

LEVEL 3 NEWSLETTER

Glen Waverley Primary School

Term 2, 2017

WELCOME BACK

Welcome back to another fantastic term of learning at Glen Waverley Primary School. Term One brought many highlights for the level including our students taking part in the Athletics Carnival for the first time, our wonderful Cultural Infusion incursion and our celebration of the multi-cultural community that we are a part of through the shared lunch.

This term will again bring many highlights with it, such as the excursion to the Royal Botanical Gardens, which will help us in our inquiry unit 'Plants in Action' to learn more about the life cycles of a plant. This will be supported in the classroom with a number of learning tasks, including growing our own broad beans and closely following the changes that occur in a plant after germination.

Students will also be given the opportunity to participate in the Artists in School program, where guest artist Anatoli Sirota will visit the school and teach the students how to make a toy catapult. As a part of our 'Service Learning' students will be provided with the opportunity to donate their toy to the Monash Toy Library. Making the toy will provide many of our students with a hands on learning experience of using hardware tools such as hammers and saws.

In PE, students in Level Three will be provided with the chance to take part in the cross country or the non competitive fun run. These are long distance running events that often test the resilience and persistence of the children through physical activity. The top performers in the cross country go on to represent GWPS against other schools in the area.

During the second week of May, students will sit the National Assessment Program of Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) where they will be tested on the key learning areas of reading, writing, mathematics and language conventions. Contrary to what some parents think, NAPLAN does not affect the future schooling of your child. Simply, the data from NAPLAN is used to compare schools around Victoria and Australia to see where teaching and learning can be improved.

**GLEN WAVERLEY
PRIMARY SCHOOL**



IMPORTANT DATES

9th - 11th May

'NAPLAN' Assessment Tasks

15 - 18th May

Artists in Schools program

19th May

Cross Country/Fun Run

22 -26 May

Education Week

25th May

Level Three Royal Botanical Gardens Excursion

5th June - 20th June

Life Education Van at GWPS.

26th June

Student led Conferences

30th June

Final day of Term Two

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ENGLISH

In Reading and Viewing, students will be using a range of different texts on a daily basis to help reinforce their understandings of CAFÉ strategies. For those who are unaware of what the CAFÉ acronym means, it stands for Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency and Expanded Vocabulary. The CAFÉ program helps students become effective readers by providing students with reading strategies to help them decode and understand text.

Various areas of reading that will be covered this term will include establishing the difference between literal and inferred information in a text, recognising strategies the author has used to get the reader to feel various emotions and identifying the author's purpose when reading a text. It is important to remember that children in the modern world access text in a range of different ways and sometimes a Reading and Viewing lesson may incorporate watching video clips on various digital devices. One of the best ways to support your child's reading in the classroom is by listening to them read for 15 minutes each night at home and taking the time to discuss the book with them. The following questions are a great way to start a conversation:

- "Can you tell me what you just read about?"
- "What does the author want you to feel when you read this text?"
- "Are there any words on the page that you don't know, could you work out their meaning by using the surrounding text?"

In Writing, students have been focussing on creating persuasive texts. Whilst learning about persuasive texts the students have begun by reviewing visual advertisements before designing their own. It was during this time that the children honed in on the particular strategies that are used to try to get people to buy or use a particular product. Many of the students often find this topic particularly engaging and enjoy the opportunity to make connections to advertisements that link to their favourite toy or organisation.

After completing their learning on advertising, Level Three students have now progressed onto writing persuasive essays. The children have been encouraged to write essays which include an opening paragraph which states their opinion on a topic, then support their opinion with three valid reasons (assigning one paragraph to each reason) and then finishing with a conclusion.

About half way through the term Level Three will shift the writing focus from persuasive writing to informative writing to support the learning that we are doing in our inquiry unit "Plants in Action". During this time students will be creating texts which use non-fiction characteristics such as headings, captions, diagrams and graphs to provide the reader with information in different ways. You can support your child at home by reading information reports on their favourite topics and discussing their strategies that the author used to convey information such as graphs and diagrams.

In the second half of the term we will also be introducing 'Newstime' to help our students develop their oral presentation skills. This involves having a group of four students presenting a mock TV news show to the class, with each student assigned a different role, such as the news anchor, sports reporter, weatherman and someone creating an advertisement. Each role requires students to collaborate with their peers and also conduct research during the week as to what they will present to the class when it is their turn to speak.

Mathematics

Throughout Term Two, Level Three students will be covering a variety of topics in the field of Mathematics. Topics that will be covered include:

- Measurement — Mass, weight and length
- Money
- Time and seasons
- Data and Graphing
- Locations and Mapping

Before preparing for each topic the teachers across the level will conduct a formative assessment which will allow us to teach every child at their point of need based upon where they are in their learning. Research shows that children best learn mathematics through real life, concrete experiences, so if you wish to help you child in the area of mathematics the following tasks at home may be beneficial.

- Measurement — Mass, weight and length. Cooking with an adult can often be a great way to help children to learn the concepts of calculating grams and kilograms in addition to litres and millilitres. When helping children learn length there is nothing better than sitting down with a ruler and measuring some objects around the house, converting between centimetres and millimetres.
- Money - Like most people, children love spending money! Having your child go shopping with you to buy groceries and having them handle the money can really promote their understanding of currency. This is great way to support them to develop concepts such as giving the correct amount and calculating change.
- Time and months — A great way to support your child with learning to tell the time is quite simple, buy them a watch. For some children, learning to tell the time on an analogue clock can be quite tricky. By purchasing your child a watch you give your child plenty of opportunity to practice telling the time. It is really easy to teach your child the skills they need to tell the time and ask them three times a day, “Can you please tell me the time?”
- Data and Graphing - There are many ways that data can be represented in graphs and tables. The best way to support your child in this area is to show them real life examples of graphs that you may receive in a water or electricity bill and discuss the features of the graph and what important information it is telling you.
- Locations and Mapping - A simple task that can help your child to reinforce this concept is using Google Maps to find out what towns and suburbs are around their local area and in which direction these places are from their home.

We would like to thank you in advance for the fantastic support you continue to provide our students at home, which helps us to remain the high performing, internationally accredited school that we are.

Kind regards,

The Glen Waverley Primary School Level Three Team.