SHAE WARREN (4SW)

Greetings parents and students. What an amazing start to the school year it has been! I have been delighted with how warmly I have been welcomed into this school. During the course of my first week and a half at Glen Waverley there have been four things which have really stood out to me: 1) All of the students are extremely positive, eager to learn and expand their knowledge. 2) There is a great culture of healthy eating throughout the school. 3) The push to invite and embrace parents into the classroom is very positive. I hope to continue forming these strong and open relationships. 4) There is a very positive feel amongst the whole school community and one which everyone can feel safe and embraced – extremely rare! Having been in about 8 different school settings over the last few years with my studies, I feel I am in a good place to compare. I can sincerely say that Glen Waverley Primary School is very special. I’m now looking forward to getting to know the rest of the students within this year level and throughout the school over the rest of the term.

OLGA ANAGNOSTOU (4SW)

Hi everyone, my name is Olga Anagnostou. I returned to teaching last year as a Casual Relief Teacher at Glen Waverley Primary School. I was a stay at home mum for many years and now that my children are older, I decided to focus on teaching more. This year I am teaching year 3 (3TA) as a part time teacher and really enjoy working with the students and getting to know the staff. I look forward to meeting many parents and doing my best to make this a wonderful, fun year for the children.
LEVEL LEADER’S WELCOME

What a fantastic start to the academic year! Many of our Level 3 parents joined their children for the first activity in their new grade. A wide range of favourites things were discovered and shared during the answering of questions. Some of this information will be used for graphing in later Mathematic sessions.

During the following days children brought in their parents to meet their new teacher. If you have not had that opportunity, please come into your child’s classroom and say a hello to your child’s teacher.

We have many talented and skilled parents at Glen Waverley Primary and the Level 3 team would like to invite parents to volunteer in our classrooms. We have times through the term where we would appreciate parent help such as: leading a reading group, listening to individual reading, helping with excursions, giving short presentations and many more. Please contact your child’s classroom teacher if you are able to help.

The Level 3 focus for Term 1 of 2013 is a Humanities and History based unit of “Who are We”. This unit is about the many communities that we are part of, such as our family, grade, school, state and our contribution to them and also, how they can change over time.

In the first two weeks, each grade has spent time building a respectful learning community through activities which required the students to get to know each other and work with others in different ways. They have even created 3-way Venn Diagrams displaying the similarities about each other. In this way the students are investigating the features of their own classroom community and how they contribute to it.

In the following weeks, this will be extended to finding out about Glen Waverley Primary School. The students will interview the different people that make up our unique community and their contributions to it. They will also be involved in a school scavenger hunt which is a very different way of finding out information. The students will work as a group to analyse the data they have collected and present a report of their findings through different media. This presentation will include; graphs, a profile of the different groups and backgrounds within the school community and the different ways people contribute to our school community. The Level 3 teachers hope that you will be an audience member to some of presentations and view the students’ findings.

The students will construct a pictorial timeline of school pictures through the different decades of GWPS and identify the changes over time. Look at school pictures from the different decades of GWPS and identify visual changes. We hope to invite past students and teachers to share their time at our school and for the students to compare and contrast GWPS then and now.

Towards the conclusion of the unit, the students will investigate the communities that exist in the wider community especially within the City of Monash. The students will explore how they can make a difference in communities and be successful contributors.

Finally the teachers in Level 3 would like to thank our parents for preparing your children so well for the beginning of the school year.
Home Learning

Homework in Level 3 has a focus on four weekly learning opportunities- Inquiry, Mathematics, Reading and Spelling.

**Inquiry** - A term overview of Inquiry unit activities has been supplied so students can look forward and plan for future weeks. Inquiry based activities are planned to compliment classroom study and broaden students engagement with our term focus. Inquiry study this term is based on developing students understanding of community and the benefits of active participation in the communities that they belong.

**Mathematics** - Each week students will be required to complete Mathletic’s units on the topic we are covering in class at that time. This consolidates learning and enables students to reinforce their understanding in a different format. To complete the topic in one week students are recommended to tackle one activity on the unit per day and after completion play some live Mathletic’s games.

**Reading** - Students are to read for 15 minutes per night to an adult or older sibling. Even for confident readers it is still important they have the opportunity to read out loud to develop expression and fluency. Conversations around your child’s reading will reinforce their understanding and help them develop critical literacy skills that are introduced at this level.

How can you help your child with reading?
Provide a calm environment where they know they have your full attention.
Ask them about the book they are reading using open questioning requiring more than a one word answer. E.g. Tell me about this character. What do you think is going to happen next in the book.
Ask them to tell you about strategies their teacher has asked them to work on in reading.
Take them to the library and encourage them to use the five finger test to choose ‘Just Right’ books.

Praise their reading with positive and specific acknowledgements eg You used fantastic expression for that characters voice, I could imagine them in my mind..... Your fluency has improved so much, that’s excellent it was so nice listening to you!.....Your so clever learning how to pronounce those new words using your sounds fantastic learning!

**Spelling** - Ten spelling words are provided each week concentrating on a different grammatical convention. Although we recommend the use of the Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check method, students can use their preferred learning styles at home to learn the spelling of their given words. Each word is to be placed in a full sentence that clearly shows the student’s knowledge of what the word means. E.G. Today is **hot**. (Unacceptable as this does not show the meaning of the word hot.) The sun came out while we were running around the playground, making us all **hot** and sweaty. (Acceptable)

Each Friday students will complete a spelling test on given words.

Weekly home learning is handed out to students each Friday and is to be returned the following Friday.

Things to remember:

To ensure that your child is prepared for school each day, here are a few suggestions to assist you.

Please ensure that all items of clothing, including hats are labelled with your child’s full name. Lost items will be kept in our Lost Property near the office.

The weather is often warm in Term One. It would be fantastic for students to come to school dressed appropriately for the weather. In hot temperatures it is very difficult for them to stay focused and learn when they are wearing long shirts and pants. Students need to have their hats to play in the sun during play times as well as P.E classes and wearing sunscreen will protect their skin from sun damage. Bringing a water bottle is also important so they can stay hydrated throughout the day.

At ten o’clock each day, students are given time to have their ‘Brain Food’, which includes healthy snacks such as fresh or dried fruits and vegetables. To help protect our environment and reduce waste in our school, students are encouraged to bring ‘Nude Food’, where they bring food without wrappers. Instead they could pack their snacks and lunch in containers which can be reused.
NAPLAN
Every year, all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are assessed on the same days using national tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation) and Numeracy. NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling and numeracy. The tests provide parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. NAPLAN tests are one aspect of each school’s assessment and reporting process, and do not replace the extensive, ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student’s performance.

Further information about the assessment including sample NAP assessments and frequently asked questions may be accessed at the official website: www.nap.edu.au

2013 ICAS
Parents may choose for their child/children to enter any number of the subject tests offered. This is not a compulsory assessment. An information sheet with payment details will go home shortly. The sitting dates are as follows:

- Computer Skills – Tuesday 21st May
- Science – Wednesday 5th June
- Writing – Monday 17th June
- Spelling – Tuesday 18th June
- English – Wednesday 31st July
- Mathematics – Tuesday 13th August

Website: www.eaa.unsw.edu.au may be accessed for further information. Please email the school if you would like samples of previous tests.

Dates to remember:

**Tuesday 14th May**
Language Conventions
40 minutes
Writing
40 minutes

**Wednesday 15th May**
Reading
45 minutes

**Wednesday 16th May**
Numeracy
45 minutes

Please note: The tests are administered in the first part of the day so it is important that all children arrive at school on time.
This year the Year 4 camp will be held at Coastal Forest Lodge in Anglesea. Coastal Forest Lodge is purpose-built group accommodation campsite on the Surfcoast of Victoria. It's about five kilometers on the Geelong side of Anglesea, is located on a beautiful 80 hectare property opposite the Anglesea Heathlands and the Forest Road flora reserve.

The Camp Setting is delightful— an alcove surrounded on three sides by coastal forest, fenced for safety and supervision. With plenty of walks and abundant wildlife, the wooded area is a peaceful and diverse environment. We do a range of activities such as low ropes course, bush walks, and mini-golf. On Thursday we will be taking a bus down to the Anglesea Estuary to undertake some netting to look at all the sea creatures that live in the sea.

There will be a parent information night prior to the camp where we will be able to answer any questions you may have.

_The Camp will be held from Wednesday 17th to Friday 19th April Week One of Term Two._