Pembroke Primary School is proud of its environment and huge open spaces which provides our children with an enormous outdoor area to learn, explore and play.

Just like the bee in our logo we are resilient, hard working and have a “can do” attitude. We never give up, support one another and will continually strive to achieve our goals.

Whilst each “bee” has its own important role, it is also mindful of others and shares collective responsibility for the wellbeing of the hive.

Despite its size, a bee is also able to exceed expectations and is the sign of a healthy environment.

We would love for you to come and join our hive!
Dear Parents,

Welcome to Pembroke Primary School.

Choosing a school for your child can be a daunting process. There is so much information to collect and potentially a large number of people providing their own opinions and thoughts. Ultimately though, it will be you who decides, so trust your judgement! You know your child best and are best placed to select the school where you think your child will have the optimal conditions to learn.

Schools are so varied and there are an amazing array of opportunities on offer. Schooling has certainly changed over time and this can bring both excitement and confusion.

Pembroke Primary School is a small school in comparison to other schools in the areas. Every teacher is committed to providing the very best for every child within the school. We all share in the collective responsibility for the learning of each child and seek to offer a curriculum that provides every child with success and the challenge of striving for improvement.

At Pembroke Primary School we strive for excellence; we are a school where all students have the opportunity to develop to the very best of their ability, gaining maximum benefit from programs and stimulating experiences in a diversity of areas. Our school community works in partnership to support the values and ideals that we share.

We believe that each child is unique and therefore teach individuals rather than classes; the whole child rather than just the academics.

Key Values:

- Diversity
- Respect
- Empathy and understanding
- Celebration of achievement and effort
- Students as citizens each with a capacity to “make a difference”
- Pride in our environment, our school and ourselves
- Open and honest communication
- Striving for high expectations
Core Purpose:
Pembroke Primary School describes itself as a “country school within the city”. All teachers work as a single entity, sharing responsibility for the development of each student at the school. At Pembroke we believe that “children are at the centre of all we do”. We work to develop each child’s skills as individuals believing in the power of differentiation, feedback and personal responsibility. Everyone at Pembroke is seen as a learner...from the teacher...to the parent...to the student. Each new experience is an opportunity to learn and a chance to challenge ourselves, use prior experiences and knowledge and build upon those skills we currently possess in a supportive and encouraging environment.

At Pembroke we seek to provide students with a broad curriculum built upon meaningful and real life experiences. We use internal and external learning spaces to promote discovery and investigation.

Students are immersed in their learning through “hands on” and purposeful activities, through identification of learning outcomes and through a sound understanding of what success entails. Each strives to develop their own skills with a clear understanding of the next stage on the learning continuum.

Our Mission:
Pembroke Primary school is committed to the total well being of each child and to laying the foundations of life-long learning.

We invite you to participate in the activities of our school and look forward to a happy association with your family as we work together for the maximum benefit of your child.

Carolyn Elliot
Principal
ARTS PROGRAM

Choir
Children from Year 3 upwards are able to join our School choir. The choir performs at in-school activities such as the Production, Carols and Assembly and also in events such as the Mooroolbark Community Carols held at Hookey Park in Mooroolbark each year.

Instrumental Music
Instrumental Music sessions can be booked on an individual or group level and occur after school on Monday. There is a cost involved in this program.

Lilydale Show
Each year, our school enters an exhibition in the Lilydale Show. Children work on artistic activities which are then displayed for all those who attend.

Music
All children participate in a structured one hour Music Session each week held in our purpose built Music room, fully equipped with Interactive Whiteboard and complete with a range of instruments.

Quilting
Children in Year 5 & 6 participate in an extensive threads and textiles program designed to assist them in planning, organisation and persistence, whilst challenging their current skill level. Children in year 6 are provided with the opportunity to make their own reflection quilt of the year. These quilts can then be entered in the Lilydale Show and a number of our children have won prizes in their respective sections.

Visual Arts
All children participate in a structured one hour Art session each week held in our purpose built and fully equipped Art room.

Whole School Production
In 2013, our school will once again hold a “Whole School production”. All children participate actively in the Production (a strong part of a small school). Children are also encouraged to try out for lead roles with practise taking place both in school time and also during play breaks.
At Pembroke we believe in each child setting personal goals and striving to achieve their best regardless of the year level they are in.

Success indicators are clearly identified to students so that they understand what level they are at and how to improve.

An example of this in writing in the Junior school

* (One star) – Writes some letters in amongst “scribble” writing
** (Two star) – Writes a string of letters
*** (Three star) – Writes some common words and has a go at other words
**** (Four star) – Writes common words and uses an understanding of sounds to have a go at other words

These stars are based upon levels in the Victorian Curriculum. Teachers continue to make accurate records of assessment based upon the evidence that they see within the classroom. This evidence is used to form the basis for future planning and goal setting.

Across the school the timetable is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 – 11:00</td>
<td>Two hour Literacy block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Brain food eaten at 10am)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 – 1:30</td>
<td>Two hour Mathematics and Technology block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30 – 3:30</td>
<td>One hour Personal and Social development</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**THRASS**

Throughout the school we implement the Thrass program to assist with Handwriting, Reading and Spelling.


Children learn sounds and the various letters and letter combinations that are able to make this sound. This enables our children to make choices regarding the various options they have in sounding out words, spelling a word and reading a word.

Ie. The “C” sound can be made with a “C”, “K”, “CK”, “Q” and “CH” (as in Choir)
PERSONAL & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Buddies
Children in Prep and Year 1 currently work with our Year 5 and 6 students on a range of Buddy activities held every week.

Camp program
All children from Year 2 and above participate in a Camping program. Year 2 / 3 students attend a location overnight (2010 – Scienceworks, 2011 – Urban Camp in the City) whilst Year 4,5,6 students attend a three day Camp annually. All camps are designed to be integrated into the classroom curriculum.

Chaplaincy
Our school has a volunteer chaplain who works at the school on Mondays and Thursdays. Doug Lewis, is an ex-Principal of Pembroke Primary School and is there for the well being needs of our students and families.

Kids with Courage
Kids with courage is a program conducted in the Year 3 & 4 area that seeks to develop in students a range of social skills. The program is held over seven weeks with children attending in single sex groups for one and a half hours per week.

Kids Hope
We currently have 13 mentors who work one on one with children to develop their social and emotional well being. Mentors are matched to children following an extensive training program and attend the school for one hour per week over the time that the child attends Pembroke.

Religious Education
Religious Education is an optional activity at Pembroke held for half an hour each week.

Seasons program
We run a small group program titled “Seasons for Growth” which assists children to deal with issues related to grief and loss. The program runs over a six week period on a needs basis.

Student Leadership
We run an extensive Student Leadership program in Year 5 & 6 that focuses upon each child’s ability to “make a difference”. Students are provided with a range of activities and role descriptions from which to select from. Students in this year also sell fruit fresh from the market, weighing, pricing and marketing the produce to the local community. Money raised from this activity is spent on activities that are able to “make a difference” but within and outside of the school.
In 2011, we have introduced a new school uniform and logo. This uniform will be phased in over time although we already have most children who are proudly wearing the navy and marine colours.

In Term 1 and 4, all children are required to wear the School bucket hats as a Sun Smart preventative measure. These are available through the Office. Sun screen can be worn although we encourage families to apply this prior to the child coming to school. In instances of extreme heat the school instigates a “Hot Day” where children play outside for half of lunchtime and then spend the remainder of lunch inside in the air conditioned environment.
Science Lab
At Pembroke Primary School we value Science believing it to be an essential way to learn about the world, develop problem solving and thinking skills, and consider possibilities. Through Science our children learn to form hypothesis, test reasoning and value the importance of precision and double checking when discovering answers. Our Science Lab is complete with an Interactive Whiteboard, range of animals and various pieces of equipment including magnets, test tubes, microscopes that allow us to explore the world around us.

Technology
Each class is outfitted with a large number of computers and an Interactive whiteboard. Computer laptops are also available for access by all students which allows for both internal and external use.

Digital Excellence
Our school runs the Digital Excellence program [http://digital excellence online.org/Digital_Edge_Australia/Welcome.html](http://digital excellence online.org/Digital_Edge_Australia/Welcome.html)
All children work towards different levels of success at both a Silver and Gold level. Once achieved children then have the opportunity to receive a badge acknowledging their success.

Wood work shed
Through funding from the Bendigo Bank we have been able to establish a woodwork shed that is accessible to all students. Children work to design a range of projects, planning and creating objects such as flower presses, pot holders, CD cases and wooden boxes.
All children at Pembroke participate in one hour of structured skill development in Physical Education each week.
In addition to this the school also conducts “Whole School fitness” on a number of mornings for 15 – 25 minutes with a different focus each term.

Other sporting opportunities:

**Afterschool basketball**
Pembroke Primary School has its own Afterschool basketball club. All children from year 1 onwards are able to join at a nominal cost. Training occurs at lunchtimes for the Senior teams and currently on Wednesday afternoons for the Junior teams. Games are played weekdays after school at either the Kilsyth Basketball Stadium or Lilydale High School basketball stadium.

**Athletics**
Each year we hold a House Athletics carnival at Croydon Athletics track for each child in the school. Children earn points for their house and at the end the House winner is determined. Skills are taught prior to the day through Whole School Fitness activities and in weekly PE sessions. Children who have performed well are then selected to represent the school in District competitions with winners then progressing to a Zone and State level. In 2010, we had 12 children selected to compete at the Zone level in a range of events.

**Cross country**
Our children compete in a District Cross country event held at Lilydale lake each year. Training is held both at the school and there are also optional morning sessions at the Lake prior to the event. Those children who perform in the top 10, then go onto the Regional event held at Yarra Glen. Winners then are able to get to a State level. Children from Pembroke have performed extremely well with five children in 2010 reaching the Regional level.

**Interschool sport**
Interschool sport is offered at the school with children from Year 2 -3 upwards being involved. Training sessions occur at the school with games being played against other schools on a Friday afternoon.

**Swimming**
Swimming will be offered in Term 4 with children participating in an intensive swimming program at Kilsyth Swimming Pool.

**Vic Sport selection teams**
Our children are provided with the opportunity to trial for a number of State teams at a 12 and under level. These include: basketball, netball, diving, softball, cricket, football, hockey, swimming and athletics.
TERM DATES

TERM DATES 2013

Term 1
1 February to 28 March

Term 2
15 April to 28 June **

Term 3
15 July - 20 September

Term 4
7 October - 20 December

Note: ** Please check with your school when other student-free days will occur throughout the school year.

Please note: students will be dismissed at 2:30pm on the last day of each term; however, in Term 4 students are dismissed at 1:30pm on the last day. There is generally an Assembly at the end of each term although please look in the school newsletter for specifics on time.

STEP INTO PREP

Step into Prep sessions are designed to assist your child to transition into Primary School in a smooth and less stressful manner. Each session is conducted by the school’s prep teacher enabling children to learn about different spaces in the school and the range of activities that may be undertaken whilst at school.

All sessions are optional but we would encourage parents who are thinking of sending their children to Pembroke PS to consider booking in for one or more of the days. Bookings can be taken by contacting the School Office on 9725 6689.