Nature and learning go hand-in-hand at Lisieux

Educators at Lisieux Catholic Primary School in Torquay share a belief about the importance of nature in a child's development.

They are very aware that children thrive in nurturing environments and encourage them to explore and engage meaningfully with the world around them.

Founded in 2018, Lisieux Catholic Primary School features beautiful ocean views and strives to integrate authentic endeavours wherever possible, with staff having set themselves the ambitious target of conducting 30 percent of learning outdoors.

"We've seen firsthand how students respond to being in nature," says principal Dr Susan Ryan.

"They demonstrate greater creativity; develop an appreciation and respect for nature; have improved oral language and social skills, and are generally less anxious."

In 2021, Lisieux took its outdoor learning philosophy a step further with the introduction of its Seeds for Growth program. The school's curriculum reflects an Inquiry Mindset, and includes specialist programs in a continuum from prep to year 6.

"Central to our vision is that we want to foster students' sense of awe and wonder, stimulate their curiosity and help them make sense of the world," Dr Ryan says.

"In nature, they learn to take risks, explore and develop a sense of gratitude for our world. We are in the process of constructing our curriculum around that understanding."

Lisieux Catholic Primary School places a high value on the relationship between young people and their outdoor environments. (Supplied)

Applications for enrolment at Lisieux for 2023 are now open and weekly tours are currently being conducted. To register for a tour or find out more about the school, please phone Lisieux on (03) 9089 6614 or contact the Enrolment Registrar at brooke.walsh@lisieux.catholic.edu.au.

Positive environment lets children be their best

St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School is a growing learning community in the heart of Armstrong Creek. Its core focus is to nurture authentic relationships and build a positive learning environment for all, where opportunities are created for children to feel safe and valued, to engage in their learning and to be empowered to excel.

Learning experiences at St Catherine of Siena create opportunities for pupils to know themselves and to form rich connections with the natural world, each other and our local community.

The school has carefully designed an extensive wellbeing program where physical activity, mindfulness, regulation skills and social emotional learning are embedded into daily experiences, enabling all pupils to achieve improved spiritual, physical, emotional, social and academic outcomes.

The school's Outdoor Learning Program is a key arm in its wellbeing approach. Local residents might come across pupils in the nearby woodlands and creek reserves exploring natural resources, taking on personal challenges and developing their environmental awareness and sense of responsibility as stewards of creation.

The newly purpose-built facilities, playground and gardens have also been designed to support pupils' connection with each other and the outdoors.

Whilst wellbeing is the foundation of developing engaged and empowered learners, the school also prioritises the fundamental skills associated with reading, writing and mathematics, with daily targeted instruction times and a structured, sequenced learning approach.

Learning experiences at St Catherine of Siena create opportunities for pupils to know themselves. (Supplied)

The school develops learners from what they know and can do, establishing high expectations and providing constructive feedback to ensure that all learners are empowered to excel and achieve success.

With this careful approach on knowing each pupils, supporting wellbeing and celebrating personal success, St Catherine of Siena school is living its belief that children who are engaged in their learning and empowered to be who God created them to be, will excel as community citizens and set the world on fire.

Enrolments are now open for 2023.

St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School is located at 25 Warralily Boulevard, Armstrong Creek. For more information visit www.stcatherine.catholic.edu.au or phone (03) 5264 5934.