should be able**

- To take off and put on articles of clothing, including shoes on the correct feet. (As tying shoelaces is often difficult for many young children, the Velcro style shoes may be an option). The wearing of thongs or open toed sandals is not allowed, as they do not provide sufficient protection.
- To use a handkerchief or tissue correctly.
- To sit quietly and listen to short stories or music.

Label any clothes that may be taken off, together with things like lunch boxes, drink bottles and school bags. Show the child the label and say something like, “See I’ve put your name here in blue pen.”
**Social Needs**

- To be able to relate to adults outside the family group
- To get on with other children (sharing, taking turns)
- To respect the belongings of others (toys, books, school equipment)

**Emotional Needs**

- To be able to leave parents confidently
- To accept that he/she cannot always get his/her own way
- To control emotions as much as possible
- To tackle tasks with confidence and enthusiasm
- To play independently
- To be able to complete set tasks

Starting school is usually a tiring experience, even for a healthy child. A cross and miserable child, or one who is not sleeping or eating well, may have a minor illness. This should be treated before the child has to make the extra effort involved in starting school.

**Intellectual**

At school, Foundation children will be introduced to reading using a range of reading materials, such as Big Books, posters, magazines, signs, and poems. A variety of approaches to Reading and many different activities will be used to develop children’s confidence in understanding print. Children are helped to discover the relationships between the print and the message.

You can encourage a love of books by:

- Reading to your child regularly
- Borrowing books from the library
- Letting your child see you enjoy reading
Starting Date: Tuesday, 31\textsuperscript{st} January 2017

9:00AM TO 1:15PM

Requirements:

😊 Lunch (lunch box needs to be named on base and lid)

😊 Brainfood (an unprocessed snack, eg, fruit, celery, carrot sticks) in a small container or wrapped separately

😊 Play lunch (wrapped separately)

😊 School bag (named)

😊 Smock (named)

😊 Library Bag (named)

😊 Large box of Tissues

Please note:

- All clothing must be named
- Students are not to wear thongs or sandals to school
- Long hair should be tied back
- In keeping with the school’s SunSmart Policy, a school uniform sunsmart approved hat MUST be worn for outdoor activities, including recess, lunchtimes and Physical Education until 1\textsuperscript{st} April in Term 2 and from the 1\textsuperscript{st} September.
- Name tags are worn during the first few weeks to help teachers and children identify one another.

Parents are requested to leave the Foundation room each day as soon as their child is settled at an activity. Although some children may become upset at saying goodbye, recovery is swift and the period of adjustment to school brief. Please do not hesitate to consult with the teacher if there appears to be a continuing problem.
School Times:

On the first day of school, on arrival, children can go directly to the Foundation classroom which will be open from 8:30am.

The first bell goes at 8:55am and indicates that children can move into their classrooms.

Normal School Instruction times are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:55am</td>
<td>First Bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Session One</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:15am</td>
<td>Recess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45am</td>
<td>Session Two</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:05pm</td>
<td>Lunch in classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:15pm</td>
<td>Lunch Recess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Session Three</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOUNDATION DISMISSAL TIMES TERM ONE

Foundation Children will be dismissed from the external doors of the Foundation area on Tuesday, 31st January at 1:15pm until Friday 1st February. On Monday 4th February they will attend from 9:00 am to 3:30pm. Foundations will not attend school on Wednesdays until the first week of March.

On Wednesdays, our Foundation Teachers will carry out individual learning readiness assessments. Teachers will organise a mutually convenient appointment time for your child’s assessment.
Early Dismissal:

Please note on the last day before the end of Term 1, 2, 3 and 4 vacations the dismissal time for all students Foundation to Year 6 is 2:30pm. You will be reminded of this in the school newsletter.

Assemblies:
Assemblies are held on Friday mornings in the School Gym.

Public and End of Term Holidays:
All Curriculum Days and Term Holidays are published in the school’s newsletter, which is distributed every fortnight on a Thursday.

Wet Day / Hot Day Timetable:

On days when the weather is too hot (35 degrees +) or too wet the children will be supervised in their classrooms by teaching staff. Staff will setup activities for the students to complete.

School Organisation:

School organisation differs from year to year. We currently have six classes at Wantirna Primary School, with the Junior Learning Unit learning in the one building (from Foundation to 2) and the Senior Learning Unit (from 3 – 6) in the main school building.
Our Junior Building is a bright and welcoming place for learning. It has outstanding facilities and resources to make the start of your child’s education a positive experience;

- Large open learning areas
- Bright colourful furniture
- Eco friendly design
- Brand new teaching resources
- Air conditioned rooms
Wantirna Primary School has a strong Foundation curriculum that caters for different learning styles and children of different ages.

**Literacy**

Every morning, Foundations complete a two hour Literacy block that covers the three English domains of Reading and Viewing, Writing, Speaking and Listening. At Wantirna Primary School Foundations begin to take home books for reading at home from Week Three, enabling children to become confident with reading and . . .

**Numeracy**

As part of the Numeracy curriculum Foundations students complete daily Numeracy sessions a week, consisting of hands on Maths activities, Interactive Whiteboard programs and multi age sessions.

**Visual Arts**

Each week all classes are scheduled in for a one hour specialist Visual Arts program. Students complete different art activities and put their art work on display throughout the school. Students wear art smocks to art sessions.
Interschool Sport

Annual swimming, athletics and cross country carnivals are conducted for students from Year 3 and we also have a Family Fun Night at the beginning of the year that features sports games. The Senior School also regularly participates in sports carnivals involving schools in our local area.

School Productions/Gala Ball

All students at Wantirna Primary School have the opportunity as part of the Performing Arts curriculum to participate in music, dance and drama activities. Currently we have a bi-annual program including a Whole School Production or a Gala Ball.

Brain Food and Drink Bottles

At 10:00am every morning students are able to have a nutritious snack to help them through the morning. Brain food is a non processed snack and includes foods such as sultanas, apples, pears, oranges etc... Children are also allowed to have a plastic water bottle on their table at all times.

Excursions and Extra Curricular Activities

Excursions are regularly scheduled for throughout the year to tie in with the Inquiry learning that takes place in the classroom. All excursions are well supervised by staff and parents.
Physical Education

Each week all classes receive a forty five minute PE session. As well as this students from Foundation to Six also undertake a swimming program for eight weeks of the year. Foundations attend swimming lessons in Term 4.

Spanish

Spanish is our language of choice. Students attend weekly sessions. Spanish has become an integral part of our school community and curriculum documents.

Home Learning

Wantirna Primary School believes that a strong and positive home school relationship is integral to educational success for your child. The students receive home learning folders in week three, which contain activities for the students to complete at home.
Wantirna Primary School believes developing home learning habits allows parents to interact with their child to complete simple numeracy and literacy activities. As such we value the opportunity for students to continue their learning at home.

There are many ways that students can learn at home. As part of the school’s fees, students from Foundation to Year 4 receive access to the online programs Mathletics and Reading Eggs; at all times students can logon and practise their Mathematics and Literacy at home and parents can monitor their progress.

Students are sent home with take-home books from Foundation to Year 2. Children can read these books with members of their family and then reflect upon the books they have just read back at school.

Wantirna Primary School has a 1:1 iPad program from Years 1 to 6. Students bring their own iPads to school and use them as a tool to enhance their learning. All our curriculum planning documents have an ICT focus that enables students to utilise their iPads for differentiated learning.

The online learning resources Study ladder is also utilised throughout the Senior School, enabling learning to happen at every opportunity.
Wantirna Primary School runs a strong buddy program, utilising the Better Buddies program, sponsored by the Alannah and Madeline Foundation. All students are introduced to their Year Five buddy during the Fly Into Foundation Sessions. The buddies come and say hello on the first day of Foundation and visit the classroom regularly during the first weeks of Term 1. Throughout the year Foundations also go and visit their buddy in their classroom and complete various buddy activities. Having Year 5 buddies for Foundation students means that the children are able to see their buddy at school for two years, supporting a smoother transition.