



Aspendale Gardens  
Primary School



***Dream  
Believe  
Achieve***



**Aspendale Gardens Primary School**



Appreciation, **Commitment**,  
Confidence, Cooperation,  
Creativity, Curiosity, Empathy,  
**Enthusiasm**, Independence,  
Integrity, Resilience, Respect,  
Tolerance, **Appreciation**,  
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Cooperation, Creativity, Curiosity,  
**Empathy**, Enthusiasm,  
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## Our Approach

At Aspendale Gardens (AGPS), staff and students work together to nurture the love of learning. A strong focus on positive, respectful and supportive relationships between all members of our school community is a high priority and at the centre of everything we do.

Our aim is to provide an outstanding teaching and learning program designed around personalisation and inquiry learning. We are a newly authorised IB World School\* offering the Primary Years Programme (PYP). These are schools that share a common philosophy— a commitment to high quality, challenging, international education that Aspendale Gardens Primary School believes is important for our students.

We stimulate and extend our students to enable them to reach their full potential as individuals, members of our community and as global citizens. Our inclusive environment challenges and supports students to be the best that they can be, with ensuring teaching and learning is a constant priority.

We value the education of all students and it is our priority to develop a mutually supportive partnership between students, parents and the school. We realise that the development of self-esteem and confidence is fundamental to each student's personal, social and academic growth.

At Aspendale Gardens, students develop attributes that help them to become balanced, open-minded and independent. We are excited to offer a range of co-curricular activities to allow every student to experience a diverse and stimulating education. Students are encouraged to be confident, resourceful and resilient individuals.

The PYP attitudes are more than a collection of impressive words—we live and breathe them. They are the foundations of the behaviours we expect of ourselves and the behaviours we instil in our students.

The following pages are a snapshot of the vibrant, expansive and inspiring learning environment we proudly create each and every day. We look forward to working in partnership with you and your child to create a positive, engaging, productive and fun-filled educational experience.

\*Only schools authorized by the IB Organization can offer any of its four academic programmes: the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP), the Diploma Programme or the Career-related Programme (CP).

*“Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.”*  
**Benjamin Franklin**

## Engaging to Learn

Aspendale Gardens follows the Primary Years Programme (PYP). This programme focuses on inquiry which involves students formulating questions, using an array of methods to investigate the answers and providing the opportunity to meaningfully reflect and consolidate their understandings. This enables students to explore authentic, real-life experiences and allows them to engage in deeper, higher order thinking. The consequences are powerful learning experiences that engage students.

The PYP further develops this inquiry approach and looks at the whole child which includes their social, academic and emotional wellbeing. It develops personal values that provide children with the capacity to be internationally minded and to adapt and thrive in the global world they have become a part of. We believe this programme is something that will set our students apart in a continuously changing world.

The PYP is transdisciplinary in approach, which draws individual disciplines (Maths, English and so forth) together while maintaining the essences of each individual subject area. This results in a powerful mix of explicit teaching of curriculum content and an abundance of challenging, exciting and engaging educational experiences which make learning connections across all subject areas.

During each school year, our students explore six different units of inquiry that last approximately 6-8 weeks. All units come under the following transdisciplinary themes of global significance:

- Who we are
- Where we are in place and time
- How we express ourselves
- How the world works
- How we organize ourselves
- Sharing the planet

These themes are mapped against the Victorian Curriculum to ensure that all curriculum content prescribed by the Department of Education is taught. We believe the PYP allows us to do this in a richer, more vibrant way, that places your child at the centre of their learning .



**Embracing Inquiry**

*“The secret in education lies in respecting the student”*  
**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

## Enhancing Wellbeing

The emotional and physical wellbeing of our students is pivotal to their success at school, as adolescents, and in their future lives to become 21st century citizens. Physically and emotionally healthy students are happy, able to deal positively with life’s challenges, experience a sense of connectedness with the school and others and are well placed to develop into well-balanced and successful young adults.

Our **whole school approach to student wellbeing** places specific importance on the development of the PYP Learner Profile attributes. We are developing students to be:

- Balanced
- Caring
- Communicators
- Inquirers
- Knowledgeable
- Open-Minded
- Principled
- Reflective
- Risk -Takers
- Thinkers

The Learner Profile attributes are supported by our attitudes. These provide a platform for life-long learning and are interwoven into daily school life. They ensure that all learning is engaging, relevant, challenging and significant.

These attitudes are:

- Appreciation
- Commitment
- Confidence
- Cooperation
- Creativity
- Curiosity
- Empathy
- Enthusiasm
- Independence
- Integrity
- Resilience
- Respect
- Tolerance

In conjunction with these attributes and attitudes, AGPS uses Restorative Practices to promote positive behaviour and facilitate dialogue and discussion to right any wrongs in the schoolyard.



**Supportive Environment**

*"Minds are like parachutes -they only function when they are open."  
Sir James Dewar*

## Enhancing Wellbeing Continued .....



Our goal is to encourage students to be internationally minded and therefore be inclusive of others, by valuing diversity and always trying to make a positive difference to those around them.

Proudly, our school was selected as a flagship school for the widely acclaimed **'Alannah and Madeline Foundation Buddy Bear'** initiative, an anti-bullying program that fosters a caring and empathetic nature in students.

The Buddies Program supports both The Buddy Bear initiative as well as our own transition program. Children in their Foundation Year are paired with a Year 5 student. Other pairings occur across year levels. Within this program, older children support the younger students during regular Buddy sessions as well as create friendships in the schoolyard. To develop our Buddy Program we offer a 'Friendship Room', where students can attend during lunchtimes to play games and interact with others in a friendly and supportive environment.

Each year we celebrate **'Harmony Day'** where we acknowledge the wonderful diversity we have in our school community. The students are encouraged to understand and practise positive behaviours which include acceptance, recognition, appreciation, empathy, respect and tolerance.



**Caring for Each Other**

*“A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.”  
John C. Maxwell*



## Leadership Success

We are extremely proud of our previous School Captain Naveen, who won ‘Kingston Council Junior Mayor’ Competition. Naveen presented a brilliant speech to a very large audience about resilience. We certainly congratulate Naveen on this incredible achievement.

## Leading the Way

Leadership is more than a title—it is the ability to recognise an opportunity or challenge and seize it. Therefore Leadership begins in the Foundation Year, where students have the opportunity to take on responsibilities within the classroom and lead their peers in learning activities.

This develops as the students progress through the school and more formalised Leadership positions are made available. Our Year 6 students write speeches as part of their application to become leaders within the school. We have 38 students who have leadership roles as School Captains, House Captains, Sports, Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Environment and LOTE Leaders.

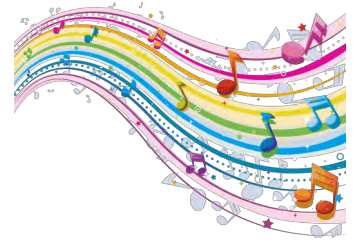
Grade 6 students are also involved in the Marine Ambassadors program, caring for our local marine environment and teaching younger students how they can help protect and sustain our environment. These leaders have a great impact on our school and undertake a range of initiatives throughout the school designed to inform, involve and educate their student peers about the importance of looking after our environment, particularly our waterways.



**Tomorrow's Future**

*"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge."*

**Albert Einstein**



## Inspiring Creativity

Our specialist programs in the creativity arena are **Performing Arts** and **Visual Arts**.

**Performing Arts** covers all elements of the Performing Arts curriculum which are Dance, Drama, Music and Media. This is enhanced by a comprehensive instrumental music teaching program which includes violin, drums, voice, keyboard and guitar lessons. The children are encouraged to join the school band and the various singing and choir groups on offer. We are entertained regularly at our school assemblies by student performances.

All students participate in a whole school performance every second year. This is a wonderful experience for the students as it provides the opportunity for them to perform on a professional stage in front of a very large audience. Class teams come together as one to make this event truly memorable.

**Visual Arts** caters for the artist in everyone. We enjoy the colourful art displays across the school which enriches and brightens our environment. The Art program is celebrated each year by our amazing **Art Expo** which showcases our students' talent. This is a wonderful school event which is enjoyed by the school community.

These **programs** are diverse and provide opportunities for students to explore their creativity within the PYP framework.



**Enriching Performance**

*“The finest inheritance you can give to a child is to allow it to make its own way, completely on its own feet.”*  
**Isadora Duncan**

## Fostering Independence

**School camps** are a vital part of our school program and begin in Year 3. The camping program provides a unique opportunity for students to build resilience and enjoy fantastic outdoor experiences whilst creating irreplaceable childhood memories. **Positive team building, enhanced socialisation and evolving independence and responsibility** are just a few of the key outcomes for camp participants.

Easing our middle school students into their developing world, we kick off a two night camp for Year 3 at Mt Evelyn Recreation Camp during Term 4. Here, the students enjoy many challenging and fun activities and for many students, this is their first two night experience away from home.

With a year already under their belt, Year 4 students embark upon a two night trip to Camp Manyung on the Mornington Peninsula. Again a wonderful, challenging and exciting program is enjoyed by the students in a beautiful coastal environment.

Approaching the senior years, Year 5 students attend a four night camp at Cave Hill Creek in Beaufort. On the way the students enjoy the wonderful teaching and learning program at Sovereign Hill, Ballarat, where they pan for gold and experience a classroom environment as it was in the gold rush days.

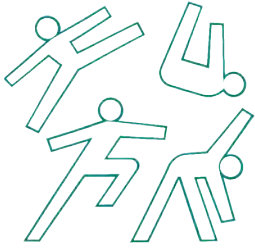
Enjoying their final senior year at Aspendale Gardens, our Year 6 students travel to our nation’s capital on a four night tour to Canberra. This is an excellent trip where the students visit some amazing venues such as Parliament House, the War Memorial and the Royal Mint to name a few. This is rich opportunity for students to develop their knowledge of one of their units of inquiry that delves into government systems

Our extensive camping program provides the opportunities for our students to develop their **independence** and enhance **leadership skills**. It is also a wonderful opportunity for the teachers and students to interact in an environment away from school which enhances the teaching and learning relationship.



**Lifetime Memories**

*"Just play. Have fun. Enjoy the game."  
Michael Jordan*



## Getting Active



Our **Physical Education** program is a comprehensive, challenging and engaging educational program enjoyed by the students. The program covers all areas of Physical Education which ranges from ball handling skills to swimming. The skills learnt from the Foundation Year are consolidated in the final years where the students participate in a competitive interschool sports program.

We have a very healthy and vibrant House system with dedicated and talented House Leaders. Our Houses are named after Australian birds of prey—Falcons, Kestrels, Kookaburras and Owls. Our House Leaders take responsibility for inspiring their teams during our cross county competition, the athletics sports and various round robin events held throughout the year.

Students enjoy the benefit of a new, full sized indoor basketball court which is fully utilised to enhance our Physical Education and Sports programs.



**Team Participation**

*"I believe absolutely in the importance and power of the shared table. In many cultures, eating together around a table is the centre of family life. It is the meeting place, where thoughts are shared, ideas challenged, news is exchanged and where the participants leave the table restored in many ways."*

**Stephanie Alexander**



## Gardening Gourmet

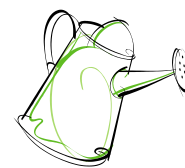


Aspendale Garden's holistic curriculum ensures our students acquire skills that will serve them now and for years to come. Years 3 and 4 students participate in the **Stephanie Alexander Kitchen and Garden Program**. Our chef and a qualified garden specialist provide an outstanding cooking and gardening program that fits seamlessly with the PYP and our students love it!

Alternate weeks are spent either in the garden planting, maintaining and harvesting the fruits of their labour, or cooking cuisines from countries around the world whilst gaining insight into different cultures. Table etiquette, developing their pallet and honing their dining conversational skills are also part of this brilliant program.

Menus are based on the seasonal vegetables grown in our organic garden.

Students from all year levels enjoy, and are encouraged to help or just spend time in our huge vegetable garden during lunch time. Feeding the chooks is a favourite for many of the kids.



**Cultivating Skills**

*"If we teach today as we were taught yesterday, we rob our children of tomorrow"*  
**John Dewey**



## Embracing the Modern World

At Aspendale Gardens we are very proud of our **Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)** program. Our students today are digital natives and we believe preparing them for the digital world ahead is vital and is a responsibility we take very seriously.

We have a one-to-one iPad program for students from Years 4 to 6 and a school-supported iPad program in other year levels. All classrooms are equipped with interactive whiteboards, desktop computers, laptops and other media equipment. Computer technologies are used across the entire curriculum to enhance student learning and prepare them for their life journey.



In Physical Education, students film each other and analyse their movements in order to improve their technique. Programs such as 'Garage Band' are used in Performing Arts and instant access to the artworks from the Louvre in Paris is enjoyed in our Visual Arts classes via our unlimited, school-wide WIFI access. The students love having the world at their fingertips!



We are an approved e-Smart school. Schools with this accreditation have an holistic approach to cyber safety that aims to increase digital inclusion and reduce cyber bullying.



**Confucius says:** “The only time you should look down on someone is when you are helping them up.”

## Extending Language & Culture

We understand the importance of embracing other cultures and languages and pride ourselves on our Mandarin program and Asia connections. All students from Foundation to Year 6 partake in one hour of Mandarin instruction per week by our qualified Language Other Than English (L.O.T.E) teachers. These lessons, where possible, connect to students current units of inquiry, while still ensuring basic language instruction is still occurring. The importance of it not just being an isolated subject but integrated into the general classroom is addressed by teachers conversing with students in Mandarin regarding everyday question and observations.

Students whose mother tongue language is Mandarin are extended through additional weekly classes that are held by our Chinese assistant.

This program is complemented by our accreditation as a “**Confucius Classroom**” school. We have established strong partnerships with China to develop a wider perspective of the world for our students.

We have two sister schools in China, Yofu West Street, n Nanjing and Yucai Primary, in Yangzhou. We have a bi-annual trip for a group of senior students to visit our sister schools and we reciprocate their hospitality by hosting them with us for a week. These international partnerships allow our students and staff to have access to a broader range of learning opportunities that are absolutely life changing.

Through the power of our Information and Communication Technologies we are able to maintain and further foster our relationships by ‘Skyping’ the students from our sister school. This is a very exciting part of our school program and one that promotes globalisation and cultural learning amongst our students.

We enjoy the expertise and experience from our intern from China every year who is billeted with our incredibly generous school community. Each intern brings authentic Chinese culture to our school, something the students find both fascinating and educational.



*"Thanks a zillion for what you are doing with your 'Have a Heart for Cambodia Art Show' Hugs to all your school kids from the kids at the orphanage."*

**Shirley (ODA)**

## Engaging in the Community



To expand their horizons and teach our students about the importance of compassion, caring and giving, we have a yearly calendar full of community events both in a fundraising and non-fundraising capacity. Some of the charities our school currently supports include State School's Relief, Pink Ribbon Day and the Royal Children's Hospital.

As part of our **global responsibility charter**, we are very proud to be sponsors of our orphanage in Cambodia. We hold a major fundraiser each year, an Art Auction, to support the young people in the orphanage who are less fortunate than us. We also support the orphanage school by sending school supplies, clothing and toys.



The school **supports important projects in our community** such as the marine life in our bay by taking part in the Marine Ambassadors Program on the Mornington Peninsula. We have four ambassadors who do a brilliant job spreading the message on how to keep our environment safe and healthy. We also participate in the Kingston Council's Big Green School's Conference, where our environment leaders share what they learn with our students. In addition, our brilliant garden specialist provides community workshops on how to create a successful and sustainable garden.



Our school leaders represent our school at the ANZAC Dawn Service on ANZAC day as well as attending our local RSL on Remembrance Day.



We have an extremely supportive School Council who assist with initiatives and ensure that we remain a happy, thriving and educationally brilliant school. Along with our parent-elected members, we have a Community Member position included on our School Council.

**Considering Others**

*"The difference between a dream and a goal is a plan."  
Anonymous*

## We're in this Together

AGPS recognises that we are in partnership with parents as we collectively provide a quality education for your children and understand that two-way communication is critical to ensuring the best outcomes for our students.

Our school celebrates and showcases students' work throughout the year at events such as Art Shows, Literacy and Science Week activities, dance programs and school open days. These occasions, along with parent teacher interviews, provide parents with opportunities to remain informed about their child's progress.

Parents are actively encouraged to contribute to our school community and provide their skills and networks to assist AGPS in a range of areas such as classroom assistance, attending an excursion, helping with school events or becoming a classroom parent representative to name a few.

Parents can also become involved by joining a team such as fundraising and engaging in social activities. Parents form part of our School Council which provides an important link between school and the community.

## Beyond the Curriculum

Aspendale Gardens has a fabulous modern, full sized basketball court and two playgrounds, a dedicated Foundation area, air-conditioned classrooms and an extensive ICT network. Our garden is absolutely amazing and is supported by our fully equipped kitchen which caters for whole-class Cooking lessons.

Excellent staff from **Camp Australia** run our **After School Care** program onsite for both before and after school child minding as well as a school holiday program. This is well attended and the students enjoy the supervised activities provided.

We encourage students from Grade 4 and above to ride their bike to school. The bikes are secured in the bike shed during the day and the school grounds cannot be accessed from outside during school hours.

We have a school canteen which operates two days per week to provide healthy lunches for the students.



**True Collaboration**

*Appreciation, Commitment, Confidence, Cooperation, Creativity, Curiosity,  
Empathy, Enthusiasm, Independence, Integrity, Respect, Tolerance*

# Join us



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