...an innovative educational choice offering individualised learning for students with physical disabilities and health impairments...

Principal: Carolyn Gurrier-Jones
Assistant Principal: Claire Toohey

✉ 33 Klauer St, Seaford 3198
📞 9786 9111
💻 www.nepean.vic.edu.au

Together we Achieve the Extraordinary
About our School...

Nepean School is an innovative school offering a high quality learning environment for children with physical disabilities and health issues. Nepean began in the 1960’s as a Royal Children’s Hospital School based in Mt Eliza. In 1980 we moved to our unique, purpose built facility set on 10 acres in Seaford.

Our school has evolved into a dynamic learning environment, where every member of our school community is supported to achieve their goals and empowered to embrace life-long learning.

Our School Values...

Our school has developed set of values that guide our practice and affirm our purpose –
- place the student at the centre of all decision making
- enable students to be active learners and have fun
- provide opportunities for all students to be the best they can be
- share knowledge and skills
- build positive relationships and celebrate achievements
- foster a sense of belonging in a safe and secure environment
- engage in professional learning that reflects current educational and therapeutic best practice

We are connected by a strong belief that our purpose is to make a significant difference within and beyond our community.

Our School Rules...

Our school has three simple rules, in line with our commitment to the Random Acts of Kindness program. Our rules are –
- kindness to self
- kindness to others
- kindness to the environment

In this way we are focusing on, teaching and celebrating positive behaviour traits, promoting responsibility and awareness of our environment.
Our School Motto...

In 2013 we ran a school wide competition asking students and families to come up with a motto they thought best represented our school. Our Student Representative sorted through the many entries to come up with the top 10. It was then over to the School Council who had the hard task of picking a winner. After intense deliberation “Together we Achieve the Extraordinary” was chosen as our school motto. It captures the essence of Nepean, we work together to achieve the very best for our students every day!

Transdisciplinary Teaming...

Our unique transdisciplinary collaborative teaming model sees teachers, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech pathologists, a music therapist, an art therapist, registered nurse and wellbeing officer work together to meet the individual learning needs of every child. The range of staff experience and expertise enables the school to provide programs and teaching approaches that facilitate learning and ensures that all students are engaged in their education.

Choosing Nepean...

We tailor ‘transition to school’ programs for each student. So whether you are transferring from another school setting or beginning school for the first time, we can work with you to design an orientation program that meets the needs of your child and your family. Typically, a transition program will include –

- a school tour with plenty of opportunities to ask questions, look around our facility and view programs in action. We also warmly welcome extended family members who may wish to have a look around our school.
- an Information Gathering meeting. Here you will meet the team who will work with your child, the class teacher, physiotherapist, occupational therapist, registered nurse, occupational therapist and speech pathologist. Through informal discussions with you we aim to learn as much as we can about your child and what we need to do to make your child’s transition to Nepean as smooth as possible.
- structured orientation visits for your child. The opportunity for him or her to spend some time in the classroom, meeting their classmates and participating in some class sessions.
- time to complete enrolment formalities, including times for one to one assessment with therapy staff if required.
- for students wishing to have a dual placement, we work closely with the other school to ensure this is as successful as possible. We are happy to visit other settings, host teachers, integration aides and visitors from other schools and work together to ensure your child’s education is as seamless and cohesive as possible.
- for students transferring to our school, we are able to visit the student in their current setting to get to know them before they start at Nepean.

Enrolment...

We have Enrolment Packs available which contain all the necessary forms for you to complete. These include enrolment forms from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD), Privacy Notice, Indemnity form, Student Welfare Consent, Swimming Permission slip, Specialist School Transport agreement, school uniform information, Special Needs Dentistry permission, Student ID card order form and an information statement regarding vitamin D deficiency.

On enrolment we will also need to see your child’s birth certificate and immunisation record. We can take copies of these at the school.
We also have an outline of the Program for Students with Disabilities and what information you will need to provide for us to submit an application for your child.

A day at Nepean...

Every day at Nepean is filled with opportunities to have fun and learn! Our daily timetable is broken into 4 learning sessions. We allocate up to 30 minutes for each meal break. This allows us to make meal times an opportunity for learning as well with individual skills such as using utensils, meal preparation and social skills being worked on.

So the whole day looks like this…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 – 10:15</td>
<td>Learning Session 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:15 – 10:45</td>
<td>Morning tea time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45 – 11:00</td>
<td>Morning recess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 – 12:00</td>
<td>Learning Session 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 – 1:00</td>
<td>Learning Session 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 – 1:30</td>
<td>Lunch time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 – 2:00</td>
<td>Lunch recess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 – 3:00</td>
<td>Learning Session 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What does learning look like at Nepean?

Learning at Nepean is active, dynamic and fun! The support of therapy staff within class programs means every moment is maximised as a learning opportunity.

Every student at Nepean has an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) devised by the transdisciplinary team, in consultation with families. ILP goals are selected from the Victorian Curriculum and supplemented with all the cues, prompts and supports they need to reach their goals.

Learning areas include -
English – Speaking & Listening, Reading & Viewing, Writing
Mathematics – Number, Time, Measurement, Money, Chance & Data
Information & Communication Technology
Health & Physical Education – Aquatics, Gross Motor, Fitness & Mobility, Life Skills
The Arts – Visual Arts, Music, Dance & Drama, Music Therapy
Geography
History
Science
Civics & Citizenship
Personal & Social Learning – Play & Leisure, Personal & Social Learning, Community Skills
Design, Creativity & Technology
How will we support your child?

We have a **Student Support Group (SSG)** meeting after your child starts at Nepean. This gives us a bit of time to get to know your child’s strengths and personality! Through discussion with you, the transdisciplinary team will identify some **Long Term Goals** for your child. These long term goals are then broken down into explicit short term goals within your child’s ILP.

The transdisciplinary team will then meet to write a tailored ILP for your child. The team will use the Nepean School Curriculum that we have written to cater specifically for our students. The specific short term goals in the ILP will contain all the cues and prompts your child needs to experience success.

We invite you in for **Student Support Group Meetings** to discuss your child’s progress, ILP and learning priorities. You will receive detailed written reports about your child’s learning progress twice a year.

We truly believe that our unique transdisciplinary model provides the best opportunity for every child to learn and experience success. Along with our therapy team working to support learning within the classroom, each class has a teacher and at least one full time Education Support staff member.

Our school is well resourced with a huge range of educational, technological and therapeutic aids to support learning. These include –

- computers
- communication devices
- standing frames
- modified bikes and trikes
- iPads
- interactive whiteboards and panels
- supportive walkers
- modified meal time equipment
- switches
- modified and enlarged keyboards
- Liberty Swing
- vegetable & herb gardens
- toys, games, readers, the list goes on!
How you can help our school...

School Fees
These assist the school in offering a diverse range of programs for the students. We offer opportunities to learn and practice skills through incursions, excursions and camps. One reminder notice will be sent home. School fees are $200 per year.

Lunch
Students should bring their morning tea, lunch and drink to school in a named lunch box. Each class is equipped with a fridge to store items such as yoghurt and drinks, and a microwave to heat up lunches if required. We do try to encourage healthy options for snacks and lunches as part of our Health Promoting Schools Program. We have a Free Fruit program to support healthy choices, with seasonal fresh fruit available in each classroom.

Spare clothes
Sometimes children participate in messy activities at school and accidents can occur. It is helpful to have a spare set of clothes in the school bag at all times, so we can keep the students feeling clean and comfortable. Sunscreen and a hat in the warmer months are essential.

Student Information
Up to date contact information is essential so we can contact you in the case of an emergency. We ask all families to keep the school Office informed of any changes to contact details such as home or mobile phone numbers, emergency contact details and changes to address.

We send home annual indemnity and permission forms for parents to sign, which are filed in each student’s central file. We respect your right to consent to the activities your child may be involved in at school. For example, we ask if your child’s photograph can be used in the school newsletter, website or in promotional material.

We work closely with medical and other professionals at both the Royal Children’s Hospital and Monash Medical Centre. We ask you to let us know of any upcoming appointments your child may have, this gives our therapy team time to prepare any reports that may be needed at the appointment. With notice our therapists can also attend appointments with you.
How we support our school community...

Student Representative Council (SRC)
We have a very active SRC, made up of peer elected representatives from both the Primary and Secondary departments. The SRC meet regularly, nominate community groups to fundraise for and organise whole school events to support their chosen charities. They have an active voice in the school, are proactive problem solvers and bring ideas and suggestions to the Principal on behalf of the students.

Communication
We are committed to walking alongside each family on their journey at Nepean. We value open, accessible and honest communication and strive to create and maintain communication pathways with families, such as –

- at the start of each year, you will receive a note about the team working with your child. This will include names and photos of the transdisciplinary team and contact details.
- all classes will use a communication book to facilitate communication between home and school. We encourage you to check the book each day so you chat with your child about their school day. Families are also able to write in messages for the teacher or a therapist.
- each class will use a variety of ways to let you know about your child’s day at school. Some students will bring home a recorded message on a communication device so they can share their news with you, some students will bring a ‘chat book’ or ‘photo diary’ home, full of photos of your child in action, some students will be responsible for writing their messages to share with you in their diaries.
- we send out a newsletter 3 times per term. This is full of information about what is happening in the school important dates coming up and of course snap shots of the students engaged in their learning.
- we use a free app called TiqBiz to keep families up to date with what’s happening at school. Once you sign up you will receive updates to your mobile phone, tablet or computer.

Student Welfare Officers
We are extremely fortunate to have two experienced social workers as part of the Nepean team. Laura & Miche can be contacted by phone, email or by popping in when you are at school.

Healthy Hub
At Nepean we work hard to focus on wellbeing and what we can do to keep healthy. To help us with this we have created a drop in space called the Healthy Hub. Here you will find students engaged in activities on nutrition and keeping healthy and lots of information for parents and families.

Part of our Healthy Hub is a traditional Sick Bay for those times when a student is unwell. Stacey Matheson, our registered nurse (RN1) will assess students who are sick and in consultation with the families, decide if the child can remain at school or needs to go home. We must work within the Department of Education & Early Childhood Development’s guidelines for illnesses that are contagious (such as chicken pox, measles and impetigo) as these have regulated exclusion periods.

Parent ‘My Time’ Group
We have an active Parent Support Group at Nepean and new families are always welcome to attend the regular gatherings. The group meets regularly for ‘coffee catch ups’ and also have guest speakers to share information. There is also a ‘play helper’ there to help entertain younger siblings so mum or dad can connect with others.
Transport
The DEECD fund transport to specialist schools for families who live within the designated transport area (DTA). This can be in the form of a bus service (door to door or pick up point) or payment of a Conveyance Allowance.

Bus Service
Our DTA includes the following suburbs - Dandenong (parts of), Springvale (parts of), Keysborough, Mentone (parts of), Parkdale, Mordialloc, Aspendale, Edithvale, Chelsea, Chelsea Heights, Patterson Lakes, Carrum, Carrum Downs, Seaford, Frankston, Mt Eliza, Mt Martha (parts of), Mornington, Warneet, Tooradin, Officer, Pakenham, Berwick, Narre Warren, Narre Warren South, Cranbourne and Botanic Ridge.

Whilst most services are door to door, occasionally pick up points are used. Parents are responsible for getting their child to/from the designated pick up point.

Our school is serviced by the Ventura Bus Company. Our Transport Coordinator works closely with Ventura to ensure safe and efficient transport for our students.

Conveyance Allowance
Families who live within the DTA but whose children are not able to catch the bus may apply for the Conveyance Allowance. This is an annual payment (maximum of $2,000) paid to families to help subsidise the cost of transporting their children to school. More information can be obtained from the Office.

Support Services
DEECD provide some access to support and ancillary services such as psychologists and visiting teachers. You can request access to these services by speaking with your child’s teacher who will arrange a referral.

How you can be part of the Nepean family...

We love working alongside our families in making our school a very special learning community!

Some of the ways you can be involved -
- volunteer in a school or class program
- become part of the School Council
- join in our Parent ‘My Time’ Group get togethers
- lend a hand at one of our regular Working Bees
- come along to Friday afternoon Assembly
- attend one of the concerts, productions or special events put on by the students across the year