Features of the Prep Program at Kilberry Valley Primary School

Kilberry Valley Primary School provides quality learning and developmental programs within a supportive and nurturing environment. Through these programs we aim to bridge the gap between Kinder and Prep.

- Our school has a big community focus, we strongly encourage parental involvement.
- We have well resourced classrooms
Student Well Being

From the first day of school Kilberry Valley students follow routines and structure. This enables students to feel confident, secure and happy in the school environment.

Students at Kilberry Valley Primary School follow 5 Golden Rules.

1. Be a responsible and supportive member of a learning community.
2. Communicate with others in a courteous and respectful manner.
3. Stay within your own “Personal Space”.
4. Use equipment for its Correct Purpose, at the correct time.
5. Follow ALL staff instructions.

These rules help support students to feel safe at school.

When you walk into a prep classroom you will see lots of colour and experience a very positive environment. We have positive reward systems in place for good choices which we regularly focus on.
Literacy

• Each day the students participate in a 2 hour literacy block.
• Each literacy session focuses on reading and writing skill development. E.g. language experience, fine motor skills, alphabet letters and sounds, spelling, common words and basic punctuation.
• Students participate in share time to assist in developing their speaking and listening skills.
• Parents helpers are essential in supporting student learning in the classroom.
The students develop their reading skills through reading a range of books they have made at school, with their parents. These books contain the main spelling words learnt each term. The students’ skill level is established and monitored by the class teacher throughout the year.

Teachers may choose to implement other Home Learning tasks to support student learning in the form of intervention or extension work based on an Individual Development Plan.
Numeracy

• Students will participate in 5 hours of Numeracy per week.
• Each session starts with a warm up activity. These generally focus on number/counting skills.
• Activities involve the use of hands on/concrete materials to support student learning and language development.
• Small focus groups of students work with the teacher to support their skill development. The aim of these focus groups is to support, revise or extend students’ understandings.
• The students participate in share time to provide the opportunity for them to learn from each other.
Inquiry Learning

Our approach to learning is through ‘inquiry’. We look at what we want our students to be able to do and learn from each topic.

• Some of the topics that have been covered in the past include:
  • All About Me
  • Fairy Tales
  • Health and Wellbeing
  • Farm animals

• Prep teachers select a broad range of topics as the focus for each term.
• Tasks within each topic are based on a range of learning styles, in order to cater for the various abilities students possess.
• Students engage in many tuning in and immersion activities which are hands on learning experiences.
Investigation Time

- It is a structured program which has been carefully planned and set up by the classroom teacher to cater for students’ interests and needs. Many rich and broad opportunities for numeracy and literacy skill development are embedded into these experiences. A range of activities encourage students to develop their social skills.
Specialist Program

- Students in Prep participate in 5 specialist lessons per week. Each lesson is approximately 45 minutes in duration.
- Visual Arts
- P.M.P.
- Health and Physical Education
- Music
- Drama
- Library
- Information Technology (computers)
- All lessons apart from Library are conducted by specialist teachers
Facilities

• ‘The White Studio’ is Kilberry’s own TV recording studio, we have a weekly news program called KTV, Principal Cam, Live StoryTime sessions and You Can Do It episodes that are viewed by each classroom.
• We now have a fantastic, newly resurfaced oval.
• We have a new gymnasium, where we hold weekly assemblies and whole school assemblies.
• Our Library is well resourced and students are able to borrow a book each week.
• Our school canteen allows students to purchase food independently during recess and lunch time. Students may also have a lunch order delivered to their classroom.
Transition

- Students enrolled at Kilberry Valley Primary School for 2013 will have the opportunity to attend two transition days in October/November.
- Students will take part in two sessions at Kilberry Valley over two weeks. This gives students an opportunity to participate in activities at school and familiarise themselves with our school environment.
- All students who attend our Transition Program receive a Kilberry Valley Primary School Prep Pack.
- Transition information is available tonight and will be handed out at the conclusion of this session with the enrolment forms. You may also obtain these from the school office when handing your enrolment form in.
Things to consider when enrolling your child for school

• Starting Prep is about having fun, making friends and becoming familiar with the school environment and routines.
• A child’s first year at school will impact on their attitude to learning.
• A child needs to be developmentally ready to start learning.
• School entry needs to be a positive one.
• Be confident that your son or daughter has developed or is currently developing a range of social, emotional, language, intellectual, physical and personal skills.
Enrolling your child

• You may take an enrolment form with the transition information tonight.
• Please remember when filling out the enrolment form and transition reply slip, to clearly state your child’s Kinder name and their group.
• If you have English as your Second Language please state this on the enrolment form.
• If you require a translator to assist in filling in the form please contact the school as we can organise one for you free of charge.

This will assist us when we form their transition group.
Kilberry Community Library Sessions

• This is an opportunity for children aged 3-5 years old to visit our school library and enjoy story time with Kilberry staff and general book browsing with selected Year 5 student buddies
• There will also be tea and coffee available for parents at 2.30pm in the staffroom
• A flyer will be available at places around the community over the next few weeks such as the Fountain Gate library and Kinders in the Hampton Park area offering an expression of interest form
• The first dates are scheduled for:
  
  Wednesday 6th June and Wednesday 13th June
  
  2.45-3.15pm

Please note children must be accompanied by an adult during the sessions
What is School Readiness?

Readiness for school is demonstrated in a variety of areas:

- Physical health and Well Being
- Social Interaction
- Language and Intellectual Development
- Emotional Maturity
- General Knowledge
Emotional Maturity

Can your son or daughter:

- Identify and express their needs and wants?
- Ask for assistance when help is required and then wait for attention?
- Separate from parents without excessive distress?
- Cope with changes?
- Cope with frustration appropriately?
Social Interaction

Can your son or daughter:

• Interact meaningfully with other children?
• Speak to a variety of adults?
• Seek friends among peers?
• Enjoy interacting with other children?
• Speak confidently in front of others?
• Share and take turns?
• Sit and listen to a story without interrupting?
• Understand acceptable and unacceptable behaviour?
Language Development

Can your son or daughter:

• Verbalise his/her needs?
• Speak reasonably clearly?
• Hold a conversation with other children and adults?
• Read and say their name?
• Understand and follow simple instructions?
Intellectual Development

Can your son or daughter:

- Concentrate on specific tasks?
- Finish a task?
- Work alone without being easily distracted?
- Recognise and name colours and shapes?
- Show an interest in numbers?
- Retell a simple story?
- Predict what a story may be about based on the pictures?
- Show an interest in words and books?
Physical Health and Well Being

Can your son or daughter:

• Move in a coordinated manner - hop, jump, run, climb and catch a ball?
• Use scissors correctly?
• Hold pencils and crayons correctly?
• Copy pictures of basic shapes?
• Cope with a full day of school from 9am till 3.30pm?
General

Can your son or daughter:

• Go to the toilet and wash their hands independently?
• Manage laces, zips, buckles and buttons?
• Open school bags and lunch boxes?
• Unwrap and eat food items?
• Be responsible for putting away their belongings?
• Dress themselves, put a jumper or jacket on?
How can you help your child be ready for school?

- Read to your child everyday
- Offer different experiences to your child
- Model appropriate behaviour and language
- Develop and follow routines, especially bedtime
- Give your child simple jobs to do around the house to help develop responsibility and confidence

If you have any concerns regarding your child’s readiness for school, the best person to talk to is their Kinder teacher.
Children who feel confident, competent and have high self-esteem will perform better at school.
The Kilberry Valley Primary School Website

• Our school has a fantastic website which contains useful information that will keep you up to date with everything that is happening at our school.

• You can sign up to receive our weekly online newsletter via Email at…

www.kilberryps.vic.edu.au/