

Primary Education Programs

Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

The following programs are designed to incorporate the **Victorian Essential Learning Standards**. They provide an excellent means of teaching across the **Domains** in an integrated way. Immerse your class in the magical world of a garden where experience-based learning creates connections through gardening, play, the inspiration of story and the child's imagination.

VELS information is available on our website. www.rbg.vic.gov.au/education



Celebrating Biodiversity 2010

Biodiversity on the Yarra (Prep–6)

Where in Melbourne would you go to see spoonbills and night herons feeding at the billabong, eels and long necked tortoises swimming in a wetland or even powerful owls and a reed warbler. As you walk through this revegetation area you will be able to observe some of the interrelationships between the indigenous flora and fauna using binoculars to explore life cycles and food chains. Students propagate an indigenous plant to take back to school.

Climate Change (Years 2 - 6)

Climate change is now accepted as a reality that we have to address globally. Find out what it means for us and what we can do about it individually, in a very positive sense. Take home a drought tolerant, carbon fixing plant, find out how to creatively manage and store water while reflecting on the bigger picture solutions.

Introduction to the Gardens - Christmas and seasonal options available. (Prep–6)

This program provides an introduction to the wondrous world of plants. Students will make pot pourri in the Herb Garden, plant a seedling while learning about plant structure, survival and the importance of plants in our lives. *Teacher kit available on our website.*

Water Conservation using Graeme Base's book *The Waterhole* (Prep.–6)

Why is water so important? Children will make the vital connection between water and life on earth, looking closely at life in and around a billabong. Learn about and propagate a water conservation plant, examine pond life and look at plants from around the world that feature in Graeme Base's book. Students will collect plant material to create a collage at school.

Minibeasts (Prep–6)

This program provides students with the chance to observe minibeasts in different habitats and explore their connection to the plant world. Investigate a worm farm, explore a water habitat and hunt with a magnifying glass in the leaf litter of the Gardens. Activities include taking a closer look at the role of minibeasts in soil and making a minibeast repellent pot pourri to take home.

****Special full day program, Minibeasts & Bugs 3D @ IMAX***

Aboriginal Resource Trail (Prep–6)

The Aboriginal Resource Trail is designed to give students a greater understanding and respect for Aboriginal culture, particularly of the local Kulin Nation. Students will understand the significance of Waa (the raven) and Birrarung (Yarra River). Experiences include making and using ochre paint, string-making and a hands-on exploration of tools. The emphasis is on diversity and examining sustainable land practices used by Aboriginal people.

Teacher kit on our website. ****Special full day program, with Koorie Heritage Trust***

Food Forest (Prep–6)

This program makes hands-on and sensory connections between food and plants, giving students the opportunity to observe carnivores and herbivores, and understand nutrient cycles and food chains. Exploring the harvest of the Kitchen Garden students make connections between plants, healthy diets, organic and sustainable gardening. Activities include propagating a food plant to grow at school, using culinary herbs in the Herb Garden and finding out what worms eat.

Sustainable Gardening (Prep–6)

The basic skills of good gardening practice are taught during this hands-on program, exploring water conservation, organic gardening methods, composting and worm farming. Exploring the Children's Garden and the wider Royal Botanic Gardens students will consider ideas for designing or developing their own garden. Activities include the propagation of a plant to take home.

Garden Art (Prep–6)

An arts-based program giving students opportunities to respond to inspiring environments and garden experiences: creatively, cooperatively, and imaginatively. In Andy Goldsworthy style, students create group collages from plant materials, explore cycles and spirals in nature and create leaf rubbings.

Literature in the Gardens (Prep-6)

Students will enjoy an immersion into plants and landscape through children's literature. Books include Jeannie Baker's *Where the Forest Meets the Sea* and *Belonging* and Colin Thompson's *Paradise Garden*. Programs include storytelling, discovery walk and an art activity.

The Magic Garden (Prep–6)

With a sense of adventure and weaving their own magic, children meet the plants who live in the garden and find out what they have to say! Students create crowns with plant material collected in the Children's Garden and make pot pourri in the Herb Garden. A sensory focused exploration of the Gardens.

The Rainforest (Years 4–6)

Experience a rainforest in the centre of Melbourne! Within the Gardens there is a huge diversity of rainforest plants from Australia and around the world. Students will explore rainforest structure and ecology and the importance of rainforest conservation. Students make forest animals from plant materials.

Plantworks (Years 4–6)

Explore the structure and function of plants and investigate amazing adaptations from a variety of ecosystems. Students look at plants under microscopes, pot a seedling and visit the Tropical Hot House and the Herb Garden.

Plants and Animals (Years 4–6)

The focus of this program is the fascinating plant and animal interrelationships that exist in garden environments. Students will look closely at soil, make their own creature from plant materials, and visit the Tropical Hot House to meet carnivorous plants.

LOTE and Cultural Programs (Prep–6) French, Indonesian and Chinese

2010 Prices

\$9.90 per student (including GST)

Minimum Charge \$168.00 per group

Teachers/Adults free (Maximum 8 per class group)

Session Times: 1hr 45mins program

10.15am – 12.00 noon

12.30pm – 2.15pm

*** Teacher Professional Development**

workshops are available on request

For further information and bookings, please contact:

phone: **9252 2358**

email: **edserv@rbg.vic.gov.au**

website: **www.rbg.vic.gov.au/education**

Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

Birdwood Ave, South Yarra, Vic 3141

(Melways Map: 2F, K12)

