

MOUNT MEE STATE PRIMARY SCHOOL



PROSPECTUS

2014

“To educate, motivate and inspire students, families and the broader community to become conscious about our impact on our environment, to develop an understanding of environmental issues and create innovative solutions in order to become active custodians of our shared planet”.

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WHO ARE THE ENVIRO FREAKS?

Enviro Freaks are a group of students from years 4-7 who are interested in learning about the environment and are keen to play an active role in the environmental vision for our future.

The Freaks are involved in a number of initiatives, which include the propagation of native plants and vegetable seedlings, revegetation projects, weed and pest management, recycling and composting, growing and harvesting fruits, herbs and vegetables, cooking, advocating and promoting sustainable practices.



OUR SCHOOL'S ENVIRONMENTAL FOCUS

❖ TO IMPROVE THE BIODIVERSITY OF OUR AREA

Thirteen years ago it was decided that a parcel of land adjacent to the school would become the site of our Richard Thomas Environmental Centre. Since that time, through the help of dedicated volunteers and students, we have planted thousands of trees, eradicated weed species, improved the health of our waterway (dam) and created an area that animals have made their home.

In addition to providing a habitat for animals, we have also constructed walkways, outdoor classroom spaces, and a fun place to play and discover nature. The Richard Thomas Environmental Centre has evolved into a natural space that everyone in the community can enjoy.

❖ TO BECOME CHAMPIONS OF SUSTAINABILITY

At Mount Mee School we aim to reduce, reuse and recycle our waste to lessen our impact on the environment and to build and develop a more sustainable way of living. Most food waste at our school is composted and used as fertiliser on our vegetable gardens. The remaining food waste also goes to our busy little composting worms, who work away at producing great fertiliser for us to give to our plants to help them grow strong and healthy.

We recycle our waste paper and cardboard, plastic products and aluminium cans at the local recycling facility. To date we have managed to reduce our waste going to landfill by 75%.

Our tuckshop has even gotten in on the act. All our food packaging is made from potato and corn starch, which is added to the food waste to be broken down in the compost bins.

No longer do our school newsletters get printed on paper. Instead all families receive their MOUNT MEE MOOS through email, saving 80 reams of paper each year or an equivalent of five fully grown trees.

❖ TO CREATE AN EDIBLE GARDEN

In our vegetable garden we grow seasonal fruits and vegetables as well as a large variety of herbs. Our Enviro Freaks help maintain the vegetable gardens and develop valuable life skills in organic gardening. They get their hands dirty keeping the pests at bay, weeding, fertilising and harvesting the fruits of their labour.

After the harvest, the students really enjoy getting into the kitchen to prepare and cook some delectable culinary delights. On occasion, we do some open-air cooking where we'll mix up a batch of herb scones or roast some potatoes on the fire-pit at Richard Thomas Environmental Centre.



OUR SUCCESSES AND CELEBRATIONS

The Enviro Freaks Program has enabled our school to showcase the passion we feel towards developing and promoting a sustainable, healthy lifestyle. We use education as the primary source of understanding the world in which we live and we endeavour to put into focus our need to work together to find clever and innovative solutions to environmental issues. We have been grateful to be given the opportunity of guest presenting at:

CREEC Sustainable Living Expo 2013

Kids Teaching Kids Conference 2012

As a school we are also enormously proud to have received the Golden Platypus Award from the Moreton Bay Regional Council in June 2013. This award was in acknowledgement for our continuing work educating students and the wider community about the importance of improving the biodiversity in our area as well as for our implementation of sustainable practices within our school.

The Enviro Freaks every year host World Environment Day where we get together as a school community and engage in environmental activities such as art projects, discussions/debates, tree planting and emu parades. The day culminates with a picnic at the Richard Thomas Environmental Centre where we roast potatoes and top them with produce from our vege garden.



PLANS FOR 2014

As a school we are very proud of our efforts and achievements to date and we are very passionate about continuing and further developing the Enviro Freaks Program. In 2014 the Enviro Freaks Program has planned to include the following activities:

- ❖ Continue the revegetation projects and maintenance of the Richard Thomas Environmental Centre.
- ❖ Propagation of Native Plants and Vege seedlings
- ❖ Growing and harvesting of fruits/vegetables from the Vege Gardens
- ❖ Cooking using the produce from the gardens.
- ❖ Recycled/Nature Art Projects
- ❖ Involvement in the Revegetation project at Mark and Tibby Blond's Koala Reserve.
- ❖ Continue the links with Fairview Primary School in Northern Ireland.
- ❖ Educating other students through talks on parade, skits and demonstrations on the importance of recycling, nood food, composting, worm farms and other relevant topics such as 'how to look after wildlife in our back yards'.
- ❖ Paddock to plate – Visiting local growers and farmers to gain understanding on where our food comes from and how it is produced.

EVENTS FOR 2014

FEB-NOV	EXCURSIONS TO LOCAL GROWERS
APR	PLANT STALL
JUNE	WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY
JULY	BAKE OFF/FRUIT/VEGE COMPETITION
SEPT	KIDS TEACHING KIDS CONFERENCE
AUG	CREEC OPEN DAY

ESTIMATED COSTS FOR 2014

ITEM	COST
POTTING MIX 20 @\$10.59 bag	\$211.80
SUGARCANE MULCH 20 @\$13 ea	\$260.00
VEGE SEEDS	\$40.00
PROTECTIVE MASKS/GLOVES 4 pkts 20 @\$12.54	\$50.16
ORGANIC PEST SPRAYS	\$20.00
FERTILISER (ORGANIC EXTRA) 5 bags @\$22.74	\$113.70
COOKING COSTS	\$50.00
Native Plant Tube stock	\$150.00
TOTAL	\$895.66

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

To ensure the continuing success of the program, Mount Mee State School is inviting members of the school and broader community to be apart of the Enviro Freaks Program. Involvement in the program can be through many avenues including:

- ❖ Direct monetary donation
- ❖ Volunteering time or expertise to the program
- ❖ Building of infrastructure (Trellis/Arch, recycled art, seating etc.)



WHAT DOES YOUR FUNDING HELP SUPPORT

The funding helps to benefits the students of Mount Mee School:

- ❖ To learn the importance of improving the biodiversity in our community.
- ❖ To gain hands on skills in planting and maintaining a native area.
- ❖ To understand the value and fulfillment of community work.
- ❖ To develop team work skills
- ❖ To gain skills in propagation of both native and edible plants.
- ❖ To develop knowledge in growing, harvesting and finally cooking food produced from the garden.
- ❖ The opportunity to talk with local growers and farmers to understand where the food we buy comes from.
- ❖ For a chance to be apart of the local government community planning process thus influencing decision makers on what we would like our community to look like in the future.
- ❖ To make connections with international organisations and gain knowledge through being apart of the United Nations Environment Program, culminating in our celebrations for World Environment Day.
- ❖ To develop connections with other like-minded schools through our associations with Fairview Primary School, Northern Ireland.

Mount Mee State School is passionate about giving students an education that embodies the importance of looking after our environment and as such, feel that the Enviro Freaks Program is an integral part in teaching children these values and giving them lifelong skills. Your support is vital in sustaining and developing this important initiative. Come and join the FREAKS!!

