CRAIG Arrowsmith is a principal who likes to get his hands dirty.

As the new leader of Eaglehawk North Primary School he said his ethos had been to prioritise time in the classroom over time in his office.

“There’s a saying, get off the balcony and get on the dance floor,” he said.

“I like to get in where the action is.

“My role is to help teachers do their job and one way of doing this is to get in front of their classes.

“The kids are what keep you sane.”

Mr Arrowsmith said it was an exciting time to join the Eaglehawk North school with a $3 million Building the Education Revolution project — originally delayed by complicated foundation works — finally getting off the ground.

Six new classrooms are being built at the school, set to be finished at the end of the year.

The high-tech buildings will be a far cry from when Mr Arrowsmith started his teaching career.

“I started teaching in 1988, working in four different rural schools teaching art and science in a tin shed with no heating or cooling,” he laughed.

“The boys’ bathroom didn’t even have any running water.”

FRESH START: Craig Arrowsmith with students, from left, Zoe Ruiter, Nicholas Gahan, Joel Mullen, Cleo Luvara, Lachlan Else and Ellish Cumming.