



Cranbourne East  
Primary School

# Cranbourne East Primary School No 5518

## Year 4 News

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Issue 1, 2016

Welcome to the first issue of the Year 4 newsletter for 2016. In these newsletters, you will find information about your child's learning in areas of Literacy, Writing, Spelling, Maths and Inquiry Learning as well important dates and examples of 5 Star student work. Take the time to read about the teachers this week to find out a little bit more about them. If you need to discuss anything regarding your child's progress please feel free to pop in and see their homegroup teacher or make an appointment to meet at a later date.



### Meet the team

The Year 4 team are excited about the year ahead! Back Row (left to right) Rebekah Bonammy, Keith Waples, Bethany Baillie, Mitch Welsh, Narelle Thiel. Front Row (Left to right) Tanya Wright, Paula Phillips, Deb Whiteley, Sarah Abbott.

### WRITING

This Term in Writing Year 4 will be focusing on writing recounts, narratives and information reports. Our writing structure for the week starts off with building students vocabulary based on a prompt. Students then brainstorm words and are encouraged to up level their vocabulary for the weeks writing. Students then use these words in poetry sessions to familiarise themselves with the vocabulary and the context in which it is used. Following on this activity, students then explore the structure of different writing pieces and one of nine different writing traits to further develop their writing skills and abilities. At the end of the week students are provided with the choice to continue the weeks writing topic or explore their own topic in a free writing session known as 'Free Write Fridays'. You can support your child's learning by asking them about their prompt for the week and encouraging them to use their brainstorming and up-level vocabulary in their everyday speak.

### Spelling

We have begun implementing a new spelling program focusing on 4 strategies – phonological (how words sounds), morphemic (how words change form), visual (how words look) and etymological (where words come from). These four strategies form the basis from which writers work out how to spell words. This will assist students in spelling words more accurately.



# What's been happening in the classrooms....



## LITERACY

The Year 4 students are continuing to be actively involved in the CAFE reading program. This program focuses on building the key skills of Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency and Expanding vocabulary. Each day, the students participate in a structured program that focuses on their needs. A typical Café session runs as follows:

- **Mini Lesson** -Students participate in a mini lesson where the teacher models a particular CAFÉ strategy.
- **Sustained reading**- This is silent uninterrupted reading, giving the students an opportunity to focus on the skill learnt in the mini lesson
- **Follow up activity**- Students complete an activity based on the mini lesson using their 'good fit' book. This focused activity is completed in their literacy group.
- **Guided Reading/Reciprocal Reading**- Students will participate in a reading session with their literacy group. They will work with the teacher to focus on a particular reading skill.
- **Share Time**- Students have the opportunity to reflect and discuss their learning from the session.

As a part of this program, students have been participating in regular student/teacher conferences. This enables the students to reflect upon their reading strategies and allowing them to set goals for their future learning.

Student are encouraged to read at home for 20 minutes a night filling in their reading logs when they are done.

## Maths

This Term we will be focusing on understanding and developing our skills in Place Value, Number Patterns, Length, Perimeter, and 2D & 3D shapes. Please encourage your child to extend their mathematics learning by doing lots of hands on activities such as cooking, shopping, playing card and board games, and counting and multiplying activities. Providing children with real life experiences using mathematics help them to make connections between their learning and real life applications. Number usage and understanding is crucial to the mathematical success for all students. Constant practise of automatic recall of addition, subtraction and times tables are ongoing and necessary to their mathematical development. Some terrific websites to help your child develop their math skills are [www.mathletics.com.au](http://www.mathletics.com.au) and [www.mathsplayground.com](http://www.mathsplayground.com).

## Inquiry

This Term in Inquiry Learning we have been focusing on Australian settlement and the First Fleet. Student learning has been supported through visual aids such as videos and pictures this helps promote immersion in the topic. Students have been focusing on the lives of convicts sent to Australia and the struggles they would have faced on the ship and once they arrived. An important element of our Inquiry unit is for students' to pose questions based on their wonderings about the topic. For WOW day this Term, students were able to use their imagination and re-create the ships of the First Fleet. Students used recycled materials to create their ships and did a great job across the year level!