

LEVEL 4 NEWSLETTER

Glen Waverley Primary School
Term One 2017

Welcome to Level Four

Happy New Year and welcome to the Level Four community for 2017.

This term we begin building a classroom culture for success in learning, but also look to build strong learning relationships with parents and others across the year level. As a level four team, we value these connections strongly and also wish to extend our invitation to parents joining us in the classroom. It benefits the children deeply when supported with their learning and with teacher guidance, it's a straight forward process. The expectation is to listen to a variety of learners in reading, sharing their writing pieces and even discussing their thinking within maths. Our learners are at the centre of everything we do and are simply energetic when given opportunities to share their thinking.

With our upcoming 'Getting to Know You' interviews, we look forward to meeting and discussing the opportunities around learning with you.

Digital Learning

This year at Glen Waverley Primary School we have introduced the 1:1 iPad program in Level 4. You can feel the excitement from the learners. We have started the term with a focus on the responsibilities and expectations around the iPads.

The document can be reviewed within the 'iPad Agreement' document that was sent home during Week 2. It can also be accessed at;

<http://www.glenps.vic.edu.au/page/73/ICT/-/Digital-Excellence>

Within the learning environment, we have discussed the importance of using devices for a **purpose**. This looks like students using applications to extend and deepen their learning intentions. So far the learners have thrived with this opportunity and happily justify their purpose when prompted.

IMPORTANT DATES

Getting to Know You interviews

Wednesday 15th February
Wednesday 22nd February

SMART8 Begins

Tuesday 21st February

Swimming Program

March 6th-22nd (see back page for details)

School Photos

Wednesday 29th March

School Athletics

Friday 3rd March

School Council

Monday 20th February
Monday 20th March



To ensure that your child is prepared for school each day, here are a few suggestions the children discussed were important to them.

Ensure that all items of school clothing, including hats are labelled with a full name. Lost items will be kept in our new Lost Property Box near the staffroom.

The weather is often very warm in Term One. It would be fantastic for students to come to school dressed for the weather.

Students need to have their hats to play in the sun during play times as well as P.E. lessons and wearing sunscreen will protect their skin from sun damage. Bringing a water bottle is also essential so they can stay hydrated throughout their learning.

At ten o'clock each day, students are given time to have their 'Brain Food', which includes healthy snacks such as fresh or dried fruits and vegetables. 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.

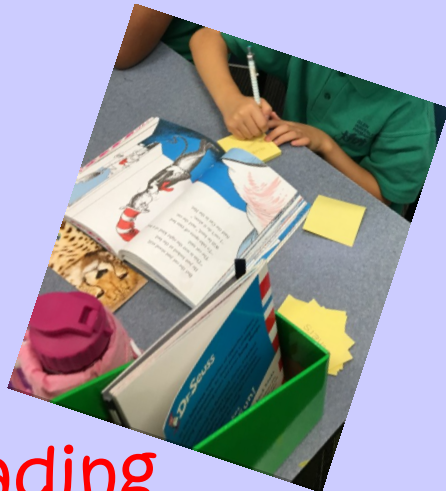
Welcome to Glen Waverley Primary School

Kristy Smith

Hello! My name is Miss Smith and I am very excited to be teaching with the Level 4 team at GWPS this year. Thank you very much to all the parents and students who have welcomed me with lovely smiles and kind words - Glen Waverley Primary School is certainly a great place to be! Just like the students in our learning community, I have a true drive to continually extend my knowledge and skills, so you will see me working hard with the students to ensure my teaching grows as much as their thinking!

Tim O'Neill

Hello to all the Grade 4 families! I am Tim O'Neill and this year's teacher of the enthusiastic 4D. I'm entering my third year of teaching. My most unique teaching experience would be the month I spent teaching in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Outside of school time I love to travel with my most recent trips to Taiwan and Vietnam being clear highlights. To wind down after a day of deep thinking at school I enjoy taking my two dogs Alf and Zero on long, but relaxing walks.



Reading

Throughout Term One, we continue our study based around the CAFÉ Board of reading strategies. This is an acronym for reading strategies within the areas of Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency and Expanding Vocabulary.

Over the next couple of weeks our learners will be developing their personal reading goals. Their Home Learning will also involve additional reflection on their chosen goal. To extend their thinking, check-in by asking about their strategy and how they are using their 'inner voice' to understand their text.



Throughout the year we weave two humanities and two science focussed topic areas into our Australian Curriculum (see <http://v7-5.australiancurriculum.edu.au/humanities-and-social-sciences/introduction>).

This term, we are looking deeper into the humanities area, explicitly learning about the impact the first settlers had on the Indigenous Australian community. We frame our thinking through the important lens of questioning, starting with how both parties felt with the change and moving into why the first settlers left England for Australia.

So far, the children have been exposed to the concept of taking land, property and possessions from others. This was played out in our classroom setting and aimed to evoke feelings of great loss and great gain. Our learners reflected on the process; feel free to ask your child about their personal experience to further deepen their thinking and feeling.

Within our inquiry, we will continue to make links to our rich whole school values of Empathy, Respect, Integrity and Initiative. These directly relate to our already successful CIS journey and aim to further build our learners as intercultural global citizens.

LEVEL LEADER'S WELCOME

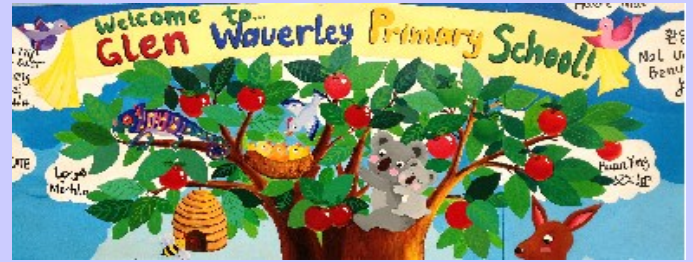
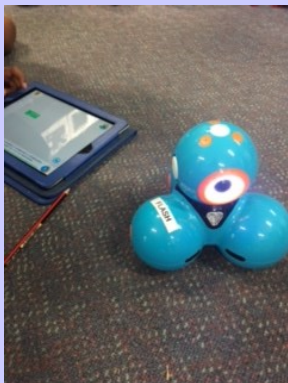
Welcome everyone to another fabulous year of learning at the best school in the world, Glen Waverley Primary School.

Personally, I am incredibly proud and excited to introduce our two new teachers to the Level Four Teaching and Learning team, Tim O'Neill and Kristy Smith. Already we see their enthusiasm and values shining through as they work towards building thinking and learning in classrooms 4D and 4E.

Trish Singh and Anna Meng continue their teaching journeys within Level Four, extending learners and building opportunities within the classroom.

There are many opportunities around thinking and learning this term, but on the top of my mind is the devoted time this semester to Digital Technology. Our learners have already experienced using our school 'Dash' Robots. Already, it has been wonderful to see their language use grow, their understanding of computational thinking and resilience around having misconceptions.

Sarah Donald
Level Four Teaching and Learning Leader



Writing

This term we reintroduce our VOICES approach to writing to consolidate the understanding of the variety elements that create great writing pieces. The VOICES framework can be seen in every classroom and allows learners to have a common, progressive language relating to important factors when writing. These important traits include; Voice, Organisation, Ideas, Conventions, Excellent Word Choice and Sentence Fluency. In Level Four, we have learnt about the process an author takes to present a polished piece of writing. When a writer begins a piece, they think about what their writing will be about and the genre it will take. This first stage of writing is the prewriting phase. Writers move to the drafting stage where they put pen to paper and plan their piece. The writing process is dynamic and after these processes may follow the writing, editing or publishing stages in no specific order. It has been wonderful to see the personality and zest our students in Year Four already bring to their writing pieces and admiring their motivation and willingness to write.

MATHEMATICS

This term, we are going to be learning and deepening a range of concepts, relating to the three dimensions of Mathematics: Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. We will begin by further exploring place value (our number value system) as this is an important foundation for student's success in more complex mathematics. Learning will be undertaken in order to advance students' understanding of decimals, and they will participate in project-based learning to support them in identifying the importance and relevance of mathematics in a real life context.

Our underlying focus throughout the term is on developing 'Positive Maths Norms.' There is research (<https://www.youcubed.org/positive-classroom-norms/>) to confirm that setting up a strong, connected learning environment leads to opportunities to target and grow learning. We look at building thinking in Level Four and can't wait to share the learners mathematical strategies with you as they grow.

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.

Mathematics- Each week learners will have a set numeracy task to complete which may be digital or hands-on/interactive. We continue our learning with Mathletics, but look to build students responsibility around this tool to become self-motivated.

Reading- Students are to read for 20 minutes per night to an adult or sibling. Even for confident readers it is still important they have the opportunity to read out loud to develop expression, fluency and comprehension.

Conversations around your child's reading will reinforce their understanding and help them develop critical literacy skills that are introduced at this level.

How can you help your child with reading?

Provide a calm environment where they know they have your full attention.

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 'Just Right' 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.... Your fluency has improved so much, that's excellent it was so nice listening to you... You're so clever learning how to pronounce those new words using your sounds fantastic learning!

Spelling- Spelling words are provided each week, concentrating on spelling generalisations and personal needs. Learners will need to practise these words nightly and complete a learning task to concrete their understanding of set generalisation.

Each Friday students will complete a spelling assessment on their selected words.

Weekly Home Learning is handed out to students each Friday and is to be returned the following Friday.



SWIMMING

The swimming program introduces and develops the children's water skills. The program has a focus on water safety, not just in the pool but around water in general. Students learn skills such as being able to float, different types of swimming strokes and common sense when dealing with water. Swimming and water safety awareness is imperative as Australia has so many beaches, lakes, rivers, pools and waterways. It is a skill that all people should have and it is important that individuals learn their own capabilities around the water.

The trained instructors assess the students in small groups and focus on what they need to achieve to develop their skills placing them in like ability groups. They will ensure strong swimmers are advanced and those with the basics learn to develop further skills.

Parents are welcome to come and watch their child during swimming lessons. Please note that due to student privacy it is not appropriate for photographs or videos to be taken that may capture another student apart from your child in the image.

Swimming caps are provided by the pool and are to be retained by the students. A good towel that will dry properly is important! Please remember that it is very important that all your children's school uniform and other items of clothing including underclothes and bathers are named prior to the swimming program starting.

SWIMMING DATES FOR LEVEL 4: March 6th-8th, 14th-15th and 20th-22nd.

JUST SWIMMING SYNDAL: Address: 544 High Street Rd, Mt Waverley Phone: 9802 3900