

*The*  
**ATHENA**  
*School*



# PROSPECTUS

*Happy students with the educational tools  
to competently pursue their goals in life*





# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Here at Athena we provide students with the tools and knowledge to make their future happiness and success a reality. Students' interests, talents and abilities are nurtured while being educated in conventional subjects in a friendly, enriching environment.



School life is about more than academics. Learning is about more than books and information. We take a holistic approach to learning where the school and the parents work together to ensure the most enjoyable learning experience for all children. This involves attention to the all-round development of students intellectually, physically, creatively, spiritually, emotionally, socially, communicatively and in terms of self discipline.

It is through our Quality Assurance Department that we ensure each student is progressing towards the achievement of the school's valuable final product which is: **Happy students with the educational tools to competently pursue their goals in life.**

Children are best taught in a relaxed and unhurried environment and that is what we provide here at the Athena School.

As you read through our prospectus and contemplate the education of your child, keep in mind that we at The Athena School provide the building blocks to a bright and successful future for all students. If you have not visited us, I invite you to come for a tour.

*Fiona Milne*  
Principal



*Where happiness and learning go hand in hand*

# DEPARTMENTS OF THE SCHOOL

## Pre Kindy

The Athena School Pre Kindy offers places to children aged from 3½ years. Our Pre Kindy prepares children for a smooth and easy transition to Primary School in a fun, creative and nurturing environment.

A strong emphasis is placed on creative arts such as craft and music, as well as physical activities which develop both gross and fine motor skills. Both indoor and outdoor play areas are provided



to allow plenty of space in which to learn and grow. Visits to the community garden and school library are enjoyed throughout the year.

Children are also introduced to reading, writing and numeracy skills. A range of activities has been carefully designed to encourage and develop a desire to learn. Alphabet games, number games and story time are held daily.



## Primary School Kindy - Year 6



Upon entry to Primary School great care is taken to tailor an educational program that best suits the needs and well-being of each child. Academic progress is achieved in a happy and caring learning environment where individual attention is given to each student.

Our school has a strong, phonics based reading program which takes the student from beginner level to proficiency, smoothly and easily. In this way a love of reading is nurtured. Our approach to Maths is very hands on and is designed to bring the world of numbers and measurement alive.

The ideal teacher/student ratio is no more than 1:15 to ensure that the children are given individual attention.

Students also participate in a range of activities and excursions throughout the school year which encourage them to be involved in their community and the environment. Clean Up Australia Day and Harmony Day are but two examples of these.

Helping students understand their studies and guiding them to use this knowledge in practical situations are of key importance. To achieve this we use the Study Technology™ of Mr. Hubbard. These study methods enable students to become self-motivated learners by teaching them to detect and handle commonly encountered study difficulties.



## High School

Years 7 - 10

Athena uses the Study Technology developed by Mr. Hubbard, which identifies and overcomes basic barriers to learning. The emphasis is on students achieving a complete and thorough understanding of whatever subject they are studying. Students master the ability to study independently as one of the first actions on their academic curriculum.

In this way, they achieve certainty in their study and are able to apply what they know. Programs are carefully planned for each student, with the goal of providing a solid grasp of basics and a genuine love of learning.

Athena's High School classrooms are a hive of supervised activity where individual students are able to study at their own pace on projects and checksheets. A checksheet gives the theory and practical steps which, when completed, add up to the required knowledge of a subject. This is true competency-based education.

## Quality Assurance



The Quality Assurance Division works closely with students, parents and teachers to tailor the most effective educational program for each student.

Happy students are those who understand their studies and feel a sense of achievement. It is the role of Quality Assurance to help make that possible for every student by isolating and remedying any study difficulty students may encounter.

## What Athena Students have to say

I loved going to Canberra. It was so fun. On the first day we went to Questacon, we did experiments. We also went to Black Mountain Tower. The next day we went to Parliament House. Parliament House was the best thing we did. Parliament taught us so much about government. I learnt how to make a Bill too. I loved learning about The House of Representatives and the Senate. Thank you for taking us to Canberra. I had a lot of fun. This was the best thing I have learnt about in the whole year.

**K.C. Year 6**

I have finished my Fitzroy Readers. I really liked them because I am a lot better at reading now and most of the stories were very interesting and some have lessons about friendship so I can learn from them. Reading is very good knowledge because it is good for learning letter pairs and commas. It also lets you read interesting stories. In life there are so many things you need to do and that includes reading. I am so lucky I go to this school.

**Z.H. Yr 2**

I like little letters because it is fun when you write 'the' and the other letters with curves.

**T.A. Kindy**

Sweet victory! I have finally overcome all barriers and finished the Grammar and Communication Course. Huge thanks to my teachers and whoever else helped me through this course. I have truly taken an abundance of information from it. A special thank you to Quality Assurance, without whom there is no way I would have finished.

**S.N. Yr 10**

### **How to Use My First Macquarie Dictionary**

was the best course ever. I really enjoyed it and now I don't need to ask what things mean. Go go go Athena!

**E.B. Yr 2**



*The emphasis is on students achieving a complete and thorough understanding*



# CURRICULUM

The Athena School follows the guidelines set out by the Board of Studies, and incorporates the following subjects into the school curriculum:

- Reading
- Spelling
- Handwriting
- Creative Writing
- English Language and Literature
- Mathematics
- Research and Study Skills
- Science and Technology
- Social Studies
- History
- Survival Skills (Health, First Aid, etc.)
- Art and Art Appreciation
- Computers
- Manners, Morals and Ethics
- Crafts and Manual Skills
- Physical Education and Sport
- Music
- Drama

The application of Study Technology and educational writings of renowned educator Mr. Hubbard, in combination with a carefully prepared individual programme, small classes, a happy and productive atmosphere and a reason to learn, is producing very pleasing results.

Recent student assessments of word recognition and reading comprehension skills are testament to the effectiveness of Mr Hubbard's Study Technology:

- *83% of students are reading at levels above the norm for their age.*
- *55% of our students are reading at levels well in advance of the norm; up to 2 and a half years ahead of expectation.*
- *79% of students' reading comprehension skills are well above the expected norm for their age.*



## The Creative Arts

Art, craft, music, dance and drama form an integral part of life at Athena. From finger painting in Pre-Kindy to set design and choreography in High School, a broad range of media and creative expression are explored and encouraged. Excursions to galleries, museums and theatres are enjoyed and occasional workshops by visiting professional artists are attended with enthusiasm.

All of this culminates in the artistic highlight of the year, our annual concert, which is warmly anticipated by students, family and friends alike. Opportunities are given for every student to be involved in the performance, be it acting, costume making, set design, props, music, singing, choreography or dance. This is an enjoyable experience for everyone.



# CHARACTER AND DISCIPLINE

## Discipline and Personal Integrity

Qualities such as integrity, responsibility and respect for self and others are necessary for a happy and worthwhile life, and therefore guidance towards these qualities is considered an important role of the school.

The non-religious moral precepts contained in Mr. Hubbard's *"The Way to Happiness"* are used for this purpose. Included are:

- "Honour and help your parents"
- "Set a good example"
- "Be worthy of trust"
- "Respect the religious beliefs of others" and
- "Try to treat others as you would want them to treat you".

While the school is not run on authoritarian lines, positive control is used and self discipline is fostered through the use of the precepts in *The Way to Happiness*. The school has a zero tolerance on bullying.

At Athena we strive for friendliness and approachability between parents and staff to help resolve any concerns relating to the child's progress at school.

"Today's children will become tomorrow's civilization. Bringing a child into the world today is a little bit like dropping one into a tiger's cage ... They need love and help to make it."

L. Ron Hubbard  
from *The Way to Happiness*

## Community Work

Being of service to his or her community plays a big part in the upbringing of a child in today's world.

Many of Athena's students are active *Drug-Free Ambassadors* and help in encouraging young people to lead drug-free lives.

Other organizations which are proudly supported by our students include:

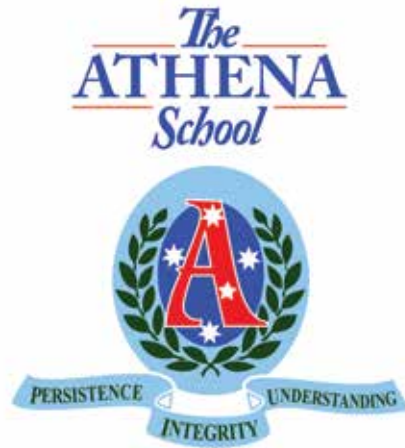
- Youth for Human Rights
- Clean Up Australia Day
- National Tree Planting Day
- Harmony Day





# COME FOR A TOUR

Find out for yourself what makes us unique. The best way to do that is to book in for a tour so you can see our classrooms in action and get all of your questions answered. Tours are conducted every week day, during school hours. Make an appointment with our Enrolments Coordinator today.



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"As long as children and young men and women find pleasure in study, they will continue studying throughout life - and upon that depends their happiness."

Mr. Hubbard



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