

# Specialist Programs

## Music

Westgarth's music program helps build learning skills and well rounded intelligence as well as developing a lifelong interest in music. Every class has one music session per week. During this time, classes participate actively in a sequential program which includes movement, singing, games, development of critical listening skills and use of tuned and untuned percussion instruments as well as some basics in keyboard, guitar, ukulele and drums from Year 3.

Instrumental skills that students have learnt in extra curricular lessons are utilized and nurtured when playing as a class ensemble.

Students are given experiences in the musical elements such as rhythm and beat, structure, dynamics, tempo, and pitch. Your child also has opportunities to use various forms of music technology, which allows students to create, compose and record their own music. School events and special assemblies develop students' confidence in their ability as well as their love of performing. Students from Year 4 can also participate in the after school user pays instrumental program where we offer guitar.



## Languages - Spanish

Prep to Year 2 students attend one session of Spanish per week. In Spanish, students explore different content areas of the language following an inquiry approach. Students will explore the geographical features, culture and traditions of different places in the world. They are involved in direct, hands on experiences to question, predict, gather and analyse information about the different content areas. Students apply their learning to a variety of activities that cover speaking, listening, reading and writing in Spanish. Alongside the content-related vocabulary, students' routine language skills are constantly developed to enable increasingly sophisticated communication in Spanish. The program is planned in close collaboration with the Visual Arts/Spanish program to ensure the reinforcement, consolidation and expansion of the Spanish language.



## Visual Arts/Spanish

Westgarth Primary School believes that every child is a successful artist. Students participate in one session each week in a large fully equipped art room located on the Clarke Street site. In Visual Arts/Spanish students are exploring the visual arts through the Spanish language. The program follows the Content and Language Integrated Learning model (CLIL). The focus of such a pedagogical model is to deliver learning outcomes for all students in both Content/Art and Language/Spanish by providing a meaningful context for purposeful language learning. Students develop their Spanish language skill by expanding their vocabulary and functional language to enable increasingly sophisticated communication in Spanish.

The program provides an enjoyable and stimulating environment in which fine and gross motor skills are enhanced and the development of creativity and individuality are expressed. During a unit of work, students engage in the process of exploring and expressing ideas, demonstrating visual arts practices, presenting and performing, and responding and interpreting. Throughout the students' visual arts learning from Prep to Year 6, the art elements and principles are explored through a range of visual arts disciplines such as ceramics, drawing, painting, sculpture, textiles and printmaking.

Students' artwork is displayed in the foyer to be appreciated by the school community. The school holds a biennial Art Show to celebrate and showcase the students' artwork. If you would like to keep up to date with the students' current Visual Arts/Spanish learning, follow @westgarth.artspan on Instagram.

## Physical Education

From basic ball skills to state-level athletics and swimming competitions, Westgarth Primary School teaches students the benefits of fitness and the rewards of sporting achievement. Our program includes athletics, gymnastics, ball skills, general fitness, major and minor games, fundamental motor skills and movement exploration. They are conducted in an environment that benefits from spacious surrounds, excellent outdoor surfaces and a modern, generously equipped gymnasium on the Clarke Street site. Westgarth Primary offers a comprehensive physical education program to all grade levels within the school. The program aims to develop interest in, and gaining pleasure from, sporting and outdoor pursuits through the development of skills, knowledge and confidence in a wide range of activities. Students can borrow sporting equipment for use at recess and lunch, and are encouraged to bring named bats, balls etc.

Sport diary dates, times and locations (including swimming, cross country and athletics) are published on this website.

## Digital Technologies

Westgarth Primary School prepares students with the skills to succeed in the digital world. Digital technologies are embedded across all curriculum areas and are utilised as both learning and student engagement tools. Teachers use digital technologies to provide students with authentic learning challenges that foster curiosity, creativity and the ability to collaborate with others. In a world that is increasingly digitised and automated, it is critical to student well-being that they are taught safe and ethical online behaviours. Westgarth is an eSmart school and follows a framework to ensure that students monitor their digital footprint and exhibit positive online behaviours.

All classes have access to an Interactive Whiteboard or Smart TV, which are utilised for such learning tasks as engaging students with interactive texts, Literacy and Numeracy activities and web research relating to specific units of Inquiry. The school aims to provide confidence for students using a range of both Apple and Windows devices, including iPads, Google Chrome Books, laptops and desktop computers. Teachers also make use of our Computer Lab for lessons with a whole class focus. Westgarth have implemented some exciting initiatives around digital technologies. With the introduction of the Victorian Curriculum, many of these have centred on 'coding'.

Students are supported by teachers to generate basic computer programs in order to create animations, games and even procedures for robots to move.

One of the main resources that we use to teach visual programming language is Scratch. This free to use software was developed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and is a fantastic platform to teach children how to code.

## Robotics

Westgarth students in years 3-6 have a new specialist program! S.T.E.A.M (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths).

This 50-minute weekly class will foster curiosity and imagination as students design and create various projects using technology. Coding skills are taught using technology such as SPHERO, OSMO and Lego robotics. Students work in teams to build bridges, obstacle courses and mazes for their SPHERO robots to manoeuvre around. Groups will get creative when they program their SPHERO to complete works of art or build a cardboard chariot and race them around the gym.

Sphero will be coded to make a magic eight ball, a long jump ramp, a bowling game and even complete maths equations. Lego is built into robot arms, cars or a mixture of both and then programmed to move! Students are encouraged to use their imaginations while they design, build, program and learn in this interactive and hands on new specialist subject.



### Library

Each class has a weekly library session. Library sessions includes literature appreciation, research skills and developing a love of reading. Students may return and/or borrow books during class time. A staff member and technician assists in the organisation and management of resources in the library. Westgarth celebrates Book Week annually. The library is currently open once a week at lunchtime for 3 - 6 students.

### Literacy Support

Westgarth offers support in literacy through individualised and group participation in a *Reading Intervention Program* in Prep/1 & 2 (2023 Tutoring across years 1 –6). The support staff member works with individual students or in small groups to explicitly teach specific early literacy skills for reading and writing. Students participate in weekly sessions to develop strategies that will support them to work at the expected literacy level.

### Leadership, Values, Social Skills and Student Voice

At Westgarth Primary, your child is encouraged to develop independence, resilience, problem-solving skills and tolerance. Through role play and reflection, students develop communication skills that will ensure the development of fair play, getting along, mutual rights and responsibilities. We are currently guided by the Berry Street Education Model which has a focus on mental health promotion and wellbeing. We know that being mentally healthy is vital for learning and for leading a rewarding life. Students have opportunities to be involved in leadership roles which include School Captains, Junior School Council, Library Captains, Arts Captains, Sports Captains, Environment Captains, Respectful Relationship Captains and buddy classes. Buddy classes also promote social skills and communication. Preps are usually buddied with a Year 5 class.

