Vision
To transform the lives of children experiencing social, emotional and behavioural disorders.

Mission
To provide a positive and therapeutic school environment for children whose social, emotional and behavioural needs are unable to be met within mainstream education.

Goal
To work intensively with children to develop the learning and coping strategies which will allow them to re-enter mainstream education with healthy self-esteem, established work habits, and acceptable behaviours. To achieve this goal, children are treated respectfully as individuals, given responsibility for their own behavioural choices, taught to be resourceful in solving problems, and accepted as valued members of the school community. Children are encouraged at all times to seek positive rather than negative ways of belonging.

Governance
The Currajong School Limited is a company limited by guarantee. The Board of Directors forms the School Council which acts as the governing body, appoints the school principal, and establishes and monitors the strategic direction of the school. The operation of the school is delegated by the Board of Directors to the school principal.

Information on directors is as follows:
- Mr Andrew Cooper (Chairperson) B.A. (Melb)
- Dr Jennifer Bars   B.A. (Hons), M.A., D.Phil
- Ms Phillipa Murray B.A. (Monash), Grad. Dip. Public Relations (RMIT) M. Ed (Primary)
- Mrs Deborah Negri
- Mr Peter Carlin Dip. Management (Swinburne)
- Ms Anne Maree Downes B.Ec, Diploma in Australia Tax Law
- Ms Elizabeth Pattinson B.Sc (Hons)
- Ms Connie Linney-Barber B.App. Sc in Computer Science (RMIT), Dip. Comm. Services - Child Care (Swinburne)

Company Secretary: Belinda Wright
Staffing

Principal

Jenine Pallant

Administrator

Belinda Wright

Teachers

Sonia Dunne B. Ed (University of Tasmania)
Ashlee Lord B. Art Ed (College Fine Arts University of NSW) (contract terms 3 & 4)
Chrissie Davies B. Tchg (Latrobe), Dip Special Needs & Human Services (Latrobe) (contract terms 3 & 4)

Teaching Assistants

Sian Cherry Dip. Community Welfare (Holmesglen) Certificate of Education Support - Integration Aide/Teacher Aide (Monash)
Jamie Choon B. Applied Science – Disabilities Studies (Deakin)
Sarah Cole B. Social Science - Human Services (Child Care) (University S.A.)
Noelle Eykman Certificate in Childcare, Certificate III in Education
Janine Hamilton Certificate III in Education - Integration Aide
Beth Mennie-Carter Certificate IV OSHC, Certificate III – Meetings & Events
Frances Moon B.Ed. Music (Deakin)
Nancy Moss Certificate III in Education
Sarah Rockliff Certificate IV in Education Support
Bernadette Young B.Arts (Caulfield Inst.Tech.) Certificate of Education (Deakin)

Specialist Support

Psychologist


Speech & Language Therapist

Suzanne Goldin B.A. Speech & Hearing (Univ. of Witwatersrand, Sth Africa), M.S.P.A.
Direct Instruction/ Transition Co-ordinator


Student Assessment

Lucy Chia Grad. Dip. Sec. Studies (RMIT), B. Arts (Melb)

Music – Australian Institute of Music & Childhood Development

Dance – Pivot Dance Studio

Swimming – Ashburton Pool & Recreation Centre

Programs Update

During the 2014 school year students enjoyed a wide range of activities and excursions, including weekly dance, music and swimming classes. Other highlights included:

- Annual Concert for family and friends
- City Survival Program for transition students
- Currajong Footy Day, including AFL visit to the school
- Art Activities including Polyglot Theatre workshops and Bunnings woodwork incursions/excursions
- Drum Beat program
- ANZAC Day 1000 steps challenge at Mt Dandenong
- Point Cook RAAF excursion
- Adventure Days for transition students - rock climbing, high ropes, gymnastics
- CERES excursion
- Melbourne Zoo excursion
- Botanic Gardens excursion
- National Buddies Day
- National Sports Museum & MCG excursion
- Ambulance Victoria incursion
- Annual swimming carnival
- Wednesday afternoon club activities throughout the year

Improved School Facilities

General:

- Development of play area near art room including giant chess board, shade cloth, seating and artificial turf
- New asphalt on playground
- Cabinetry installed in staff resource room and ICT office
- Replacement of plumbing throughout the school buildings

Donations from a number of charitable foundations enabled the following improvements to be made:

- Australian Hotels Associations - $15,000 grant toward new school van
- Paul S Nadler Family Charitable Trust - $7300 grant toward giant chess board play area

Bursaries enabled financial assistance to be provided to a number of families:

- Invergowrie Foundation- $17,000
- Rotary Club of Chadstone/East Malvern - $8240
Conference
The presenter at the annual conference on 23rd May 2014 was Dr Erica Frydenberg (clinical, organisational & educational psychologist). The presentation “Coping: A Positive Psychological Tool to Advance Wellbeing for Students and Their Teachers” focused on the links between theory and practice. It reviewed the major theories and language used to describe the way people cope and to enhance coping skills. Participants were able to consider their own coping so as to maximise well-being in the context of their professional lives.

Parent, Student and Teacher Satisfaction with The Currajong School
When asked for feedback on their satisfaction of Currajong, parents reported a high level of satisfaction including the following:

- This school is a safe place in which students can learn
- The teachers in this school know and care about my child
- The discipline in this school follows established and well-known procedures
- This school provides good support for all students with special needs
- Teachers at this school are keen to help students of all abilities
- The teachers understand the differing abilities of the students and teach accordingly

Students reported the following:

- I feel like my teachers know me really well
- I have worked hard on my friendship skills and being kind to others
- My teachers help me to understand the mistakes I make
- My teachers provide excellent help and support for students when needed
- Adults at this school act on students' concerns

Teachers reported the following:

- The school successfully supports the development of the students' social and personal skills
- It is rewarding to see the students progress both academically and socially throughout their placements
- Staff are dedicated to improving student learning outcomes
- It is rewarding to work in this school where teachers are enthusiastic about teaching

Student Attendance
Overall attendance rate for 2014 as measured during the DEEWR collection period was 87%.

Currajong families are required to notify the school of an absence either in person or by telephone, email or note. All absences are recorded daily and systematically by the school. We encourage regular attendance, it is important if appropriate levels of progress are to be made. Currajong will work with parents and psychologists to support a student's regular school attendance.
School Operations

Income

- Government Grants: 67%
- Fees & Levies: 24%
- Donations: 6%
- Interest: 2%
- Other: 1%

Expenditure

- Salaries & Associated Costs: 64%
- Operating Expenses: 17%
- Depreciation: 6%
- Contingency: 13%

Salaries & Associated Costs 64%

Contact information

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