This week is Planning Week at GIPS.

What and when is Planning Week?

“Planning Week” is a designated week each term when our school operates with a different Specialist Timetable to enable effective curriculum planning by teacher. Planning Weeks are usually held late in the term and organised to accommodate other scheduled events and activities.

1. Why do we have Planning Weeks?

The secret to success is in the **planning** of curriculum and having a significant opportunity to discuss pedagogy (what we teach and how we teach) and

- make judgements about the effectiveness of our teaching programs
- consider the individual learning needs of all students
- maintain and evaluate the grade level learning environment that assists students to achieve the outcomes of the curriculum.

2. Are teachers ‘out of class’ during Planning Week for more time than they are on a regular week?

No. The same amount of Administration and Planning Time (APT) that teachers have each week is provided as a block of 4 sessions through a change in timetabling. This gives grade level teachers a significant amount of time to begin planning for the next term (and next week for 2015).

All teachers at Glen Iris have 4 sessions of 50 minutes of APT per week while students are at specialist classes. Two of those sessions are allocated to weekly planning where teachers meet to undertake professional development, discuss student data trends, plan and implement classroom curriculum such as literacy, numeracy and integrated studies, and access resources. During other sessions teachers plan for individual students, assess work, watch colleagues teach to build their own capacity and maintain resources.

3. Is this all the planning time staff have?

No, there are weekly grade level meetings after school, a whole staff meeting each week that include Curriculum Planning time, Professional Development and also meetings during the holidays before school resumes each term.

4. Do students just ‘watch movies’ during Planning Week?

No, the specialist program continues during Planning Week. As the classes are taken by our specialist teachers, students continue with their regular specialist programs. During this Planning Week, students will be playing Petanque in French classes practising speaking French during the game, creating a collaborative ‘chalk’ artwork in Art under the theme ‘The River’ (intriguing!) and continuing the Phys Ed and Performing Arts programs.

5. When do students watch movies?

At sleepovers, on school camp or in the last week of the school year, teachers may choose to show a movie for an afternoon. Often this is when classrooms are being moved. Teachers may show parts of a movie or a complete movie if it relates to a topic during the year after discussion with the Principal.

Students may watch videos of themselves performing in PE or during drama as a way of improving their performance.

During planning week this year we will be:

- Reviewing our Yearly Curriculum Planner and Inquiry Units
- Planning the LAUNCH Program
- Preparing for the effective use of our 265 mini iPads (30 per grade level) and one for each year 5 and 6 student.

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