We welcome you and your family to Winters Flat Primary School, and look forward to the development of a strong partnership between school and home in the education of your child.

As teachers, we share with you the responsibility for your child’s overall growth and development. Important though the roles of school and teachers are, we widely acknowledge that parents are the principal educators of their children. You will be aware that some of your child’s most important learning has already taken place before even beginning school.

Right through the years of schooling, parents continue to play a vital educational role, especially in the area of self-confidence, language skill acquisition and attitudes towards learning.

While it is natural that your child will become more actively involved with the school than you, it is the school’s wish that you will establish regular contact and become involved in the school community in a variety of ways. Indeed parental assistance makes many enrichment activities possible. Teachers welcome your involvement and you are always welcome.

The purpose of this information pack is to provide parents of newly enrolled students with necessary, basic information about our vision, values and the organisation of the school. The pack is designed to be kept as a reference for future use. We hope that the information set out in the following pages will help you to understand many matters concerning your child while they are at Winters Flat Primary School, and familiarise you with much of the school’s daily operation. We would be grateful to receive any comments, especially concerning any items that you think could be included in future editions of the pack.
School Calendar

Term dates 2012:
Principal resumes: Monday January 30th 2012
Teachers resume: Wednesday February 1st 2012

Students:
Term 1: Thursday February 2nd - Friday March 30th
Term 2: Monday April 16th - Friday June 29th
Term 3: Monday July 16th - Friday September 21st
Term 4: Monday October 8th - Friday December 21st

Pupil-free days to be determined.

School Times
School commences 8:55am
First Break 10:55 - 11:25am
Students eat lunch 1:25pm - 1:35pm (in classrooms)
Lunch play 1:35 - 2:15pm
School dismissal 3:15pm.

Uniform:
Summer uniform: Short and long sleeved Polo Shirts and Cotton T-Shirts. School dress. Navy shorts/pants

Winter uniform: Long-sleeved polo shirt Polar Fleece Top, Windcheater and Bomber Jacket.

School Hats: Broad-brimmed, or bucket style

Staff:
Principal: Mrs Mary-anne Rooney
Business Manager: Mrs Karen Mahoney
Office Assistant: Mrs Liz Old

Contact Details:
Roberts Avenue,
Castlemaine 3450
Ph: 5472 1522 or 5472 1874
Fax: 5472 3744
winters.flat.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
www.winters-flat-ps.vic.edu.au
VISION
It is our school’s belief that each child must be treated as an individual and encouraged to develop a high level of achievement in all areas.
We develop our programs according to our SPACE philosophy, meaning that we cater for each child’s Social, Physical, Academic, Creative and Emotional wellbeing. To this end, each child is seen as an individual and is encouraged to build confidence and self-worth, reaching their own levels of potential and taking more responsibility for their own learning.
Winters Flat Primary School has always believed strongly in forming effective partnerships with all members of the school community. We celebrate differences, encouraging the utilisation of skills shown by students, parents and teachers, as well as those in the wider community. We seek to embrace these ideals to meet the educational needs of our community, and to ensure that we are all working towards the education of all our students. This is emphasised through the school’s motto of ‘Achieving Success Together’.

VALUES
Our values are:
- Respect— for yourself, for others, for the environment
- Understanding, tolerance and inclusion
- Responsibility

We believe:
* it is the responsibility of all involved with the child to help develop their full potential as a thinking, responsible, caring individual. We are all teachers and learners.
* while academic achievement is highly valued, all areas of growth are equally important, and we strive to support our students with their development of the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to not only understand, but also to contribute effectively to our society.
* our students are encouraged to respond to high expectations and to develop high expectations of themselves.
* our students learn to work effectively with others.

CONTEXT
Winters Flat Primary School, Castlemaine, established in 1860, opened on its present site in 1964.
We have a number of large double classrooms, a new Learning Centre with six classrooms and two open learning areas, a fully equipped Library, large Art room, an indoor Gym Facility, a Chess room and a children’s kitchen. Another feature of our school is the Community Classroom, where two teachers work with children from Prep to 4 with the assistance of their parents/caregivers.
We are located on the western side of Castlemaine and our grounds are spacious and attractively landscaped, providing a natural, traffic-free environment within a quiet residential area. The School serves a wide area of Castlemaine and District, and children come from a wide range of culturally and socially diverse circumstances – creating a school with its own distinctive character.
Our school has the largest playing grounds in Castlemaine, with two adventure playgrounds, a playing area for Prep-Yr 2 students, green slopes, indigenous gardens, a large sports oval and outdoor chess areas. Recently we added the fitness track, used for a variety of physical education activities, for Bike Ed, and recreational use in riding on scooters and ripstiks. We love our Cunnack’s Valonia Oak Plantation, listed by the Heritage Trust as one of only two such groves in Australia, and within sight of the natural features surrounding Campbells Creek.
As part of our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Program we are extending our ECO Garden and children will be harvesting and preparing appetising meals. We expect to be building a new ‘chook pen’ soon so we can add to our Garden Harvest Program and really enjoy our Wood Fired Pizza Oven.
As a ‘Kids—Go For Your Life’ school, healthy eating and physical activity are important aspects of our curriculum, as are Visual and Performing Arts. Environmental issues are important to us, not only through the EcoGarden, but also through the Sustainable school’s program. Winters Flat EcoKids was been formed in 2010, and is active in promoting environmental issues.
We build leadership in the students in a variety of ways, including the Cobbers program, student leadership positions, Junior School Council and presentations to whole school assemblies. Our website http://www.winters-flat-ps.vic.gov.au has links to our newsletter, Flat Chat, and other program information.
School Council
This is the governing body of the school. While the Department of Education and Training, together with the Government of Victoria make laws and regulations about schools in general, the School Council has wide powers in the areas of curriculum, organisation, finance and policy. The members of School Council are mostly elected for a two-year term, and comprise parents and staff.

School Council operates a sub-committee system, whose membership is determined by School Council and usually elected from School Council. These sub-committees meet between the monthly School Council Meetings and discuss particular items in depth, and make recommendations for action to School Council. At present, School Council sub-committees are:
- Teaching & Learning;
- Finance;
- Grounds and Buildings;
- Parents Club;
Fundraising creates specific committees such as Fete.

All parents and friends are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the School Council, usually held in late March. Parents are urged to know who their School Council Representatives are, and to offer their assistance to any sub-committee in whose responsibilities they might have an interest or a skill. They are urged also to offer themselves as candidates for a position on the School Council.

Current School Council members are:

Parents
- John Reid—President
- Katie Wilson—Vice President
- Catherine Forster—Treasurer
- Lisa Dennis
- Lisa Cushen
- Mark MacDougall
- Chris Lawrence
- David Hinrichsen
- Lucy Young
- Geoff Crosby

Staff
- Mary-anne Rooney
- Cheryl Bottomley
- Fiona Johnston
- Wendy Walsh