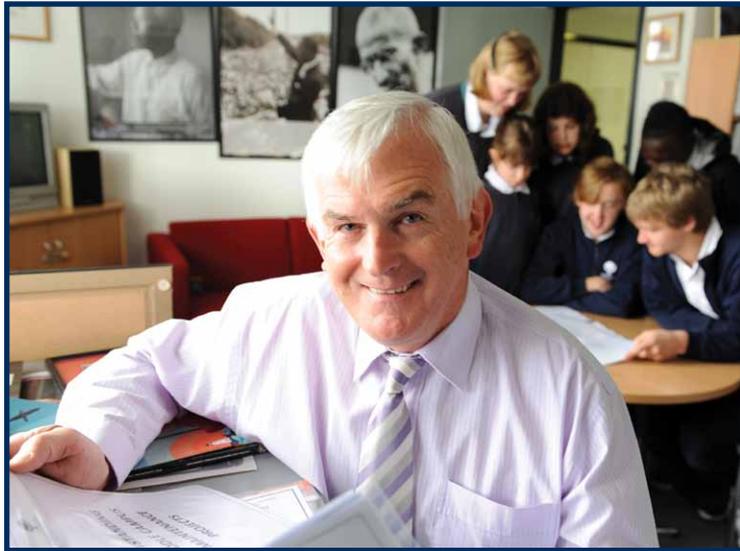


UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL WITHIN



Emerson School

A Message from the Principal ...



I have been working in the area of Specialist Education since 1974. Students and parents need quality choices and options when choosing the right school for a student who has additional learning needs. I am very proud to have been a part of the Emerson School community since 1998.

Emerson entered a new phase of its development with a second campus, housing our Middle School students. It opened in early 2012. This campus and its facilities enable exciting new learning opportunities for all of our students.

I firmly believe that Emerson is a school that provides a well-rounded education for students from all backgrounds. All of the staff at Emerson are friends, counsellors and role models to students. This responsibility drives and inspires us to assist our students to become happy, engaged and productive members of their communities.

John Mooney

About Emerson School

Emerson School is a specialist school located in Dandenong, Victoria, catering to students with mild intellectual processing difficulties. From an initial enrolment of less than 100 students in 1973, Emerson has grown to be one of the leading providers of specialist education in Victoria, with 100 staff now supporting 400 students to achieve their potential.

A proud and vibrant member of the local community, Emerson prides itself on being a school of first choice — not a school of last resort.

The Emerson community exists to provide a first rate education to all who walk through its doors. Emerson School is comprised of our Junior School (students aged 5-11 years), Middle School (12-15 years) and Senior School (16-18 years). Class sizes range from 8 to 18, with additional staff support. These small classes ensure that programs are able to be tailored to individual student's requirements.

Due to the growing number of enrolments, Emerson School opened its second campus for our Middle School students in January 2012. This new campus was formerly the site of Greenslopes Primary School, and sits 600 metres from the existing Junior/Senior (Heatherton Road) Campus.

Additionally, the construction of a new multi-purpose Building Educational Revolution (BER) Gymnasium at the Middle School Campus has provided all students with an additional facility to ensure their educational opportunities are optimised in sport and recreation. The refurbished Slattery Performing Arts Centre has seen students utilize this facility in their dance and movement program.

The new campus allows Emerson to increase the number of education options that are provided to each student.

The additional space and resources enable the staff and students to develop their skills and achieve their full potential.

Our Mission



Emerson School's mission is to provide its students with the best education possible; for them to become independent members of the local community and to continue to be a school of first choice for students who require specialist education.

Emerson exists to help ensure that a quality education is available to all. Staff at Emerson School are committed to developing the talents and potential of each and every one of our students. Great things happen when hard working staff, supportive parents and diligent students work together to achieve a common goal.

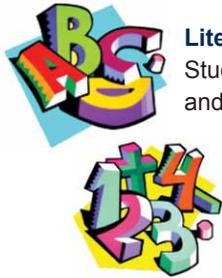
Our Goals

- To promote the integrity and worth of every student who studies at the school.
- To ensure that every Emerson student is provided with a personalised and successful learning pathway.
- To promote a genuine interest in everyone who walks through Emerson's front door.
- To place an emphasis on the development of the skills and talents of every student. By building on success, students gain the confidence to tackle the issues that they previously found to be difficult.



Programs At Emerson School

Emerson School prides itself on transforming school into an educational restaurant where the learning menu provides each student with an individual learning plan. The learning menu features a wide range of programs including:



Literacy, Numeracy and Social Skills

Students focus on the learning and application of literacy, numeracy and social skills in their home room class. The literacy program encourages students to become independent readers and numeracy equips students with an understanding of maths skills that can be used in everyday life. These programs, combined with an integrated approach to social skills, form the foundation of students' learning.

Houses, Mentoring and Buddy Programs

The House Program is a wonderful and unique program offered at Emerson School whereby all students, from 5 to 18 years of age, engage in a number of activities including Sport, Art and Home Economics that are supervised by teaching staff each Wednesday morning. The emphasis in Houses is to develop students' social skills, to have fun, as well as strive to be the best that they can be. By integrating students from all three sectors of the school, Junior, Middle and Senior, it provides students with an opportunity to meet and interact with students with whom they may not normally associate. The Houses Program has also contributed to the ease of transition of students from one section of the school to another i.e. Junior to Middle to Senior School.



Students also are involved in mentoring programs, whereby they work one on one with a staff member to enhance their learning through engagement in a student's particular subject interest.

The Buddy Program is also utilised at Emerson School. Classes from our Junior School participate on a weekly basis in activities with classes from our Middle School. All of these programs enhance and reinforce the social capabilities of our students and build their self esteem.



Home Economics

Students in all our Junior classes have a lesson in Home Economics each week, focusing on the recognition and use of basic cooking ingredients and equipment. The

skills learnt form the foundation for later years in our Home Economics, Food Sustainability and Hospitality classes in our Middle and Senior Schools.

Information and Communication Technology

At Emerson we aim to use technology to achieve powerful learning for our students and ensure that students become creative and productive users of technology. We have three modern computer labs, desktops in every classroom and iPads that are available for all students to use at school.



Drug and Health Education

This program is offered to Senior students and incorporates the study of healthy living and wellbeing. Students discuss and research the harmful effects of smoking, alcohol and drugs on the human body, creating a solid foundation for healthy self management in adult life.



Music Education

The Music Program sees students try their hand at keyboards, guitars, drums, percussion and computers to make and play music. Students are also offered the opportunity to learn singing and vocal training. Some students join the school band and choir as well as perform at school and community events.



Instrumental Music

Students are offered the opportunity to undertake weekly drum lessons. These lessons include hand and bass drum techniques, co-ordination exercises and reading music. Instrumental drum students also participate in school and local community performances.



Dance and Drama

Students throughout the school participate in a range of contemporary and cultural dance instruction on a weekly basis. The Dance program enables students to explore dance through various movements and learn ways in which to develop their own choreography. The Drama program offers students the opportunity to become involved in school productions, including plays and musicals, both on stage and assisting with production, for example, making props and costumes.

Programs At Emerson School (cont.)



Wood Technology

The Woodwork program allows students to gain experience in the correct and safe use of a wide range of hand and power tools in an industrial setting. Students have the opportunity to complete projects such as making wooden games, trays, coffee tables, bookcases, foot stools and roll-top bread containers.

Art Education

Art at Emerson involves students expressing themselves through line, paint, shape, space, form, clay, texture, colour and shade art forms. Students explore and create through different themes and some of their works are entered into The Royal Melbourne and Dandenong Shows.



Sustainability

At Emerson our students research and discuss where the products and services that we buy come from, where the waste goes, and what impact our consumption of products and services has on other human beings and other species. Students gain an understanding of why it is so important to protect our environment and, in later years, actively participate in community environmental protection programs.



Senior School Programs

Our Senior School students focus on Vocational Training with the opportunity to gain VCAL (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning) qualifications in the following subject areas.

Automotive

Students in this class actively participate in a structured learning program within the classroom and our fully equipped automotive workshop. This workshop gives students hands on opportunities to work with a vehicle hoist, donor cars, engines, tools and machinery. Students are also given the opportunity to maintain, repair and compete in a Mud Trials car that was built by the Automotive class.



Hospitality

This program has seen students independently develop their food preparation, production and service skills through cooking for themselves and customers. All class members are involved in rostering, dispensing and running the weekly 'Emerson Coffee Club'. Students have the opportunity to complete their

Level II First Aid, Level I Food Safety, Barista Training and Responsible Service of Alcohol courses.

Child and Aged Care

This class runs a 'buddy' program with students in the Junior classes of our school and also visit an aged care centre on a weekly basis to provide structured activities and interaction with residents. Students from this class also assist with "Meals on Wheels" in the local community.



Senior School Programs (cont.)



Horticulture

Our Horticulture program has developed links with the City of Greater Dandenong for students to undertake volunteer work in maintenance, planting and mulching at council owned parks, gardens and wetlands. The class is also heavily involved in horticultural activities around the school and operates the school recycling program.

Essential Foods

Students in this class have the opportunity to learn the basics of food preparation and healthy eating. Low budget meals that are nutritious and easy to make are prepared each week in the classroom as well as sweet treats.



Retail and Manufacturing

Retail and Manufacturing students grow food to sell and prepare items for sale at small market stalls at school. They work in teams and plan the production, manufacture, sale and marketing of their goods.

Sport and Recreation

The Sport and Recreation curriculum is divided into teaching Sport and Outdoor Education. The Sports curriculum covers the benefits of exercise, planning a fitness program, training techniques and nutrition. The Outdoor Education program at Emerson encourages students to consider their natural environment and includes practical skills in camping, map reading and cooking. Students also gain knowledge of a variety of sports and of maintaining physical wellbeing through heat management and hydration.



Building and Construction

This program provides students with a focus on demonstration, discussing, understanding and practising various basic construction projects i.e. making garden beds and the restoration of outdoor furniture. Industry standards are observed to provide students with an awareness of employment requirements.

Media

Media Studies focuses on discussing, understanding, designing and producing various forms of print and visual media, utilising information technology. Students learn to use both still and video cameras, iPads and laptop computers in media studies. They often offer great support to other activities around the school, such as the school drama production.



Emerson's programs offer students the opportunity to learn in a dynamic and exciting environment. Our programs provide multiple pathways of learning and drive the students' many successes. For those students who enrol into Emerson School, the sky is the limit!



Emerson School

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