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Dear Perspective International Education Student and Family,

Re: GLEN WAVERLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Glen Waverley Primary School has a student population in the vicinity of 400 which includes approximately 15 International Students. The school is situated close to Glen Waverley Secondary College and The Glen shopping centre. The suburb of Glen Waverley is located approximately 25 kilometres from Melbourne's Central Business District which is easily accessible via public transport.

Our International Education program is an extremely important component of our school as it provides children from all over the world with the opportunity to study abroad whilst receiving firsthand experience of the Australian culture and way of life.

The school has a high ESL component of approximately 70% and the school community comprises of 34 different home languages. Our community highly value education and have extremely lofty expectations and standards on their children and also the school. A high percentage of our students are working more than 12 months beyond the expected standard.

The majority of the community are white collar workers employed in various professional fields and other service sectors with a smaller percentage working in trade related industries or own their own businesses.

As a Victorian Government school we offer a seven-year sequential program currently based on the Victorian Essential Learning Standards. With Literacy, Numeracy, Thinking, Science and ICT being our main priorities and are also an imbedded feature of our work. We have an extensive ICT (Computer) program with all classrooms containing an interactive whiteboard, we have approximately 80 netbooks and 100 PC's throughout the school and in 2011 we commenced an extensive iPad program.

Specialist subjects include Physical and Sport Education, Music, Art/Craft and LOTE (Mandarin). English as a Second Language (ESL) program is also available for students. The educational program at Glen Waverley Primary School is further enhanced through Individual Learning Improvement Plans (ILIP's), Reading Recovery, QuickSmart Numeracy Intervention, Smart8 enrichment, Digital Excellence computer skills program, external competitions and various gifted and talented programs. We employ a School Chaplain and the students have access to a comprehensive outdoor education program commencing with

a Year 3 sleepover and school camps in Years 4 to 6. Whole school activities involving the broader school community are also a feature of our annual calendar of events.

The staff together with the broader school community place strong emphasis on:

- Fostering children's self-confidence and self esteem within a caring atmosphere
- Extending students by innovative and creative teaching practices
- Encouraging, recognising and celebrating student achievements
- Encouraging responsibility for one's own learning
- Providing leadership opportunities
- Developing tolerance, respect and understanding within our multicultural environment
- Providing an alignment and partnership of support between teachers, students and the school community
- Providing extensive professional learning for all teaching and non-teaching staff

The school believes that it has a responsibility to:

- Develop independence, self esteem, tolerance and self discipline in students
- Foster a love of learning
- Provide a basis in skills, knowledge, attitudes and values which empowers students to become lifelong learners
- Encourage students to learn through investigating, designing, producing and evaluating; and
- Develop skills of cooperation, shared decision-making and a commitment to working within a supportive environment

The focus of our work at a local level has been to implement our school's philosophy of:

1. The students are at the centre of everything we do
2. Building staff capacity is paramount and
3. Everything we do is based on research and a whole school approach.

Glen Waverley Primary School employs a terrific mix of teaching staff at differing stages of their careers. We have a healthy balance of male and female staff who are highly motivated and professional, working together in Professional Learning Teams and have a real passion for the development and learning of the students. As a staff we have developed whole school approaches to Assessment and Reporting and Curriculum Planning and Implementation. We are eagerly awaiting the introduction of the Australian Curriculum (AusVels) as this will be the impetus for us to review and redevelop our curriculum with an even stronger focus on Multiculturalism, Global Citizenship and Global Learning.

Another feature of our work which we are strongly working to develop is peer observation and coaching. All teaching staff have the opportunity to view colleagues in other schools and

we are currently working towards developing a collegiate approach across our school where we share each other's expertise.

The school is divided into 8 buildings consisting of:

- Year Prep and One Building
- Main building – consisting of the Administration, Computer Room, Library, Art Room and the Year 2, 5 and 6 classrooms
- Year 2 portable
- Year 3 wing consisting of the Year 3 classes and LOTE (Mandarin) classroom
- Year 4 portable
- School Hall
- Music Room and
- Out of School Care/ESL building.

The school has expansive grounds which include three adventure play areas, large oval, and additional asphalt areas. In 2012 we will develop additional play spaces incorporating basketball, netball and tennis courts.

If you require further information about our school or our International Education program please do not hesitate to contact me at catalano.frank.f@edumail.vic.gov.au

Best wishes with your search and travels,

Frank Catalano
Principal