

# 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, special assemblies and the biennial whole school musical develop students' confidence in their ability as well as their love of performing. Students in Years 3-6 are given the opportunity to sing in the WPS Choir. Students from Year 4 can also participate in the after school user pays instrumental program where we offer guitar, flute, clarinet and saxophone.



## Languages - Spanish

Our Languages program is delivered in Spanish and it follows the Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) model. The focus of such a pedagogical model is to deliver learning outcomes for all students in both Content/subject and Language/Spanish by providing a meaningful context for purposeful language learning. The programs are planned in close collaboration with all the Spanish teachers and programs so that language introduced is reinforced, consolidated and expanded on in the others.



## Visual Arts/Spanish

All students from Prep to 6 participate in a session of Spanish through Art every week. In Spanish through Art students explore different art techniques and materials while being exposed to the Spanish language. The Visual Art program provides an enjoyable and relevant context to delve into the Spanish language and to learn about Spanish and South American cultures and their art. In the Spanish/Art classroom students will learn about drawing and painting, they will make collages, print, make sculptures out of clay or recycled materials, learn about art theory and respond to the work of different artists. In all units of work students will practise their Spanish listening, speaking, reading and writing skills, progressively building up their vocabulary and grammar.

The school holds an Art Show to celebrate students' creativity every two years.

## Spanish

Prep to Year 6 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.

## Physical Education

All classes have one session of Physical Education a week. In Prep, Year 1 and Year 2, students concentrate on developing skills in such areas as ball handling and gross motor control, along with participation in minor games. Students start to learn the rules for major games, such as T-ball and rounders, and the use of gym equipment such as hoops and beanbags. In Year 3 and Year 4 the skills are developed further, and at the Year 5 and Year 6 level, students apply them in weekly interschool sport sessions as well as in class. Westgarth Primary School is a member of the Northcote District Primary Schools Sports Association. Our students compete in regular inter-school sport competitions in cross country running, athletics, basketball, swimming sports, triathlon, cricket, softball, bat tennis, rounders, AFL, soccer, netball and newcombe. Westgarth Primary teaches students the benefits of fitness and the rewards of sporting achievement and having a go.

## Digital Technologies

Although not a specialist area in itself, the use of digital technologies is embedded in many of our programs. All classes spend a session in our ICT Centre each week, where students have a computer to work on independently. Each class and specialist program has access to iPads, netbooks and desktop computers to support teaching and learning. Classrooms are also resourced with either an interactive whiteboard or smart TV and Apple TV for teachers to model effective use of technology.

Westgarth is an eSmart school and all of our students are taught how to use online technology in a smart, safe and responsible way. All devices are connected to a school-wide network, which provides students access to shared digital learning spaces. Students use technology at Westgarth as a learning tool, to promote their thinking and problem solving skills and developing an awareness of safe Internet and social media use.

Coding is taught from Prep to Year 6 and students even have an opportunity to program robotic devices in class. An after school user pays Reaching for the Stars STEM Clubs extends and enriches student learning in this area even further.



## 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 twice 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 Year 1. 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 Be You framework 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 and buddy classes. Buddy classes also promote social skills and communication. Preps are usually buddied with a Year 5 class.