LEVEL 4 NEWSLETTER
Glen Waverley Primary School
TERM 3 2015

LEVEL LEADER’S WELCOME

Welcome everyone to our second semester of learning at our wonderful school. It is going to be another busy term with planning for our school concert on **Tuesday 18th August** well underway. We will have a dress rehearsal at school the day before, and on the concert day, students will travel by bus to the Robert Blackwood hall at Monash University for a final practice before the evening. Listed to the right, are many other important dates for the term. Tiqbiz is a communication App that the school is using to keep parents informed about events in our school. Please contact our school office if you need more information.

The teachers in Year Four invite parents to come in to our classes to assist with reading, writing, maths or our inquiry. Please talk with individual class teachers for more details.

Finally, students have developed increasing confidence in their abilities and are encouraged to take risks with their learning. “Mistakes are valuable” is part of our maths talk and this carries across to all areas of learning. We encourage students to use initiative, try new strategies and ‘have a go’ as they become life long learners.

*Tania Smith*
Level 4 Teaching and Learning Leader

INQUIRY

This term our Inquiry unit has a geography and humanities focus. “How do we use natural resources to sustain living?” is the question students will investigate, concentrating on the changing use of land throughout South America and parts of Australia.

Students will consolidate their learning about land use across these two continents, taking into account the different terrains from the Amazon to deserts.

Students have already looked at the size and population of the seven continents and have mapped these to develop their awareness of our planet. We will explore the vegetation, animal life and ways of living in various countries in South America and make links back to Australia.

Sustainability will be a major focus of our inquiry, as more land, including rainforests, are cleared for housing, building materials, food, containers and more. Students will understand that their actions, as individuals, families and communities can sustain the environment by making conscious decisions about ways they use resources. Students will take part in a letter drop in the local area, delivering their information pamphlets encouraging residents to reduce, reuse, recycle and recover to help our planet.

Things to remember:

Term Three has a You Can Do It! focus on ORGANISATION. To ensure that your child is prepared for school each day, here are a few suggestions to assist you.

- Students need to have their diary in their bag daily.
- They can use their diary to plan their Home Learning over the week so it is completed to the highest standard over the week and returned to school on the required day.
- The school day starts at **8:50** to ensure students can get themselves organised for their learning so punctuality is very important.
- Bringing a water bottle is important so they can stay hydrated throughout the day as heaters can dry the air.
- 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.
READING

It is fabulous to see students so interested in developing their reading skills to improve their comprehension. All students have current CAFÉ goals which they can discuss at home. Post it notes are used to track their thinking of ‘just right’ and challenging books at school, but easy books they read nightly have an emphasis on reading for enjoyment. We encourage parents to listen to their child/ren read and discuss different aspects of the books such as visualising the setting, making comparisons between story lines and characters, and asking questions and making predictions. Unknown words are often misread or passed over.

Expanding students’ reading, written and oral vocabulary is very important. Developing a great vocabulary is one of the most overlooked ways to improve our lives. It sharpens your communication, opens your mind to new avenues of thought and is often correlated with professional success.

Lastly, a reminder to students to keep adding books for the Premier’s Reading Challenge. A significant amount of students have already surpassed the fifteen challenge books needed. Well done!

WRITING

This Term we will continue to focus on the Whole School Approach to writing utilising the VOICES approach. The VOICES board is in every classroom across the school and classes have been learning what makes up each component. We will use our weekly Writer’s Workshop to explore these traits, building our awareness of what good writers do and building writing stamina. We are learning that collecting ideas to use in our writing can be called seeds and are valuable for our workshops. The students each have a seeds book to stimulate their thinking for the Writer’s Workshop. The students will focus their structured writing lessons around our Inquiry topic on Sustainability. They will write information reports about “How a rainforest impacts on life” and an explanation on “What we can do to help the planet through sustainability”. The students will use their prior knowledge in conjunction with research through books and internet to relay their understanding or point of view for each piece of writing.

MATHEMATICS

We have a fantastic ten weeks ahead to extend our mathematics understanding! This term we are consolidating our basic number facts and expanding our knowledge of large whole number including the four processes (addition, subtraction, multiplication and addition), the order of operations (BODMAS), converting fractions, averages, graphing and angles. It has been wonderful to hear the language of mathematics developing within our students and it would be ideal to see students articulating this learning at home to further consolidate this awareness. Our “Number Talks” continue to support the students in using a variety of strategies to solve various mathematics problems to further their success when reasoning.

We will continue to implement Elementary Mathematics Mastery, so that students have a weekly opportunity to self-assess and express their learning by an independent and collaborative learning model. Meanwhile, selected students will continue to develop their number skills through the twice weekly Quicksmart Math program.

Through Measurement and Geometry, the students will connect their understanding from our Inquiry topic to real life application by graphing, tallies and averages. When looking at rainfall in different countries around South America, students will have the opportunity to plan and plot graphs with access to digital technologies.

Thank you for support so far this year when mathematics learning is concerned. The time and effort families have put into learning multiplication facts has not gone unnoticed and is encouraged to continue!
SMART 8

The SMART8 Program is an engaging extra-curricular program which provides learning enrichment opportunities for all students from Year Three to Year Six. The program offers a range of electives that are designed to extend a student’s personal learning, furthering their knowledge and skills in new or existing areas of interest and passion. The SMART8 electives are based on Howard Gardiner’s Eight Multiple Intelligences, hence the name of the SMART8 Program. At Glen Waverley Primary School we value personalised learning and actively look at opportunities for students to increase their strengths in each of the eight intelligences: Word, Math/Logic, Picture, Body, Music, Group, Self and Nature Smart. Over a four year period (from Year Three to Year Six), students should participate in at least one elective from each of the SMART8 Intelligences. The electives are offered for one hour, between 2:30pm-3:30pm on a Tuesday, on the following dates:

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<th>Term 3 Sessions</th>
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<td>Session 1</td>
<td>Session 6</td>
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<td>Tuesday July 28&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Tuesday October 20&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>Session 2</td>
<td>Session 7</td>
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<td>Tuesday August 4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Tuesday October 27&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>Session 3</td>
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<td>Tuesday August 11&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>Session 4</td>
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<td>Session 5</td>
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<td>Tuesday September 8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Tuesday November 24&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>Session 11</td>
<td>Tuesday December 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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SCHOOL CONCERT

The time of the year has come where the students at Glen Waverley Primary School are preparing their performances for the biannual school concert! This year, the Glen Waverley Primary School Senior Concert is going to be held at the Robert Blackwood Hall, Monash University on Tuesday 18th of August from 8:15 to 9:45. The theme of the concert is ‘Lights, Camera, Action!’.

In Level 4, the students have been working hard to learn the lyrics to their class songs and the matching choreography. As for which songs our classes will be performing... you will have to wait and see on the night! Tickets will be available very soon. Be sure to purchase tickets as soon as possible to ensure that you do not miss out on this extravagant event!

A DVD of the event will also be available for a cost of $22 following the concert.

What we do today creates tomorrow.