

### **Where we are**

Croydon West Primary School was opened in 1962. It is situated in a quiet, leafy residential area adjacent to the foothills of the Dandenong Ranges.

Children come from the local neighbourhood of Croydon as well as from Chirnside Park, Ringwood, Mooroolbark. The residential nature of the school environs is a particular feature of the school, set back as it is from busy main roads. A perfect place for learning. This is a commonly expressed reason why parents select our school as *their* school.

Our school is set in spacious, well-developed and attractive grounds. These provide many naturally shaded areas and easily accommodate both active and passive play.

### **What we believe**

Croydon West Primary School is child-centred, characterised by a clear understanding that the core business of the school is learning; learning to think, learning to be good citizens, learning to value beauty and kindness, learning to be literate and numerate, learning to respect and be respected.

*We believe that learning is a journey, not a race; we all make that journey in our own way but, given the chance, we make that journey all the same.*

We teach children skills and understandings necessary to enable lifelong learning in a constantly changing world. We understand the need to teach children for their futures not our past; we employ contemporary practices which are flexible enough to take account of the changes continuously occurring outside the schoolgate.

We also know that learning requires tenacity and rigour, and be enjoyable.

While we place great emphasis on learning, at the heart of a community of learners are the relationships which nurture our children.

The relationships between children and their teachers, between children and their peers, and between teachers and parents, are the glue which binds our learning community.

We make lots of time to develop these important relationships.

### **Things we value**

Values define the character of organizations. The values we embrace are reflected in the ways we behave with each other.

Our school expects the highest standards of behaviour from all of its members.

While we recognize that there are many other ideals by which we live, we (children, parents and teachers) have chosen the values of Respect, Trust, Optimism, Co-operation and Integrity as those of most importance to our community.

The experienced staff of Croydon West Primary work strenuously to develop, in all children, the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values which will enable them to become active participants in society.

We foster high achievement in a safe, friendly, caring and purposeful learning environment. We offer children a broad and rich curriculum emphasising the belief that children learn and grow in self-confidence and esteem as a result of:

- achieving mastery in literacy and numeracy
- developing self-discipline
- acquiring decision-making, problem-solving and critical thinking skills
- becoming self-managed learners
- learning to value learning
- understanding what it means to be part of a successful team

Because they believe in themselves, our children achieve very high levels of competency in all areas of the curriculum.

### **Great community spirit**

Croydon West prides itself on the community feeling and atmosphere generated by parents, teachers and children all working together. The school's recent introduction of Three-way Conferences involving students, parents and teachers and replacing the previous Parent-teacher interviews, complements our view that, in planning for our children's learning, "together is better".

Our school program in all Levels of the school is guided by our understanding that all learners learn by doing; by actively engaging in learning tasks, and by, increasingly, self-managing these learning tasks.

The school is continually reappraising its approaches to teaching and learning. We use innovative approaches confirmed by collected school data and contemporary research.

The school's involvement in the Australian Quality Council's schools program, in the acclaimed Science in Schools project, and, most recently, in the Sustainable Schools program sponsored by the Gould League, are evidence of the commitment of Croydon West Primary School to excellence and innovation in all aspects of school life.

We intend that our children will leave Croydon West Primary School with an abundance of life skills. These include -

- locating, extracting and using information
- communicating ideas
- planning and organising
- working in teams
- using maths ideas
- solving problems
- using technology
- understanding the cultures of others

We are excited by the prospect of sharing the learning journey of each of our students, and celebrating each triumphant step as they investigate and learn new skills during their time at Croydon West.