Welcome back to Term 4. Once again it was a settled start to the term with children, parents and teachers all eager to catch up with each other and to share news of their holidays.

I had a fabulous month touring the Balkans, or the former Yugoslavian states of Romania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro, Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia and on to Hungary. Lots of long tedious border crossings but amazing scenery, especially along the Adriatic and Dalmatian coastlines. Apart from a drama on the flight over to Doha, and a bout of mass food poisoning in Sophia, the trip was full of amazing moments.

As always though I realise how fortunate we are in Australia due to our isolation. The threat of war and revolution is never far from some people’s minds in Europe. We went to dinner in the home of a Sarajevo family and their recounts of the four year siege in that city without electricity, sufficient food and constant shelling were harrowing. Once again Serbs, Croats, Bosnians and Muslims live side by side in peace, however the death of nearly 12,000 civilians in that siege is never forgotten.

I went to Sarajevo following a promise made to one of my Bosnian refugee students whilst teaching at Rangeview Primary school in the 1990’s. This little seven year old girl could only draw pictures of a dark sky with tracers running through it. She drew herself in a dark bedroom with the night sky lit up in red and yellow. She could not speak English initially however once she could I learnt all about her life in Sarajevo and promised her that one day I would see her home city for myself.

The students we teach are never forgotten. I remember each and everyone over the 44 years I have been a teacher. Often they will just pop into our minds because of something we see or hear. I still see my students when out and about in my local community and on visits to my home town in South Australia. It is always a joy when someone calls out ‘Hello Mrs. Walker’ and I hear about their children or grandchildren. As teachers we are truly blessed to play such a role in the lives of our children.
CHILD SAFE STANDARD SEVEN SCHOOL IMPLEMENTATION

You will all be aware of the new ‘Child Safe Standards’ and Ministerial Order 870 that relates to the school role in maintaining child safe environments that are free from abuse and discrimination. Most of the standards relate to school policy, recruitment and reporting procedures, however Standard 7 requires us to deliver appropriate information to children about:

- standards of behaviour for students attending the school
- healthy and respectful relationships (including sexuality)
- resilience
- child abuse awareness and prevention.

Ministerial Order 870 also requires schools to promote the Child Safe Standards in ways that are readily accessible, easy to understand, and user-friendly to children.

We have defined school values and codes of conduct. Our sexual education curriculum is delivered each year using the ‘Catching on Early’ DET resource. Currently these lessons are delivered in Term 3 of each year. We use the ‘Bounce Back’ resource to deliver lessons aimed at promoting child well being and resilience.

Historically we have not had defined curriculum content about child abuse awareness and prevention. Mrs Hoogenraad booked ‘Bravehearts’ for the Year F-2 children this year which gave child friendly content concerning abuse.

Last week I began a series of lessons aimed at delivering this curriculum across the school. I am using the ‘Protective Behaviours’ program as a resource along with other programs aimed at giving children this empowerment. The younger children learnt about types of abuse and what constitutes each type—physical, emotional and sexual.

The second half of the lesson taught children how to listen to their body feelings. They learnt that their bodies will give signals if they feel unsafe. Each child had a body shape on which they labelled feelings such as heart beating fast, warning voices in their head, trembling, feeling sick etc. The children learnt what ‘fondling’ is and that no-one else has the right to ‘fondle’ their body and they should not be asked to fondle anyone else’s. ‘Fondling’ was described as ‘rhythmical stroking’ or touching. The lesson ended with actions children can take if placed in an abusive situation.—YELL, GO, TELL.

Obviously this content is sensitive and must be delivered in a ‘matter of fact’ style that leaves children with a feeling of power from knowledge. Many children already had a knowledge of the subject and were very aware of what is appropriate adult contact and what is not.

Each child who attended the lesson was given a note to take home that encouraged parents to ask about the lesson content. Some children will go away from the lessons with unresolved questions they felt uncomfortable raising in a group. It is vital that children learn to keep themselves safe as they enter schools, sporting associations and establish contacts with wider friend and family circles. As parents and teachers we will not be by their side forever. This knowledge is a powerful tool that can be used not only to prevent personal child exploitation, but it can help children to help their friends placed in these situations also.

Sharon Walker
PARENTS PHOTOGRAPHING CHILDREN IN CLASSROOMS OR ON EXCURSIONS

Please remember that parents do not have the right to photograph other people’s children without permission from their parent. Some of our families have not given permission for their children to be photographed other than for the class photos.

SUGGESTION BOX

If you have some great ideas for the school, and are willing to help achieve them, please leave your suggestions in the box on the office reception desk. Please write all suggestions on the designated form available from Kerrie.

PARENT CLUB NEWS

Our last two meetings for the year are: Fridays October 21 and November 25—9-10.30am in the school library.

Unfortunately the Shopping Tour has been cancelled due to insufficient numbers wishing to attend. Please obtain your deposit refund from the office.

School council is finalising the quote for the building of the school gazebo, Funds for this project are coming directly from our fundraising account. Thank you so much to the families who have supported our efforts this year. A big thank you also to the many families who support the Yarra Glen Craft Market carparking roster. Unfortunately we may lose these payments if we cannot fill our 5 places each month. Please see Emma Morris if you can help on November 6 as we have only three families rostered: Evans, Jones and Bartlett

YARRA GLEN PRE-SCHOOL VISIT

School Council, and Parent Club, have arranged a school visit for the 4 year-old children from Yarra Glen Pre-School on Tuesday October 18, 2016. The children, and parents, will enjoy a puppet show performed by our artist in residence, Angie. Mrs. Hannagan’s ‘Green Thumbs’ will assist the pre-schoolers to plant some seeds, they will then have a chance to play in our school grounds and Mrs Walker will conduct a story book session. We would appreciate items for morning tea as this will be provided for the parents attending.

CANCELLATIONS—SWIMMING AND FAMILY CAROLS NIGHT

- Unfortunately we have two scheduled events that will have to be cancelled. We had only 13 children who were going to attend the November swimming course. This is 12 short of the required number to provide the program at $155.00 per child so it has been cancelled and School Council will discuss options for 2017.
- The second event to be cancelled is the ‘Family Carols Night.’ The production will be held later this year and staff feel the Beechworth Camp, Graduation Dinner, production rehearsals and report writing will all impinge on our ability to produce a carols night at school. We have decided to again support the Yarra Glen Community Carols night on Sunday December 11. Our children will be invited to produce an item for this night and we may work on some items for the December assemblies. We regret any inconvenience and will ensure production scheduling in 2018 avoids Term 4.
Mrs Hoogie's F-1

It’s great to be back and into Term 4! The last day of term was Jump Rope for Heart Day and students enjoying a variety of activities to get the heart rate pumping including having a go on a pogo stick, trying to get balloons into a ring, skipping relays, chants and lots of skipping to the music!!!

The last week of term we also had a blast making cloud dough, having a class party to celebrate our final cooking day and learning more about B-bots and coding.

This term we have celebrated Footy Colours Day and we are looking forward to the Lion Tamers and the Bentleigh High school band visiting our school this week.

MRS SCHARBEL 1/2s

Welcome back to Term 4. I hope you all had a wonderful and restful holiday. During week one we had lots of discussion around football, the grand final in particular, and had fun dressing up in our team colours on Thursday. (Go Swans!!) We started working with patterns and mapping in Maths, writing persuasive texts in literacy and trying to visualise whilst we read. We also had a lot of fun playing with push and pull forces in the classroom. We made little paper sailing boats and used ‘push’ force to make them go across the little lake.
MISS JACOBS 3/4J

On Tuesday Mrs Walker introduced the ‘Lion Tamers’ characters to us. This is a program the school is trialling. It is a health and wellbeing program for children. We drew the four characters and wrote down all their strengths:

Tomu The Strong Man: Strong body and core, great body structure and posture, organised, resilient and stands up for himself and others.

Fin The Horse Rider: Can talk to animals, fit and healthy, coordinated, uses her voice clearly, great communicator and is a great teacher to others.

Shard The Fire Breather: Strong mind, focused, disciplined, drive and motivation, controls his emotions and is determined.

Zen The Trapeze Artist: Aware of herself, aware of others feelings, kind and caring, calm and patient, believes in herself.

The Lion Tamer presenters came to the school on Monday and we did some exercises to strengthen our core and flexibility. Each week the classroom teachers will do some exercises with us and we will hear a story about a value or personal strength. As we were drawing and writing with Mrs. Walker we talked about our own personal strengths then we thought about our parents. Ben Koth said his dad is like Tomu because he is very strong. Quite a few of us said our mums were like Zen because they were always looking after people. Mrs. Walker told us that she was all of the characters rolled into one but she was less like Tomu as she got older. Poor Mrs. Walker!

We can’t wait to finish our work next week and to start looking at strengths we need to develop.

YEAR 4/5B

On Thursday Bailey Banks, Jess Rothwell, Callum Kusnezow, Lily Ellis, Brody Hull, and Matty Toop went to the Maroondah/Manningham and Yarra Athletics District Sports Carnival at Bill Sewart Athletics Track in Burwood East. They competed in a range of track and field events, including shot put, long jump, triple jump, 100m and 200m sprints, 800m and 1500m runs and the relay. The students thoroughly enjoyed the sunny day and banded together to cheer each other on and put in their best efforts. A huge congratulations to Lily Ellis who came second in the 1500m event and will be going to the Regional Carnival this Thursday. We wish you the best of luck Lily.
The Year 5 / 6 students are inquiring into the Media, What is Media? How does it influence an audience? To tune into the topic the students participated in a range of fun activities exploring how we communicate. These activities included sending messages without using voices or writing. It was hilarious as students waddled like ducks and squirmed around making gestures and hand signals to convey the title of songs, movies and characters. Another task was partner drawing where students gave oral instructions to complete a drawing the results were surprising.

In our writing sessions the students chose a weird or wonderful photograph and wrote a news article about what happened before, during and after the photo was taken. Students learnt to include key facts about time and place and to include direct and indirect speech. Please see our finished pieces on the window of the classroom. We will be beginning writing scripts for our puppet performances this week. To follow the Fenced theme the students will research the causes behind people leaving their countries for other locations; the experiences of refugees and displaced people; the responsibilities of governments and the benefits of migration to our country.
Pack a Punch’ writing is a formula designed to teach children how to write short highly descriptive pieces of fiction. The class are shown an interesting photo and then guided to brainstorm all the nouns they can find in the photo. To this list they add at least two adjectives. The adjectives must build vocabulary—or ‘stretch your brain.’ Children are encouraged to use a thesaurus to step outside ‘safe’ or basic vocabulary. They are also encouraged to use similes or metaphors in their piece.

Once the vocabulary is set the children can then name characters and decide on the ‘problem.’ They write three main paragraphs—describe what the characters see, describe their feelings when the problem occurs and sow a ‘seed of mystery’ in the last paragraph.

At a later date this formula can be expanded upon in an initial paragraph that will set the scene and describe how the characters got to the destination.

Below are some examples of this writing using the attached photo:

Luke stared around at the colossal canyon and the lively packed forest. The view was slightly ruined by the fact that he was sitting on a sturdy oak picnic table that was dangling from the top of a massive rocky cliff. Even though he was suspended from the cliff he was enjoying drinking a cold and refreshing lemonade with his friends who were all excited and content. Luke looked up and saw powerful robust ropes going through metallic clips to support the table.

Suddenly a ferocious gust of wind came and pushed Luke off the seat so he was only clinging onto the bench by his hands. Luke’s heart started to pound like a drum and his mouth went dry. His stomach churned and his knees trembled. Luke’s hands started to sweat madly so he couldn’t hold any more.

The last thing Luke saw was his fingers slipping off the bench.

By Jericho 10/10/2016

PASSED OUT

As I dangled over the luscious green forest on a redwood picnic table, I gazed at the steep canyon that surrounded me. Brown lifeless grass swayed beneath me as an icy breeze brushed against my face leaving shivers down my spine. Tiny rocks tumbled down the never ending cliff wall.

As I sipped my drink I became dizzy. My stomach started to churn. I felt like I could vomit but I wanted more drink. I kept on drinking and drinking even though I felt very light headed. My palms started to sweat.

Suddenly I fell back leaving the table above me. All I felt was the cold air whipping my skin as I fell.

By Lily 10/10/2016
Yarra Ranges Regional Museum
29 Oct 2016 – 29 Jan 2017

Science on the Move

Yarra Ranges

Celebrate Children’s Week 2016
Acknowledging, nurturing and celebrating children.

October 22nd – 30th 2016
Free activities for children aged 0-12 years and their families across the Yarra Ranges.

For more information call 1300 368 333 or go to www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au

Children have the right to access reliable and safe information from the media.
(Article 17 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child)