YEAR 3 SLEEPOVER

Friday 6th September 2013
The Year Three Sleepover is fast approaching! The children are excited to be spending a night at school with their fellow class members and teachers. This event is an introduction to the school Outdoor Education Program which begins in Year 4 with a 3 day/2 night camp.

The children will participate in a number of fun activities during the evening session before they settle down to sleep. They will be provided with snacks, dinner, dessert and breakfast organised by our staff.

A detailed notice with a permission slip will be going home with all students shortly.

The sleepover will commence on the Friday at 3.30pm and conclude on Saturday at 9.00am. It will be held in the main building.

*Please ensure that all personal items and bedding are clearly named. There are to be no electronic devices brought to school for this event.
TERM OVERVIEW

The year is passing so quickly, as shown by our commencement of the second semester of this school year.

The Level Three students had already begun thinking about our Unit of Work; “Let’s Celebrate” at the end of Term 2. Each class was presented with a variety of celebration images and the students developed their own questions about things they wanted to learn about celebrations. A wide range of inquiries were expressed from: why are celebrations so important to why are fireworks and lights used in celebrations? The students will be endeavouring to find the answers to their questions through the term.

Through this Unit, the students will be investigating celebrations around the world, the many reasons for them and the different ways that people celebrate. This will include finding out how celebrations have changed from place to place and over time. For example how Chinese New Year is celebrated in Australia now compared to how it has been celebrated in China through the centuries. This is linked to the AusVELS History curriculum; in particular building historical understanding about how and why people choose to remember significant events of the past.

The first week commenced with the students discovering a large brightly wrapped present in their classroom. This caused great interest and was used as an introduction to the unit. This prop helped students tune-in and think about the different celebrations that they take part in or that they know about. It was also used later in the week as a stimulus for narrative writing.

The classes are developing a list of the different celebrations occurring around the world each week. In the first few weeks of July the students discovered that Ramadan commenced, aboriginal efforts were rewarded through NAIDOC, the French paraded for Bastille Day, Independence Days were celebrated in different countries including America and the Camel Cup was raced in Alice Springs.

Students have highlighted a celebration they partake in and explained the celebration and how it is celebrated. All of the Level 3 teachers would appreciate any parents volunteering to share with the class their cultural celebrations to deepen our understandings.

As the term progresses the students will become Celebration Detectives. They will investigate the celebrations that occur around the world each month and will endeavour to make a calendar page. This will be designed with images and symbols that appropriately represent the celebrations and ceremonies of that month. Each class will be working towards making a complete yearly calendar both digitally and in hard copy. This may be distributed to the school community in some form perhaps on the school website or as a fundraising Mathematics project.

During Book Week in August, each grade will visit the Monash Public Library to recognize a celebration of a different kind. Book Week is the longest running children’s festival in Australia beginning in 1945. Each year, many schools and public libraries from all over Australia spend a week celebrating books, reading, Australian authors and illustrators. The theme for 2013 is Read across the Universe. This will coincide with book events being held at school.

During our excursion to Cranbourne’s Royal Botanical Gardens the students learnt about the different plants used by the aboriginals and wanted to know more. It is also an important part of the Australian Curriculum to ensure that all students understand, acknowledge and respect the history and culture of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

In this term the students will be offered an incursion called “Aboriginal For A Day program”. This will be an introduction into Indigenous history and culture. Schools throughout Australia have taken part in this program which encompasses storytelling, face painting, art, didgeridoo and dance. Students are broken up into small groups for workshops on each of the disciplines, before coming together for a final celebration.

By the end of the term the students should have gained an understanding that celebrations and commemorations; bring people together, have been integrated into all human societies for thousands of years, are part of all people’s personal and cultural identity and can involve just friends and family, one nation or many nations.

Helen Tomecek
Level 3 Leader
LEVEL 3 SPORT

There have been plenty of extra sports activities happening around the school in recent times which has helped us to keep warm during these winter months. Towards the end of Term 2 the Grade 3 students were lucky enough to participate in two Australian Rules football clinics run by representatives of the Hawthorn Football Club. Here, they got to grapple with the skills of kicking, handballing and marking the oval shaped AFL ball whilst making decisions about healthy lifestyle choices.

Last week all Level 3 students eagerly participated in a free basketball clinic at school which was run by Nunawading Basketball Club. Meanwhile, a large group of Grade 4 students have been participating in the Hoop Time weekly basketball clinics during lunchtime on Wednesdays. It has been great to see the enthusiasm for basketball spread over to daily basketball practise and matches between students during recess and lunchtimes. The Hoop Time basketball program will conclude with a fun day of matches against other schools at Nunawading Basketball Stadium in early September.

Another opportunity for all Level 3 students to get involved and experience sporting activities at GWPS is the Grade 3-6 lunchtime sports program; this is run by Ms Ryan and I during lunchtime on Fridays. Each week, the teachers set-up (and sometimes join in on) a different game and encourage students to participate in a safe and encouraging environment. There will also be a free netball clinic for all Level 3 students at the school on September 13th.

While GWPS takes great pride in the academic results that we achieve, it is equally pleasing to see the variety and quality of sporting opportunities that are being offered to the students to promote a healthy balance and lifestyle.

Shae Warren.

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

The Level 3 teachers are always appreciative for the support and assistance they get from parents. We are always looking for ways to involve parents in our school activities. This Term in our ‘Celebrations’ unit, we would love to have parents come and share with the students their experiences of cultural and religious celebrations significant to them and their families. In addition, we would really appreciate parent helpers in the classroom; listening to children read or working with small groups. Helping in the classroom will give you a better idea of what your child does at school every day as well as helping you and your child form stronger ties between home and school.

Creating a link between home and school is vital for your child to succeed in their education. While it can be difficult for working parents to find the time to get involved, simple activities such as taking the time to listen to your child read for 15 minutes every night will improve their reading significantly. Ensuring they complete their homework to the best of their ability and punctually will support them in their school work and provide you with a better idea of what they are covering at school over the course of the week.

If you would like to be involved in any of our school activities or you would like to know how to better assist your child at home, please see your child’s classroom teacher.
In the next few weeks the students will be practising their dance for the School Concert. The Concert experience will engage students, and focus on developing their skills in dance, costume design, organisational skills and ICT. As they will be working closely with many students they will be reminded to be patient, respectful of others, and to encourage everyone to do their very best.

On Monday the 9th September there will be a Whole School Dress Rehearsal in the hall. On Tuesday the whole school will have a rehearsal at Crossways. The purpose of these rehearsals is for the children to become familiar with performing together, and to familiarise themselves with the layout of Crossways.

YEAR 3: The students will be performing one dance in the first concert of the night between 6-7pm.

YEAR 4: Each Year 4 class will be performing one dance in the second concert of the night between 7.45 and 8.45pm.

CHOIR: Students involved in the School Choir will also present an item on the night, more details will be provided shortly.

Notices will be distributed soon to inform you about the upcoming exciting event, and what is required in terms of costume, tickets and venue.

WHAT YOU CAN DO AT HOME TO HELP YOUR CHILD PREPARE FOR THE SCHOOL CONCERT:
- Practise the dance together.
- Praise their efforts.
- Assist your child with organising the costume that is needed.
- Ensure your child is well rested so that they are ready to perform on the night.

WHEN: Tuesday 10th September, 2013
VENUE: Crossway Centre.
TIMES: P-3: 6:00- 7:00 pm, (5:45 for a 6:00 start), Years 4-6: 7:45-8:45 pm, (7:30 for a 7:45 start).
Maths Night for Parents

Presented by internationally renowned consultant Michael Ymer.

Come and join us for this very informative and hands-on parent information night about the latest innovative approach our school is taking towards providing a world class mathematics program.

Monday 19th August, 2013. 7.00pm-8.30pm.
In the school hall.