A warm welcome back to everyone for Term 4! This time of year is always very busy and this term will be no exception. Sadly, it will be the last term at Westgarth for our Grade 6s. The Grade 5/6 Team have many exciting activities planned to ensure that their last moments here are memorable!

**Important Dates for Term 4:**

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Tuesday 22nd October</td>
<td>Whole school Numeracy Incursion</td>
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<td>Friday 15th November</td>
<td>Grade 3-6 Triathlon</td>
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<td>Thursday 21st November</td>
<td>Westgarth Art Show</td>
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<td>Thursday 5th December</td>
<td>Student Led Conferences</td>
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<td>Tuesday 10th December</td>
<td>Whole School Transition (Grade 6s to High School)</td>
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<td>Thursday 12th December</td>
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**WHAT WE ARE LEARNING THIS TERM**

**DISCOVERY – FORENSIC FRENZY**

We have saved possibly the most engaging unit of inquiry for last; ‘Forensic Frenzy!’ This unit focuses on the essential question; *how do scientists generate a hypothesis based on evidence gathered?* This will involve students determining exactly who a scientist might be and investigating the many ways that they develop a hypothesis, gather evidence and follow processes in order to draw logical and accurate conclusions. Tuning in activities have included a visit from the CSIRO, who introduced students to terminology associated with the unit as well as ways to analyse a crime scene, including finger print analysis, witness statements and chromatography. Over the next few weeks, students will be applying this knowledge in solving a mystery within their very own classroom.

**LITERACY - READING**

In Reading, students will be encouraged to paraphrase text into their own words to enhance their understanding. This will include students saying sentences in different ways, changing as many words as possible while keeping the meaning the same. They will compare and contrast elements from narrative texts in Literature Circles, differentiate between fact and opinion and infer meaning when ideas are not directly stated.
LITERACY - WRITING
Literacy tasks this term will connect with the unit of inquiry whenever possible. This will include students continuing to develop their understanding of narrative texts, by planning, writing and publishing mystery stories. Throughout this investigation, students will be encouraged to recognise how ideas in texts can be conveyed from different viewpoints, which can lead to different kinds of interpretations. Students will experiment with various sentence structures to ensure that their written work engages the reader. Staff will continue to promote the passion to write through their Writer’s Notebooks.

NUMERACY – NUMBER & ALGEBRA
Students will attempt to develop a deeper understanding of the properties of numbers including making connections between representations of numbers and comparing and ordering fractions and decimals. There will be an explicit focus on solving number problems that consist of more than one operation, including using brackets to determine the order of operations.

NUMERACY – STATISTICS & PROBABILITY
Students will list outcomes of chance experiments with equally likely outcomes and assign probabilities either as a number from 0 to 1, fractions, decimals or percentages. They will interpret and compare a range of data displays, including side-by-side column graphs for two categorical variables, often through the use of computer software.

NUMERACY – MEASUREMENT & GEOMETRY
Many of the measurement tasks will continue to be open ended to ensure that students are encouraged to apply their problem solving and thinking skills. These activities will be designed to support students to relate decimals to the metric system and choose appropriate units of measurement to perform a calculation. There will be a focus on identifying both line and rotational symmetry.

Information and Communications Technology (ICT)
ICT is an interdisciplinary domain embedded across our curriculum and will continue to provide students with the tools to transform their learning and to enrich their learning environment. This term, students will engage in an intense program to assist them to establish themselves as positive cybercitizens for the future. This will involve teaching students how to keep themselves safe online through a guided experience, helping to develop their confidence, skills and most importantly their behaviours to better protect themselves online.

Students have also been composing their Digital Portfolios throughout this semester. This will be sure to give you an interactive guide to their learning journey at the Student Led Conferences in December.

HOW YOU CAN HELP
• Please make sure your child is at school on time every day. We find that children are far more settled and focused when they are on time for the start of the day.
• Continue to encourage your child to read both independently and to you at home
• Ask to view and sign your child’s homework each week.
• If you have skills/knowledge/expertise relating to our discovery of forensic science, we would welcome you to come along and speak to the students or share your skills.
• Please check that your child’s belongings are clearly labelled – this includes clothing and lunchboxes.
• All students must have a ‘SunSmart’ hat in Term 4 as students without hats will need to spend recess and lunchtimes in a shaded area of the yard.
• If you have any concerns or queries about your child please speak first to the classroom teacher. You will need to organise a mutual meeting time either before or after school.

We would all like to thank you so much for your support this year. It has been an amazing time for this cohort of students and we look forward to celebrating their learning and development with you at the Student Led Conferences!

Ben, Andy, Phana, Glenn, Gaby, Mark and Brenda
MUSIC
Term 4 will be a lot of fun for the grade 5/6 students. The first project will be to get into groups and form a “band”. The bands are fictitious but the students need to write a “band bio” where the things like the origins, line-up, genre and achievements of the “band” are outlined. We will have a photo shoot day where each “band” gets to dress up and have some live performance shots as well as promo shots. The students will then design a poster for their band using the photos and their band bio. I hope that this will give them an insight into the workings of the music industry. We will also learn how a PA system works and how to set one up including microphone stands and how to keep cables tidy.

Last term the students in groups had to create a short score for an ensemble. They worked really well to create these and present them in an eye catching way. This term each group will have a go at working out and playing another groups score. This will require the students to use all of their theoretical knowledge that they have learnt during their time at primary school.

We will also be preparing for our end of year concert where the children will perform some of the songs that they have learnt throughout the year as well as a “Rap Off” between the grade fives and sixes.

John Carr
Music Specialist

P.E.
Term four grade 3-6 students will have the option of competing in the District Triathlon on Friday November 15th. Teams will be in age groups and will have one runner, one swimmer (two swimmers can be in the 10 year old age group) and one bike rider. If your child has expressed interest in competing a note will be sent home with information about the event in the coming weeks.

SEDA are running some football clinics each Thursday for the next 5 weeks at Westgarth Primary School for all the students. Each year level will have their clinic during one of these weeks. Grade 5-6 students will finish the summer sport fixture over the next 4 weeks on Fridays.

Grade 3-6 students will continue to develop skills already learnt and start to learn about strategy and rules in different sports in PE lessons. They will be introduced some basic Orienteering skills and have the option to compete at the Victorian Schools Championships on 8th November (please see note in Newsletter from Tuesday 15th October for more information on this). Grade 1-2 students will also be introduced to Orienteering.

Ricky Davis
P.E. Co-ordinator
**LANGUAGES**
The Grade 5 and 6 students will revise language and vocabulary taught through engaging language tasks and activities. Through the use of ipad applications and the interactive whiteboard the students will be building on their knowledge of the Greek alphabet. They will also be involved in a Greek play, ‘The Hungry Giant’ with a focus on language structure and expression. They will work in small groups to practise their speaking parts and rehearse with their peers. They will use the ipsads to record one another whilst performing to an audience. All students will also be exploring a unit on ‘Space’. The unit will investigate our solar system, zodiac signs and symbols. The students will be taught to make connections between the English terms used to describe certain elements of our solar system and its reference to the Greek language. The Grade 6 students will also be working hard at learning one of two Greek dances, that will be performed on Graduation night.

Kathy Daskalou  
Language Teacher

**ART**
Term Four is a busy and exciting term at Westgarth Primary School. This year’s Art Show will be held on Thursday 21st November from 5.30 – 8.00pm in the WEB on Clarke Street. Each student will select one 2D and one 3D piece of art work to be exhibited.

This term the grade 5/6 students will be covering the areas of painting, construction and threads & textiles.

Last week students commenced a painting unit. Students were introduced to value landscapes and discussed the differences between tints, tones and shades. Students created their own landscape designs using copies of black and white photographs of landscapes as a starting block. Students drew a series of layers and in the coming weeks will paint their design with graduating tints and tones.

Students will complete the final part of the clay unit by painting their Day of the Dead skulls.

In the Threads & Textiles unit, students will construct Yarn Fonts using pipe cleaners and colourful wool.

The Grade 5 students will complete a drawing unit, focusing on creating shapes and writing words within the shapes. The negative space will be filled with water colours.

The Grade 6 students will also create a series of pieces to celebrate their Graduation dinner.

In the coming weeks we will require parent helpers to assist us with the Art Show. This will involve displaying art work as well as taking them down after the event. There will be more details to follow in the Newsletter.

If you ordered calendars, card packs or iPhone covers they are currently being printed. You should receive them by the end of November. Thank you for your ongoing support with fundraising for our school.

Julia Reeves & Rushe Lynch  
Visual Art Specialists