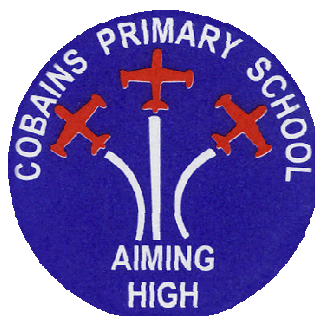


# Orientation Booklet

3 Crofts Rd Cobains Via SALE 3851  
Phone: (03) 51498 274  
Fax: (03) 51 498 259  
Email: [cobains.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:cobains.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au)



**SCHOOL:** *Cobains Primary School*  
**SCHOOL NUMBER:** 4387  
**LOCATION:** *3 Crofts Rd Cobains Via Sale 3851*  
**POSTAL ADDRESS:** *“as above”*

**TELEPHONE:** (03) 5149 8274  
**FAX:** (03) 5149 8259  
**EMAIL:** *cobains.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au*

### *“AIMING HIGH”*

Thankyou for visiting Cobains Primary School.

These introductory pages is a summary of the programs we offer at Cobains Primary School and to answer commonly asked questions that prospective parents have when deciding on an educational setting for their child.

Cobains Primary School has been serving Cobains since 1928. We are an integral part of the Cobains & surrounding districts community and its passions and interests are reflected in the school through a strong emphasis on catering for developing the whole child through catering for individual needs in a wide range of programs.

Our school class structure for 2008 is 3 small classes with a P-1, 2-3 & 4-6 focussing on core curriculum of literacy and numeracy in the mornings and other areas such as science, the arts & physical education in the afternoons.

If you have further queries after reading this book please feel free to ring the school or email me at [cobains.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:cobains.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au) .

We look forward to giving your child the best start to education here at Cobains.

David Keil  
Principal  
Cobains Primary School

## Covering the essentials – Literacy and Mathematics.

### **LITERACY**

The Early Years Program is utilized in the Junior School. It is aimed at providing high quality literacy programs and specific assistance across the school. This is run in conjunction with our ‘THRASS’ program we currently offer to all students. Recent studies have proven

that an emphasis on phonics in the first few years of schooling is an essential building block for a successful literacy program. This is certainly the case at Cobains with students performing well above their expected levels after involvement in 'THRASS' and a wide range of Early Years programs..We also offer specialised one to one and small group Literacy Support when required to assist students.

From Grade 3 onwards two hours per day like the Early Years is allocated towards the development of student's literacy skills. Ongoing assessment, and the grouping of students into like abilities ensure every student is learning at their maximum potential. The SOUNDWAVES program together with THRASS is conducted in all classes of the school and has produced terrific results in student spelling outcomes. Reading and writing units are integrated into classroom themes to make learning enjoyable and relevant, and to keep interest levels high.

Teachers are given regular professional development in the teaching of literacy through attending courses, involvement in moderation sessions and ongoing discussion of where particular students are at in their outcomes. Cobains Primary School is also an active member of the Sale Innovations and Excellence Cluster which offers ongoing professional development. Students are encouraged to include a literacy component when 'goal setting' as part of our assessment program.

## **MATHEMATICS**

Mathematics is covered every day for an hour. We use the highly regarded Nelson Mathematics program through out the school which has student workbooks and a wide range of activities. Emphasis is given to the teaching of number skills including the four operations, times tables, counting and other essential number facts. Students are encouraged to apply concepts into the real world through the teaching of maths being kept as practical as possible.

Key concepts in measurement, space, chance and data and mathematical reasoning are also taught through a 'hands on' approach. Students are often placed in ability groups in recognition of the different learning needs of each group.

*Because of our very small class sizes every student can have access to quality teacher time to ensure ongoing learning and progression is occurring in the key areas of English and Mathematics.*

*Immediate one to one, or small group assistance is given to students, immediately targeting areas of concern.*

*Cobains Primary School uses the new reporting software implemented across Victorian Government Schools during 2006. This gives parents a clear idea of the progress of each student in the key areas of Literacy and Mathematics.*

## **Specialist Programs at Cobains Primary**

### **MUSIC**

Students are provided with one hour of music per week taught by our specialist music teacher. Our program develops all relevant areas of the music domain through learning the specific elements of music. The marimbas are an integral part of our music program and have been used with other cluster schools.

### **ART**

Art lessons are conducted by our specialist teacher weekly for all students through out the year with a wide range of activities and skills undertaken. We also utilise the “Artist in Residence” programs and present work in the Sale Show annually of a very high standard. We recently acquired a brand new art room that is now up and running.

## **HEALTH & PE / SPORT**

All students at Cobains participate in an active sporting program throughout the year. The school is a member of the Sale Rural School District Sports Association and as such competes in Swimming, Cross Country, Athletics and an innovative winter sports program. Cobains Primary School offers an intensive swimming program for all Grade levels with the students having lessons at Stratford Swimming Pool in Term 1. Bike Education is an integral part of our sporting program with our school competing in the Wellington Bike Ed Challenge each year.

All Grades participate in weekly physical education activities including aerobics by a trained instructor, active after-schools games, the renowned “Bluearth” program and our family orientated Friday afternoon sports games. Cobains has a camping program for all students from Years P to 6 . Camps are offered (Years 3—6) through our Rural Cluster Schools organisation.

We have a strong nutrition focus at Cobains and we are active members of the “Go for your Life” program ensuring students are fully involved in a range of health initiatives and activities. Students also have opportunities to prepare meals and treats with parents which is integrated into the curriculum.

## **INFORMATION / TECHNOLOGY**

All classes are expected to integrate the use of computers and other multi media into everyday teaching in the classroom. The school has a ratio of 1 computer for every 3 students and that combined with high speed Broadband coverage means that students readily access computers for both production and research purposes. Each student has to sign an Internet Usage Agreement at the start of the year along with the support of their parents.

The school owns a range of additional multi media resources including digital and video cameras which the students utilize of a regular basis. Interactive whiteboards will be installed during 2008.

## **SCIENCE**

All students participate in specialist science sessions as well as activities that are linked to whole school themes such as energy, flight, space etc. We also are involved in a number of community environmental programs such as “Water/Salt Watch”, Landcare and the new Fishcare program. Students use our spacious grounds for the growing of vegetable crops and have linked these activities to our nutrition program.

## **Values Education at Cobains Primary**

Cobains Primary School pride itself on teaching the values that we want for our future generations. Our weekly social skills program successfully integrates key behaviours, teaches resilience and promotes self esteem to students.

All classes in the school run weekly social skills lessons giving students opportunities to learn important life skill for the future. This program is consistent with the Victorian Essential Learning Standards of Physical, Personal and Social Learning.

The seven key values that we undertake at Cobains Primary School are:

<b><i>Respect</i></b>	<i>For for each other and our environment</i>
<b><i>Teamwork</i></b>	<i>Learning and working together to achieve the best possible outcomes</i>
<b><i>Honesty</i></b>	<i>Truthfulness and consistency with open communication at all times</i>
<b><i>Doing Your Best:</i></b>	<i>Pursue personal excellence in all endeavours</i>
<b><i>Learning</i></b>	<i>Celebrating life long learning as an educational community.</i>
<b><i>Innovation</i></b>	<i>Embracing change and risk taking.</i>
<b><i>Responsibility</i></b>	<i>To be accountable for one's own actions, resolve differences in a constructive, non-violent and peaceful ways</i>

These values are promoted in every classroom, newsletters and assemblies and are shared between students, parents and teachers.

A recent addition to our Values program at Cobains Primary is our Bluearth program offered for our older students. This program is designed to provide physical and psycho-social challenges based on best practice in exercise sport and and professional practice. We seek to provide a fun, engaging experience accessible to all children, whether they are sporty or not.

## Transition Programs

Cobains Primary thoroughly prepares our students both for settling in to the primary setting and for moving on to their secondary education. We maintain close links with our local feeder kinders, in particular the RAAF kinder where transition days take place throughout the year. Our students also visit the kinder to work with the students. Our Term 4 “Pre-Prep” program which runs for the duration of the term prepares our prospective preps for school with a wide range activities. When our preps commence school the following year the school readiness programs make a positive impact on their learning at school.

Our senior students are fully prepared for the secondary setting due to a wide range of programs, opportunities and leadership activities offered at Cobains Primary School. Our students work on many beneficial programs through the Innovative & Excellence program that includes working with other small and large primary schools. Recent examples of such programs includes the water project and portfolios presentations.

Our own rural school cluster is very strong and gives our senior students particularly a wide range of activities programs to interact positively with other students building up rapport and support for their secondary years. We run an excellent Years 3-6 camp program, many sporting events, group days including Life Ed and a wide range cultural days that we plan and work with our cluster schools. Furthermore many our sporting programs such as Bike Ed, Athletics, Kanga Cricket etc. also give opportunity for interaction with all district schools including the larger primary schools. Our students are therefore very positive and comfortable about entering the secondary phase of their education.

## Student Leadership at Cobains Primary

### SCHOOL CAPTAIN

Cobains Primary has a strong leadership program that is accessible to all Year 6 students at the school. The Junior School Council is made up of Year 6 students that meets regularly to discuss student matters. Our Grade 6 leadership program identifies potential leaders who express written interest in various responsibilities including tour guides, school representatives and attendance at community events on behalf of the school.

We recently had selected students attend the 'Young Leaders Day' in Melbourne which is a full day of professional development for students on the qualities needed to become a successful leader.

## **Student Welfare at Cobains Primary**

Cobains Primary School recognise the importance of keeping students safe and secure at school. Teachers spend the first two weeks of the school year discussing classroom rules and standards of behaviour expected at Cobains. The school rules are followed throughout the classroom and in the yard with sequential consequences for students when necessary.

All yard behaviour is monitored entering information into a folder when needed so that student behaviour can be tracked over a period of time and parents informed.

Students are always supported and encouraged to do their best and rewarded for great effort through:

- Principal – Student of the Week Awards  
Certificates given at Monday assembly with recognition in our weekly newsletter
- Positive Memos  
Positive memos are regularly handed to students and explained to the whole school at our daily short assemblies
- Individual class awards : Negotiated by each class at the start of the year.

The school rules are:

### **Follow instructions**

*Follow instructions of teachers in the classroom and out in the yard. Actively listen to conversations to keep ourselves safe.*

### **My Best Effort Always**

*Everybody has the right to learn. Try your best on every activity to give yourself the best chance at success.*

### **Respect others**

*We treat others how we would like to be treated ourselves.*

### **Respect property**

*We respect our own and others belongings. We leave equipment and classrooms ready for others to use and enjoy.*

### **Safe Play**

*Everyone has the right to feel safe at Cobains. Hands and feet must be kept to oneself. We play safe games. We play in safe areas of the school grounds. Teachers are with us if we are inside.*

## **Parent Involvement at Cobains Primary School**

Being a small school, parents play a key role in our community. School Council and Parent Club are active parent representative bodies within the school and organise numerous events and activities to support the school across the year. Fund raising events such as the Annual Marlay Point Yacht Race are well supported by our school community. Parent helpers are encouraged to assist in our literacy programs, nutrition, gardening and sporting activities.

At Cobains student learning is a three way process between the teacher, student and parent. Our reporting processes highlight this with an initial parent teacher interview in March and a three way conferences held in June, and written reports given out mid-year and the end of the year. Goals agreed to by the student, parent and teacher are a key focus of our conferences.

We take pride in working closely with parents to achieve the highest possible learning outcomes for students.