Reading sessions in Level Three have been centering on texts about environment and biodiversity, which helps support our inquiry topic of Our Local Environment and Sustainability. To develop their comprehension skills, we have introduced students to synthesizing, a strategy that requires readers to combine their prior knowledge with facts from the texts and to form a new idea. It’s like trying to piece together parts of a puzzle (the text, your knowledge) in order to develop a new understanding. For more information you can take a look at the website ‘Into the Book’ at www.reading.ecb.org, register and ask your child to guide you through the student section.

Our new writing focus for term three is explanations. Students begin by looking at examples of explanations, and identifying common language features and structures. They will be encouraged to differentiate between other genres before taking part in modeled, shared and independent writing sessions.

In numeracy, students have looked at decimal numbers. They are currently working on length, participating on many hands on activities. Students have continued to work hard on number facts, such as times tables. It is expected that all students should be able to automatically recall their times tables by the end of grade 4. In the coming weeks, the level threes will all be immersed in fractions. If you have the opportunity at home to talk about 1/2s, 1/3, 1/4 etc. please do so! Also there are many fun interactive sites for the students to ‘play’ on fractions.

Incursion- On Tuesday 7th August, level three will participate in a ‘Freshwater Habitats’ incursion provided by Monash Science to support our inquiry unit. Through hands-on activities students will be introduced to the diversity of species and ecosystems, and the importance of genetic diversity in a meaningful, Australian context. Students look at the classification of living things, and also gain an insight to the importance of genetic diversity in endangered animals.

Incursion- Level three will also take part in a local walking excursion to the Edithvale Wetlands and Discovery center. Grade 4 will visit the center on Monday 13th August and Grade 3 will visit the center on Tuesday 14th August. Students will learn about the management of wetlands and the environmental factors that need to be considered. They will consider how the living and non-living features of the wetland are connected and how human and natural processes impact the local landscape and what we can do as a local community to support the ongoing conservation of these wetlands.