Whitehorse Primary School offers students an extensive range of programs including excellent programs in Literacy, Maths and Science. Beyond the standard programs that are offered throughout the education system Whitehorse Primary also offers the following learning opportunities. These programs are designed to enhance, extend and engage all students.

**STEPHANIE ALEXANDER KITCHEN GARDEN PROGRAM**

Whitehorse Primary offers the students from Grade 3 to 6 the opportunity to be part of the extraordinary Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program. The aim of the Kitchen Garden program is to pleasurably engage and educate young Victorians in growing, harvesting, preparing and sharing delicious food in the belief that these skills and understandings are essential to the development of life-long joyful and healthy eating habits.

The experience of being part of the Kitchen Garden Program also enables student to apply and enhance their Maths, Science, Reading and team work skills through authentic learning opportunities.

**QUESTACON MATHS CENTRE**

The Questacon Maths Centre, which is a branch of the National Science and Technology Centre, Canberra, was based at what is now Whitehorse Primary School during Terms 1 and 2 1993. This unique program provides the opportunity for children to participate in mathematical activities by presenting them with tasks which require a ‘hands-on’ and problem solving approach.

To adopt the Questacon name, the Maths Centre has had to seek official accreditation. In granting this, Sandy Clugston, the Manager, Outreach Education in Canberra, said that the Whitehorse Centre was in many ways superior to the original.

Children from Whitehorse Primary School are able to use the centre on a weekly basis, covering maths problem-solving skills in the areas of logic, number, measurement and space.

**MUSIC**

At Whitehorse Primary we consider Music to be an important part of the education of all students. As a result there is an extensive music program offered. The students have weekly music lessons with a Music Specialist who also provides an opportunity for students from Grade 1 to 6 to be part of one of the school choirs. There are a number of opportunities for students to perform for the whole school, wider school community and beyond the school.

Additionally instrumental music lessons are offered by private teachers in a number of instruments. This is in addition to the program offered by the school. The students are also encouraged to perform in small concerts in to the wider school community.

**VISUAL ARTS**

We are fortunate at Whitehorse Primary to have a highly qualified Fine Arts teacher. During Art lessons students are given the opportunity to develop their artistic techniques and skills as well as develop an appreciation of art history and art forms from all over the world through the use of interactive technologies. The students have an hour long art session each week and their work can be seen displayed around the school.
LANGUAGES – ITALIAN / CHINESE

Currently the students at Whitehorse Primary are able to undertake two languages, Italian and Chinese. These highly diverse languages give the students access to a broader understanding of the cultures that underpin these languages and a unique opportunity to be taught by native-speaking teachers.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICT)

As we are a school of the 21st Century Information and Communication Technologies are central to every aspect of the student learning. Every classroom is fitted with the latest Interactive Whiteboards giving students and staff instant access to worldwide teaching and learning resources. The students have easy access to computers from Prep upwards with plans in place to have laptops throughout the school in the near future.

Students have the opportunity to develop their own wikis, blogs and presentations using a huge range of skills and digital equipment on an inward looking secure site. Cybersafety is also a major feature of the ICT program ensuring that students understand the importance being safe on the internet.

GIFTED EDUCATION

A Gifted Education program which is tailored to the specific needs of the children is also offered. The program is designed to broaden the student’s learning. All students are invited to participate in the University of NSW competitions, which are held each year and enables the students to pit their skills and knowledge against thousands of other students in Australasia.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

There are many sporting activities for students to participate in. A Phys Ed specialist takes hour classes every week from Prep through to Grade 6. The House system enables the school to hold sporting events such as cross-country within the school. The students also compete at inter-school, zone and state level. There are also round robin carnivals organised between the local schools as well as events such as swimming carnivals and tennis championships. The PMP program is also offered in the junior school.

CAMPS

A camping program for students in Grades 3 to 6 is offered. Students have the opportunity to go to camps such as Golden Valleys and Allambee, which are adventure camps. In the senior grades a camp to Canberra is generally offered to enable them to explore the capital of our country and find out firsthand how the government works.

SOLAR BOATS / CARS

Solar Boats / Cars Program is offered to the senior students at Whitehorse Primary. The Science based program enables the students to explore the environmentally friendly power source of solar energy in a ‘hands-on’ meaningful manner. The students are also able to compete in the competitions that are available in Victoria.

PARENTS

We encourage parents to be active members of our community in a myriad of ways. Most of the programs mentioned operate with the support of parents and community volunteers making Whitehorse a school that truly embraces the community. Parents can also join POW! – Parents of Whitehorse who work hard to fundraise and support the school in many ways.