



CASTLEMAINE STEINER SCHOOL
& KINDERGARTEN

EARLY CHILDHOOD



WELCOME **By Danilo Paglialonga, A/Principal**

The first seven years are critical in determining the future wellbeing of children. This is the time when the foundations are laid for later learning and healthy development, including life-long physical, social, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual growth.

We believe an atmosphere of loving warmth and guidance provides the optimal environment for healthy development and educators have a vital role in modelling and scaffolding a child's natural urge to explore and experiment.

Young children are given time to play, enjoy childhood and build strong foundation skills before formal academic learning begins.

What's Inside

Overview- 3

Playgroup- 4

Kindergarten - 6

Prep - 8

Enrolments - 10

Established in the area in 1987, our current campus was built in 1995. We enjoy buildings and classrooms that are sustainably designed, featuring solar energy, rammed earth and natural materials. All on 18 acres of beautiful natural bushland.



We have an onsite Playgroup program and classes from Kindergarten to Year 8, with approximately 230 students.

STEINER EDUCATION

Overview



The early childhood years (0-7) are characterised by children actively learning through imitation and their own creative experience. The child's imagination and sense of wonder is fostered, through stories, songs, creative play, interaction with nature and involvement in everyday human activity. A Steiner early childhood centre is a warm, nurturing environment filled with beautiful, natural play materials and outdoor spaces with animals and gardens to care for. The young child learns through play and structured activities to cook, paint, garden, sew, use tools, share and problem solve. Children explore their environment, learning important sharing and cooperation skills to enhance their social and emotional well-being, foster positive self esteem and develop gross and fine motor skills. Foundational pre-literacy and numeracy skills are grounded in the early years through rich oral and practical learning experiences to prepare adequately for the more formal learning environment of Class 1.

*“Receive the children in reverence, educate them with love,
and send them forth in freedom.”
-Rudolph Steiner*

PLAYGROUP

Overview



"Many lasting friendships are born in Playgroup for both children and parents. It is a fantastic introduction to the many benefits of Steiner Education and to learn more about our school community."

Tania Chaffey, Playgroup Facilitator

OUR PROGRAM

We have five Playgroup sessions per week facilitated by an Early Childhood Educator, with approximately 10-12 children in each session, depending on the mix of ages.

Playgroup focuses on a familiar rhythm of activities each week, which changes with the seasons. Inside play time is spent with beautiful toys and items that encourage creative and imaginative play. We have a range of natural and raw materials such as wood, wools, cane and cotton to investigate, explore and create. Outside play allows the children to explore the beauty of our garden, animals and plants; observing lizards, frogs, nests, insects, flowers and the changing seasons. We have wheelbarrows, spades, trowels, buckets and watering cans for children and adults are encouraged to help with

gentle work such as weeding, pruning, mulching, planting and watering.

Story time is enjoyed without the use of books, allowing for children's imagination to build their own pictures, whilst developing their listening skills. Similarly Circle time is another way for children to learn rhyme, songs and the variable patterns of speech and sound.

Each session enjoys a high quality morning or afternoon tea, which the children are encouraged to help prepare. Where possible we use organic and biodynamic foods,



produce from local suppliers, school gardens and home-grown backyard produce!

Many lasting friendships are born in Playgroup with parents/carers equally enjoying their time each week with a chance to share a cuppa and chat.

KINDERGARTEN

Overview



"Kindergarten is a wonderful year of growth for children, where they experience their first formal educational setting. They are introduced to the delights of learning how to look after themselves, each other and our kindergarten. It is a rich and vibrant time in a child's learning and in their play experiences. As educators, we are always delighted and warmed by the children's capacity to experience joy and wonder throughout their kindergarten day."

Tobie Coggle, Kindergarten Teacher

OUR PROGRAM

OUR PROGRAM

The curriculum for a Steiner Kindergarten is based on the understanding that the child learns through imitation. The openness of the young child, their reverence and their ability to absorb every nuance of what they experience, allows deep learning to occur. Through imitation they learn authentic home and garden skills and develop artistic and musical capacities. A growing consciousness of the world emerges through the teacher's stories and Kindergarten work. They also experience and take in deeply as part of their education, the gesture, attitude and atmosphere created by the teacher. As with the rest of the academic programming across our school, we meet and adhere to the national curriculum standards of the Department of Education, and in Kindergarten, the National Early Years Framework..

DAYS OF OPERATION

Our Kindergarten is open Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from 8.45am to 3pm. In total this comprises six individual morning and afternoon sessions.

Children have the option of attending five or six sessions, which will be either 2.5 full days or 3 full days. This can be discussed with the Kindergarten Teacher at the beginning of the year, and amended (with notice) throughout the year. Refer to the Enrolment information section for further details.

INTAKE YEAR

Our intake year is based on the calendar year. All children born between 1 January and 31st of December will comprise a group. For example, all children born in 2016 will become our Kinder 2021 group.

If your child is born late in the year and you have questions about "readiness" for Kinder, we have qualified staff that you can speak with to help inform your decision.

OUR STAFF & RATIOS

Each Kindergarten group has a maximum of 18 places and is facilitated by 2 staff members. Our Kindergarten Teacher, who is assisted by our Kindergarten Assistant. During busy periods and cooking activities we often have an additional staff member supporting the activities of the room. This ensures much attention can be given to children as they transition through the Kinder day and learn the rhythms and routines of an educational environment. Our ratio is generous and distinguishes our program from many others.

IMMUNISATION

As per the Department of Health "No jab, no play" legislation, all children enrolled to attend Kindergarten must be immunised. Families will be required to provide Medicare Online Immunisation Status Certificates when commencing the enrolment process, and further updated copies as the child completes the full vaccination schedule. For more information refer to;

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/immunisation/vaccination-children/no-jab-no-play>

INTERVIEW & ENROLMENT PROCESS

We begin our Kindergarten Offers each year in Term 1 of the preceding year to Kinder commencement. There are a range of enrolment forms and paperwork that must be supplied and compulsory interviews with the Principal & Kindergarten Teacher. The first round of Offers are made/completed by the end of Term 2 of the preceding year. Final second round Offers are made towards the end of Term 3.

If we are unable to Offer your family a place, your details will be held on our waitlist for any later vacancies that may arise for Prep and future years.

PREP

Overview

"Each year I am amazed by the imagination of the children and their ability to immerse themselves so completely in their Play.

I love to see their satisfaction as they master new skills, to see the care and respect they develop for each other, the bonds of friendship that grow and to share in their joy and wonder for the natural world."



Heather Osborn, Prep Teacher

OUR PROGRAM



DAYS OF OPERATION

Our Prep program runs from Monday to Thursday from 8.45am to 3.10pm.

This gentle introduction to the school week assists with young children's energy levels and emotional wellbeing as they adjust to being "big" school children.

OUR STAFF / CLASS SIZE

We have a full time Prep Teacher, and a full time Class Assistant for all Prep groups. This extra set of hands & eyes helps at times of transition between activities, meal and rest times, as well as being another warm and known face for your child. Morning tea is lovingly provided each day and much looked forward to.

Each Prep group is a total of 22 students. This will be comprised of 18 children transferring from Kindergarten each year, plus an additional 4 places.

INTERVIEW & ENROLMENT PROCESS

We begin our Prep Offers each year in Term 3 of the preceding year to Prep commencement. There are a range of enrolment forms and paperwork that must be supplied and compulsory interviews with the Principal & Prep Teacher. Following the completion of this process an Offer of Place is made.

COME JOIN US

How to Enrol

PLAYGROUP REGISTRATION

Entry into our Playgroup program begins with the completion of the Playgroup Registration Form. This is available from our office, our website, or make contact and we can email a copy to you.

Once we have received your form we can discuss what available sessions there may be and arrange a free trial session.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

All entries to the school begin with the completion of an Expression of Interest Form and payment of a non-refundable \$100 Application Fee. This form and fee payment will either commence the enrolment process for your child, or register them for a future place in our Kindergarten or Prep programs.

INTERVIEWS / ENROLMENT PROCESS

All new entrants/parents to the school will meet with the Principal as the first step of the enrolment process. Followed by further meetings with the Teachers and Learning Support staff (where required).

With the exception to Kindergarten & Prep enrolments, at the completion of the interview/meetings stage, a formal Offer of Place will be made to the student and enrolment paperwork provided to the family for completion. Refer to the Kinder & Prep information pages for enrolment processes/timelines.

To accept an Offer of Place, an Entry Bond is payable for each student, which confirms the place until the agreed commencement date.

TUITION FEES

All current fee information for CSSK Programs is available on our website;
www.cssk.vic.edu.au/enrolment/tuition-fees

CONCESSION CARD HOLDER DISCOUNTS

Eligible Concession Card Holders are able to access a 25% discount on Tuition fees for the school, from Prep to Class 8. Kindergarten has a separate subsidy available, and further details will be provided to Kinder applicants

SCHOOL TOURS

Our A/Principal, Danilo Paglialonga, takes a weekly school tour on Thursday's at 10am. We do have large groups of people at times so registration is required. Contact our Enrolments Officer on either 5479 2000 or enquiries@cssk.vic.edu.au for further details.

WHERE TO FIND US

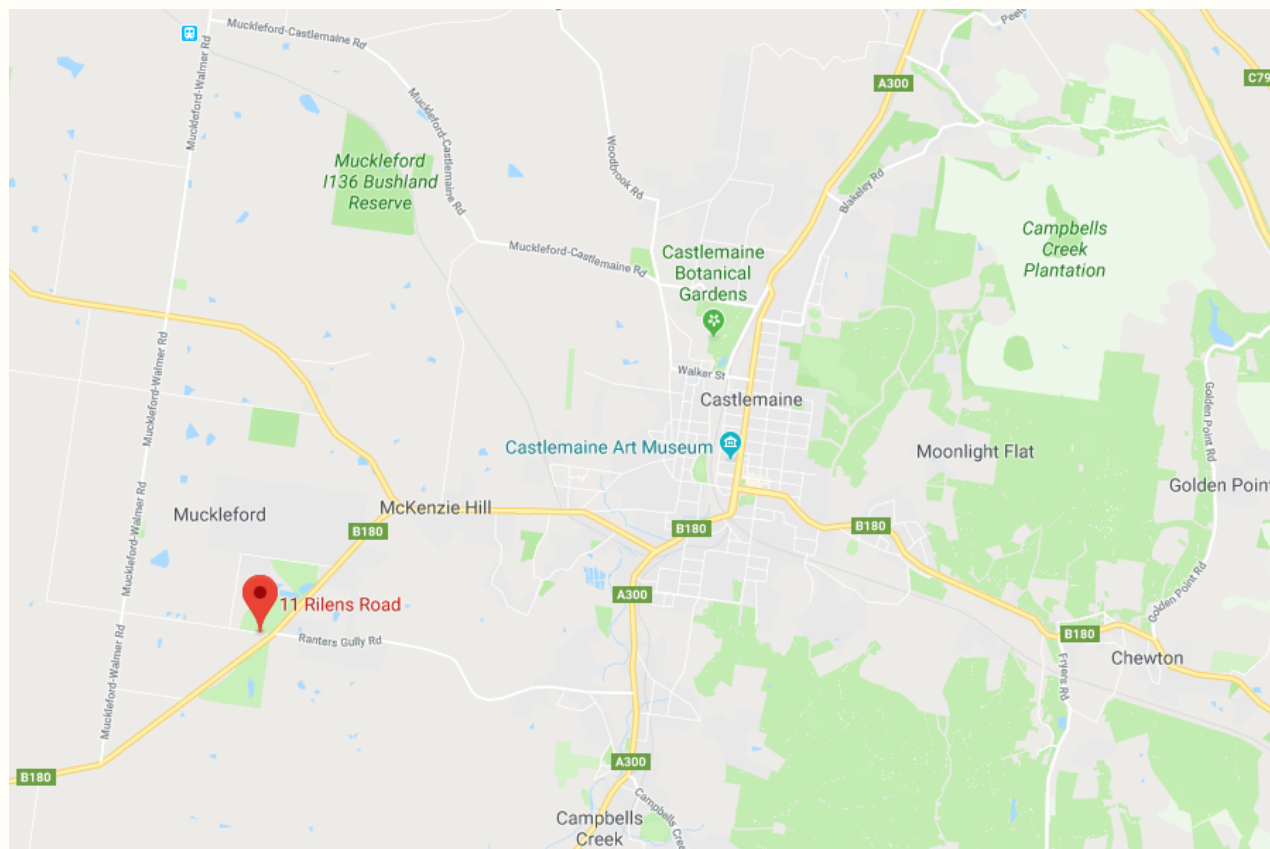
OUR LOCATION

We are located a short drive from the township of Castlemaine at:

11 Rilens Rd, Muckleford VIC 3451.

Phone - 5479 2000

Web - www.cssk.vic.edu.au



THE PENNY NEWSLETTER

To keep up with our school news and gain insight into the day to day life of our classrooms, subscribe to our school newsletter The Penny. All dates for our Open Days, Concerts and Spring Fair are regularly updated in this newsletter.

OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE

Further information can be found at www.cssk.vic.edu.au. include tuition, policies and procedures.



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*We look forward to welcoming you to our
school soon.*