

Level 3 and 4 Newsletter Term 4 2018



Welcome back to all Level 3 and 4 students from the September holiday break. We hope you are well rested and ready for a great Term 4.

SCHOOL TIMES

It is very important for your child's organisational skills that you are diligent about having your children to school on time. They should be at school no later than 8:45am when the iPad bell rings, or 8.55am when the lining up music begins. This gives each child enough time to come into class, unpack their bags and be ready to begin the day at 9:00am sharp.

COMMUNICATION BOOK

Please keep an eye out for your child's Communication Book. It usually contains a weekly spelling focus, often including a list of spelling words to practice at home. We ask you to check that it has come home, sign it, and give some reminders to do any homework that has been included, helping your child if needed. If you have any concerns about items in the Communication Book please contact your class teacher.

ENGLISH

Reading. Many parents wonder how to best encourage and help their Level 3 and 4 children with their reading. Here are a few ideas.

Parents reading to their children. Choose a book you'll both enjoy but that is probably too difficult for your child to read alone. By listening to an adult read, children will learn about the skills of reading as well as becoming engrossed in a plot, get to know characters and consider how the story might develop. Explaining unfamiliar words and concepts will extend your child's knowledge of the English language.

Shared Reading. Choose a book that your child wants to try to read. Take it in turns to read and discuss the story as you go. Reading and talking together will also help with their own story writing.

Child Reading. Our library has a huge range of books available and students are encouraged to choose books that they can read with ease. The Rangeview Library is a wonderful resource with an extensive range of titles from recently published books to the classics and non-fiction. Mrs. Blythe or Mrs. Geilings will help. Silent reading becomes more and more the reading choice for children of this age, however, most children at Level 3 and 4 still need to read aloud.

In the classrooms, our focus on Independent Reading with individual conferencing continues. Children are choosing Just Right books and are developing the stamina to read for increasing blocks of time. Research shows that children who spend a lot of time reading appropriate books are better readers.

When we teach reading the focus is not only on decoding or sounding out words and reading them correctly it is also on understanding what is being read. We often focus on one of these strategies: predicting, prior knowledge, questioning, visualizing, inferring and determining importance, summarizing and writing. **Please make sure your child has read the book at home for our upcoming reading project.**

Writing Workshop

Student writing continues to be a focus every day in Level 3 and 4 at Rangeview, as we develop a shared view about what 'good' writing looks like. Students learn about **ideas** that are the heart of the message; **organisation** of their writing; **voice** that is the writer's individual style; the use of rich, colourful **word choice**; sentence **fluency** and the sound of word patterns; using grammar **conventions** with precision; and how to achieve pleasing **presentation** of their writing.

MATHS

The study of multiplication and division continues to be a focus. We are learning that if we have lots of identically sized groups we can multiply instead of adding to reach an answer. Sometimes multiplication is called 'repeated addition' because $6+6+6+6=$ can be more simply expressed as $4 \times 6=$. At Level 3 and 4 students are expected to be able to multiply a 2-digit number by a one-digit number with accuracy. Many will progress beyond this range. In division we use the language of 'sharing' and 'groups of'. We are working within the tables range and including remainders for unequal shares.

It's time to practise our tables. By the end of Level 3 children benefit by knowing their x2, x5 and x10 tables confidently. By the end of Level 4, students should be confident in all tables to 10X10.

CURRICULUM

Our integrated unit of study this term is all about History. Level 3 and 4 Classes will be reading about and researching explorers and navigators on the great world exploration journeys, including to Australia. Students will be tracking the explorers' journeys on a world map.

We will be combining STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths) into our Maths units this term when we will be designing and building a boat that floats. Watch out for our Term 4 Portfolio Maths STEM Task. Please begin to collect recycled materials at home to help with our boat building, including plastic bottles. Then send them along when requested by your class teacher.

To further enhance their knowledge about forces and friction, Level 4 went to **Scienceworks this week**.

Level 3 and 4 students will travel by train and bus to visit the **Polly Woodside Museum**, as part of our world exploration History study; **Level 3 on Wednesday the 14th of November**, and **Level 4 on Thursday the 15th of November**. Watch out for more details.

FLORA AND FAUNA IN LEVEL 3

Flora and Fauna continues every Tuesday morning at 11:30am. We will rotate a cooking group in the Gallery Kitchen; school gardening initiatives, including our vegetable gardens and orchard, care of our Rangeview chickens and Flopsy and Honey the rabbits; science environment and conservation lessons. We continue tackling ways to reduce rubbish in our playground by publicising Rangeview as a 'nude food school', too. Flora and Fauna activities finish by 1:00pm, if you wish to help with a group in the kitchen or garden.

Level 3 are excited to have the opportunity to go on an excursion to the **Melbourne Zoo** for their 'Fighting Extinction' program; on **Thursday the 13th of December**.

LEVEL 3 SLEEPOVER

Last year was the inaugural Level 3 Sleepover at school. This year we would like to give the Level 3 students the same opportunity. It is a great lead in to the Level 4 Camp in 2019.

This year our sleepover will be on **Friday the 9th of November**. Students will need to be picked up on Saturday morning. More information nearer to the day.

FISH AND CHIP LUNCH

Our annual Level 3 and 4 end of year picnic – **FISH'N'CHIP LUNCH** – is on **Tuesday the 18TH of December**. Information about this will be found in your child's Communication Book closer to the day.

2019 TRANSITION

This term teachers will begin to look at grade placement for the children in 2019. Teachers take into consideration many things when placing children. All the students nominate a limited number of friends that they would like to be with in the following year, too.

Recently Mrs Barr wrote in the school newsletter –

"The placement of students for the coming year is a complex process where teachers put great thought and sensitivity into their planning. They discuss, reflect and review their decisions over a period of time. If students have any learning or social needs to be considered when placing them in classes for 2019, parents can write a letter addressed to me stating their needs and requests for consideration. The closing date for any letters is Wednesday 31st October."

Many of the activities we have undertaken this year such as swimming, Level 4 Camp, Flora and Fauna are helping children to broaden their friendship groups and build up their resilience and interpersonal skills.

The Level 3 & 4 Team

Beth Joyce, Kirilee Bell, Steph Wood, Karen Hastie, Anju Mehta, Dane Kennedy, Jackie Moran, April Warfield.