



*~ Working Together ~*

Dear Parents,

Please read below information regarding the specialist teaching programs at Greythorn. We look forward to an inspiring and productive year with all our students.

### **Music/Performing Arts with Mrs Joy Odou**

All students have a weekly class in which they develop skills and confidence in expressing themselves musically and artistically. Skills in singing, dancing, playing instruments and reading music are developed at every year level. Year 3 students are learning the descant recorder and are quickly gaining mastery of this new instrument, and Year 6 students are beginning to learn the ukulele. Students in Year 3 and 4 are expected to do at least three short practices per week as part of their regular homework schedule. This term students in all levels will be exploring the musical element of 'rhythm' using a range of drums including African djembe, Japanese Taiko, Vietnamese drums and a range of other percussion instruments. Musical performances, School Concerts and Arts Festivals are a regular feature of the Arts program and all students will have the chance to perform with their class at our school Assembly. The school has a number of performing ensembles including Senior Choir (Years 5 and 6), the Recorder and Percussion Ensemble, the Taiko Group and our school orchestra, the GYPSIES. Please see Mrs Odou or the school office if you are interested in afterschool instrumental tuition.

### **Visual Arts with Miss Bernadette Latorre (Miss. L)**

Students attending Greythorn Primary will experience a 50 minute lesson on a weekly basis. Throughout the year, I endeavor to introduce the students to a variety of art mediums, skills and techniques. They will learn the fundamentals of art, colour theory and the design process, along with the art elements and principles such as line, shape, colour, texture, pattern, balance and contrast. The art program will include aspects of art history, looking at artists from a selection of art movements. With the exposure and influence of these artists, students will be encouraged to create art works that reflect their own ideas and identity. Please encourage your child to bring their own art smock to each lesson to ensure their school uniform is protected at all times.

### **Physical Education and Sport with Miss Claire Knell**

Physical Education and Sport has certainly started quickly and enthusiastically. Although Term 1 is only 9 weeks, it will be jam packed with all students participating in weekly Physical Education and Sport sessions, the District Swimming Competition on February 26<sup>th</sup>, Year 3 swimming commencing the same day and running until March 8<sup>th</sup> and weekly Summer Inter-school Sport (Year 5/6) commencing February 9<sup>th</sup>. We are also planning a whole school Fun Run (separate to the Cross Country) to raise money for much needed fans in the stadium. The fans cost \$30,000 (or \$100,000 for air-conditioning) but it will make the world of difference to the students learning. So please keep an eye out for this!

At Greythorn Primary School, all students participate in 50minute weekly Physical Education sessions, focusing on developing a range of fitness, movement and ball handling skills. Prep students are introduced to the fundamental skills including running, jumping, skipping, throwing, catching, kicking and bouncing. These skills are built upon in Year 1 and 2 and then applied into more structured games in Year 3. Once students hit Grade 5 and 6, it's time to apply these skills with tactics and game strategies, with many students representing the school in the Inter-school Sport program. We look forward to developing our skills before major events including and not limited to Cross Country, Athletics and Hoop Time. Physical Education is a fun opportunity for students to not only develop physical skills, but learn teamwork, sportsmanship, co-operation, communication and fair play. So pop your runners on, jump out of bed... PE is on today!



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### **French with Madame Aude Joyce and Madame Kirstin Tuminello**

French lessons are conducted every week throughout all year levels. Aude Joyce will be teaching Prep and Junior school students and Kirstin Tuminello will be teaching the Middle and Senior school students.

All French lessons will be interactive, utilising technology, music, media and dialogue to engage all students. The AIM teaching program will be incorporated within the lessons. This program focuses on speaking and listening and has the students engaged in their learning thanks to the use of gestures, acting, songs and dance.

In term One French lessons with the Prep and junior school will have a focus on real world conversations, including greetings and giving personal information about oneself as well as following classroom instructions in French and learning about numbers and colours.

In the middle and senior school students will be revising common greetings and language used within the classroom. They will be learning how to give personal information about themselves and investigating and discussing how French is an important global language.

### **Library with Mrs Nopi Kenos**

All students at Greythorn Primary School will be participating in Library lessons for 2 terms. The library program consists of Literacy enrichment and Research skills development. A range of text types are used – picture story books, non fiction and fiction books and students are introduced to various genres.

A range of activities that help promote and encourage reading such as “Book Week” and various competitions will occur throughout the year. “Book Week” will take place in August and the students are given the opportunity to dress as their favourite book character.

During Term 1 the Prep students will be learning all about the library, how to look after books and the importance of reading. The year 3 students will be introduced to the Dewey Decimal System in a fun and exciting manner through scavenger hunts and codes in order to learn to locate non-fiction books. Cyber bullying and cyber safety will be the focus for the year five students. They will be taught about how to stay safe online, how to identify legitimate and scam websites and what to do if they are confronted with cyber bullying.

Looking forward to a great year ahead with all the students.

### **Learning Assistance Program (LAP) with Mrs Denise Hartigan**

The LAP program supports students who have additional learning needs. Students are accurately identified through classroom assessment and learning goals are set for each student. It is an intensive program with students involved up to a maximum of three sessions per week for one term. This may happen individually or in a small group situation. Student progress is accurately tracked over one term against their individual learning plan and information is provided to parents on their child’s learning and development.

### **English as an Additional Language (EAL) with Ms Amber Shepherd**

The EAL Program caters for students who speak a first language other than English. During Term 1 students from years 1 to 6 are withdrawn from their classes 2- 3 times a week to attend small group sessions in the EAL room with Ms Shepherd. Years 1- 2 groups have a stronger focus on speaking and listening, whilst Year 3 – 6 groups focus more on reading and writing. The EAL Program works in consultation with teachers at each year level.

The EAL Program should help all students:

- feel comfortable in their social and learning situations
- feel confident in using the English language at all times
- feel valued in what they have to offer in the classroom.

Parents can help by:

- sharing a variety of social experiences with their children
- reading and discussing books together, speaking English together at home.