WELCOME TO YEAR 6 IN 2016!

Welcome to 2016! We have had a brilliant start to the year so far, all thanks to the wonderful students and their families! We have been enjoying getting to know everyone and it has been great to see so many happy and enthusiastic faces every morning!

There have been some changes to the Year 6 Teachers this year, and we would warmly like to welcome Lizzie Rennie and Laura Donoghue to the team. We are all excited for the year ahead and working with the students and the GWPS community.

The Year 6 students have embraced their role as leaders of our school with maturity and integrity. They are developing a better understanding of the impact they have as role models for the younger students and we are excited to watch them grow and develop their leadership skills. Our school captains have been excellent role models so far, confidently leading school assemblies and helping us to celebrate student achievements.

It’s going to be a busy year ahead, with lots of wonderful learning and opportunities to look forward to. We thank you in advance for all of your support and help!

Year 6 Teachers,
Lizzie Rennie, Jen Mastorakis, Sam Laffy and Laura Donoghue

We would all like to say a very warm welcome to the following students who are joining the Year 6 GWPS Community for 2016!

Avika, 6ER  Lyman, 6SL  Harshil, 6SL  Amritha, 6LD  Sanika, 6LD  Krish, 6LD  Adithye, 6LD
OUR ENGLISH LEARNING

READING

Throughout the year, students will be working incredibly hard to improve their reading skills and achieve their learning goals. At GWPS, we use the CAFÉ program to aid students in setting personalised goals that are specific and targeted to their learning needs. Goals are based on the CAFÉ menu of Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency and Expanding vocabulary.

This term we will be linking our reading and writing curriculum and exploring the structures and complexities of persuasive writing, specific to editorials and feature articles. Students will look at distinguishing between fact and opinion, determining important information, questioning texts to develop greater meaning and understanding and analysing how author’s have used persuasive techniques such as emotive language, expert opinions and endorsements. These skills will also help students to write stronger persuasive texts.

WRITING

Writing is one of the most important curriculum areas and Term 1 in 2016 is focused on building students’ abilities and confidence. In Year 6 students will continue to use VOICES to guide their writing – and to help them set goals during writing conferences with their teachers – studying the traits of Voice, Organisation, Ideas, Conventions, Excellent Word Choice, and Sentence Fluency. An understanding and command of these elements is vital in helping students achieve success, with students taking part in sessions unpacking each of these traits in detail. The establishment of a supportive and creative writing community is also a key goal in Term 1. Students will have the chance to develop their persuasive writing skills through the creation of editorials addressing issues of importance to each individual student. They will be encouraged to find supporting evidence to explain and elaborate upon their ideas, and develop writing techniques in order to compose academic essays.
### INQUIRY LEARNING

Throughout Term One the Year Six students will be participating in a unit of inquiry that focusses on developing students’ understanding of Democracy. Our main focus is to analyse the rights and responsibilities of people within a democracy. Students will be learning about the origins and establishment of the Australian nation, as a Federation, and how our federal government system was developed and run.

Our excursion to the Monash City Civic Council, which will be held in the middle of our unit, will provide students with an extremely valuable opportunity to learn more about the roles of our elected representatives and how laws are made. Students will be meeting with a member of the Council and will have an opportunity to ask questions and further investigate the roles and responsibilities they possess.

As Global Citizens, students are encouraged to research and examine forms of government from across the globe, as well as global developments and their impact on Australia. They will learn that protecting our environment requires people to work together as citizens and take appropriate actions to make effect and positive change.

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### TERM ONE IMPORTANT DATES

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17th Feb</td>
<td>‘Getting to Know You’ Interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 24th Feb</td>
<td>‘Getting to Know You’ Interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 29th Feb—Friday 19th March</td>
<td>Swimming Program (Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays only)</td>
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<td>Monday 22nd Feb</td>
<td>Curriculum Day—No students at school</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 24th Feb</td>
<td>Year 6 Excursion to Monash City Council</td>
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<td>Friday 26th Feb</td>
<td>Summer Sports Round Robin</td>
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<td>Friday 4th March</td>
<td>Photo Day</td>
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<td>Friday 11th March</td>
<td>Year 3—6 Athletics Day</td>
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<td>Monday 14th March</td>
<td>Labour Day Public Holiday</td>
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<td>Friday 18th March</td>
<td>District Athletics Championships</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 24th March</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 1—2:30pm Finish</td>
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A student work sample—asking questions about Democracy.

Students using the Inquiry Wall in 6LD.
HOME LEARNING

Glen Waverley Primary School is committed to providing students with personalised learning, and the Year 6 Home Learning aims to complement and extend on success achieved in the classroom. Each week, students will be provided with Home Learning that addresses a range of curriculum areas; Literacy, Numeracy, Inquiry, Spelling, and Interpersonal Development. Building on tasks completed at school, Home Learning will allow students to elaborate on, and explore concepts on a deeper level. The use of open-ended tasks allows Year 6 students to become independent in their learning, and helps them to set goals and achieve their personal best. Home Learning tasks are also supportive of the 1-1 iPad program, with students required to complete a variety of tasks that utilise programs such as Mathletics, Reading Eggspress, Spellodrome, and Edmodo.

Home Learning will be handed out on a Friday, with students having one week to complete and submit their work.

MATHEMATICS

In Term One this year, Year Six students will be focussing on deepening their skills and understanding of Number concepts. This includes engaging in learning around place-value, extending their understanding of how to use the four operations effectively, developing their understanding of exponents and expanded notation and further investigating the application of BODMAS. Strengthening the students’ skills and knowledge in these areas in Term One will enable to them to further build upon their strong foundations for the rest of the year.

Prior to this however, there has been an active focus on setting up supportive and effective Mathematics learning environments, where a growth mindset and Jo Boaler’s ‘Seven Positive Maths Norms’ are embedded into learning.

In addition, interested Year Six students have participated in an ‘entrance test’ to partake in the Advanced Maths program this semester. This will be delivered by Mr Di Xue and will focus on extending these students’ understanding of various mathematical concepts through problem-solving and authentic, project-based learning tasks.

If you have any questions relating to Mathematics in Term One, please don’t hesitate to contact your child’s classroom teacher.

ICT

In 2016, the Year Six students are once again fortunate enough to participate in a 1-1 iPad program! Bringing their knowledge and expertise from last year, students will continue using their iPads in an integrated and meaningful way for their learning. Possible digital tasks include filming, hyperlinking, presenting, collaborating and reflecting on their learning. Students will also be challenged to use new programs, such as Spiral, while acquiring new skills.

The opportunity to work with Mr Lewis, our Digital Pedagogical Coach, will enable the Year 6’s to create a high quality piece of media that will demonstrate their deep understanding of fact and opinion, and bias and prejudice. Additionally, students will be using their iPads as learning tools during our Inquiry sessions on Democracy by creating political campaigns, presentations and iMovies highlighting why a democratic society is valued in Australia.

iPad Agreements have been sent home to provide students with an understanding of the responsibility and expectations required to use their iPads successfully as a learning tool. Students have also completed learning modules to attain the eSmart ‘Digital License’ in order to truly understand how to be ‘cybersmart’ in this ever-changing world of technology and social media. Students are now set up to begin working with Digital Excellence, Mathletics, Reading Eggspress, Spellodrome, and Edmodo both within and outside of school.