Welcome to our new Level 4 Staff Member!

Miss Trish Singh!

I am extremely proud and honored to join such an outstanding team of educators at Glen Waverley Primary School and cherish the opportunity to facilitate the learning of one of our most precious achievements — our children. My students are kept at the nucleus of planning. This empowers me to dovetail their investigative nature with questioning and a growth mindset; believing that this will lead to critical thinkers, problem solvers and global citizens. I am devoted to providing my learners with a positive learning environment built on a supportive and constructivist framework. Thus, catering to both their social and academic development. I love this.

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 Lost Property in the Main Building corridor.
- The weather is often warm in Term One. It would be fantastic for students to come to school dressed appropriately. 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 10:00am each day, students are given time to have their ‘Brain Food’, which includes healthy snacks such as fresh or dried fruits and vegetables. Try packing a snack in a container that can be reused!
LEVEL LEADER’S WELCOME

Welcome to our wonderful community at Glen Waverley Primary School to another jam-packed year of learning! We would like to thank all the parents that have organised ‘Getting to Know You’ interviews. There are still some time slots across Level 4 available for Wednesday 24th February.

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 unit, Please contact your child’s classroom teacher if you are able to help.

So far in inquiry, students have been learning about the role Indigenous Australians played on early civilisations settling in Australia. We are thoroughly looking forward to our ‘History Box’ incursion and the rigorous learning that will follow from it.

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.

Sarah Donald
Level 4 Teaching and Learning Leader

WEING

This term in writing, students will review our VOICES approach to writing, where they will also be given the opportunity to apply their understandings through the development of various writing pieces. The VOICES approach to writing is implemented throughout the whole school, where learners are able to recognise a number of important factors to address when developing their own writing pieces. These traits are: Voice, Organisation, Ideas, Conventions, Excellent word choice and Sentence Fluency. With these traits in mind while students produce their writing pieces, they are set up to successfully create texts that are purposeful and engaging.

Students will also be reintroduced to the five stages of writing. The first stage of writing is Prewriting, which involves brainstorming our ideas onto paper. Writers then move to the Drafting stage, where they begin to develop the content within the writing piece. The next three stages of writing are Revising, Editing and Publishing. The writing process is dynamic and we highlight the fact that fantastic writers typically complete the final three stages in no specific order, however, the stages are implemented based on the author’s focus and needs at that particular point in time. It is fantastic to see the enthusiasm exuded by the students in Level Four towards applying their learning through the creation of their own writing pieces. The Level Four Team are incredibly excited to support the students through this process and in all areas of the students’ learning!

MATHEMATICS

This term, our learning will be extending on a range of concepts, relating to the three dimensions of Mathematics: Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. Students will be exploring place value and the importance of the digit’s position in a number, as this connects to student success in complex mathematics.

Our learning will then investigate the value of decimals, and they will participate in project based learning tasks that draw on mathematics in a real life context.

A range of addition and subtraction strategies will be applied with a focus on how great mathematician use clear working our to ensure success. For example, vertical column set up using the grids provided in our maths workbooks.

At Glen Waverley Primary School, we value the importance on reasoning our answers in mathematics. Students will be developing technical language, including our favourite word JUSTIFY! Children will form a strong connection to this word as they are often asked to prove their answer, or rather thinking to other learners within the classroom.
Reading

Reading is the foundation of life long learning. Our reading program at GWPS is a whole school approach that focussing on core reading strategies. Reading strategies have a central idea, based on research, that sees students 'thinking about their thinking' as they read. We refer to this as metacognition.

In Year 4, we will continue to develop this learning through the CAFE reading program. Our typical reading session follows a predictable structure, allowing students to feel comfortable and maximise their learning time. Each lesson introduces a focus strategy, then at least 20 minutes of sustained reading time, in which students focus on a personal goal or directly apply the learned strategy.

Teachers will regularly conference with individual students to set up their personalised reading goals to further enhance their learning.

It is a fantastic opportunity to have an accountable conversation with your child about their current reading strategies they are applying!

Digital Learning

At Glen Waverley Primary School we utilise the Digital Excellence Awards (DEA) program as the basis of our curriculum for Digital Learning. The students in their learning have the opportunity to use Digital Learning 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 to the DEA and the students earn badges that can be sewn onto their uniforms to display their success. Students will continue to research utilising the internet and will be taught strategies to do so appropriately to earn the silver Cybersafety badge. Children will also learn to write emails to their peers, teacher and parents. They will be able to email an electronic copy of their learning, straight to parent mailbox.
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 assigned tasks on the topic we are covering in class. This consolidates learning and enables students to reinforce their understanding in a different format. *After completion* play some live Mathletics games.

**Reading** - Students are to read for 20 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, comprehension and fluency. Conversations around your child’s reading will reinforce their understanding and help them develop critical literacy skills required throughout their lives.

*How can you help your child with reading?*
Provide a quiet environment where children know they have your support when needed.
Ask them about the book they are reading using open questioning requiring more than a one word answer. E.g. Tell me about this character. What do you think is going to happen next in the book?
Ask them to tell you about strategies their teacher has asked them to work on in reading.
Take them to the library and encourage them to use the five finger test to choose ‘Good Fit’ books.
Praise their reading with positive and specific acknowledgements e.g. “You used fantastic expression for that character’s voice, I could imagine them in my mind.”

**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 Thursday students will complete a spelling test on given words.

*Home Learning is a positive experience that celebrates students wonderful accomplishments and share their learning each week.*

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**History Box Incursion!**

This term, our Level 4 will have the opportunity to experience the lifestyles of the Indigenous Australians before and after the arrival of the first Europeans. Through The History Box Ballarat incursion on the 17th of February students are given a hands on opportunity to explore what the Indigenous Australians saw, heard and felt as the First Settlers arrived in this beautiful country. This incursion will provide an interactive presentation and learning tasks that are closely aligned with our Term One Inquiry Unit as well as the Australian History curriculum. We highly recommend that every child will participate in this incursion as our past experiences with The History Box Ballarat have seen students minds stimulated and curiosity SPARKED!