Upwey Primary School

Upwey Primary School is committed to continuous improvement and strives towards achieving excellence with an emphasis on literacy and numeracy skills. Extensive thematic units have been developed to support the provision of learning programs within the curriculum whilst providing opportunities to address multiple intelligences across all year levels. A commitment to integrating Information and Communications Technology is demonstrated by the introduction of interactive whiteboards to all classrooms in 2010.

Upwey Primary School is characterised by its community oriented approach, pastoral care and a desire to incorporate extracurricular opportunities into the curriculum. The school works towards greater support for healthy lifestyles and a sustainable environment, including the development of a school vegetable garden and associated student kitchen. The school is committed to encouraging social competencies and values the interaction of children with each other in a safe and supportive environment.

Upwey Primary School offers its students an attractive setting, extensive grounds and a variety of playgrounds. The school has 8.57 equivalent full time staff: 1 Principal, 4.3 Teacher class and 3.27 Education Support class.

Student Learning

Upwey Primary School is proud of its achievements in student learning with high achievements in a range of assessments. The number of students receiving a C grade or above was high, after accounting for student background characteristics. Indications are that students are performing in the top 20% of Victorian Government schools in English and Mathematics. In NAPLAN (National testing), the school comparison measures show that we are excelling in Year 5 results for reading and numeracy with room for improvement in Year 3 reading.

A future focus on developing the capacity of our staff and the capabilities of our students will occur with particular emphasis on reading. We will develop reporting and diagnostic strategies to support the individual learning needs of students.

The school will extend a performance and development culture utilising professional learning and reflective practices. In 2010 we will refine reporting and assessment approaches and strengthen the whole school developmental approach to English and Mathematics.

Student Engagement and Wellbeing

Upwey Primary School has achieved excellent results in student attendance and student connectedness as indicated in the Attitudes to School Survey. We will concentrate on personal contact with parents to further improve student attendance.

We will develop a focus on approaches such as Tribes and Restorative Practices to build teacher capacity, develop social competencies and encourage participation, respect and appreciation for others. The application of the Buddies Program will be a feature of the school as students will be provided with opportunities to take greater responsibility for fellow students and connect in both social and learning situations.

The development of Expected Student Behaviours will clarify expectations for parents and students and provide consistent foundations for children to access every learning opportunity possible in a supportive classroom. We will also endeavour to further improve attendance rates to ensure children are provided with every opportunity to access quality learning through a Positive Play program.

Student Pathways and Transitions

Upwey Primary School has an extensive transition program at both the pre-school to primary and Year 6 to secondary levels. School comparison measures show that we are doing well in the Transition area. Our Prep transition program was supported by an excellent program conducted throughout the year involving a variety of school experiences. Our Buddy System has provided opportunities to develop self-esteem and confidence with Year 5 & 6 children and assist the Prep and Year 1 children to assimilate in a seamless manner.

Our secondary transition program for Year 6 children will operate throughout the year with opportunities to visit and experience secondary classes, as well as receive visits from secondary teachers. The Year 6 children will also be provided with opportunities to move to different classrooms in the primary school to acclimatise to future expectations.

Our transition of information from one year level to the next will be extended to cover a variety of reports, work samples, testing results and assessment tasks to ensure a comprehensive collection of information exists.

For more detailed information regarding our school please visit our website at www.upweyps.vic.edu.au or view our 2008 Annual Report online at http://www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/5Reg/