WELCOME TO OUR NEW LEVEL 3 MEMBERS!

TANIA SMITH (3/4S & Level Leader)
Hello everyone. I would like to thank all the parents and students for such a delightful welcome to Glen Waverley Primary School. What a fabulous school this is, with dedicated staff, strong leadership and clear goals to improve student outcomes. I have already seen evidence of high performing students striving for ‘personal best’ and collaborating with others in my home group. I welcome all visitors into Year 3/4S to celebrate our successes and watch us challenge ourselves to achieve knowledge, skills and values that will make us valuable global citizens.

SARAH DONALD (4SD)
Hello parents and students. I have been delighted with the warm reception I’ve received at Glen Waverley Primary School and the many parents I have met so far. During my first week I have experienced the students’ enthusiastic and motivated attitude to learning in such a positive school environment. I embrace this culture and reflect this collaborative whole school approach in students’ learning and my own teaching. I welcome and encourage parents into our classroom to celebrate the excellent work 4SD has already demonstrated. I am looking forward to continuing the learning journey my students have already begun.

IMPORTANT DATES
Level 3 Assembly
Friday 14th February
Curriculum Day (no school)
Friday 28th February
Getting to Know You interviews
Wednesday 19th & 26th February
Swimming Program
Monday 3rd to 19th March
School Photos
Friday 7th March
School Athletics
Friday 21st March
Twilight Sports
Wednesday 2nd April
Year 4 Camp
Wednesday 30th April — Friday 2 May
LEVEL LEADER’S WELCOME

What a fantastic start to the academic year! Although the weather was extremely warm, the students arrived daily with smiles on their faces ready to embrace the new challenges that awaited. During the following days children brought in their parents to meet their new teacher. If you have not had that opportunity, please come into your child’s classroom and say a hello to your child’s teacher.

We have many talented and skilled parents at Glen Waverley Primary and the Level 3 team would like to invite parents to volunteer in our classrooms. We have times through the term where we would appreciate parent help such as: leading a reading group, listening to individual reading, helping with excursions, giving short presentations and many more. Please contact your child’s classroom teacher if you are able to help.

The Level 3 and 4 focus for Term 1 of 2014 is a Humanities and History based unit of “Journeys”. This inquiry unit is about the journeys that have been taken over time to reach Australia, the reasons for immigrating and how different communities have helped shape our country.

In the following weeks, this will be extended to finding out about how students journeyed to Glen Waverley Primary School. The students will interview family to path their journey here and this will be displayed in classrooms on large posters. The students will work as a group to analyse the data they have collected and present a report of their findings through different media. The students will construct a geographical family tree. They will also investigate the discovery and colonisation of Australia over the last two centuries.

Towards the conclusion of the unit, the students will visit the Immigration museum to participate in an engaging presentation called “Pack Your Bags”. This interactive presentation allows students to explore migration and cultural diversity through stories told with objects, artefacts and costumes. Finally the teachers in Level 3 and 4 would like to thank our parents for preparing your children so well for the beginning of the school year.

Tania Smith
Level 3 and 4 Teaching and Learning Leader
Home Learning

Home learning in Level 3 and 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. Inquiry study this term is based on developing students understanding of immigration and how these journeys can be personal or shaped by world events.

Mathematics- Each week students will be required to complete Mathletics units on the topic we are covering in class at that time. This consolidates learning and enables students to reinforce their understanding in a different format. To complete the topic in one week students are recommended to tackle one activity on the unit per day and after completion play some live Mathletics games.

Reading- Students are to read for 15 minutes per night to an adult or older sibling. Even for confident readers it is still important they have the opportunity to read out loud to develop expression and fluency. 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.

Spelling- Ten spelling words are provided each week concentrating on a different grammatical convention. Although we recommend the use of the Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check method, students can use their preferred learning styles at home to learn the spelling of their given words. Each word is to be placed in a full sentence that clearly shows the student’s knowledge of what the word means. E.g. Today is hot. (Unacceptable as this does not show the meaning of the word hot.) The sun came out while we were running around the playground, making us all hot and sweaty. (Acceptable)

Each Friday students will complete a spelling test on given words.

Weekly home learning is handed out to students each Friday and is to be returned the following Friday.

Things to remember:
To ensure that your child is prepared for school each day, here are a few suggestions to assist you.

Please ensure that all items of clothing, including hats are labelled with your child’s full name. Lost items will be kept in our Lost Property near the office.

The weather is often warm in Term One. It would be fantastic for students to come to school dressed appropriately for the weather. In hot temperatures it is very difficult for them to stay focused and learn when they are wearing long shirts and pants. Students need to have their hats to play in the sun during play times as well as P.E classes and wearing sunscreen will protect their skin from sun damage. Bringing a water bottle is also important so they can stay hydrated throughout the day.

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.
NAPLAN
Every 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. 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

2014 ICAS
Parents may choose for their child/children to enter any number of the subject tests offered. This is not a compulsory assessment. An information sheet with payment details will go home shortly. The sitting dates are as follows:

Computer Skills      Tuesday 20th May
Science              Wednesday 4th June
Writing              Monday 16th June
Spelling             Tuesday 17th June
English              Tuesday 29th July
Mathematics          Tuesday 12th August

Website: www.eaa.unsw.edu.au may be accessed for further information. Please email the school if you would like samples of previous tests.

If you have any queries regarding the NAPLAN assessment or the UNSW tests please contact me,
Debbie Jacobs
Assessment & Reporting co-ordinator.

Dates to remember:

**Tuesday 13th May**
Language Conventions
40 minutes
Writing
40 minutes

**Wednesday 14th May**
Reading
45 minutes

**Thursday 15th May**
Numeracy
45 minutes

Please note: The tests are administered in the first part of the day so it is important that all children arrive at school on time.
YEAR 4 CAMP:

This year the Year 4 camp will be held at Coastal Forest Lodge in Anglesea. Coastal Forest Lodge is purpose-built group accommodation campsite on the Surf coast of Victoria. It's about five kilometres on the Geelong side of Anglesea, is located on a beautiful 80 hectare property opposite the Anglesea Heathlands and the Forest Road flora reserve.

The Camp Setting is delightful- an alcove surrounded on three sides by coastal forest, fenced for safety and supervision. With plenty of walks and abundant wildlife, the wooded area is a peaceful and diverse environment. We do a range of activities such as low ropes course, bush walks, and mini-golf. On Thursday we will be taking a bus down to the Anglesea Estuary to explore what it has to offer.

There will be a parent information night prior to the camp where we will be able to answer any questions you may have.

The Camp will be held from Wednesday 30th April to Friday 2nd May.

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.

Students are asked not to wear bathers as underwear on swimming days but to change at the pool into swimmers. 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 3: March 3 - 6, 11, 12, 17 - 19

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