Term 1 Overview

Welcome back to another exciting school year, and a special welcome to all the new families coming to G.W.P.S. for the first time. The specialist teachers have been busy over the holidays creating new programs that are sure to challenge and inspire everyone.

Speaking of which, we would like to welcome to the specialist team two new teachers. Esther Wang will be our new Mandarin teacher. This is her first year at G.W.P.S. and she has been very impressed by all she has seen at this wonderful school. Also joining the staff is Aubrey Hudson, the new art teacher. You may remember him as the art teacher in the first term of last year or the teacher of 6AH in the last term. Hannah and Matt will be continuing their superb work as the music and PE teachers respectively.

Last year every month a student was chosen by each specialist teacher to receive a certificate for outstanding performance in their class. These certificates were handed out during the whole school assembly on Monday mornings. This year we will be continuing this tradition, but we will further honor these students by creating a display in the corridor that consists of a photo of each award recipient. Award recipients will be added to the display each month throughout the year.

We hope you enjoy reading our Specialist Newsletter as you discover all the wonderful things your child will be learning and participating in during their specialist classes this term.

Thank you,

The Specialist Team
TERM 1 LOTE (MANDARIN)

Welcome back to language Class. Happy Year of the Snake! This year all grades are having one hour’s Languages lessons every week.

Students in their Foundation Year (Prep) will learn about ‘Year of the Snake’ and ‘Numbers’. In this term they will:

* Start the term with some fun Chinese New Year Activities.
* Be introduced to the language and the culture.
* Learn some of the basic greeting language in Chinese such as introducing themselves and meeting others.
* Recognise and be able to read and write Numbers in Chinese through various activities.

Students in Level One and Two (Year 1 and 2) will learn about the ‘Year of the Snake’ and ‘Family’. In this term they will:

* Start the term with some fun Chinese New Year activities.
* Be busy learning basic classroom routines/instructions, greetings and tell others who they are.
* Talking about their families and learn to read and recognise the family vocabularies in Chinese.

Students in Level Three and Four (Year 3 and 4) are learning about ‘Year of the Snake’ and ‘Nationalities’ this term. In this unit they will:

* Start the term with some fun Chinese New Year activities.
* Be talking about their family background and learn how to say their nationalities in Chinese.
* Recognize and read different countries and nationalities in Chinese.
* Make a class booklet ‘Who we are’.

Students in Level Five and Six (Year 5 and 6) are learning about ‘Food’ this term. In this unit they will:

* Start the term with fun some Chinese New Year activities.
* Focus on the topic “Why we like Australia”.
* Be involved in reading and using sentence structure to write ‘I like Australia because…….’
TERM 1 VISUAL ARTS

This term students can look forward to a series of fun art activities that aspire to challenge and develop their artistic curiosity and abilities.

Prep (Foundation)
At Foundation level, the students’ unit focus is ‘All About Me’, thus they will participate in a series of small activities that allow them to think about who they are, what they look like, and what they feel like. Each class will aim to cultivate their fine motor skills whilst also nurturing their developing artistic curiosity and knowledge.

Year 1 and 2 (Levels 1 and 2)
In Levels 1 and 2, students will create artworks that are inspired by nature. Infused into their work will be an emphasis on complementary colours. They are currently working on a painting of an Autumn tree made from combining many small dots, and will later create stripy fish that are placed on a stripy background of complementary colours.

Year 3 and 4 (Levels 3 and 4)
The Level 3 and 4 students will explore the magic of the famous Austrian artist Klimt, and then create their own painting based on his famous painting ‘The Tree of Life’. The final artwork will depict a shimmering gold and silver tree and delicate tulips floating on a black background.

Year 5 and 6 (Levels 5 and 6)
The Level 5 and 6 students will be creating their own unique paintings by transforming their doodle sketches into complete paintings. This process will encourage students to greater understand and appreciate abstract painting and will also challenge their geometric abilities as they attempt to reproduce their sketches from small to large scale.

After School Art Classes
New Star Art School are running after school art classes commencing on Wednesday 6/2/2013! New Star Art School practices a special technique combining Eastern and Western art concepts designed to rapidly develop artistic skills in children of all ages (P-6).

Where: GWPS art room

When: Throughout Term 1 every Wednesday from 3:45 -5:15.

How Much: $200 + $30 for art supplies.

Art Smocks
There are still some students who do not have an art smock, please ensure your child has a smock to protect their clothes during art. They can be purchase at the School Uniform shop for $16.00 or an old shirt from home will suffice.

WANTED
Do you have any unwanted magazines at home? If you do the art room would love to have them for art activities in Term 2.
DATES OF INTEREST
Tuesday 19th March- Shenanigans Dance Whole-School Incursion

This term we have the Shenanigans Dance group coming to GWPS on Tuesday the 19th March. They will run workshops for the students throughout the day and provide a dance education that is important for each student’s development and Performing Arts education. As this year’s school concert’s theme is ‘Everybody Dance Now’, this workshop will be excellent preparation for the concert and give students the experience of learning dances from around the world in a fun and interactive way.

EXTENDED MUSIC PROGRAM

This year there will be several music programs that will be run outside of lesson times that students can be involved in. These programs include:

- School Band
- Choir
- Recorder Ensemble

Students are currently in the process of auditioning and being selected for these groups.

TERM 3 MUSIC

It will be another fantastic year ahead for the Music program and the students are already looking forward to our school concert which will be held in Term 3, with the theme ‘EVERYBODY DANCE NOW!’ So far the students have made a fantastic start in their music lessons, exploring music from Australia, including working on their singing and knowledge about the Australian Anthem.

Throughout their music lessons this term, all levels will be learning musical theory to help them develop an understanding of notation, rhythm, beat, pitch and melody, instrumentation and other musical elements. They will also be using their global perspective and using this perspective to learn about music.

Year Prep (Foundation) will be focusing on the basic elements of music such as beat, rhythm and pitch. They are working on using movements to express themselves, and using their singing voices when singing, not their speaking voices. During the term they will learn about various percussion instruments.

Years 1 and 2 (Levels 1 and 2) will be learning about musical elements such as dynamics, beat, pitch, and singing songs about families. Year 3 will learn about untuned percussion instruments and Year 2s will learn about stringed instruments.

Years 3 and 4 (Levels 3 and 4) will be focusing on various musical elements such as solfa and scales, whilst refining their instrumentation skills when playing instruments. Year 3s will be learning about woodwind instruments and Year 4s will be learning about the marimba.

Years 5 and 6 (Levels 5 and 6) are learning about traditional Australian songs whilst working on an individual work on rhythmic (Year 5) and melodic (Year 6) compositions. Year 5s will be learning about Brass instruments and Year 6 will learn about the orchestra.

Monday Assembly 9:00-10:00am throughout the Term

Similar to last year, we will be continuing to have students present and perform during assembly on Mondays so be sure to come and watch!

IMPORTANT

It is essential that your child has a recorder or flutophone in every music lesson. Year Prep, 1 and 2 need a flutophone and Year 3,4,5 and 6 need a recorder. If you don’t have one at home you may purchase one from the school office. Please make sure your child brings theirs to school so they can be involved in all musical activities and do not fall behind in their recorder/flutophone skills.
Prep (Foundation)
The recently arriving Preps will be starting off by understanding their bodies through different locomotion skills such as walking, running, jumping, hopping and skipping. They will start to investigate different movement patterns incorporating these skills, understanding the balance the body requires to fulfil these skills. They will start on catching and throwing later in the term.

Year 1 and 2 (Level 1 and 2)
The Year 1 & 2 students will continue to develop their locomotion skills, but incorporating fundamental motor skills such as catching, throwing, kicking and bouncing all whilst moving.

Year 3 and 4 (Level 3 and 4)
The Year 3 & 4 students will start understanding games, incorporating the skills they have learnt into sport based games such as netball, basketball and soccer. They will start implementing the rules of such sports by playing modified games.

Year 5 and 6 (Level 5 and 6)
The Year 5 & 6 students will intensely play and understand sport and the concept of space on a playing field. They will look at tactics and use the rules to their advantage when playing a sport. Later in the term they will be using their iPad’s in self and peer assessment of a basic fundamental motor skill, trying to correct any technique errors such as catching with fingers pointing up, out or down instead of towards the ball.

Drink bottles and sports shoes
On the days your child has Physical Education and/or Sport, please ensure that they have their water bottle and are wearing supportive and appropriate sports shoes.

Hats
A reminder that all students are required to wear a hat whilst outdoors. This includes during PE lessons.
We welcome our new students who have arrived at Glen Waverley at the beginning of 2013. For some of these it will be their first experience in an English Speaking school and we support these students in EAL classes (previously called ESL (English as a Second Language) classes).

As part of our EAL program at our school, our new students, after consultation with their classroom teacher, have been individually assessed to determine their English Language needs.

Those students who show a high need in the area of English communications are provided with extra English instruction to fast track their development. This occurs in small groups of 3-5 where different language skills are taught, depending on student’s English abilities, interests, and needs. All lessons include the following: conversational English, grammar, reading, listening, comprehension, writing, vocabulary, and understanding the Australian context.

Each group will deepen their understanding of oral and written English through events, themes, activities, topics and hands-on activities like cooking and designing and creating constructions. In such sessions like cooking, the vocabulary of cooking will be developed, reading and comprehending the instructions of the recipe, oral communication in helping to develop the mixture and writing about their experience.

The EAL supports the Literacy program of each year level. During this term for example, as Level 3 students’ learn about their family history, in EAL we will be focussing on family names and members, family traditions and the student’s identity at GWPS. In Level 4, we will look at how Australia is different to other countries where the students may have lived and compare the culture, language and environment.

The goal of Glen Waverley’s EAL program is to improve each student’s level of English. You can help your children improve by giving your child time to talk and take risks with their oral language.