GLEN HUNTLY PRIMARY SCHOOL

NO. 3703

Education Plan for Sustainability

Education Overview

The mission statement in the Sustainability Policy outlines the overarching objectives and implementation guides which is to establish Glen Huntly Primary as a Sustainable school with green behaviours, technologies and designs linked to a sustainability curricula, in order to influence the students and the local community to live more sustainably.

Background / Context

Environmental education has been a growing focus at Glen Huntly Primary School for ten years and has been actively supported by the Principal, Assistant Principal, School Council, Sustainability Coordinator, Environmental Teacher, Buildings and Grounds Committee, school staff, newly established sustainability sub-committee, Sustainability Captains, Chook Monitors, Environmental Student Leaders, the school community and external educators.

Environmental education is building our community’s knowledge and understanding of the environment, its protection, ‘green’ behaviours and practices and civic responsibilities of all individuals. The underlying message is to respect the environment and to be a role model for others by using resources efficiently, in a sustainable and environmentally conscious manner.

Current practices which have been embedded in “Green Thinking” at Glen Huntly Primary School have been numerous and outlined under our Green Achievements and Practices at GHPS. From 2010, the school has built upon actively engaging and communicating to the broader community, in learning about solar energy, energy efficiency, climate change, sustainability and protecting and conserving the environment and its flora and fauna.

Our school has taken assertive steps to provide sustainability education by:

* Educating all students about the school’s indigenous land history and Traditional Owners of the Land
* Introducing a compulsory gardening and cooking program
* Formalising and documenting inquiry topics with focuses on environmental issues
* Providing sustainability education rotations in curriculum planners
* Engaging a Sustainability sub-committee
* Promoting strong links with students’ families, encouraging participation in environmental initiatives throughout the year
* Encouraging understandings of Biodiversity, Energy, Waste and Water efficiency practices

Since 2009 the school has additionally maintained links with environmental education facilitators from external educational institutions, including CERES and the Port Phillip Eco Centre, working on the delivery of the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative.

Curriculum

* The curriculum will provide a rich range of learning experiences, including engagement and reflection through active involvement and a sense of ownership
* Students and teachers will be empowered to work on real-world problems and outcomes through Inquiry Based learning and essential questions will build understanding about sustainability
* Inquiry Learning Projects will allow students to have the opportunities to achieve learning outcomes across many AusVELS domains, particularly in Science, Mathematics, Humanities, Civics and Citizenship, Communications and Design and Design, Creativity and Technology, in a real life context that is important to them
* Opportunities to utilise current initiatives will be embedded in teaching and learning programs. The student voice and presentations will integrate with the whole school oral literacy focus and will be shared with the wider community in forum/curriculum nights/ Green Evenings on the school calendar.
* All staff will collaboratively work to implement a Strategic Environment Management Plan (SEMP) to further support the Primary Connections Science Units in the Whole School Scope and Sequence Curriculum and will include the Specialist subjects of LOTE, Visual Arts, Music and Library
* Environmental advocacy will be encouraged through numerous opportunities for ‘student voice’ and presentations
* The Strategic Environment Management Plan (SEMP) will guide the school to strategically work towards establishing resource use reduction targets in Biodiversity, Waste, Energy and Water. External environmental educators will also aid in this process.
* Collaborative planning with CERES and the Port Phillip Eco Centre and utilise appropriate excursions/incursions available and other agencies.

Current practices which have been embedded in “Green Thinking” at GHPS have been numerous and outlined under Green Achievements and Practices at Glen Huntly Primary School.

Green Achievements at Glen Huntly Primary School

* Building and Grounds Committee
* Creation of the school’s first vegetable garden through the Healthy Eating See-Saw Project
* Installation of 6 rainwater tanks
* Recipient of a water tank in the Tank A Day Challenge and Community Water Grants $48,266, money used to harvest rainwater to flush all student toilets
* Encouraged by the support of the Department of Sustainability and Environment and Sustainability Victoria, GHPS participated in the Sustainables Project in 2007. This provided professional learning for staff and units of work for Years 3 to 6, plus a performance by *The Sustainables Troupe*
* National Solar Schools Panels Grant to install solar panels on the West site
* Three modules completed for AUSSI VIC certification (Core, Water and Waste)
* Silver Status in Water Certification
* School Entrance Designed/Beautified
* Paper recycling, cork recycling (largest contributor to the FOTZ cork recycling project), cartridge recycling, mobile phone recycling, and water recycling from drinking fountain overflow by the students
* Bush Tucker Garden – Landcare Grant
* Vegetable Gardens – Landcare Grant
* Garden Club
* Cooking and Gardening Program
* Rubbish free lunch days each Thursday and class certificate and Golden Lunch Box (needs to be re-implemented for one day per week), presented by Junior School Councillors from Years 3-6 for Senior and Junior grades at Friday afternoon assemblies
* Waste Wise Wizards – Yates Grant
* Outdoor Classroom – Grant Bunnings
* Rainwater Garden – Melbourne Water Grant
* Chook Shed - $500 parent donation
* Avenue of Trees
* Winner of Recycled Bench from Replas
* South East Water, Learn it, Live it Water Program
* 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize in the National Poster Competition
* Mural design by 1st prize winner hung at Mount Martha Sewerage Plant
* Free excursion to Mount Martha Sewerage Plant for Year 6 students
* Wildlife Passages Garden – Community Grant
* Indigenous History Research by Sustainability Coordinator
* Green Evening Event 2014 – money raised for Endangered Animal Charities and sustainability program
* Visits by Boon Wurrung Elders
* Green Evening Event 2015 - money raised for Endangered Animal Charities and sustainability program
* Indigenous Bird Attracting Garden – South East Water Grant
* Planting of a Fruit Grove
* Energy Monitors in each classroom
* Weekly yard duty award to a class for looking after our environment
* Student of the Week Awards include recognition for positive “Green Behaviours”
* Junior School Council delivered re-usable bags (donated by Planet Ark) to all families in the school
* Working bees once per school term
* Environmental incursions and excursions
* Lord Mayor’s Community Grant
* Parent Green Club

Evaluation

The Sustainability Sub-Committee will monitor, review and update the Education Plan for Sustainability. Review Learning and Teaching/Student Learning Australian Sustainable Schools Initiatives components, of our A.I.P 2016 and our School Strategic Plans for 2013 – 2016 and 2016 – 2018.