

# What's happening in Years 3 and 4?

## (Level 3 and 4) Term 4, 2013



### 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 8:55am when the first bell rings. 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. Each teacher usually sets a spelling list on Monday for an assessment task that takes place on Friday or the following Monday. We ask you to check that it has come home, sign it, and give some reminders to do it, helping too if needed. Children who have listened carefully should be able to tackle most task suggestions alone. If you have any concerns about items in the Communication Book please see the 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.

1. **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.
2. **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.
3. **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, while some need to read aloud frequently.

*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.

### 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 those 'dreaded' 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.

Thursday Maths Groups have become a part of the weekly program in Level 4. During term 1, teachers observed and assessed students then grouped them according to their needs in Maths. In each Thursday session students at a similar level of ability work through activities targeted to move them forward in their mathematical understandings. Moving students between groups will sometimes occur.

## **CURRICULUM**

Our integrated unit of study this term is all about materials and which to choose for each job. For example we will ask questions such as: What properties does glass have that makes it ideal for windows? What are suitable materials for flooring? Why?

We will spend most time looking at fabrics made from fibres, with particular interest in clothing. We will look at manmade and natural fibres and the properties of different fabrics.

Thank you to all the parents who have volunteered their time to help with sewing or knitting activities in the classroom. If you have expertise we'd still love to hear from you even as a guest speaker to model spinning, weaving, crocheting, embroidery, patchwork, etc.

Donations of yarn, threads and fabrics have been greatly appreciated too. Needles with a large eye (crewel type) and knitting needles are also in demand. Thank you for sending the beanie kids. Each student needs one. Don't forget a small box to keep their sewing contained.

Flora and Fauna continues in Level 3 with cooking times in the Gallery Kitchen, school gardening initiatives, care of the Rangeview pets and sustainability lessons. This term we will be tackling ways to reduce rubbish in our playground, too.

## **GYMNASTICS**

It has become a Rangeview Level 3 and 4 tradition to undertake a Gymnastics program each year in term 4. The children will be tumbling, balancing, cartwheeling, jumping and stretching during five weekly 45-minute lessons. This year we are engaging a new company who will run the program in our hall. We feel that a gymnastics program continues to be very worthwhile in that it gives your children access to activities they might otherwise not try. The experienced staff are able to cater for all levels of ability and have plenty of challenges for children who already attend gym classes outside school.

The program will begin this Wednesday. Please return the \$21 payment by the end of October at the latest. You are most welcome to come and view a session if you wish. The times are:

3J @ 9:30am

4C and 8 students from 4S @ 10:15am (check with Mrs StRuth for your child's time)

4B and 8 students from 4S @ 11:30am

3L @ 12:15pm

3H/R @ 2:00pm

4M and 8 students from 4S @ 2:45pm

## **RANGETECHS**

Google is a household name when it comes to researching information on the internet; how many times have you heard, "Just Google it!" However, did you know that Google also has the capability to create, share and work collaboratively on documents as well as produce surveys and quizzes? This term the RangeTechs will explore Google Drive. They have already started by creating a survey using Google Forms, which will then be uploaded to the RangeTech blog. This will allow students across the school to take part in their survey. We look forward to these 'experts' sharing their new found knowledge with the rest of the grade.

## **Miscellaneous**

- If you've not already done so please send along a box of tissues for class use. We would appreciate it greatly as most classes have almost run out. If your child does get a cold, a small box of tissues for his/her use would be a good idea.
- Please consider healthy food choices when preparing children's lunchboxes. Can you minimise the amount of rubbish generated?
- Please let us know promptly if you discover lice on your child. We can then discuss it with our classes and send home a reminder note to all families.

**From: The Level 3 team of Caroline St Ruth, Tony Coppi, Anju Mehta, Nicole Robertson, Khay Le, Beth Joyce, Nicole Barnes, Hannah Ambrose and Julie Hardy.**