



The Currajong School

Annual Report 2016



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General Information

The Currajong School is a registered independent special school for children with social, emotional and behavioural disorders.

Vision

To transform the lives of children experiencing social, emotional and behavioural disorders.

Mission

To provide a positive and therapeutic school environment for children whose social, emotional and behavioural needs are unable to be met within mainstream education.

Goal

To work intensively with children to develop the learning and coping strategies which will allow them to re-enter mainstream education with healthy self-esteem, established work habits, and acceptable behaviours. To achieve this goal, children are treated respectfully as individuals, given responsibility for their own behavioural choices, taught to be resourceful in solving problems, and accepted as valued members of the school community. Children are encouraged at all times to seek positive rather than negative ways of belonging.

Governance

The Currajong School Limited is a company limited by guarantee. The Board of Directors forms the School Council which acts as the governing body, appoints the school principal, and establishes and monitors the strategic direction of the school. The operation of the school is delegated by the Board of Directors to the school principal.

Information on directors is as follows:

Mr Andrew Cooper (Chairperson) B.A. (Melb)

Dr Jennifer Bars B.A. (Hons), M.A., D.Phil

Ms Philipa Murray B.A. (Monash), Grad. Dip. Public Relations (RMIT) M. Ed (Primary)

Mrs Deborah Negri

Mr Peter Carlin Dip. Management (Swinburne)

Ms Anne Maree Downes B.Ec, Diploma in Australia Tax Law

Ms Elizabeth Pattison B.Sc (Hons)

Ms Connie Linney-Barber B.App. Sc in Computer Science (RMIT), Dip. Comm. Services - Child Care (Swinburne)

Company Secretary: Belinda Wright

Staffing

Principal

Jenine Pallant

Dip. Tchg. Primary (Vic. College), B. Ed. Primary (Vic. College), Post Grad. Dip. Ed. Studies - Student Welfare (Melb), M. Ed. (Melb), M. Ed Studies - Leadership (Monash)

Administrator

Belinda Wright

Teachers

Cris Payne

(Deputy Principal) Dip. Tchg. Primary (Monash), Grad. Dip. Sp. Ed. (Vic. College), B. Ed. (Deakin)

Paul Crick

Dip. Tchg. (W. Sydney), B. Ed. Sp. Ed. (New England)

Kerri Ledingham

Dip. Tchg. Primary (Christchurch College of Ed), Cert Teaching People with Disabilities (Christchurch Polytechnic), M. Ed – Special Educational Needs (Deakin)

Sonia Dunne

B. Ed (University of Tasmania), M. Ed – Special Educational Needs (Deakin)

Ashlee Lord

B. Art Ed (College Fine Arts University of NSW)

Teaching Assistants

Jamie Choon

B. Applied Science – Disabilities Studies (Deakin)

Nicole Eykman

B. Fine Arts (Monash)

Noelle Eykman

Certificate in Childcare, Certificate III in Education

Janine Hamilton

Certificate III in Education - Integration Aide

Susan Hughes

B. Arts (Monash), Grad Dip. Educ. Secondary (Monash), Dip Counselling, Dip. Family Intake and Support Work.

Sarah Hunt

B. Visual Arts (Monash), B. Fine Arts (Monash), Grad. Dip. Ed Secondary (Monash)

Beth Mennie-Carter

Certificate IV OSHC, Certificate III – Meetings & Events

Frances Moon

B. Ed. Music (Deakin)

Nancy Moss

Certificate III in Education

Sarah Rockliff

Certificate IV in Education Support

Bernadette Young

B. Arts (Caulfield Inst. Tech.) Certificate of Education (Deakin)

Matt Young

Specialist Support

Psychologist

Sharon Crowley

B.A., Grad. Dip. Applied Psych, M. Psych - Child and Educational (Monash).

Speech & Language Therapist

Suzanne Goldin

B.A. Speech & Hearing (Univ. of Witwatersrand, Sth Africa), M.S.P.A.

Direct Instruction/ Transition Co-ordinator

Marnie Nyhuis B. Tchg.(Deakin), Grad. Dip. Sp. Ed. (Deakin)

Student Assessment

Lucy Chia Grad. Dip. Sec. Studies (RMIT), B. Arts (Melb)

Music – Australian Institute of Music & Childhood Development

Dance – Pivot Dance Studio

Swimming – Ashburton Pool & Recreation Centre

Programs in 2016

During the 2016 school year students enjoyed a wide range of activities and excursions, including weekly dance, music and swimming classes. Other highlights included:

- Annual Concert for family and friends
- City Survival Program for transition students
- Currajong Footy Day, including AFL visit to the school & AFL Footy Roadshow
- Art Activities including NGV and Ian Potter excursions and visiting artists
- St Kilda Eco Centre excursion
- ANZAC Day 1000 steps challenge at Mt Dandenong
- RAAF Point Cook excursion
- Adventure Days for transition students - rock climbing, high ropes, gymnastics
- Ambulance Victoria incursion
- Science Works planetarium excursion
- Billy Carts incursion
- National Buddies Day
- Fizzics Education science incursion
- Polly Woodside excursion
- Wednesday afternoon club activities throughout the year

Improved School Facilities

General:

- Maintenance/repair to paintwork throughout school
- Landscaping of school front entrance

Donations from the following charitable foundation enabled renovations/improvements to our art room:

- Australian Hotels Associations - \$15,000 grant
- The Paul S Nadler Family Charitable Trust - \$24,000 grant

Bursaries enabled financial assistance to be provided to a number of families:

- Rotary Club of Chadstone/East Malvern - \$8400

Conference

The presenter at the annual Currajong Conference on 20th May 2016 was Eddie Gallagher (psychologist & family therapist). The presentation "*Children's Violence Towards Adults*" explored the influences on this behaviour such as: changes in society and culture, changes in parenting style, children's personalities and a sense of entitlement, exposure to adult domestic violence and conditions such as autism and ADHD.

Student Progress at The Currajong School

The Currajong School is a registered special school. At Currajong, each child has an Individual Education Plan. All students are assessed at the time of enrolment and twelve-monthly thereafter on the Woodcock Reading Mastery Test, South Australian Spelling Test, and the Keymath Diagnostic Inventory.

Annual NAPLAN assessments are made available to our students. In 2016, all parents of students in years 3, 5 & 7 signed consents for their children to be exempt from participation in the NAPLAN tests.

Staff, Parent and Student Satisfaction with The Currajong School

When asked for feedback on their satisfaction of Currajong, staff reported the most satisfying aspects were:

- Staff in this school are dedicated to improving student learning outcomes
- Our school programs effectively meet the special needs of students
- Teachers in this school know and care about the students
- The students take pride in their achievements
- It is rewarding and satisfying to work with dedicated staff
- Gaining the trust of students and being able to support them
- Helping the students achieve their goals both academically and socially

Parents reported the following:

- The quality of teaching at this school is excellent
- Teachers at this school are keen to help students of all abilities
- Parents are made to feel welcome to visit this school
- The school assists in the development of the students' social and personal skills
- Currajong has made a real difference to our family in such a rich and positive way
- The school is a safe place in which to learn
- Students look forward to their next year at this school

Students reported high levels of satisfaction with the following:

- I feel like people at my school know me
- I am encouraged to try my best at school
- My school ensures that I receive care and support outside the classroom
- My teachers know and accept me
- I feel close to my classmates at this school
- I think I will be well prepared in the transition from year to year
- My teachers show me how to do things when I am having difficulty

Student Attendance

Overall attendance rate for 2016 as measured during the DET collection period was 84%. Student non-attendance across the four class groups during the year related predominantly to illness and/or medical, therapy and counselling appointments.

Currajong families are required to notify the school of an absence either in person or by telephone, email or note. All absences are recorded daily and systematically by the school. We encourage regular attendance, it is important if appropriate levels of progress are to be made. Currajong will work with parents and psychologists to support a student's regular school attendance.

School Operations

Income:

Fees and levies	429,477
Interest	32,619
Donations	48,476
Government Grants	1,366,393
Capital Grants	3,360
Other	7,300

Expenditure:

Salaries and Associated Costs	1,425,493
Operating Expenses	295,265
Depreciation	113,604
Contingency	53,263

Contact information

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