

UNIQUELY CURRIMUNDI . . .

Imagine a school where many Mums and Dads ride their bikes to school with their children. Imagine a school where all staff shares the belief that all our young people have strengths. At this school we have worked to develop a culture where staff love coming to school and our students perform their best. This is Currimundi State School! Are we perfect? Of course not!

We are a human organisation. We aspire to have all children thriving – but of course, life is a road of ups and downs and we each necessarily have to work through this. The future is uncertain as it is ever-changing - but we have to prepare our children for this. What we do is provide multiple layers that are uniquely Currimundi that provide the best environment for all that we aspire to.

I list some of these unique features below.



Building wellbeing assets

Building wellbeing assets of **resilience, hope, social emotional skills**, and **sense of belonging** is a key foundation for learning and success in the workplace and life itself. We measure these assets using an internationally validated measure and then discuss the key areas that we need to build in each year level. We embrace parent/carers and community support to aid us in this goal.

Sparks Program

Sparks are the interests and passions young people have that light a fire in their lives and express the essence of who they are and what they offer to the world. The research is clear, young people with just one *Spark* and with three or more caring adults who help them with their spark have benefits including:

- Higher grades in school
- Better friendship skills
- Better physical health
- Better school attendance rates
- Being more likely to have a sense of purpose in their lives
- Being more likely to say they are “on the road to a hopeful future”.

We offer our Years 04 to 06 students’ **fifteen sparks** options from which to choose – these include, photography, drama, fishing, fashion design, and more. Feedback tells us our students love our Sparks Program!

CalmSpace

We teach young children (Prep and Year 01) how to focus on, appreciate, and enjoy the present, to resist distractions and to be mindful of the world around them and of others. This leads to increased capacity for learning for all. Teachers use simple daily practices leading to calmer classrooms that are highly conducive to learning. Teachers gently but expertly support students to be able to focus and sustain their attention and what they are currently doing. This provides a powerful springboard to magnify the power of our evidence-based reading approach (InitialLit).

Hear & Say and Vision Testing

Why wait until a hearing / language or vision problem becomes the identified reason for poor grades – often after the first report card? At Currimundi we check our Prep students hearing, speech and vision very early in the year so any physiological reason can be ruled out, allowing us to address any learning issue directly.

InitialLit Program

This is our adopted approach to reading in Prep and Year 01. It has been developed by Macquarie University and is based on the best of evidence on how to teach our young people to read. This program works! In its first year of implementation we had the greatest proportion of students achieving in the A to C range for English than ever before. Half the number of students than in previous years required intervention to build their reading levels up to where they should to be in Year 01. Talk to our Prep teachers about this approach as they are its greatest advocates. This approach will be extended to Year 02 by 2020.

Air conditioning

We have an extraordinary P&C team. Our P&C has provided the roll-out of air-conditioning across all classrooms in our school. Over the long hot summer, we appreciate the lift this gives to our learners every day.

Inclusive and Supportive Culture

Currimundi is a welcoming, highly inclusive learning environment where we recognise the diverse needs of our learners. This diversity includes gifted and talented students, students with disabilities, indigenous students, students from a variety of cultures, students in need of learning support, talented athletes, students with a passion for the Arts, Robotics, Science, Surfing, Skateboarding and the list goes on.

Student Leadership

Student leadership opportunities abound and these begin in Year 05. To be selected, our students must have demonstrated:

- Very good endeavour - Endeavour means great effort, working hard on homework to improve, excellent behaviour in and outside the classroom and across all subjects.
- Demonstrated service to others - that they care for people and help others where they can.
- Represent our school with Pride.

All student leaders are members of an area of service to other students. These Portfolios include Peer Mentoring, Environmental, Innovation, The Arts and Student Council.

Tuff CURRA

Broadly modelled on the Tough Mudder events, Currimundi students challenge themselves on our challenging course and have plenty of fun along the way.

Surfing Excellence Program

Students selected for the program participate in training sessions and competitions in conjunction with Surfing Australia. See our school website for more details.

Surfing and Swim Programs

- At Currimundi State School we love taking advantage of our wonderful beach side location by offering a Surfing Excellence Program as well as our Surf Lifesaving Skills and Awareness Program.
- The Surfing Excellence programs are designed for Year 04 – 06 students. The Excellence Group continue to develop their board skills, board design, wave awareness and judging skills.
- The Development Group is for students of any age who have demonstrated surfing readiness, are swim safe and can paddle independently. This group is heavily supervised. This is not a Learn to Surf group.
- Our Surf Lifesaving Education Program provides Prep to Year 4 students with essential beach safety skills. Year 05 and 06 students participate in a Surf Education program, which focuses on surf awareness, surf safety, body boarding and surfboard riding. Swimming instruction is provided for students from Prep to Year 4. Students travel to nearby public swimming pools and work with qualified Aust. Swim trained coaches.

Beach Carnival

This annual event has school sports houses compete for the Kerri Thomas/Joel Parkinson Shield. Students from Prep to Year 06 compete in a variety of Surf Life Saving and beach activities (culminating with the Junior Iron Man/Woman, Tin Lid and Con James Paddle events). Students also have the opportunity to nominate and compete in surfing and body boarding events.

Digital Technology

In 2018 we employed a teacher to work alongside our classroom teachers to ensure we built their how to teach Digital Technology. We have exceeded this in that our students now have access to a range of robots that they have learnt to program and to carry out various functions.

We also have completion level robots and students with the skills to compete will all comers. Coding, 3D-printing, Green-screen productions – we equip our students with all the skills they need.

Science Lab



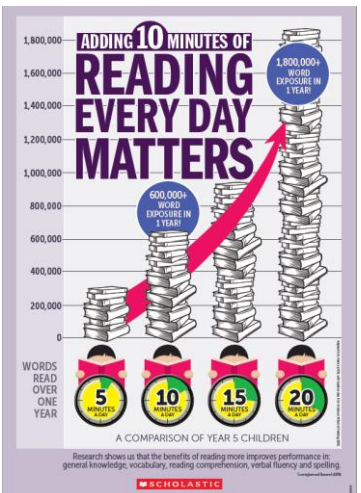
In 2018 we built a Science Lab! Our fully equipped lab is now in use across the school. Students put on their white lab coats and their protective glasses and transform into Scientists! All students first gain their *Lab Licence* and then the sky's the limit – our naturally curious young people love scientific thinking and investigations.

Motivating Students to read more . . .

The more a student reads, the better their vocabulary, the better their comprehension, the better their performance in all areas of their schooling.

At Currimundi State School, students from Year 03 onwards participated in the Accelerated Reader Program. As students read and successfully complete the quizzes they accumulate the word count from each book. The word milestones are 10000, 50000, 100000, 250000, 500000 and 1,000,000 words.

Certificates are presented by the classroom teacher for 10 and 50 thousand words; then by the Deputy Principal's for 100,000 and 250,000 words in the class, and then presented at assembly for 500,000 and 1,000,000 words. Their picture is placed on the 'pirate ship' in the library to acknowledge their efforts and encourage others. This project gets students talking about their reading success and makes reading 'cool'. Since we started with Accelerated Reader we have found more students at all reading levels are borrowing and reading more books.



Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) YMCA

In 2018 we outsourced our OSHC centre (based in our school hall). We are now very happy partners with the YMCA to provide the best service, in terms of value and diversity of activities, that any OSHC can offer.

We also want to tell you about building social-emotional skills, our focus on the ARTS, our market garden, our Instrumental Music Program, our Hall of Fame, our talented teachers, and so much more. Just drop in and ask us . . .