LEVEL 3 NEWSLETTER
Glen Waverley Primary School
TERM 2 2014

LEVEL LEADER’S WELCOME

“Spinning in Space” is the name of our Science Unit for Term Two. Through the term our students will be involved in hands-on activities with the sun, moon and Earth that will encourage them to ask questions, explore and speculate about space.

Term Two looks like it will be action-packed from the beginning, with the Grade 4’s already having their first school camp experience at Anglesea.

Seventy-five students with their capable teachers, Miss Donald, Mrs Bailey and Mr Knott were involved in a range of activities including bush-craft, hut building, yabbying, archery, rope course, rock-pool exploration and many, many more.

The Level 3 students had a wonderful learning opportunity as well, during their Starlab incursion. This explored how Earth’s rotation on its axis causes regular changes including day and night, the sun as a source of light and sizes and movement of the Sun, Earth and Moon.

The first week of term included ANZAC Day and as a part of the Australian Curriculum, the students at Level 3 developed a historical understanding of special days that are celebrated or commemorated in Australia and the symbols and emblems associated with them. All classes were involved in learning sessions related to the history, traditions and the significance this date has for Australians.

The National Assessment, NAPLAN, will begin on Tuesday May 13th through to Thursday May 15th. The test questions are related to the curriculum being studied by the students in their classrooms and the results will help us guide and develop student performance at Glen Waverley Primary.

Miss Tania Smith
Level 3 and 4 Learning and Teaching Leader

IMPORTANT DATES

Year 4 camp
April 30—May 2

Mother’s Day Stall
Thursday 8th May
Friday 9th May

Naplan
Tuesday 13th May—Thursday 15th May

Education Week
Mon 19th May—Friday 23rd May

Fun Run
Wednesday 21st May

Science Exhibition
Thursday 22 May

Open night
Thursday 22nd May
On Wednesday 30th April, 74 Year 4 students and 8 teachers set off for camp at Coastal Forest Lodge, Anglesea. For many, this was the first time away from the family and the feelings were quite positive, with a few anxious but had soon forgotten this feeling as it turned into excitement. As we said our “farewells” to the parents, we were off on the road to our first destination, Scienceworks Planetarium.

We were joined by Mr Catalano and we enjoyed a show called ‘Tilt’ that had a focus on the earth’s tilt and why we have seasons. We then spent some time playing with the exhibits. Next we moved on to Coastal Forest Lodge where we started our activity rotations of low ropes, archery/mini golf, hut building and photo trail. The evening started with a bush walk led by Mr Warren. When we arrived back, we had the chance to look through the school telescopes and iPads at the stars and also to roast marshmallows with Mrs Tomecek by the fire and sing camp songs with Mr Lewis and Miss Smith.

On the morning of day 2, Mr Kitch arrived and helped us through our camp rotations which were enjoyed by all, with plenty of “bulls-eyes” at archery and “hole-in-one” at mini golf, in addition to successfully completing the low ropes course and finding all the clues in the photo trail. After lunch we were off to Anglesea main beach. Here we spent three hours playing beach games such as soccer and throwing the frisbee, going on a beach walk, exploring the shallow waters of the river mouth (estuary) and noodling (collecting beach knick-knacks) to create space themed beach sculptures; which were all fantastic. We arrived back to Coastal Forest Lodge and got changed into warm clothing for the evening as straight after dinner it was time for Miss Donald’s fantastic trivia. We managed to not only do trivia, but different challenges such as dress up the spaceman, it was a lot of fun had by all.

The third and final day started off by packing up and heading off on a farm walk where we got to meet and feed the animals. We met cows, sheep, alpacas, horses and donkeys and got to feed them too, although most got covered in cow saliva whilst trying to feed them but it was fun. We then headed to the dam where Alan (owner) taught us how to catch yabbies’ and we caught heaps. We carefully picked them up from behind their pinchers and posed for plenty of photos.

We walked back to camp and it was time to say farewell to Iona (manager) and all the staff at Coastal Forest Lodge, and thank them for a wonderful time and for all of their help. With the students being so active, food was always in high demand and fortunately we were all very well fed and catered for with breakfast, morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea and dinner all freshly made and supplied by the camp. The staff ensured that our cabins and beds were comfortable ensuring that for those who did not provide adequate sleeping that there was something we could borrow.

We would like to thank Miss Smith, Mrs Bailey and Miss Donald for their assistance in organising a successful camp. A big thank you to Mr Catalano, Mr Kitch, Mrs Tomecek, Mr Lewis, Mr Warren and Miss Fitch who gave up their time to assist with the Year 4 camp.

Mr Knott
Camp Leader
STARLAB INCURSION

As part of our science inquiry topic ‘Spinning in Space’, the year three students took part in an exciting incursion on Wednesday the 30th of April. A huge Planetarium was set up in our school hall and each grade spent an hour inside the dome, learning about the phases of the moon, stars and constellations, the reasons for seasons, day and night, as well as the size and distances in space. The dome was pitch black, and stars and planets filled up the sky. The students were very engaged in this learning experience, full of excitement to learn new things and share what they already knew. After the incursion, the students were eager to go home and see what star constellations could be found in the night sky. Many interesting questions were asked and some of the discussions students had after the incursion was incredibly insightful.

NAPLAN

Students in Years 3, 5, will be assessed on the same days using national tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation) and Numeracy. NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling and numeracy. The tests provide parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. NAPLAN tests are one aspect of each school’s assessment and reporting process, and do not replace the extensive, ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student’s performance. Further information about the assessment including sample NAP assessments and frequently asked questions may be accessed at the official website: www.nap.edu.au

DATES: 13 - 15 May
Tuesday 13th May
Before recess: Language Conventions
40 minutes
After recess: Writing
40 minutes
Wednesday 14th May
Reading
45 minutes
Wednesday 15th May
Numeracy
45 minutes
The 2014 Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge is now open!

Last year over 220,000 Victorian students read more than 4 million books. Hopefully this year’s Challenge will inspire even more children and young adults than ever before to foster a love of reading.

The Challenge is not just about reading in English. The Challenge is open to reading in any language. Students can read, or be read to, children’s stories in Arabic or Spanish, classic comedies in French, the Ramayana in Hindi, Chinese poetry and more.

In Order to Complete the Challenge:

1. You must read the following number of books during the Challenge:
   - Year 3 15 books
   - Year 4 15 books

2. You may enter your books at any time during the course of the Challenge.

3. Your online books will be verified as read by your child’s class teacher.

4. All your information must be completed online before the 12th September 2013 so that teachers can verify the books before the final closing date.

A list of the books is available on the Premiers Reading Challenge website: www.education.vic.gov.au/prc/

ENJOY