WELCOME TO OUR NEW LEVEL 4 STAFF MEMBER!

Anna Meng (4AM)

Hi everyone! I’m Miss Meng and I’m teaching 4AM this year. My hobbies are reading (the students in 4AM know how much I enjoy reading Roald Dahl’s books!), going to the movies, travelling and taking my pet dog for walks. I am really enjoying my time at Glen Waverley Primary School and look forward to getting to know all of the students, staff and parents who have made me feel so welcome!

ICT

At Glen Waverley Primary School we utilise the Digital Excellence Awards (DEA) program as the basis of our curriculum for ICT. The students in their learning have the opportunity to use ICT such as Microsoft Word in publishing their writing or using PowerPoint to enhance an oral presentation with a slideshow display. All of these opportunities link back to the DEA and the students will earn badges that can be sewn onto their uniforms to display their success in ICT learning. Students will continue to search on the internet and will be taught strategies to do so appropriately to earn the silver Cybersafety badge. Students will also learn to write emails to their friends and teachers and with your permission, to you! They will be able to email an electronic copy of their learning, straight to your mailbox.

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.
LEVEL LEADER’S WELCOME

Welcome everyone to a fabulous year of learning at GWPS. We would like to thank all the parents that we have met during our ‘Getting to Know You’ interviews.

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

Students have been learning about the First Australians, the various explorers that mapped parts of Australia and the First Fleet. In Week 5, the students will visit the Royal Botanic Gardens to participate in an engaging presentation called “Connecting to Country”. This interactive presentation allows students to explore the heritage of our country.

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

Tania Smith
Level 4 Teaching and Learning Leader

WRITING

This term in writing we have some exciting learning planned. As we reintroduce our VOICES approach to writing, we look forward to consolidating the students understanding of the elements into some great writing pieces. The VOICES board can be seen in every classroom and allows learners to have a common language relating to important factors when writing. These important traits include; Voice, Organisation, Ideas, Conventions, Excellent word choice and Sentence fluency. In Year Four, we have learned about the process a great author takes to present a polished piece of writing. When a writer begins a piece, they think about what their writing will be about and the genre it will take. This first stage of writing is the prewriting phase. Writers move to the drafting stage where they put pen to paper and plan their piece. The writing process is dynamic and after these processes may follow the writing, editing or publishing stages in no specific order. It has been wonderful to see the personality and zest our students in Year Four already bring to their writing pieces and admiring their motivation and willingness to write.

MATHEMATICS

This term, we are going to be learning and extending a range of concepts, relating to the three dimensions of Mathematics: Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. We will be further exploring place value and the number system, as this is an important foundation for student’s success in more complex mathematics. Learning will be undertaken in order to advance students’ understanding of decimals, and they will participate in project based learning tasks to support them in identifying the importance and relevance of mathematics in a real life context. A range of addition and subtraction strategies will be explored such as appropriate column set up. Concrete materials such as containers, rulers, and measuring tapes will be used to reinforce measurement and geometry concepts such as volume and capacity of different shapes and objects. We will investigate analogue clocks and telling the time, in addition to adding and subtracting time through the first and second twelve-hour clock (am to pm).
Home Learning

Home learning in Level 4 has a focus on four weekly learning opportunities—Inquiry, Mathematics, Reading and Spelling.

**Inquiry**—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 immigration and how these journeys can be personal or shaped by world events.

**Mathematics**—Each week students will be required to complete Mathletics 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 Mathletics 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.

**Spelling**—Ten spelling words are provided each week concentrating on spelling rules and personal needs. Students will need to practise these words nightly and complete a learning task from supplied grid. 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.

SWIMMING

The swimming program introduces and develops the children’s water skills. The program has a focus on water safety, not just in the pool but around water in general. Students learn skills such as being able to float, different types of swimming strokes and common sense when dealing with water. Swimming and water safety awareness is imperative as Australia has so many beaches, lakes, rivers, pools and waterways. It is a skill that all people should have and it is important that individuals learn their own capabilities around the water.

The trained instructors assess the students in small groups and focus on what they need to achieve to develop their skills placing them in like ability groups. They will ensure strong swimmers are advanced and those with the basics learn to develop further skills.

Parents are welcome to come and watch their child during swimming lessons. Please note that due to student privacy it is not appropriate for photographs or videos to be taken that may capture another student apart from your child in the image.

Students are asked not to wear bathers as underwear on swimming days but to change at the pool into swimmers. Swimming caps are provided by the pool and are to be retained by the students. A good towel that will dry properly is important! Please remember that it is very important that all your children’s school uniform and other items of clothing including underclothes and bathers are named prior to the swimming program starting.

**SWIMMING DATES FOR LEVEL 4:** March 2 - 4, 10, 11, 16- 18

**JUST SWIMMING SYNDAL:** Address: 544 High Street Rd, Mt Waverley Phone: 9802 3900