YEAR 4 CAMP!

It is our pleasure to report back on all things that happened at the Year 4 Camp at Anglesea. A lot of planning went into organising the camp and Ms Javidi, Mr Warren, Mrs Bailey, Mr McDonald, Ms Wang and Mr Knott deserve a lot of praise for its success.

The experience started with a stop-off at the Geelong Botanical Gardens where the students explored for mini beasts, learnt about the life cycle of roses and measured and compared some extremely large trees. After we had lunch in the adjoining park, it was finally off to the Coastal Forest Lodge campsite where the students eagerly discovered who they would be sharing their rooms with. In the afternoon, students were assigned to groups and set out exploring the four main camp-based activities of yabbying, archery and mini golf, low ropes course and hut building. All four activities proved to be a massive hit.

After a delicious dinner, all students went on a bushwalk on the first night at Camp. Although we only spotted a couple of animals, it was still enjoyable walking about the bush (on a path) and appreciating the silence and the clear night sky. Upon returning, everyone used a large stick that they had collected on the walk to melt and consume marshmallows around the designated camp fire area.

The second day of camp saw Mr Catalano join us as the grade 4’s headed down to Point Addis beach – which was only 10 minutes bus ride. Although it was a bit windy, the scenery there was amazing as we got to appreciate rock pools, a clean strip of beach, coastal plants, rock faces and sand dunes. Students completed a scavenger hunt, created their own beach art, played some beach games and explored the rock pools –climbing up the sand dunes also proved to be a big hit with students!

With the students being so active, food was always in high demand and fortunately we were all very well fed and catered for with breakfast, morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea and dinner all freshly made and supplied by the camp. Having completed some more camp-based activities in the afternoon, Thursday night’s activity saw the students compete in a friendly trivia night. There were plenty of tricky questions, a few fun games and even a drawing competition involving Mr Catalano before a winner was decided.

Our final day started with breakfast and a big clean-up of all the huts before we set off on a farm walk. Alan the camp owner introduced us to a few of his horses, ponies and a ram and the students got the opportunity to feed, pat and groom these animals which were all very tame. We continued on to a large herd of cows which we also fed through the fence. Another highlight for many of the kids was jumping up onto and running around on some large hay bales.

We had one more camp-based activity before we had our lunch and boarded the bus to return back to school. By this time, it is fair to say that most students were quite tired although they had had a great time and were looking forward to getting home to their families. The teachers were extremely proud of the way all students behaved and handled being away from home (most for their very first time). I think the camp was a great success and the feedback that I have received from parents to date has been that their children haven’t stopped talking about how much fun they had. I would like to also thank Mr Knott, Mr McDonald, Ms Wang, Mr Catalano and our parent helper Evan who all assisted with the year 4 camp.

Mr Shae Warren.
LEVEL LEADER’S WELCOME

“Plants in Action” is name of our Biological Science Unit for Term Two. Through the term our students will be involved in hands-on activities with seeds and plants that will encourage them to ask questions, explore and speculate about the nature and on the changing world in which we live.

Term Two looks like it will be action-packed from the beginning, with the Grade 4’s setting out for their first school camp experience at Angelsea. Seventy-one students with their capable teachers: Miss Javidi, Mrs Bailey and Mr Warren were involved in a range of activities including bush-craft, hut building, yabbying, archery, rope course, rock-pool exploration and many, many more.

The second week of term includes ANZAC Day and as a part of the Australian Curriculum, the students at Level 3 should develop a historical understanding of special days that are celebrated or commemorated in Australia and the symbols and emblems associated with them. All classes will be involved in learning sessions related to the history, traditions and the significance this date has for Australians.

The following weeks include the School Intensive Swimming Program, which is essential for anyone living in Australia.

The National Assessment, NAPLAN, soon follows on Tuesday May 14th through to Thursday May 16th. The test questions are related to the curriculum being studied by the students in their classrooms and the results will help us guide and develop student performance at Glen Waverley Primary.

Education Week will be celebrated soon after from 20th-24th May with many opportunities to visit the school and to becoming involved in the learning at Level 3 in our school.

We intend to have an excursion related to the Australian environment with a particular focus on the Indigenous view of looking after the land and how the different native plants were used for food and medicines. This will be led by an Aboriginal guide and that we will provide us with a true experience of the Victorian indigenous culture.

All the teachers in Level 3 hope to see as many parents as possible in the final week of Term for Parent/Teacher, which will be student-lead. The children will show and talk to you about their learning through the term.

During our Science investigation the students will make observations of the different features of living and non-living things. They will explore the plant life stages and build their plant vocabulary to accurately label plants.

The pupils will discover what is inside a seed by soaking and breaking open a seed and finding out what is needed to trigger germination. The students through growing seeds will observe, record, describe and document the changes that occur during germination, flowering, pollination and the growth of fruits.

With developed understandings of what is required for growth in different plants, the students will begin to make links with the health of forests in Australia. They will discover the many uses, demands, threats and the care needed for forests to have a sustainable future.

In groups, the students will design and conduct an investigation of different forests around the world. They will explore the different flora and fauna that exist in these forests and the conditions that affect plant growth and the health of forests globally.

By the end of Term Two our Level 3 students will have a deeper understanding that living things, including plants and animals, depend on each other and the environment to survive. The students will have learned about the global role of forests and the need to manage for them in the future and that they can take an active part in this.

Helen Tomecek
Level 3 Leader
SWIMMING

The swimming program looks to introduce and develop children water skills. The program has a focus on water safety, not just in the pool but around water in general. Students learn skills such as being able to float, different types of swimming strokes and common sense when dealing with water. Swimming and water safety awareness is imperative as Australia has so many beaches, lakes, rivers, pools and waterways. It is a skill that all people should have and it is important that individuals learn their own capabilities around the water.

The trained instructors assess the students in small groups and focus on what they need to achieve to develop their skills placing them in like ability groups. They will ensure strong swimmers are advanced and those with the basics learn to develop further skills.

Parents are welcome to come and watch their child during swimming lessons and times have been included for your convenience. Please note that due to student privacy it is not appropriate for photographs or videos to be taken that may capture another student apart from your child in the image.

Students are asked not to wear bathers as underwear on swimming days but to change at the pool into swimmers. Swimming caps are provided by the pool and are to be retained by the students. A good towel that will dry properly is important! Please remember that it is very important that all your children’s school uniform and other items of clothing including underclothes and bathers are named prior to the swimming program starting.

SWIMMING TIMES FOR LEVEL 3:

Monday 29th April - Thursday 2nd May at 2:00pm-2:40pm
Tuesday 7th May - Friday 10th May at 2:00-2:40pm

JUST SWIMMING SYNDAL:

Address: 544 High Street Rd, Mt Waverley
Phone: 9802 3900
Premiers Reading Challenge

Let the reading adventure begin.

The 2013 Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge is now open! Last year over 220,000 Victorian students read more than 4 million books. Hopefully this year’s Challenge will inspire even more children and young adults than ever before to foster a love of reading. The Challenge is not just about reading in English. The Challenge is open to reading in any language. Students can read, or be read to, children’s stories in Arabic or Spanish, classic comedies in French, the Ramayana in Hindi, Chinese poetry and more.

In Order to Complete the Challenge:

1. You must read the following number of books during the Challenge:
   - Year 3: 15 books
   - Year 4: 15 books

2. You may enter your books at any time during the course of the Challenge.

3. Your online books will be verified as read by your child’s class teacher.

4. All your information must be completed online before the 5th September 2013 so that teachers can verify the books before the final closing date.

A list of the books is available on the Premiers Reading Challenge website: www.education.vic.gov.au/prc/

ENJOY
PLANTS IN GLEN WAVERLEY

This term level 3 students will be investigating the topic, “Plants in Action.” We will be focusing on the need and importance of indigenous plants in our community. During July students will be involved in planting indigenous plants at school. They will be kindly donated to us by Monash Council through Michael Grant. As the students walk through their garden at school, they will begin to appreciate and be proud of their involvement in planting indigenous plants.

DID YOU KNOW?

Every year, the council plants around 100,000 trees, shrubs, and ground covers across Monash, the majority in bushland.

HISTORY OF THE PLANTS MONASH

Around 1945
There were small market gardens, orchards, plants, fruit trees and cauliflowers planted in regimented rows in rectangular paddocks. Also Dairy farms were important to the people. There are still orchards in our city now.

1945-1995
There were market gardens and small farms supplying Melbourne with some produce. After World War II the people living in our suburb started to develop their gardens. Trees grew in size especially native trees. Over time the Council began the restoration of native landscapes in parks along creek beds, and replanting of local native species such as Scotchman’s Creek.

In the last 200 years, much of our land has been cleared. Wetlands drained, rivers polluted and diverted. Feral animals and weeds have had an impact on indigenous flora and fauna.

THE BENEFITS OF INDIGENOUS PLANTS

They adapt to the local environment. (soil, rainfall, drainage)
Usually low maintenance
Lower water requirements
Promote and improve local biodiversity
Provide habitat for local fauna

Climate change can cause real threats to the indigenous flora and fauna. By using indigenous plants in your garden you create a haven for plants, insects, lizards, possums, birds, thus enhancing our native environment.

So next time you go out to do some planting in your garden try not to forget the indigenous plants.