LOTE and Music Program

Hi, I’m Sharni Kennedy and this year I will be teaching 3 – 6 LOTE and P-2 Music/LOTE.

Prep – 2 students will be participating in a music program for the first half of the year to give the children a taste of things to come as they progress through to grade 3 and beyond where they will be involved in an instrumental music program. In these weekly music sessions students will learn about musical elements such as, beat and rhythm, pitch and melody, tempo, dynamics and form (ie. Parts of songs like verses and chorus). Students will have fun exploring music through experimenting and learning to play percussion instruments, singing and movement. We anticipate that this program will be beneficial in developing confidence and motor skills as well as using music as a way to express feelings or alleviate nerves. It is well researched that music and cognitive development are closely linked. Our new music program will have well rounded benefits to all students.

Students from grades 3-6 will be engaging in a weekly LOTE lesson. My aim for these lessons is to provide opportunities for students to explore other countries’ cultures and languages. This term we are concentrating on the cultures of Europe; particularly those that we come into contact with most in Australia through our culturally diverse migrant communities. Students will learn some conversational phrases of each country we explore many cultural aspects, such as traditions and celebrations. Students will be able to recognise similarities and differences between their own heritage and that of another culture, leading them to foster a sense of a worldwide community where every culture is celebrated and appreciated. Each week we will also be learning a different phrase or skill from the Australian sign language (Auslan).

If you have any materials or items, which you no longer have use for and think they could be used in either of my programs, please come and see me! I’m after things like books, posters, old instruments, post cards, brochures or little trinkets and souvenirs from other cultures. Thank you!

Visual Arts

Welcome back everyone, my name is Mrs Sally Beran and I am really excited to be teaching your children in the Visual Arts this year. Once a week your students will have an hour lesson in our well-equipped, spacious art room located at the end of the grade one/ two building. The art program focuses on the artistic elements of art including colour, shape, line, pattern, texture, space and form. The elements are taught through the media of drawing, painting, printing, collage, textiles, ceramics and construction. Through their artwork, students are encouraged to explore real, imaginary and abstract ideas, as well as current cultural and historical issues. Where possible, art
lessons will be linked to the inquiry units studied at each year level in order to enhance the unit of work and to draw upon the meaningful experiences and observations of each student. This semester students will experience the wonderful medium of clay and learn how to create and decorate their own artworks. They will learn new terminology like slips, green-ware, bisque fired clay and glazes. Their work will be fired in our school kiln and some pieces may even be seen around our school. So we will be having lots of fun learning and exploring about different types of clay and creating some very special artworks.

SCIENCE
Hi and welcome back to everyone for 2014. Again I feel privileged to be teaching science to the whole school at Watsonia Heights. This term in Prep we will be studying the Five Senses – touch, taste, smell, hearing and sight. We will be doing lots of hands on activities to help us discover how these senses work. We will be also studying a component called Staying Alive which will delve into how both humans and animals use their senses to gather information for their immediate safety and basic needs. The grade 1/2’s are studying ‘Schoolyard Safari’. As humans we share our wonderful planet with many other animals and through observation and investigation students will learn how animals move, feed and protect themselves. Looking at all kinds of animal species will provide the students with a window into similarities and differences among living beings. The 3/4’s will be studying Living Things looking at living, non-living and once living, how animals and plants differ and grouping animals. The students will study how the dinosaurs used to live and how the indigenous use their knowledge of plants and animals to live in the natural environment. The 5/6’s will be studying the Brain. We will be looking at the three main parts – the cerebrum, cerebellum and brain stem. We will compare sizes of our brain to that of many animals and study the impact of good nutrition and sleep on the brain. We will look at brain games to improve memory and optical illusions. During the term the students will have the opportunity to view and dissect a lamb’s brain. Good fun!
Cathy James

PE / Sport Report
Within the PE program I will provide a variety of physical activities for your children to participate in. The activities and skill based tasks will be targeted towards the age and ability appropriate needs of the individual students.
I aim to promote life long learning and enjoyment, in the benefits of fitness and good health, within the Health and PE program. Another key component of the program is providing a holistic approach to exposing students to a variety of sporting possibilities. Whilst developing skills, understanding and knowledge of particular sports, this will also promote
community involvement, through links to external sporting clubs and programs.

In Prep to Grade 2, the focus will be towards developing and building upon the fundamental motor skills and movement patterns, of running, jumping, leaping, dodging, catching, throwing and hitting, just to name a few. The basic motor skills will be practised with the inclusion of more complex skills, through the learning of new games and activities. During this time rules, procedures and the importance of respect, safety and fair play, will be established.

The children in Prep will undertake a motor language program as well as their normal PE class, to help assist them in their overall development.

In the Grade 3 to 6 year levels, the students will perform a broad range of complex motor skills, whereby they will apply these skills to sport specific situations. By working with others to achieve goals in these situations, the children will gain an understanding of fair play and respect, for the roles of officials and their peers. Major games such as basketball, cricket, softball, football, soccer, rugby etc, allow the students to effectively use strategic thinking and work with one another to improve and enhance team performance.

Sport will see the children participating against other schools in the Watsonia District. The major games being played in Term 1 will be: cricket, basketball, bat tennis and rounders. During Term 2 the children will play football, soccer, softball and netball. In conjunction with PE and the Sport program, some students will have the opportunity to compete at District, Division, Region and State levels.

Throughout the year there will also be many opportunities for students to represent themselves, their house, the school in other sports such as Swimming, Cross Country, Athletics and Rugby.

A major emphasis will be placed on the children having fun, whilst developing skills to participate in games, activities and sport. It is hoped that the children will develop a love for physical activity, which will enhance their health, social and emotional wellbeing.

I would like to tell you a little about SCHOOL SPORT VICTORIA (SSV). SSV actively promotes school sport for all Victorian school students, years
4 to 12, as a means of supporting schools in developing their students’ health and wellbeing. SSV operates under the auspices of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Membership of SSV is open to all Victorian schools, providing the opportunities to participate in programs that extend from grassroots intra and inter school sport, to district, division, region, state and national levels. Students attending schools affiliated with SSV are eligible for selection in Victorian Teams to compete in 2014 School Sport Australia National Championships. Watsonia Heights is an affiliated school with SSV. Parents of children in years 5/6 are able to nominate their child to try out for any sport they feel their child is gifted in, by contacting me at school or visiting the SSV website.

Trials will be held for the Watsonia District in football, basketball, netball and soccer, on Thursday 20th March, times and venues will be announced at a later date. Parents need to nominate their child in writing and return it to me at school.

Tennis trials will be held on 28th Feb 1:00pm to 2:00pm. Venue to be announced. Parents will need to nominate their child in writing with the name of the club competition and level your child plays in. The letter is also to be signed by the club coach.

For all other sports eg golf, surfing etc, parents will need to go on the School Sport Victoria website, [www.ssv.vic.edu.au](http://www.ssv.vic.edu.au) to nominate their child. Parents are encouraged to regularly visit the SSV website. All parents are most welcome to attend any of their child’s sporting events.

Bev Brooks PE/SPORT/CAMP COORDINATOR