Nathalia Primary School

Nathalia township is situated approximately 43km North of Shepparton, located midway between Echuca and Cobram on the Murray Valley Highway. The township population is around 1450 and it derives its main industry from agriculture and Education and is located on the banks of the Broken Creek. Nathalia Primary school is housed in the original building of the ‘Higher Elementary School’ built in 1874 and is proud of the historical significance of the building and history. Current enrolment for our school is 135 students. Nathalia Primary School is located on the land of the Yorta Yorta and Bangarang People – the original owners of the land.

We have a consistent enrolment of Koori and aboriginal students at our school. A high proportion of families receive EMA and our Student Family Occupation (SFO) index is 0.55. The community and township have had a steady change in demographics over the past 2 decades with a significant increase of unemployment and transient population within the past decade.

We have a balanced staffing profile of 17 full and part-time staff members, comprising classroom and specialist teachers ranging from Graduate to Experienced Teacher. Also within this staffing profile are classroom Education Support Officers (ESO), Office Administration ESO’s, Primary Welfare Officer (PWO) and Chaplain. Significant building works to enhance the administration area of the school and highlight the historic building as our main entrance, together with improved learning spaces has taken place over the past 4 years. Our infant department is housed in an open learning space offering a bright learning environment.

At Nathalia Primary School we are committed to supporting every learner in our school and wider community to become independent, resourceful learners through the provision of high quality educational opportunities to all students within the Nathalia wider community. We believe that all students can and will succeed in achieving their learning goals and we are committed to fostering that belief in all our students.

We promote collaborative and contributive learning and leadership by every member of our school community so that every learner will strive to achieve their best

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<th>Student Learning</th>
<th>Student Engagement and Wellbeing</th>
<th>Student Pathways and Transitions</th>
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<td>Taking into account background characteristics of students and overall demographics, our school is performing at a similar level to other schools. Regional Literacy and Numeracy Strategies continue to drive improved student learning for all students with special focus on raising writing, reading and spelling outcomes Prep – Year 6 and Number outcomes Prep – Year 4. Reading Recovery remains a focus in our student learning. Additional staff, support implementation of specific programs to build learning in Reading Comprehension, Writing and Spelling in line with Common Curriculum practices. Focused Classroom Observations and Classroom Teaching Techniques continue to build capacity in teacher delivery and in turn student learning. Our commitment to building on prior learning and offering authentic opportunities within our local context are a priority for our school. Our school has an extensive bank of Netbooks and also have student owned iPad’s as a tool for student learning.</td>
<td>The attendance rates in 2012 were at the Victorian median and the 2012 Student Attitudes to School remains consistent with the previous 4 years, with minor improvement in some areas. Kids Matter supports student engagement and wellbeing programs with a whole school approach through improved pedagogy and explicit teaching tools. We also continue to build on our extra curricula program includes Camps and Excursions enabling more lateral learning experiences for our students. Kids Matter offers the framework to support Friendly Schools and Families program, Restorative Practices and positive play programs. We also have strong links to our Regional Welfare Team and support services. Staff continue to revisit our student engagement process through focussed Professional Learning, and ensure our practices reflect our school values. Family engagement is a key focus of our Wellbeing program. Through our continual drive to improve practice we strengthen communications between the home and school and develop stronger links for our families and broader community.</td>
<td>We ensure smooth, seamless and effective transition for incoming Prep students, exiting Year 6 students, and all new students to our school. Focus is also around internal transitions for students. Prep transition is conducted throughout term 3 &amp; 4 of the year prior to school commencement and continues to be reviewed based on explicit parent and community feedback. The transition program operates over a number of weeks and offers a variety of activities for children with increased duration of visit days to facilitate seamless and relaxed transitions into school. Children are linked to a ‘buddy’ from senior classes, these peer support relationships continue into the following school year. Home visits are conducted with all families for entering Prep children, further building on a positive transition for all students. Year 4, 5 and 6 students begin their transition during the 3 final senior years of primary schooling. We have strong links with our feeder school, Nathalia Secondary College and ensure a variety of opportunities are explored to allow for seamless transition. Leadership opportunities are undertaken for all students. This includes Experience as School Captains, Junior School Council, Leadership Conferences and School Tours for visitors.</td>
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For more detailed information regarding our school please visit our website at www.nathaliaps.vic.edu.au

or view our 2012 Annual Report online at http://www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/$Reg