Term Overview

What an unbelievably productive year we have just witnessed from our Specialist classes in 2015. We hope everyone is well rested after the summer break. We welcome you back to another fabulous year and into an exciting series of learning initiatives that will challenge and inspire our talented students.

Speaking of which, we would like to congratulate Mrs. Bailey on coming back to our school and joining the 2016 specialist team. Mrs. Bailey will be taking the role of Prep to Year 2 Physical Education teacher. We are all very excited to have her in the 2016 Specialist team. This year Mr. Lewis will again lead the Multimedia program, but he will also develop our school’s digital learning program to produce more excellent learning opportunities for our students. Mr. Hudson, Miss Pfeifer, Mr. Warren, Miss Wang and Mr. Xue will be continuing their superb work as the Art, Music, PE, Mandarin and Advanced Math teachers respectively.

This year we will be continuing the tradition of celebrating our student’s outstanding learning in Specialist areas via handing out the Monthly Specialist Learning Certificates at assembly. A special display is located in the corridor of the main building that consists of a photo of the latest award recipients for each Specialist area.

The Specialist teachers are very proud of what we have organized for Term 1. 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
Welcome back to school as we step into 2016, the year of the Monkey. I hope you all had a wonderful holiday and a happy New Year. Last year the students in Glen Waverley Primary School were immersed in the speaking, writing and reading of the Mandarin language and the Chinese culture through various activities. Students were engaged in activities that built up their understanding, knowledge and skills in the Mandarin. This year we will continue to build upon this knowledge and these skills. Please find out the 2016 Term One program for our students below:

Prep:

The Preps will be introduced to the Chinese New Year with a focus on “The Year of Monkey”. During the term they will also be engaged in the language and Chinese culture through songs and games. They will learn some of the basic greeting language in Mandarin and be able to introduce themselves. The students will begin to read and write numbers in Mandarin.

Year 1

Students in Year 1 will be reinforcing the language for introducing family members in Mandarin throughout various learning tasks. They will be discussing about how family life changed or remained the same over time. Students will be creating a story book “My family in Australia” by the end of this term. Besides that, the Year 1 students will also be focusing on the Chinese New Year to develop their culture awareness.

Year 2

Students in this Grade will be exploring the language about transportation and rules. Students will be discussing about the importance of rules in our lives. They will learn to name different types of vehicles, basic sentence structures in Mandarin and build on the awareness of rules and road safety. By the end of this term, students will work on a poster to reinforce the language that has been learnt. Students in this level will also be introduced to the Chinese New Year through videos and creative task.

Year 3

The Year 3 students will be learning about how global events affect us in our local community. They will be focusing on the Chinese Zodiac Animal Calendar to learn about the legends and traditions. During this term, students are expected to learn how to read the calendar in Mandarin and also be able to talk about their own animal sign. They will be going to design a booklet about the Chinese Zodiac Animals in Mandarin.

Year 4

Students in Year 4 will be focusing on the journey to Australia. They will be learning about the language required to introduce countries and nationalities in both speaking and writing in Mandarin. They will design a poster “A journey to Australia” and also use iPads to create a digital version in groups. By the end of the term, they will be sharing their project.

Year 5

Linking with the Year 5 Term One inquiry unit and together with learning topics such as the Chinese New Year festival, Culture and Celebrations in China, the Year 5 students will learn essential Chinese sentences and vocabulary regarding these topics. They will learn to speak the Chinese words and phrases and practice their writing in Pin Yin and character forms. At the end of the unit, students will show their understanding of the Mandarin language by making conversations and presenting speeches. They will also be investigating and completing a number of inquiry-based projects in Chinese.

Year 6

Linking with the Year 6 Term One inquiry unit, and with the addition of learning topics such as The Chinese New Year, Inventions, Artworks and Ancient technology, the Year 6 students will learn essential Chinese sentences and vocabulary regarding these topics. They will learn to speak more Chinese phrases and practice their writing mostly in character forms. At the end of this unit, students will demonstrate their understanding of the Mandarin language by investigating deeper into one major inquiry-based learning task in Chinese, and they will showcase their investigations and findings in class and self-evaluate their learning outcomes.

After School Chinese (Mandarin Class)
The extra-curricular Chinese program is due back to start on 9th February Tuesday.
Who: open to students in Year 1 to Year 2
Where: The language classroom (ELC end)
When: Every Tuesday from 3:30pm to 4:15pm

Last year the Chinese Choir were outstanding performing at various events both in the school and for the wider community. This year we are still encouraging more students to join the Choir. Therefore, the students in Years 2-5, are welcome to practice and sing in Manda-
Exciting times are ahead in 2016, a new multimedia course in documentary film making, flipper learning, movies, radio shows and more. Keep an eye out for short films, film crews and an ear out for the radio shows that will begin broadcasting shortly!

**Radio Committee**

The Radio Committee is currently looking at their own goals and those of our radio class members to plan and prepare our first initiative for 2016. Luckily for us an AMAZING opportunity has presented itself. We will be participating in "Chat to a Champ," our champ is Alex Rowe who is a middle distance runner looking to make his Olympic debut in Rio.

**Film Class**

Our students have made their audition movies, been selected and classes are underway. We’ll plan and begin production of our short films to enter into one of three film festivals for students:

1. ATOM awards
2. Tropfest Jr
3. ACMI Screen it!

**Radio Class**

This year our radio class is trying “flipped learning” - they have enrolled in an iTunesU course in which students can learn all the important skills and terminology needed to produce a podcast for radio. Students will be learning at their own pace with a focus on engagement and authentic learning opportunities.

**Documentary Film Making Class**

This year we have a group of experienced film makers who have completed film making classes in previous years heading up a student led project. This class is designed to further extend their learning in the area of film making, challenging them to push themselves even further. Their goal is to produce a feature length documentary about our school, telling the GWPS story of 2016. This is an ambitious project and we are all really excited to see the amazing learning our students will achieve.

**Year 5 and 6 Multimedia Program**

**Year 5**: Year 5 students are enhancing their understanding and application of Speaking and Listening through personalised multimedia project based learning opportunities.

**Year 6**: In year 6 we are looking at how we can use media to persuade, with a focus on the role of people in a democracy. Students will be encouraged to think creatively about how we can publish our learning in a meaningful, real world way. For instance, creating a blog or interviewing a member of parliament in a school news video.
TERM 1 VISUAL ARTS

Welcome back to another wonderful year of learning at GWPS. I trust our school community had a restful holiday break, and our students are ready for a year of inspiring learning. Beyond regular Art Classes, this year in the Visual Arts we will continue to offer extra-curricular programs that aim to promote the Arts and extend students skill base.

Advanced Art classes will continue to be rolled out, but promise to be bigger and better as additional time has been allocated to sustain and extend what has proven to be a very successful program since its inception two years ago. We will also provide all GWPS students with the opportunity to work with a professional practicing arts as part of our ‘Artist in School Program’ later in the school year. Our new art captains, Anne Andrews and Elisa Yang will play an integral role in enhancing positive Visual Arts learning outcomes for our GWPS students as they promote internal and external poster competitions and in Term 4, conceive and conduct ‘Lunchtime Level 2 Art Classes’.

Please take this opportunity to preview what your child will be learning this term.

Prep (Foundation)
Your Prep students will explore aspects about themselves through various learning tasks including drawing their emotions and creating a primary and secondary coloured ‘Mini-Me’.

Year 1 (Levels 1)
Your Year 1 students will explore cultural masks from around the world and then creating a mask that reflects the stylistic qualities of a particular culture. This will complement their classroom inquiry unit ‘How does our past family life impact on the present’.

Year 2 (Levels 2)
Following on from last term, our level 2 students will further investigate the nature of painting with food dye and ink, by producing a vivid sunset, complemented by a silhouette of a tree in the foreground.

Year 3 (Levels 3)
Our Year 3 students will embark on their first step towards drawing realistic depictions as they symmetrically duplicate their face.

Year 4 (Levels 4)
Complementing their unit of enquiry ‘How did the great journeys of exploration impact on indigenous civilization’, our Year 4 students will create a Boomerang. Students will begin by exploring the aerodynamic nature of the boomerang, and then sand it at specific points to enable the boomerang to work as it is meant to. They will then paint it in a traditional Australian Aboriginal dot style.

Year 5 (Levels 5)
Our Year 5 students will explore some of the history of print making, and then research using their newly acquired ipad, to create a design that suits the medium.

Year 6 (Levels 6)
Our Year 6 students will create protest poster based on the Pop-Art movement of the 1960’s. This will complement their unit of enquiry ‘What are the rights and responsibilities of people within democracy’.

Advanced Art Classes
18 of our Year 3 and 4 students will be creating an ‘Aboriginal Mural’. It will be used to liven up our school and act to inspire our whole school community towards artistic excellence.

Art Displays
Be sure to regularly look for new displays in the main corridor or on display boards around the school showing the students’ fantastic learning!
CLASSROOM MUSIC LESSONS

Prep (Foundation)
Students in Prep are being introduced to music at school through a range of learning tasks. We are singing, moving to music, playing instruments and sharing the joy of music with each other.

Year 1 (Level 1)
This term, students in Year 1 will have their first exposure to formal music notation as we learn to read and write simple rhythms. We are also singing and moving to music and talking about different kinds of music.

Year 2 (Level 2)
In Year 2 we are consolidating our understanding of ta and ti-ti, and will be introduced to metre later in the term. We are continuing to strengthen our understanding of high and low.

Year 3 (Level 3)
The Year 3s will learn a new rhythmic element this term, and continue working with ta and ti-ti from last year. We are also learning to play recorder for the first time.

Year 4 (Level 4)
Music in Year 4 includes a focus on Indigenous Australian music this term, as we learn to sing and dance music from the Torres Strait Islands. Through this and other learning tasks, we will also continue to strengthen our understanding of music elements such as pitch and rhythm.

Years 5 & 6 (Level 5 & 6)
This Year, the Year 5 and 6 students are using technology to support their music learning in new ways. Students have been assigned courses at different levels depending on their ability in various areas of music. The courses comprise of online learning tasks as well as practical tasks for the students to complete at their own pace. We will also spend some time each lesson making music as a group to develop ensemble skills.

Senior Choir
Senior Choir auditions are now complete. It was wonderful to see so many students wanting to join the choir and to hear such a high standard of singing in the auditions. But this also made it a very difficult decision. Congratulations to everyone who auditioned. You all performed very well, regardless of whether or not you were selected.

Junior Choir
The Junior Choir is open to students in Years 3 and 4 and is not auditioned. We have had our first rehearsal, with an incredible number of students choosing to join the choir. Students who did not attend the first rehearsal but would still like to join the Junior Choir should see Miss Pfeifer.

School Band
We again had an overwhelming number of students audition for the School Band and a very high standard of singing and playing, all students who auditioned are to be commended. Students who have been selected for the band need to arrive in the Music Room at 7:50am on Tuesdays for rehearsals before school.

Victorian State Schools Spectacular
This year we are very excited to have GWPS students performing in both the Massed Choir and the Massed Dance for the Victorian State Schools Spectacular. Dance rehearsals start this term, including our first combined rehearsal with other schools. Choir rehearsals will start in Term 2, once we have been provided with the music.

Advanced Music
We will be starting an Advanced Music program at GWPS this year. Each term, talented students from different year levels will have the opportunity to attend additional music classes to extend their musical abilities. This term, selected students from Years 1 & 2 will form an ensemble comprising of percussion instruments, flutophones and singers. We will be learning to perform as a group, with only a small number of students playing each part.

Reminder
All students in Prep—Year 1 require a flutophone for Music lessons and all students in Years 3-6 require a recorder. These will be stored in the music room throughout the year.

Please ensure that your child brings the appropriate instrument to school. Instruments can be purchased from the school office if required.

Monday Assembly 9:00-10:00am throughout the Term
TERM 1 PHYSICAL EDUCATION & SPORT

A BIG welcome to all of our new students and families to the school, and of course welcome back to those of you who were with us last year. This year the Physical Education teaching staff has had a change with Mrs Kylie Bailey returning from maternity leave to teach the Prep, Year 1s and most of the Year 2 classes for PE. While Mr Shae Warren continues with his teaching of the Year 3-6 students of PE as well as class 2RR. We both look forward to a very exciting and busy year of Physical Education development for our students. And as you see to the right of this introduction, there are already plenty of things happening in Term One. Both of us would like to encourage anybody (student or parent) who has any questions about any event or the PE curriculum to approach us so that we can answer your questions. Below is a brief summary of each learning level’s PE program for Term 1:

**Prep (Foundation):** The focus this term will be on the most important element of PE lessons, being safe. Students will be participating in stimulating whole class and group learning tasks that will foster key safety ideas, such as listening, looking, moving safely, maintaining balance and caring for each other. Students will be introduced to the Fundamental Motor Skills, which will form the majority of their curriculum this year.

**Year 1 (level 1):** At the beginning of the term, the students will develop a Physical Education learning goal, which they will work towards achieving by the end of the term. Throughout the term there will be a focus on revising the skills of running, jumping, catching and kicking, with a view to extending their learning in these areas. They will then begin working towards developing more complex Fundamental Motor Skills like leaping, dodging and striking.

**Year 2 (Level 2):** The students in Level 2 will begin the term by creating individual Physical Education learning goals, with the aim of achieving them by the end of the term. Students will be given the opportunity to work with the teacher on their individual learning goals within a small group setting. Throughout the term the students will also be focussing on revising known Fundamental Motor Skills and extending their learning in these areas.

**Year 3 (Level 3):** The majority of the PE lessons will be focusing on the basics of Athletics so that students are well prepared to attempt their first ever school Athletics Day later in the Term. In the final two weeks of Term, students will then have their first fitness indicator measurements of endurance, speed, agility and power recorded.

**Year 4 (Level 4):** The students will spend the first seven weeks focusing on developing their ability to perform the Long Jump, Triple Jump, High Jump, Shot Put, Discus, Hurdles, 100m and 800m events in preparation for the school Athletics Day. In the final two weeks of Term, students will then have their first fitness indicator measurements of endurance, speed, agility and power recorded.

**Year 5 (Level 5):** Our Year 5 students will be focusing on refining their techniques to extend their ability to perform the Athletic events of Long Jump, High Jump, Triple Jump, Shot Put, Discus, Hurdles, 100m and 800m in preparation for the school Athletics Day. The students will then attempt to beat their previous scores for their fitness indicator testing of endurance, speed, agility and power.

**Year 6 (Level 6):** The Year 6 students will begin their interschool sport preparations with training and team nomination sessions for both their Summer and Winter sports teams. They have the District Summer Sport Round Robin Day to look forward to later in the Term.

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**2016 Term 1 Important PE Dates & Events**

- 1st February: Kelly Sports Gymnastics Clinics (free).
- 1st-5th February: Little Athletics Victoria Clinics for all Year 1-6 classes (free).
- 8th February: Kelly Sports Term One after school Gymnastics Program begins.
- 9th February: Kelly Sports Term One after school Cricket Program begins.
- 16th-17th February: Hockey Clinics for all Year 1-3 classes (free).
- 17th February: Syndal District Swimming Championships @ Huntingtower.
- 22nd-25th February: Sporting Schools before school Softball Clinics.
- 26th February: Syndal District Summer Sport Round Robin for Year 6 students @ Jells Park.
- 29th Feb to 16th March: Year 4-6 Swimming Program @ Just Swimming Syndal on Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays.
- 11th March: School Athletics Day @ Central Reserve, Glen Waverley for all Year 3-6 students.
- 18th March: District Athletics Championships for selected students @ Bill Sewart Athletics Track, East Burwood.
- 23rd March: Whole School Twilight Sports event.
Following the overwhelming success of last year’s Advanced Mathematics Program, we are again offering Advanced Mathematics as an extra-curricular program to students from Year Three to Year Six.

The Advanced Mathematics Program aims to strengthen the importance of Mathematics as a curriculum subject, to provide an opportunity for students to discover their talent in Mathematics, and to further challenge and extend the mathematical skills of problem solving, and both logical and critical thinking in a small group setting.

The program is limited to a small number of students each week (6 to 8 students per group per session) to ensure small group participation and maximise individualised learning outcomes. Sessions will be held during normal school hours and complement the students’ in class learning.

In Term 1, the students of the Advanced Maths Classes will be supported by Mr. Xue to further develop, enhance and utilise their existing mathematical knowledge as they scaffold and discover some newly introduced skills, especially when preparing them for external Math competitions such as the Australian Math Competition (AMC) and Math Olympiad.

An Advanced Mathematics Intake Test was given to the students from Year Three to Year Six who expressed their personal interest in this program. The test was designed to establish whether the learning content of the program is appropriate for each student’s current achievements in Mathematics, as it is important that content appropriate selections are made when differentiating learning. Each student who scored within the highest range in comparison to that of their cohort is now being offered a position in the program.

The Advanced Mathematics Classes in 2016 will have two intakes - For those who miss out on the Semester One intake, there will be a second intake opportunity at the beginning of Term Three, therefore providing this extra-curricular opportunity to a wider array of students. Those students who participate in the Semester One Advanced Math Program are not eligible for the Semester Two intake.

2015 Important Days
For the Advanced Maths:

Maths Olympiad Dates:
1 20th May
2 10th June
3 29th July
4 19th August
5 9th September

Australian Mathematical Competition:
Thursday 30 July 2015.