GLEN WAVERLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL - OVERVIEW

Glen Waverley Primary School has a student population of approximately 560 students and is situated close to Glen Waverley Secondary College and The Glen shopping centre.

The school has experienced rapid and unprecedented change and growth in recent years with the incorporation of a number of innovative curriculum programs. Many families move to Glen Waverley because of its very good infrastructure including quality options for primary and secondary schooling as well as Monash and Deakin Universities. Most families drive their children to school with some children riding bicycles and some walking. The school is surrounded by major roads and housing on three sides.

The school has a high EAL component of approximately 80%. The school community comprises 35 different home languages. The community highly value education and have extremely lofty expectations and standards on their children and also the school. A high percentage of our students are working more than 12 months beyond the expected standard.

The majority of the community are white collar workers employed in various professional fields and other service sectors with a smaller percentage working in trade related industries. Some families own their own businesses with approximately 20% of families in receipt of EMA (Education Maintenance Allowance). The school’s Student Family Occupation (SFO) index is 0.24 and the LBOTE is 0.68 making us a very unique school.

Glen Waverley Primary School employs a terrific mix of teaching staff at differing stages of their careers. We have a healthy balance of male and female staff who are highly motivated and professional, working together in Professional Learning Teams and have a real passion for the development and learning of the students.

The school offers a seven-year sequential program currently based on AusVELS and the Victorian Essential Learning Standards. With Literacy, Numeracy, Science, Thinking and ICT being our main priorities and is also an imbedded feature of our work. We have an extensive ICT program across the school with all classrooms containing an IWB, there are approximately 120 notebooks and 60 PC’s throughout the school and we have 120 iPads which service the Foundation to Four students. Level 4 students have a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) 1:1 iPad program. The school also contains a multimedia room which comprises of a television (green screen) and radio studio.

Specialist subjects include Physical and Sport Education, Music, Art/Craft and Languages (Mandarin). English as an Additional Language (EAL) program is also available for students. The educational program at Glen Waverley Primary School is further enhanced through Individual Learning Improvement Plans (ILIP’s), Reading Recovery, QuickSmart Numeracy Intervention, Smart8 enrichment, Digital Excellence computer skills program, external competitions and various gifted and talented programs. We employ a School Chaplain (Student Wellbeing Officer) and the students have access to a comprehensive outdoor education program commencing with a Year F – 2 “Late Night at School”, a Year 3 sleepover and school camps in Years 4 to 6. Whole school activities involving the broader school community are also a feature of our annual calendar of events.

The staff together with the broader school community place strong emphasis on:

- Fostering children’s self-confidence and self-esteem within a caring atmosphere
- Extending students by innovative and creative teaching practices
- Encouraging, recognising and celebrating student achievements
- Encouraging responsibility for one’s own learning
- Providing leadership opportunities
- Developing tolerance, respect and understanding within our multicultural environment
- Providing an alignment and partnership of support between teachers, students and the school community
- Providing extensive professional learning for all teaching and non-teaching staff

The school believes that it has a responsibility to:
• Develop independence, self-esteem, tolerance and self-discipline in students
• Foster a love of learning
• Provide a basis in skills, knowledge, attitudes and values which empowers students to become lifelong learners
• Encourage students to learn through investigating, designing, producing and evaluating; and
• Develop skills of cooperation, shared decision-making and a commitment to working within a supportive environment

The focus of our work at a local level has been to implement our school’s agreed philosophy of:
1. The students are at the centre of everything we do
2. Building staff capacity is paramount and
3. Everything we do is based on research and a whole school approach.

Being a school with a very high percentage of students requiring EAL support, our professional development focus has been working with renowned EAL consultant Norma Murray to develop a whole school approach to catering for the EAL learner. As a staff we are also embarking on developing whole school approaches to:

- English (Reading)
- Mathematics
- Assessment and Reporting
- Curriculum Planning and Implementation.

Our curriculum has a strong focus on Multiculturalism, Global Citizenship and Global Learning. We were very fortunate to receive the 2012 State Excellence in Multiculturalism and Global Education award.

Another feature of our work which we are strongly working to develop is peer observation and coaching. All teaching staff have the opportunity to view colleagues in other schools, access a professional coach and we are also currently working towards developing a collegiate approach across our school where we share each other’s expertise.

In our School Strategic Plan for the period 2013 -2016 we are focusing on the key essentials of Literacy and Numeracy development in our students but to also concentrate on student connectedness and student well-being.

There are several areas of school performance that will continue to be areas for improvement.

- Maintaining the high standards of Literacy and Numeracy across the school
- Focus on personalising learning for all students
- Focus on Multiculturalism, Global Citizenship, Citizenship and Learning
- Continuing to improve and support the performance of children experiencing difficulties with their learning through targeted programs
- Further enhancing our English as an Additional Language program and
- Improvement of all students across all area of VELS (AusVels)

**Specific Role Responsibilities:**
The school is currently seeking a motivated individual who is flexible yet autonomous in their approach towards the development of their teaching skills in line with the school’s philosophy and whole school approaches. Most importantly, we are seeking a passionate student centred educator who is willing to maximise student learning outcomes.

School Tours – will be held on Wednesday 23rd October at 4:15. Please ring the school to confirm your attendance.

I wish all applicants well in the selection process. If you require further information please do not hesitate to contact me on 9802 9938 or via e-mail at catalano.frank.f@edumail.vic.gov.au

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Frank Catalano
Principal