



# PENINSULA

GRAMMAR

INSPIRING PERFORMANCE



## JUNIOR SCHOOL HANDBOOK

2022





# WELCOME

‘We, the Peninsula Grammar Community, recognise that we stand on the sacred land of the Boonwurrung people of the Kulin nations. We respect indigenous spiritual connections and beliefs and acknowledge that this land has always been a place of teaching and learning. We aim to work together to deepen our understanding of indigenous culture in our school, to provide hope for united future generations’.

*Mr. Stuart Johnston, Principal*





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# WELCOME TO THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Students

Welcome to our Junior School program “Discovering Me”.

Students in our Junior School program at Peninsula Grammar have the opportunity to flourish and grow as our curriculum design focuses on their academic and social development. We understand the importance of students being involved in their learning and we know that at this developmental stage, they learn best by doing.

We see enormous value in having opportunities for the students to be creative and curious, and to collaborate by learning in a variety of ways. Inquiry learning enables students to direct their own learning whilst being guided by their teacher. This learning style ensures a high level of engagement and interest. We look forward to inspiring and guiding students as they embrace a love of learning.

At Peninsula Grammar, learning in the Junior School is not restricted to the classrooms. We have wonderful outdoor facilities and grounds that allow us to engage with the environment, as well as an extensive specialist program that complements students' learning and wellbeing through our sustainability program. Our edible gardens allow our students to harvest and share delicious fruit, vegetable and herb crops.

Our highly regarded wellbeing program is underpinned by the science of Positive Psychology. Our Positive Education program encourages students to focus on things that are going well in their lives. Through acts of gratitude and optimism, we develop their skills of resilience and happiness. We believe that students learn best when they adopt a positive growth mind-set which enhances classroom performance.

We use a strength based approach so all students can understand and value how they learn best, and how they can set goals to achieve beyond expectations. This is complemented by the ‘BounceBack’ programs, which are wellbeing programs that focus on connecting the local community, students and families in the development of healthy, positive connections.

Finally, the success of a Peninsula Grammar education is the result of a collaborative approach between students, parents, teachers and the wider school community focusing on the holistic development of the student. We work very hard to achieve this.

Please feel free to come and see me at any time if you have questions, concerns or ideas. I look forward sharing this journey with you and your family.

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**Louise Nicholls-Easley**  
*Head of Junior School*







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## OUR VISION FOR JUNIOR STUDENTS

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# JUNIOR SCHOOL CURRICULUM

In the Junior School we focus on growth for each student. Through our academic and wellbeing curriculum we are able to engage and inspire students, challenging them to be their best. We respect that all children are on their own learning journey and we want to ensure we help them to navigate the path.

The aim of Junior School is to engage students in purposeful and meaningful learning within a safe and supportive community.

We aim to:

- Grow interdisciplinary skills
- Foster a love of learning
- Develop a toolkit for self and others
- Uphold and promote the School Values
- Take authentic and meaningful action

The Junior School program focuses on students in Kindergarten 3 to the end of Year 4. This maximises learning within a specific developmental stage and allows us to adopt a multi-modal approach to teaching and learning.

The cornerstone of the Junior School is the theme of 'Discovering Me'. We nurture students' physical, emotional and intellectual development in a time when hands-on learning is so central to the effectiveness and absorption of education. We give students the opportunity to work in collaborative learning groups focusing on building creativity and curiosity. Learning through an inquiry lens allows students to design and engage learning diversity through their strengths and interests.

With three distinct learning spaces – Kindergarten, Early Childhood Centre and the Clarke Centre, we are able to focus on the specific needs of students and work in small supportive learning teams.

### **The Junior School offers:**

- Engaging learning environments both inside and outside the classroom, fostering skills of curiosity, collaboration and creativity
- A strong focus on English and Mathematics which allow the students to gain a solid foundation of learning in these areas
- Specialised Literacy support programs ensuring that each student gets the opportunity to learn to their full potential
- Science and Humanities subjects which are explored through an inquiry lens
- Extensive specialist programs with specialist teachers. Our students have lessons in Music, Drama, Visual Arts, Physical Education (including swimming and PMP), French from Year 2, RAVE (Religious and Values Education) and Library
- Our purpose built facilities such as the Clarke Centre Gym, Science Lab, MakerSpace and Library support our learning opportunities
- Expansive school grounds and a K-12 curriculum means we have space to explore and provide opportunities for cross learning area projects
- A Positive Education program which supports the students' social and emotional growth
- Strong academic programs with a focus on growth for each child
- Our laptop program from K-4 allows students a multimodal approach to learning. It provides an effective research tool as well as supporting critical thinking and methods of evaluation and appropriate feedback
- A strong sense of community and belonging within the School.

# DISCOVERING ME

The Junior School, Discovering Me curriculum is designed to promote curiosity, collaboration, creativity and a love of learning. Through engaging inquiry based learning experiences, our students learn, grow and flourish.

## POSITIVE EDUCATION

Our Positive Education program supports the social and emotional growth of our students. Through gratitude and optimism, we develop their skills of resilience and happiness. Students are explicitly taught important skills such as curiosity, emotion regulation, resilience, critical thinking and communication. We believe that students learn best when they adopt a positive growth mind-set which enhances classroom performance.

## ENGLISH

Our approach to English in the Junior School, aims to foster a love a language and literature. We develop a strong sense of reading engagement early, promoting this through explicit instruction and exploration of a variety of texts through our library program. We aim to instill strong comprehension strategies in our students to equip them with the skills to understand and to be critical thinkers of texts at a deeper level. Understanding of writing structure and language features is essential and we develop this whilst providing students with opportunities to grow their creativity and love of writing. Our goal is to nurture confident and articulate communicators in a 21st century environment.

## MATHEMATICS

The foundations of our Mathematics program is based around providing learning opportunities that promote students' conceptual understanding, fluency, problem solving and reasoning. Junior School students are immersed in Mathematical learning experiences that promote collaboration, real life connections and the use of concrete materials and technology to conceptualise their understanding.

## INQUIRY LEARNING

Our Inquiry Learning is developed through the principles of Kath Murdoch, Educational Consultant. Students are introduced to an idea, topic or issue that provides them with opportunities for them to wonder. This drives their interest to understand the world around them. Throughout their learning, students continue to question, reflect and make connections to construct their own meaning. Inquiry Learning enables students to direct their own learning whilst being guided by their teacher. Students have opportunities to reflect on their learning to think of ways to make a difference. Each Inquiry Learning Unit has cross-curriculum connections to ensure deeper understanding.

## INTERDISCIPLINARY SKILLS

Within the Junior School program, students acquire and apply a set of interdisciplinary skills: thinking, self-management, communication, collaboration and researching. These skills are explicitly taught in their homeroom classes and also further developed in specialist programs.

## SPECIALIST LEARNING

At Peninsula Grammar, we have an extensive specialist program in the Junior School that fosters the development of the whole child. Our students have lessons in Music, Drama, Visual Arts, Physical Education (including swimming and PMP), French from Year 2, RAVE (Religious and Values Education) and Library. The students also have access to a scope of resources and facilities of a K-12 school.

## KINDERGARTEN

The program that is offered to the children in the Kindergarten at Peninsula Grammar is based on a developmental approach and the belief that the children learn best through play. We follow the School's Mission and Core Values, nurturing and inspiring children to strive for excellence.

We aim to support and develop the children's emotional resilience, social confidence, self-motivation, persistence and resourcefulness. We believe that each child has the right to feel safe and secure, enjoy their Kindergarten experience, be a valued and respected member of the group, contribute to their learning environment and be challenged, stimulated and encouraged to take risks.

An important part of this philosophy is forming strong partnerships with parents. Staff recognise that parents are aware of their own children's development and can share vital information that provides a link between home and Kindergarten.

The School's principles of Positive Psychology guide the development of the Kindergarten curriculum and pedagogy which focuses on the strengths and virtues that enable individuals and communities to thrive. Through this approach the children are given opportunities to develop optimism, engagement and happiness where learning is fostered through positive and authentic relationships with their teachers and the wider community.

The philosophy and the practices are complemented by the teacher's use of the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia and the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework which are underpinned by five principles and five learning outcomes.





# JUNIOR SCHOOL STRUCTURE AND TEAM



**Mrs. Louise Nicholls-Easley**  
Head of Junior School



**Ms. Celeste Hudson**  
Deputy Head of Junior School



Kinder 3KG  
**Ms. Louise Davies**



Kinder 3KA  
**Mrs. Jacqui Adams**



Kinder 4KM  
**Ms. Sloane Quilty**



Kinder 4KM&KW  
**Mrs. Jane Bateman**



Kinder 4KW  
**Ms. Lucinda Watson**



Prep A  
**Mrs. Amanda Whelan**



Prep B  
**Mrs. Elsa Walters**



1A  
**Miss. Emily Tyler**



1B  
**Ms. Diana Borthé**



2A  
**Mrs. Jane Conquest-McDyre**



2B  
**Ms. Kate Prowd**



2B  
**Mrs. Jessica Neylon**



3A  
**Ms. Rachael Higgins**



3A  
**Ms. Celeste Hudson**



3B  
**Ms. Rachael Carvell**



4A  
**Miss. Kylie Naylor**



4B  
**Mrs. Cassidy Hewitt**



## JUNIOR SCHOOL HANDBOOK

### KINDER 3

Kinder 3KG	Louise Davies, Jess McGovern
Kinder 3KA	Jacqui Adams, Morgan McGrath

### KINDER 4

Kinder 4KM	Sloane Quilty, Ellie Brooke Wednesdays: Jane Bateman
Kinder 4KW	Lucinda Watson, Jane Hudson Fridays: Jane Bateman
Lunch cover	Angie Partin

### PREP

Prep A	Amanda Whelan
Prep B	Elsa Walters

### YEAR 1

1A	Emily Tyler
1B	Diana Borthé

### YEAR 2

2A	Jane Conquest-McDyre
2B	Kate Prowd / Jess Neylon

### YEAR 3

3A	Celeste Hudson / Racheal Higgins
3B	Ms. Rachael Carvell

### YEAR 4

4A	Kylie Naylor
4B	Cassidy Hewitt

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Prep – Year 4	Nathan Peel
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### ART

Prep & Year 1	Dee Zabel
Years 2 – 4	Rachel Gibson

### MUSIC

Prep – Year 4	Marc Johnstone
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### LIBRARY

Prep – Year 4	Vicki Lawrence
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### FRENCH

Year 2 – 4	Lorena Belomonte
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### CLASSROOM SUPPORT

Library	Cheryl Lees
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### THE DEPARTMENT OF LEARNING SUPPORT

Katie Tribe - Head of Learning Diversity

## ECC TIMES

PREP - YEAR 1	TIMES
Morning Activity	8:30 – 8:50
Period 1	8:50 – 9:45
Period 2	9:45 – 10:40
Recess	10:40 – 11:05
Period 3	11:05 – 12:00
Period 4	12:00 – 12:55
Lunch	12:55 – 1:50
Period 5	1:50 – 2:35
Period 6	2:35 – 3:20

## YEARS 2 – 4 TIMES

PREP - YEAR 1	TIMES
Registration	8:30 – 8:50
Period 1	8:50 – 9:45
Period 2	9:45 – 10:40
Recess	10:40 – 11:05
Period 3	11:05 – 12:00
Period 4	12:00 – 12:55
Lunch	12:55 – 1:50
Period 5	1:50 – 2:35
Period 6	2:35 – 3:20



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## OUR VISION FOR JUNIOR STUDENTS

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# INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

## ASSEMBLIES

The Junior School Assembly will take place on Tuesday at 9.00am. Parents are most welcome to attend and will be informed if their child is receiving an award or performing. Students take the lead in these assemblies and we will ensure that you have notice for when your child's class will host.

## BIRTHDAYS

We are happy for your child to celebrate their birthday at school. If you choose to bring a treat to share please be mindful of students with allergies (including nuts and egg) and ensure that a full listing of ingredients is provided with the food. If you have any questions about what to bring please feel free to speak with the classroom teacher. We would appreciate it if you don't hand out birthday party invitations at school. Please give invitations to the classroom teacher and they will be able to discreetly pass them out.

## IMMUNISATION STATUS FOR SCHOOL ENTRY

Kinder children **MUST** be immunised to commence with the School in accordance with the governments No Jab, No Play policy.

A school entry certificate is required from Prep and for new students. This is a legal requirement for entry into Primary School. Details of children's immunisation status allows us to assist families and health organisations in the event of a preventable disease outbreak.

For further information or queries please do not hesitate to contact School Health.

## DEPARTMENT OF LEARNING SUPPORT

The Department of Learning Support operates throughout the School and has the primary role of supporting students of all abilities with differences – physical or academic. The Department is involved in learning, testing in curriculum areas, identifying students' needs and documenting support strategies. The primary function of DLS is to support and encourage the best individual student outcomes.

Ms. Celeste Hudson leads this team in the Junior School and is very happy to speak with parents should they have any questions or concerns. The DLS team work with students in small groups and individually to ensure that students of all abilities and learning styles are accessing the curriculum in an appropriate way.

## EMAIL

Students in Year 2 and above have access to a school email account. Teachers will work with students to ensure that they understand the guidelines for appropriate use of their school email account. These guidelines include the following:

- School email is to be used for electronic communication between two parties. It is not to be used for spamming or sending unsolicited junk mail
- Students are encouraged to take great care when creating email messages. At all times students should use appropriate language and images when sending mail
- No student is to harass another person. Email is considered harassment if it offends the receiving party in any way
- Students should not broadcast any unauthorised messages
- Students are not to send messages containing private information about themselves or any other persons, nor should anyone forward another person's message that is sent to them privately without the permission of the sender

Any user who feels uncomfortable about a message they receive or which they consider to be inappropriate must report it immediately to a staff member.



## OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE

The Before and After School Care programs are run by Camp Australia in the ECC Art Room. Bookings and information can be found at Camp Australia's website. Families may be eligible for the Child Care Tax Rebate. You can contact Camp Australia through their website or by calling 1300 105 343 if you have any queries or to register your child.

Before School Care operates between 6.45am and 9am and children are offered breakfast at the service. After School Care begins at 3pm and closes at 6pm with afternoon tea provided. This service runs term time only. Camp Australia offers a holiday program at a number of local schools however it is not available at Peninsula Grammar.

## PARENT PARTICIPATION

We welcome parents to become involved in our learning programs. In our Kinder classes parents are invited to help with morning tea and activities and in the Prep and Year

1 classes we encourage parents to help with our morning reading programs. We also appreciate parent helpers when we are conducting swimming and PMP lessons. There will be opportunities for parents to come along on excursions and these will be communicated when excursions are organised.

If you would like to be involved in the school programs from Prep to Year 4 please speak to the classroom teacher or the Head of the Junior School and we will discuss how best to make this happen.

Volunteers are required to have a current Working With Children check and to complete a volunteer request form and meet with the Head of Junior School prior to helping in the classroom.







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