TEACHING STAFF

• Level 5BK  Mrs Lynn Black / Mrs Alex Kapetanakis  Room 18

• Level 5L  Miss Cate Lucy  Room 17

• Level 5W  Mr Rohan Wight  Room 19

• Level 6U  Mr Simon Upchurch  Room 20

• Level 6S  Ms. Alexis Savvas  Room 6

• Level 6V  Mrs Christine Vlahos  Room 7

MIDDLE YEARS

Students in Level 5 and 6 are entering their Middle Years of Schooling. The Middle Years of Schooling covers Levels 5-9. As children are entering their young adolescence we need to structure their learning appropriate to their developmental needs. Students of this age need to experience independence, purpose, rigour and success in their learning. To engage students and to create a positive learning environment for students of this age we include the following teaching strategies in our program:

• teaching for a deeper level of understanding

• the use of higher order thinking skills

• students having greater control over their own learning

• the use of flexible student groupings

• the use of critical thinking and problem-solving activities

• provision of opportunities for reflective thinking

• the study of topics in depth.

THINKING SKILLS

Through our teaching and learning program we aim to develop the students’ thinking skills to facilitate their ability to be independent life-long learners. Students will be explicitly taught thinking skills and tools to enable them to be able to identify types of thinking required for a variety of situations. Students will be involved in tasks that stimulate, encourage and support thinking to better understand how their own learning occurs.
INTEGRATED CURRICULUM

In line with current educational thinking on how children most effectively learn, links across the Domains in the Australian Victorian Essential Learning Standards (AusVELS) are made through the implementation of integrated units of work.

Integrated units focus on a variety of Domains. These Domains are English, Mathematics, Information and Communications Technology, Civics and Citizenship, Humanities, Interpersonal Development, Science, History, Geography, Design Creativity and Technology, Thinking, Personal Learning and The Arts.

In the development of these units teachers consider the individual needs and experiences of the students and the content and processes related to each learning area. Children are encouraged to apply various thinking strategies. Partnership work, co-operative groups, problem solving and the development of independent work habits are emphasized. Children will have the opportunity to develop computer skills across all curriculum areas.

**Term 1**  Restless Earth – How do significant natural processes affect our planet?

**Term 2**  State and Federal Government – How and why we vote?
  Economics - What does it mean to be wealthy?

**Term 3**  Our World – How can we take care of our world?

**Term 4**  Australia's Near Neighbours - Why do people migrate?

'CHANGES PROGRAM'

The **Level 5 program** will cover: Introduction to sexuality, basic anatomy, body changes during puberty, menstruation.

The **Level 6 program** will revise the above areas and include the following areas: Intercourse and conception, pregnancy, contraception– responsibility, Sexually Transmitted Diseases. A more detailed handout will be provided early in Term 4.
**CAMPS**

**Level 5 CAMP**

Dates: Wednesday 25\textsuperscript{th} May – Friday 27\textsuperscript{th} May  
Venue: Phillip Island Adventure Resort

Camp Description:  
Phillip Island Adventure Resort is located on 80 acres at Cowes, right in the heart of Phillip Island. It is close to beaches and is a great venue for environmental activities. The camp provides a broad range of adventure activities including archery, canoeing, climbing wall, flying fox, raft making, ropes course and orienteering. The camp has qualified staff to ensure the safety of all students.

**Level 6 Canberra Tour**

Dates: Monday 9\textsuperscript{th} May – Friday 13\textsuperscript{th} May  
Venue: Australian Institute of Sport, Canberra.

Camp Description:  
The Level 6 students will be visiting our capital city in Canberra. This tour is a highlight for the Level 6 students in their last year of primary school. Tours to the Australian War Memorial, Questacon, Electoral Education Centre, Institute of Sport and Parliament House will be included along with many more.

**HOMEWORK**

Homework tasks are distributed on Friday and are due back on the following Friday. In addition to or in place of designated homework tasks, students may be asked to complete assignments or finish incomplete class work. Students should aim for a regular routine, as it encourages the development of good attitudes, work skills and study habits. Help your child develop good organisation at home by setting aside time each week to complete homework.
REPORTING AND ASSESSMENT

Evaluation and assessment will be ongoing. The reporting process aims to provide parents with information about their child’s performance and development according to AusVELS. The assessment program will provide accurate information about what has been learned, what skills have been mastered and recommendations for future learning. Assessment techniques will take many forms including observation, student self-assessment, peer assessment, class tests and analysis of samples of children’s work. The reporting process includes a mid-year and an end of year written report. These reports will be distributed at the end of Term 2 and Term 4 respectively. Parent – Teacher interviews will be held twice during the year. The first interviews will be held mid February and the second round of interviews will be held at the end of term 2. As well as the school reporting process, the students in Level 5 will take part in NAPLAN testing between the 10th and 12th May 2016. This is an external method of evaluating the students’ progress. Parents will be sent a report outlining their child’s performance on the NAPLAN tests later in the year.

STUDENT DIARIES

Each student will have a personal diary. The major purpose of the diary is to help prepare students for secondary school by developing the students’ time management and organisational skills. The diary may also be used for communication between home and school. It is required that students have their diaries at school each day. We ask that parents sign the diary each week, ready for Friday.
Students in Level 5 and 6 will be developing and refining their physical skills in the area of locomotion, ball handling, athletics and major game situations. During these activities the emphasis is on skill acquisition and development, participation for all, the development of healthy attitudes and an enjoyment of physical activity.

Children are expected to wear runners for their PE sessions. For girls shorts are less restrictive than a school dress. A hat must be worn during Term 1 and 4. During the hotter months it would be a good idea to apply sunscreen. If your child is at school but is unable to participate in their P.E. session due to injury or medical reasons they must bring a note from their parents/guardian. During Term 2 all children will participate in the House Cross Country, Term 3 in the House Athletics Day and finally the House Swimming Sports are held in Term 4. Parents are most welcome to attend and assist on these days.

During Term 1 and Term 2, Level 5 and 6 students participate in Interschool Sports on Fridays during sessions 1 and 2. It is expected that children will bring along a water bottle for each game. Parental help is needed during matches at both Level 5 and Level 6. Training for inter-school sports occurs on Wednesday afternoon.
VISUAL ARTS – Ms Stefanie Barrow

Creating & Making
During their weekly 50 minute art lesson, students will enjoy the process of creating and making visual art work to further develop their ability to communicate experiences, observations, ideas and feelings about themselves and their world. With a focus on skill development, techniques and processes, students will be given opportunity to use their imagination and unique ideas. These skills will be applied in different combinations and contexts, while using a range of problem solving strategies to make considered choices. They will be encouraged to refine their work in response to feedback and self-evaluation. Students will record their development of ideas and skills in a visual diary.

Exploring and Responding
Students are encouraged to broaden and deepen their understanding of their own art works and the art works of others. With support, appropriate language will be used to identify and describe how specific art elements (line, shape, colour, tone, pattern and texture) and processes have been used, while evaluating meanings and ideas.

N.B Students will be provided with an art apron when necessary. Students are asked to remove jumpers/long sleeves when working in the art room. If your child does get paint on his/her school uniform use cold water and a mild pure soap. PVA Glue can be removed by soaking in warm water.
Performing Arts

This year we are looking forward to an exciting year of singing, dancing and drama with our Performing Arts highlight event scheduled Term 3 for week 9. Details of the Performing Arts events scheduled for this year will be included in our school newsletter.

Classroom Music Level 5 & 6 Students participate in classroom ensemble situations using instruments of their own choice. Orff instruments are also used to accompany instruments the students have brought. They use ipads and computer technology to compose and perform musical ideas. Students also use computer technology to compose musical ideas for multi-media presentations as well as formal ensemble scores. Drama and dance are also strong components of the classroom program.

Choral Program

Level 5 and 6 students are given opportunities to participate in the choral program. The Festival Singers perform at choral festivals and the wider community.

Instrumental Music Program

The Instrumental Music Program allows children to have private instrumental tuition at school. Lessons are conducted throughout the school day. Parents pay tuition fees set by the school directly to the tutors.

To enrol your child in this program please obtain a form from the office.

You can contact the instrumental music coordinator via the music email address at: dpsmusic@deepdeneps.vic.edu.au.

The Ensemble Program

The Ensemble Program is provided by the school as an extension to private tuition. Children from Level 3 to 6 who play confidently have the opportunity of joining a school Ensemble. Many of the experienced students are encouraged to join the Symphonic Band and also the World Music Ensemble. A joining fee of $250 is required. Forms can be obtained from the School Office.
The purpose of French classes will be to engage the students in meaningful French communicative activities, encouraging a positive attitude towards learning languages as well as an appreciation of and a curiosity to learn about other cultures. The program aims to develop language skills which will equip students with further language studies.

Students in levels 5 and 6 will participate in activities to assist them to be able to:

* greet or farewell another person
* describe themself or another person
* express likes and dislikes
* participate in simple dialogues
* work with numbers e.g. to tell the time, play games, express dates
* use language related to the class unit of work for each term where appropriate

Features of the program will include:

* speaking, listening, reading and writing activities using the French language most lessons.
* ‘Ice Breakers’ at the beginning of each lesson to assist recall of language in a meaningful way
* learning the conjugations in the present tense of the verbs ‘to be’, ‘to have’ and verbs relevant to language topic
* activities to promote the use of reference tools such as online bilingual dictionaries
* activities to foster awareness of language learning strategies
* encouragement of risk-taking and having the confidence to speak in front of others
* student reflection on learning
* the use of ICT to consolidate language learning

Students will attend a French performance, participate in a Fêtes de la Musique celebration and may also be involved in a school assembly item.