Inquiry Learning

At Glen Waverley Primary School, we are committed to actively leading curriculum development in Australia. Our inquiry units are planned in response to National Curriculum guidelines. This term, we are focusing on Humanities units and we are pleased to provide the unit outlined below

“Fairy Tales”

Foundation (Prep)
The Prep children are being introduced to different fairy tales from all around the world and focusing on the morals and meanings behind these stories. They will read stories such as; The Frog Prince, Tiddalik, How The Sun Was made, The Elephant’s Child and have been discovering why these stories were formed and the significance they play in shaping the world and people’s connection to the land. The preps have also been comparing the similarities and difference between like or modern versions of the same story for example The Frog Prince and Tiddalik both being stories about a frog. While comparing characters and stories students have also made a list of good and bad characters. They have also used their knowledge about the characters to list their traits and perceptions about each character. Throughout the rest of term 3, students will be creating their own narrative and learning about all the different features that make up a good story.

Year 1

During Term 3, the children in Year 1 will be studying the topic “From Farm to Table”. Children will investigate the different forms of food farming, processing and manufacturing in Australia. Emphasis will be on discovering what a farm is and where food comes from. We will also attempt to grow some of our own vegetables.

Year 2

This term in Year 2 we are exploring the unit “From Farm to Table”. We will be learning about the food we eat and where it comes from. Students will be discovering the differences between the processes our foods go through now, compared to how food was processed in the past. We will also be exploring how technology influences the food making process.

During this unit we will be learning about other countries and the particular types of food they eat, why they eat what they do, and how they get their food. We will be learning about staple foods, land locked countries, the growth of food, and how people play a role in the food making process. We will also be exploring how food gets to us and what happens to it before it gets to our table.

Years 1 and 2 are lucky enough to be attending two incursions this term. Bakers Delight will be visiting our school, showing us how they make bread and discussing where the ingredients come from. Our second incursion this term will be with “Pura Milk”. During this incursion we will be shown how milk comes from the farm and the processes that it goes through, to eventually make its way into our fridge. We are all very excited about learning more about food!
CURRICULUM

Literacy & Numeracy in Foundation (Prep)

In English, students will be immersed in the reading of, and writing about fairytales. Spelling, phonetic instruction and learning goals are all now greatly individualised to suit the needs of all students. Some of the students are reading independently, and although it is tempting to continually increase reading levels that are taken home, teachers carefully assess not just the way words are decoded, but also vocal expression when reading, and comprehension of text.

The children will continue to develop their skills and knowledge in a range of mathematical areas. They will be looking at using calculators for the first time to investigate patterns and calculations. They will continue to practice counting forwards and backwards from any given number and to use a range of strategies to build on their knowledge of adding and subtracting bigger numbers. Preps will continue to gain a better understanding of division through sharing objects with a group and relate it repeating subtraction. Using fairy tales to guide their learning, preps will investigate different units of measurement, including length, weight and capacity. Throughout all the topics, they will create stories and relate activities to show how everyday situations connect to mathematical concepts learn in class.

Excursion

Preps to visit FairyPark!

This term the Preps have been given the opportunity to build on their knowledge and experience of our Inquiry Topic, Fairy Tales, through a school excursion to Fairy Park! The park provides children exciting activities and fun experiences, including meeting life size versions of characters that tell a story, castles, and cottages that light up. The Preps (and teachers) can’t wait to go!
Literacy and Numeracy

In Year One

In Reading and Viewing this term the students will be developing their skills of comparing and contrasting and identifying detail. During shared reading of weekly big books the students will be encouraged to think about the literal, inferential and critical meaning of the text, as well as focussing on aspects of grammar and punctuation. We have introduced an activity called Book Spotlight – Sharing a book they like with the grade after Independent Reading Time. The students have the opportunity to talk in detail about their book and recommend it to others. This is a wonderful way for the students to practise their speaking and listening skills along with the oral language activities which have been set up for the students to participate in outside the year one rooms. These include performing in puppet shows, using barrier games and creating scenes in the moon sand and describing their features to the class. The students will be writing narratives, recounts and procedural texts and continuing to write weekly reflections of their learning. Handwriting sessions focus on pencil grip, correct formation and size of letters. We will study ‘ea’, ‘ay’, ‘ai’, ‘a-e’, ‘i-e’, ‘o-e’ word families, number words to twenty and “Farm” topic words in Spelling.

In Number and Algebra, our main focus will be on about place value, number patterns, addition and subtraction problem solving strategies. We will also be looking at identifying and ordering Australian coins by their value.

In Measurement and Geometry, we will be learning more about length, capacity and time as well as 2D shapes and 3D objects. Location and shape transformations (flip slide and turn) will also be investigated using concrete materials and real life examples.

In Statistics and Probability, we will look at the likelihood of events using words such as “will happen”, “won’t happen” and “might happen”. We will also be developing questions, gathering data and representing data.

Literacy and Numeracy

In Year Two

In Year Two we are working hard on stories for our narrative writing. Students have been conjuring up fantastic characters that have names, personalities and very distinct looks. These characters will be at the centre of their stories that will be written and published as picture story books, over the next few weeks. In the second half of term, we will then be writing about our opinions, focusing on our topic and the idea that everyone deserves access to food. These two texts, along with our awesome acrostic poems about our holidays (that you can see on display in the corridor outside our classroom) mean we have a very busy term of writing ahead of us.

Our CAFE reading program is coming along very nicely. Students are regularly discussing their reading skills and strategies with each other and teachers, with some significant improvements being seen. An enthusiastic “Yes!” is not uncommon when students have the opportunity for independent reading, where they work on their reading goals and conference with their teacher.

We have had an exciting development in Year Two. We’ve had spontaneous presentations! A number of students have come back from holidays with presentations to share through Power Point and personal diaries. It has been wonderful to hear these students speak so clearly and expressively about their trips to Japan, even about how eyes work. We’re very proud of our proactive students and their enthusiasm to share.

Our Mathematics program this term covers a range of topics. Students will explore place value, skip counting, money, and explore chance and probability. We will develop a better understanding of measurement, 3D shapes, graphing and the four processes: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Students will continue to take part in many hands on activities and mathematics projects that will improve their practical application of mathematical concepts.
This term the children from Year 1 will be visiting Chesterfield Farm as part of their study into the Term 3 topic of Farm to Table. Chesterfield Farm is a historical farm situated in the heart of Scoresby, which is operating as a tourist/children’s farm. The children will have opportunities to learn about farm life and have a real “hands on” experience with the animals. They will travel to and from the venue by bus.

Activities include:
- paddock animals to hand-feed (including kangaroos, emus, ostriches, deer, goats and more)
- a visit to the baby animal nursery
- milking of a cow
- the farm dog show

Parents are very welcome to join us at Chesterfield Farm. Admission is payable at entry:

Family ~ Normally $44 for 2
Adults & 2 Children (Discount Family $35)
Adults ~ $14.00
Concessions ~ $12.00
Children ~ $8.00
(children under 3 are admitted free)

EXCURSIONS

Year One

This term we will be going on an excursion to CERES Environmental Park in Brunswick. At CERES students will have the opportunity to take part in three activities called ‘Where our food comes from’, ‘Bees and Bee Dance’, ‘Plant a Seed’. These are directly linked to our current Inquiry unit ‘From Farm to Table’. The students will explore different food products and which animal or plant they come from, discover how bees make honey and how honey is collected, discover the life cycle of a seed and plant a seed to take home. CERES supports sustainable living and teaches students about the importance of caring for our environment.
At Glen Waverley Primary School we encourage all children to bring “Nude Food” to school. This means that food is brought in reusable containers without wrappers. By doing this, we can reduce the amount of rubbish that gets into our yard and so keeps our school looking its best. Giving your children healthy foods to eat at school helps them to develop healthy bodies and minds. It is a good idea to include whole grains, protein, dairy products and plenty of fruit and vegetables in their lunch boxes. Try to avoid sugary and highly processed foods please.

**Brain Food**

Around ten o’clock every morning there is a short break for “Brain Food”. This is either fruit or vegetables and is helpful in keeping the children’s brains nourished and ready to learn. It is helpful if the fruit and vegetables are cut up ready to be eaten quickly to avoid taking a long time to be eaten.

**LUNCH ORDERS**

Lunch orders can be ordered from Gourmet Delish online at [www.studentlunch.com.au](http://www.studentlunch.com.au). Lunch orders are delivered at 1.30pm so please make sure you give your child Brain Food and a snack for earlier in the day.

**Forgotten lunches**

If your child forgets their lunch, their teacher can prepare them some noodles from the office. Parents are asked to send in $2 to cover the cost the following day.
Michael Ymer Evening

We are very privileged to hold a Maths evening for parents this term on Monday 19th August, 2013 at 7.00pm-8.30pm, hosted by an internationally renowned Mathematic consultant, Michael Ymer.

Michael is an experienced Mathematics consultant and educationalist who has been involved in numerous state and national curriculum initiatives. He regularly presents at top performing schools across the Asian region, working closely with internationally top-ranking countries. His approach to teaching Mathematics involves engaging reluctant learners whilst providing gifted mathematicians with the opportunity to extend their knowledge and problem solving abilities through promoting an inquiry based approach to Mathematics. “

Michael is an enthusiastic and entertaining presenter who has a clear and practical approach to the challenges that confront schools in Mathematics. On this evening Michael will address the following issues

- What is my child learning in mathematics?
- How can I help my child become an efficient problem solver?
- How do children best learn mathematics?
- As a parent, how can I promote quality thinking and learning?
- How can I help my child in Mathematics?

If you haven’t already returned the slip to let us know that you’re attending, please hand it in no later than Friday 9th August 204. Look forward to seeing you there!
Junior Assembly

During Term Three, we continue to have Junior Assembly every three weeks. We invite the school community to join us at these times to help celebrate the numerous achievements within the Junior School.

Assembly Dates;
Friday 19th July at 2:45pm in the school hall.
Friday 9th August at 2:45pm in the school hall.
Friday 30th August at 2:45pm in the school hall.

PMP

PMP is held every Friday from 9.15am until 1.30pm. Grades Prep to Year 1 are thoroughly enjoying the PMP program and look forward to taking part in the set activities for each week. We have been working to improve their hand-eye coordination and the necessary stages needed in order to master and complete skipping activities. Currently the students have been participating in activities such as; hoppers, A-frame, geometric shapes, obstacle courses, tight rope and rebound nets. Over the past couple of weeks, other schools have taken some interest in the program that we have been running and are coming to the school to observe the fantastic activities we have planned.

Thank you to all the parents and Year 5 students who have volunteered their time to come and help with the PMP program. This program would not run as smoothly without your support and participation. Your time and effort is greatly appreciated by all the Preps, Grade 1’s and staff members. If you would like to volunteer and help out with the PMP program please contact either Mrs Gilbert or Miss Donoghue.