What’s happening in Level 3 and 4?
Term 4, 2014

Welcome back to all Level 3 and 4 children from the holiday break. We hope you are well rested and ready for a great term 4. Welcome back to Mrs McDonald from long service leave, thank you to Mrs Downie for taking 3M in her absence. Thank you also to Mr Coppi for taking 4H in Mrs Hastie’s absence whilst she recovered from bunion surgery.

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. Of course Level 4 children have an 8:45am iPad bell, where they can place their iPad safely in the classroom.

COMMUNICATION BOOK
Please keep an eye out for your child’s Communication Book each Monday. 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. 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. 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, determining importance, summarizing and synthesizing.

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 4x6=. 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.

Maths Groups (now on a Tuesday) 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 Tuesday 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 History. Many of the Level 3 Classes will be looking at early global explorers and navigators, they will even begin to investigate Captain James Cook and his voyages. Some of the Level 4 classes are going to use some “inquiry learning” to help children ask questions, investigate and think about what the First Contacts meant in Australia’s history. What impact did European settlement and traders have on the Aboriginal people, what was life like for Aboriginal people at that time, why did the Europeans settle in Australia, who was in the First Fleet and what happened when they landed at Sydney Cove?

Flora and Fauna continues every Thursday morning in Level 3, with cooking times in the Gallery Kitchen; school gardening initiatives, including our 3 vegetable gardens and orchard; care of the Rangeview pets, and environment and conservation lessons. This term we are encouraging our broody hens to sit, so that hopefully they will soon have some chicks to rear. We continue tackling ways to reduce rubbish in our playground by publicising Rangeview as a ‘nude food school’, too.

**CYBERSAFTEY AND STUDENT WELLBEING**

*Upstander of the Month Award*

Students at Rangeview are talking about everyone’s responsibility to prevent bullying, including the most common and unnoticed form of bullying, repeated exclusion. Students are stepping up and making sure that kind and inclusive play is happening in our playgrounds. To help celebrate this, Rangeview Primary School is further recognising upstander behaviour in our school by awarding 3 students across the school each month, an Upstander award. Students who are noticeably stepping up, for no other reason than their inner desire to do the right things, are being recognised for the positive impact that they have on others around them. Thank you, families, for the ongoing and supportive conversations that you are having with your children about friendships, our school values and living by them, as well as their developing empathy for others. How students interact socially contributes greatly to their developing reputation and being a role model to others, especially the younger children in our school.

**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 six weekly 45-minute lessons. 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 be held over the first 6 Fridays. Please return the $22 payment by the end of October at the latest. You are most welcome to come and view a session if you wish.
The gymnastics times are:

- 9:30  4 B  Mrs Barnes
- 10:15 3L  Mr Le
- 11:30 3 J  Mrs Joyce
- 12:15 4A  Ms Box
- 2:00  34S Mrs St Ruth
- 2:45  3M  Ms Quin / Mrs McDonald

4 H Mrs Hastie’s class will be split amongst these groups

**BYO iPads at RANGEVIEW**

Level 4 classes have enjoyed using their iPads in this last half year. Both the children and teachers have really enjoyed sharing their work and getting feedback through the app Showbie. So many learning possibilities have opened up to us all with this program. The Level 4 children will take their iPads up to Level 5 in 2015. Keep an eye out for an updated app list that will be needed for Level 5.

The BYO iPad information night, on Thursday 16th October, gave information about the program for your child in 2015. The 2015 app list can be found on the School Website later this year as with the 2015 iPad User Agreement. Later this year you will also receive information regarding when each grade is required to bring the iPads to school in 2015 for connection to the schools Wi-Fi.

**2015 TRANSITION**

This term teachers will begin to look at grade placement for the children in 2015. Teachers take into consideration many things when placing children. Mrs Barr wrote in the school newsletter - *While the students are consulted about current friendships, it is only one of the criteria considered because “building new relationships” is also part of our education process and an important skill for students to develop. 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 2015, parents can write a letter addressed to me stating their needs and requests for consideration. The closing date for any letters is Friday 31st October.*

Many of the activities we have undertaken this year such as maths groups, camp, flora and fauna are helping children to broaden their friendship groups and build up their resilience and interpersonal skills.

**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.
- Don’t forget to look in the school Newsletter at the Family Life sessions for those interested in attending with your child. These are held every 2 years at Rangeview.
- If you have mislaid any permission forms or notices they are now available from the school website. It is a great resource for school families.

**The Level 3 & 4 Team**

Caroline St Ruth, Khay Le, Beth Joyce, Nicole Barnes, Alex Box, Karen Hastie, Liz McDonald, Jackie Quin, Moira Mugnier, Sue Hargrave