

What's happening in Level 3 and 4?

Term 1, 2015



Welcome to Level 3 and 4 for the year 2015!

We have started the year with many wonderful get-to-know-you activities as part of our Start Up program. All classes are settling down beautifully, with teachers and students getting used to each other. We have all been busily setting many new learning goals. Children are showing us that they are very aware of their strengths and weaknesses and are eager to improve or extend their learning.

It's also been a very smooth start for all the Level 4 classes and 34S with many iPads coming in as part of the BYOD program. Already the children have looked at some of the apps and are communicating with teachers using Showbie!

Just to remind you of where we all are; 3L is in the portable room near the oval. All other classes are in the office building with 3J in Room 1, 3OC in Room 2, 4B in Room 3, 4H in Room 4, 4A in Room 5 and 34S in Room 6.

Thank you to all the parents who made sure that everything from your child's book box has been named; it makes life so much easier. If you would still like to cover some of your child's books, just get them to bring them home on a Friday.

Also, here is a reminder that we rely on you to provide tissues for the students to use in class. This becomes important with the onset of autumn and the cooler weather.

COMMUNICATION BOOK

How are you managing with the Communication Book? It is our way of keeping in touch with you. We glue in the week's spelling lists and include information about oral presentations and projects to prepare at home. There is a place to write what your child is reading at home and we often include some information about some of your child's Maths learning. There will often be suggestions for activities students can do at home. Some grades are experimenting with using their iPads for homework and communication.

READING

Reading Workshops continue in Level 3 and 4 with the children focussing on comprehension strategies, accuracy in reading the words (how they sound out and work out words, re-read sentences), a fluent or smooth reading style and expanding their vocabulary and knowledge of the meaning of words.

MATHS

During Term 1, we focus on counting and place value. So much of what we do in Maths is based on these two concepts. In Levels 3 and 4, it is an essential skill to be able to count backwards and forwards, from any starting number, by a single digit counting number. We look for patterns to help us with the count. When we count forwards we are actually adding, so, counting by 2 can be shown as +2, while counting backwards is subtraction or -2. When the count starts at zero, we create the multiplication tables. Place value refers to the value a digit has depending on its place in the number. For example, a 7 in the tens place is more valuable than a 7 in the units place.

HISTORY TOPIC: COMMUNITY AND REMEMBRANCE

This term we are investigating the way people in our country and internationally celebrate special events, different cultural traditions and the historical significance of them. Soon children will be bringing home information about our oral project this term.

Are there any parents or people you know, who would be prepared to come and speak to some grades about their cultural traditions or special events? Please contact your child's teacher if you are interested.

PARENT/TEACHER DISCUSSIONS

It was great meeting you during Parent Teacher Interviews. These are always valuable and help us to know more about your child and their learning needs.

LEVEL 3 FLORA AND FAUNA (SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE)

This year our Level 3 students are again focussing on 'Flora and Fauna' at Rangeview and participating in activities that rotate over 3 weeks. We are learning how to care for our Rangeview pets and helping with the vegetable gardens. We are continuing to learn more about developing a culture of sustainability in our school environment and healthy life choices. We also welcome back our teacher aide Donna Marshall, to Level 3 team. She will be cooking in the Gallery Kitchen with a Level 3 class and teachers, during the middle period every Thursday from now on. We will be utilising some of our garden produce and free range eggs for our cooking activities where possible. There will also be a small cost of \$10 per term to cover the extra ingredients and needs. Level 3 would welcome help from interested parents with these cooking activities. They are hands-on experience for the students and a wonderful time for them to learn important life skills. Please look in your child's communication book to see when you're needed or talk to your Parent Rep.

LEVEL 4 IPADS

We have had a great start to the year with the commencement of the iPad program. All students are aware of the iPad bell and making sure their iPad is stored securely when they arrive at school. Some students are taking extra precautions with the safety of their iPad by enclosing it in an iPad storage case – which is similar to a large pencil case. In fact, the large neoprene pencil cases would add extra protection in their school bag at a low cost.

It is always a good idea to get into the habit of cleaning the screens on a regular basis. Whilst we have a rule at school that there is no food or drink around iPads, which is for the reason of avoiding spills. We also want to eliminate sticky and dirty hands from touching the screen, often students do not always follow this procedure at home. A very easy way to clean the screen is using a micro-fibre cloth or using a small amount of disinfectant hand sanitiser on a soft cloth and giving the screen a quick wipe.

Students should now also learn how to delete images and movies from their iPad for storage solutions. iMovies use up much storage space and once they are finished, and if the students want to keep it, a good idea is to add the iMovie to Photo Roll. Once the iPad is attached to the home computer, the iMovie can be dragged and stored on the home computer, allowing for it to be deleted from the iPad. All photos can also be stored in this way. Once a learning experience is over at school, images with other students can be deleted from the iPad. Save the family photos and special images on the home computer.

CROSS COUNTRY RUN

All Level 3 and 4 students are involved in the Rangeview Cross Country races next term. Your children may have mentioned that we are training for this by jogging short distances in the playground most days that the weather allows. This event is organised into the school houses of - Terra (red), Arbour (green), Solar (yellow) and Hydro (blue).

All classes are now beginning our Just Get Active program a few times per week. This is designed to help children develop general good physical health and a settled mind.

RANGEVIEW CYBERSAFETY

Whilst there are set rules and expectations at school, there should also be informed rules in place at home. It is recommended for families to have an "Acceptable Use" Agreement in place at home also. Common areas of concern are around supervision and healthy time limits. eSmart practice at home involves keeping the iPad / computer in a shared family area.

If you would like a copy of the 13 eSmart Cybersafety Tips for Parents and a sample home "Acceptable Use" Agreement, please see Ms Box.

From the Level 3 & 4 teachers:

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