



# Level Five Newsletter

APRIL, 2017



## Important Dates

**Anzac Day holiday**  
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April

**Curriculum Day**  
(student free day)  
Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>  
April

**NAPLAN**  
9-11 May

**Education week**  
**Book Fair**  
Week 6

**Maths Olympiad**  
Selected students  
17/5, 14/6

**Fun Run/Cross**  
**Country**  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May

**Open Evening**  
24<sup>th</sup> May

**ICAS**  
Digital  
Technologies- 23/5  
Science - 30/5  
Writing – 13/6  
Spelling – 14/6

**Melbourne Zoo**  
**Excursion**  
Wednesday 31/5

**Queen's Birthday**  
**Holiday**  
12<sup>th</sup> June

**Life Education Van**  
Week 9,10

**End of Term**  
2.30pm  
30<sup>th</sup> June

## Welcome

Welcome back to another fantastic term at Glen Waverley Primary School. I hope you have all had a wonderful, safe and enjoyable holiday. I would like to welcome all new and returning families to our wonderful school.

The National Assessment, NAPLAN, will take place from Tuesday May 9<sup>th</sup> until Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. 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.

Parents will also have an opportunity to visit our school during our Open Evening (as part of Education Week celebrations) during Week 6 with the theme, "Healthy Mind – Healthy Body". Our school will be taking on a STEAM focus (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics)

As part of our Inquiry unit on 'Adaptations for Survival', students will be visiting Melbourne Zoo on Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> May. Students will be able to interact with some of the animals as well as having a zoologist speak to them about animal adaptations.

The Level 5 team looks forward to working with you and your children over the term.

Thank you,

**Miss Tania Smith**  
**Teaching and Learning Leader**

## NAPLAN

Each year, students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are assessed on the same days using national tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation) and Numeracy. This year the NAPLAN tests will occur Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May.

NAPLAN tests 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.

### Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May

**Before recess:** Language Conventions - 40 minutes

**After recess:** Writing - 40 minutes

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May:** Reading - 50 minutes

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May:** Numeracy - 50 minutes

*Further information about the assessment including sample NAP assessments and frequently asked questions may be accessed at the official website: [www.nap.edu.au](http://www.nap.edu.au)*

## English

At Glen Waverley Primary School, our English program is based around research on 'best' literacy practice, the Victorian Curriculum and most importantly, the needs of our students. Each student has individualised goals and are supported to achieve them through targeted teaching as well as one to one conferencing with their teacher. The following is an overview of what to expect in Term Two English at GWPS.

### Reading:

Reading sessions in Year 5 are comprised of a mini lesson, guided/independent practice and independent reading time. During the mini lesson and guided/independent practice, students learn and trial a reading 'strategy'. During Term Two, some of the strategies students will be learning include: identifying literary elements (such as characters, plot and settings), recognising cause and effect relationships, predicting and inferring.

### Writing:

Research tells us that good writers have choice over what they write, are given time to write frequently and have a mentor to guide and model writing for them (the teacher). It is also vital that students write for a specific purpose. During Writing sessions throughout Term 2, students will be exposed to all these factors as they continue exploring ideas in their writer's notebook. They will also be focusing on an information report genre as they write, design and construct a factual report linked to their Inquiry research. As NAPLAN testing is in Week 4, students will be practising and revising their persuasive and narrative writing genres in the lead up, in order to set themselves up for success.

### Speaking and Listening:

Speaking and listening is an extremely important skill that allows learners to gain knowledge, communicate effectively, articulate thinking and form social relationships. To continue building upon the students' capacity in this area, students will be given regular opportunities to speak and discuss with classmates, in small group and whole group settings. They will also be expected to complete an inquiry project in which they will self-assess their speaking skills and choose an area of improvement to focus on.

## Mathematics

Throughout Term Two, students will continue to utilise the seven math norms in order to develop their thinking using math and number talks. This term students will be focusing on learning and practising various problem solving strategies as they prepare for the NAPLAN – Numeracy assessment.

Students will build a thorough knowledge of probability and continue to develop their understanding of economics through the 1-to-1 iPad program and financial planning learning tasks. They will also be extending their understanding of measuring by converting units of measurement, ratio and angles. This term, the robotics program will also link closely to many of our Maths learning tasks, with the aim of deepening the students understanding of all learning tasks in these areas.

The Advanced Mathematics Program will continue to cater to 27 Level 5 students. These sessions are aimed at extending students that have demonstrated high levels of achievement in mathematics. The Advanced Mathematics Program will be run by our mathematics specialist Cath Peters.

## Inquiry

In Inquiry this term, Level 5 will be focusing on the unit “Adaptations for Survival” as an investigation into biological sciences. Students will explore the adaptations of plants and animals, and discover how living things adapt to survive (and often, thrive) in hostile environments. The students will identify between different physical and behavioural adaptations, and understand adaptation as part of an evolutionary process over time. To deepen their learning, Level 5 students will undertake an excursion to Melbourne Zoo to complete the exciting and hands-on learning program, “Save Our Species: Call of the Wild!” This program will support students in their understanding of various inter- and intra-relationships between living organisms and their environments, and how human behaviours directly impact the ecosystem.

## Education Week

The theme of Education Week this year is “Healthy Mind – Healthy Body” and will occur in Week 6 of Term Two. Our school will be taking on a STEAM focus (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics) to recognise the healthy development of students with a scientific lens. This event allows students to celebrate the items and actions that promote both mental and physical health.

## Digital Learning

Throughout Term Two, the Year 5’s will expand their knowledge and skills in using digital technologies aid their living and learning. Students will continue to utilise applications such as Reading Eggs, Mathletics, Seesaw, Keynotes and Book Creator to showcase their understanding of concepts learned in class. Edmodo, an online networking tool, will continue as a mode of communication within the class and also act as a portal for learning to share work safely and privately with their teachers and classmates.

This term, students will be guided by our school’s digital coaches – Elisha Park and Kyle Bailey – to in using Office365 applications to collaboratively create and refine learning products. Students will also develop skills and understandings of coding and robotics by exploring exciting ‘Dash’ robots and program, ‘Blockly’. These learning areas will be integrated with the mathematics curriculum and further promote students’ logic, reasoning and problem-solving skills.

## Do It!

Welcome to Term Two ‘You Can Do It’, where the primary focus will be exploring the ‘Confidence Key’ and ‘Resilience Key’.

**Confidence:** There is little question that the most direct road to developing or increasing student confidence is through successful experiences. No matter how positive a student’s approach to schoolwork, positive attitudes, including self-belief, can be ground down by repeated negative experiences. Students will focus on four key areas to build their confidence and continue to build a positive mindset.

1. *Accepting Myself* – accepting yourself even when you make a mistake or someone is mean to you.
2. *Tasking Risks*-knowing that it is good to try new activities even when you might not be able to do them at first.
3. *Being Independent*- thinking that it’s important to try new activities and to speak up even if classmates think you’re silly or stupid.
4. *I Can Do It*- thinking that when you are having difficulty with your work, it is more likely you will be successful than not.

Furthermore students will reflect on attitudes that have the potential to affect them in negative ways of thinking. These include, self-downing, needing to be perfect, needing approval and an 'I can't do it' attitude. Students will have the opportunity to identify and discuss these negative ways of thinking and help students replace it with more positive attributes that are listed above.

**Resilience:** All children and young people are faced with considerable demands, challenges, frustrations, difficulties and setbacks, it is vital that they have developmentally-appropriate levels of resilience skills. During this term students will work towards developing the following elements of resilience

- Staying calm in the face of difficult or challenging situations, people and events.
- Controlling one's behaviour when one does get extremely upset by not fighting or withdrawing for too long
- Calming down within a developmentally –appropriate time
- Bouncing back to work and play

We sincerely thank you for your interest in and passion for your child's education and taking the time to read about our learning foci for Term Two. We look forward to working with you throughout the term as we continue to set up each and every student for success. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact your child's classroom teacher.

**Level 5 Team**

**Miss Tania Smith, Miss Rebecca Morris, Mr. Jeff Chen, Miss Kate Wheeler, Mrs. Nicole Pryde**