



Important Dates

Disco
3rd November

Melbourne Cup Day (public holiday)
7th November

Hands-on Science Incursion
22nd or 23rd November

2018 Day
20th December

Last Day of Term 4
22nd December



Level Leader's Welcome

Welcome back to all Level Five students and parents for the final term of 2017. The year seems to have just flown by with many fantastic school events taking place every term. We wish a warm welcome also to our new students who have started at GWPS recently.

Change Detectives is the title for the Term Four inquiry unit and it has a Physical Science focus. Change Detectives is a unit which allows students to make links between the world around them and changes that they experience in their everyday lives. It will allow them to create, explore and understand how and why things change. Students will participate in hands-on tasks and student-planned investigations. They will create cross-curricular opportunities to apply their learning.

We will be investigating what makes things change, why solids, liquids and gases react differently and how particles move and react as they change. We have an exciting incursion where students will be involved in hands-on experiments. They will investigate the properties and behaviour of chemicals/materials. Students will explore reversible and irreversible changes that occur when chemicals are mixed. Throughout the term, the Home Learning will match the tasks undertaken in the classroom and will act as an introduction, application of new understandings, investigation and revision.

Term Four is a very important term for students wishing to apply for leadership positions next year. There will be many opportunities for students to write applications and showcase their leadership credentials. Information has been sent to students through Edmodo outlining the process, and giving the timeline of events. **We strongly encourage all families to be familiar with the process, assist your child with their speeches and see your child's classroom teacher if you have any queries.**

In all, it will be another action-packed term to look forward to, and I hope you can share in the students' achievements through conversations at home or visit classrooms and be part of the investigations too.

Tania Smith

Level 5 Teaching and Learning Leader

English

Our foci in Term 4 are application writing for Leadership positions, narratives and procedural texts. We will be integrating our learning with new understandings from the Victorian Curriculum that explore our Inquiry unit, 'Change Detectives'.

Reading:

During Term Four, Level Five students will be engaging in a number of reading strategies to further develop and deepen their reading comprehension skills. Students will focus on language features used in imaginative and persuasive texts as well as compare and contrast literary elements that support each of these text types.

Model texts in Reading will support students' writing units: application writing for Year 6 leadership positions, short narrative writing and forming real world procedural texts. They will identify key literal

ideas within persuasive texts and evaluate the arguments by making connections to personal experiences and their world knowledge. Students will also examine language devices used for persuasive and exaggerative purposes. Furthermore, students will deepen their vocabulary bank by noticing word choices that the author makes in order to create contrast in moods and themes.

Key reading strategies students will focus on during Term 4:

Compare and Contrast – Students will identify similarities and differences in not only the characters, settings and plots, but also explore the importance of moods, themes and author’s purpose.

Summarising Key Ideas and Sequencing – Students will locate key facts in persuasive and narrative pieces, and sequence relationships involving cause-and-effect and/or author’s purpose.

Analysing the Impact of Word Choices - Students will identify unfamiliar vocabulary and evaluate how particular word choice can enhance visualisation and story flow for the reader.

Noticing Conventions (Grammar and Punctuation) – Students will examine the importance of punctuation and grammar in developing smooth sentence fluency and voice in narrative and persuasive texts.

During independent reading time, students will continue to work on their **personal** reading goals. Teachers will confer with students during this time to set and review goals, ensuring all students have an individualised reading goal and the support to achieve it. **We strongly encourage all families to become familiar with your child’s reading goal and ask how they are progressing towards achieving it.**

Writing:

In Writing, students will focus on developing their persuasive language by writing application letters for leadership positions within the school for 2018. Students will then develop speeches to support these applications. This will involve learning about the structure of a formal letter, which will need to incorporate student’s personal skills and how they could transfer these skills as a leader within the GWPS school setting.

Students will also develop a series of short stories, and work on embedding excellent word choices and figurative language to build vivid imageries within their writing. They will be provided with visual prompts as a basis to generate ideas and help to construct their narratives. A focus on self-editing and revising writing will ensure students are aware that this stage of writing is just as important as the initial drafting of a text.

Furthermore, student learning in the areas of grammar and spelling will be targeted on a weekly basis. Students will explore and identify grammatical elements such as the use of possessive apostrophes and the correct placement of quotation marks. **How is Level 5 using our newly developed WSA to Spelling? How can parents assist with spelling at home?**

Speaking and Listening:

As we focus on GWPS leadership positions, students will further develop their public speaking skills when presenting their speeches to an audience. To further their engagement and interaction in current events, they will continue to participate in Socratic Seminars with their classmates.



Mathematics

In Mathematics, Level 5 will continue to develop students' mathematical thinking through processes of concrete, pictorial and abstract problem-solving. Throughout Term Four, the students will be focusing on converting measurements, interpreting data, translation and transformation and number patterns.

Our students will incorporate their knowledge of digital technologies to develop their understanding of converting between different measurements. They will estimate, measure and record their understanding as they instruct 'Dash' robots to draw lines of varying lengths and difficulties.

Students will continue to extend their understandings of data and statistics. Students will focus on interpreting secondary data as well as mean, median and mode through hands-on activities with a real life context.

Level Five will be undertaking projects that challenge their understanding of translation and transformation of different shapes. They will also begin to investigate coordinates and the Cartesian plane.

The Advanced Mathematics Program will continue to provide selected Level 5 students with the opportunity to participate in learning tasks aimed at extending those students selected, through testing, that are particularly passionate about mathematics. The Advanced Mathematics Program will be run by our mathematics specialist, Cath Peters.

Inquiry

During Term 4 in Science, students will engage in a Chemistry unit of inquiry. This inquiry allows students to make links between the world around them and changes that they experience in their everyday lives. It will allow them to create, explore and understand how and why things change. Students will participate in hands-on learning tasks and student-planned investigations. They will create cross-curricular opportunities to apply their learning. Students will form a conceptual understanding of how the whole world is made up of particles that are constantly moving and reacting with each other. The following are focus questions that will guide students inquiry during the term:

1. What makes things change?
2. Why do solids, liquids and gases react differently?
3. How do particles move and react as they change?
4. How does our understanding of physical and chemical change in everyday materials impact on our lives?

What can families do at home to support this fabulous inquiry unit?

Learning Goals

As a means of further engaging the children with their learning, they have personalised learning goals in Reading, Writing, Maths and Learner Resilience (Wellbeing). The Level 5 Team encourage all parents to ask the children to elaborate on their learning goals regularly with a particular focus on how the goal was developed, the progress they are making towards achieving their goals and what the children think their next goal may be.

If you have any questions pertaining to our Term 4 Level Newsletter, please do not hesitate to see or contact your child's classroom teacher.

Level 5 Team

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