

Small school benefits

BY GRETA LANNEN

With a safe learning environment, one-on-one teaching tailored to each student's need and passionate staff, Carlisle River Primary School ensures no child gets left behind.

The school is welcoming families to join the school community for 2024, encouraging enrolments from Preps to Grade Six.

Carlisle River Primary School celebrates its small school environment and says students and families can reap amazing benefits from it.

David Bennett is the primary school's teacher and works closely in the one classroom with five students, who this year ranged from Grade Two to Grade Five.

"Realistically they're in a tutoring sort of situation at the moment at the school," Mr Bennett said.

"Students are really good at independently learning, so we will have set up tasks for them to be able to work independently and then I'll take individual students in that classroom for focused areas of what they need to learn in whether that's writing, literacy, numeracy.

"They'll target the areas that they need to work on depending on the year level and depending on the individual's needs.

"If a student is progressing quicker, they'll move up faster



Katie Douma, Tilly Boyd, Sarah Douma, Jesse Wilson and Jesse Douma

and if a student needs more support they'll keep working on those skills," he said.

Mr Bennett said the school had been working with the Berry Street Education Model which focuses on supporting students from a social and emotional point of view.

"The fact that we get to build relationships out here is really nice, we get to know the families, we get to know the kids really, really well," he said.

Students enjoy getting out and about in the beautiful Otways surroundings and the school will be putting a major focus on environmental studies next year.

This year Carlisle River students have enjoyed monthly visits to the river for water quality tests and they worked hard to design and create a

website that reviewed local playgrounds before they wrote to council requesting more cleaning for local public bathrooms.

Mr Bennett has worked at the school for just over a year, after spending much of his working life in outdoor education, including school camps in England, France and Australia, with experience working in special schools and trauma-informed schools.

He has relished the opportunity to work in a small school environment and said he was very grateful to work in Carlisle River.

"Coming to a school that has more space and time is a nice way to live," he said.

"The fact that we get to know our kids amazingly well is really important."

The school's mini bus can transport students to and from the school from Colac.

"No child will fall through the cracks because we know every child," Carlisle River Primary School principal Jeff Douma said.

Ensuring an up-to-date and high quality ICT program has been of great importance to Mr Douma, and each student has their own iPad and laptop.

"We need to make sure the ICT is up to date because that's our future," he said.

"I've been here for 20 years so I've seen highs and lows. We've been down to four students and as high as 20," Mr Douma said.

"It would be nice to see numbers pick up again.

"We can cater for every child," he said.



Tilly Boyd in the productive school garden

CARLISLE RIVER PRIMARY SCHOOL
'Achieve your goals'

Would your child benefit from a small school environment?
Carlisle River Primary School has limited places for enrolments in 2024...

WHAT WE OFFER

- Tailored individual learning to suit your child's needs and development.
- One on one teaching
- Small class sizes

- Environmental studies of the local Otways
- Beautiful playing area and natural bush surrounds

- Excellent ICT program – also students one to one device
- FREE Bus service available

For more information or if you want to have a tour of the school please call the school on 5235 0261

'Small schools are great schools'

49 Moomowroong Rd, Carlisle River 3239 | Ph: 5235 0261 | E: carlisle.river.ps@education.vic.gov.au | http://www.carlisleriverps.vic.edu.au/