



Ethics classes at Merimbula Public School 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Could you be an Ethics Teacher for Merimbula Public School? Or do you know somebody who would be interested?

In 2016, thanks to a wonderful group of volunteer **Ethics Teachers**, ethics classes were offered to **all four stages**, including Kindy, at Merimbula Public School. Our school was the only school in our region that had the privilege to do so. In 2017, however, we have only been able to offer ethics to one stage (Stage 2) due to lack of available teachers. We would love to offer ethics to all four stages in 2018 and we are now seeking new volunteer teachers so that we can make that happen.

Ethics Teachers receive full training by Primary Ethics, which consists of a two-day workshop held on November 25 and 26, and short online modules. Curriculum and access to teaching resources is provided. Suitable volunteers have an interest in children's education and in developing their critical thinking skills and must be available to teach for 40 minutes on Friday afternoons during the school terms.

In ethics classes, teaching is done through dialogue and discussion - a tradition of philosophical inquiry that goes right back to Socrates. This approach has significant personal and social benefits. By learning to think about ethical matters together and through the give-and-take of reasoned argument, students learn to consider other people's points of view and to be sincere, reasonable and respectful in dealing with their differences and disagreements.

Children discuss topic such as:

- Imagining how others feel
- How do we treat living things?
- How do we disagree in a respectful way?
- Fairness, forgiveness, sharing, pride, courage and friendship.

If ethics teaching is of interest to you, or you know somebody else who might be interested, please visit www.primaryethics.com.au for more information and/or contact Elisabeth Larsen, Ethics Coordinator at Merimbula Public School, e.larsen@bigpond.com, 0448235577, 64950165.

If you would like to be involved, but not as a teacher, the position as a volunteer **Ethics Coordinator** for Merimbula Public School is also available from Term 1, 2018. Please get in touch with Elisabeth if this appeals to you.

Michelle Hulme

Principal