



Dear Year 4 and Year 5 parents and carers,

We have all come to the end of an eventful year where we have learnt to be flexible, creative and focused to keep the children engaged and learning.

As part of our school's strong and ongoing commitment to 21<sup>st</sup> Century teaching and learning we are continuing the implementation of our **Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy and program** so that Years 5 and 6 students in 2022 will have the option to bring a Chromebook to school. The BYOD program at Kariong Public School is an optional program, therefore participation is not compulsory. However, it continues to be very popular with the majority of Stage 3 students bringing their own devices to school. If a student does not bring a device to school, they will have access to shared school owned devices and will fully participate in all classroom activities at school.

For 2022, we will form stage-based 'multi-age' classes in Years 5-6. Multi-age classes provide schools with more flexibility and options to ensure even class sizes and a balance of student social and academic needs within and across year levels. Educational research does show that multi-age classes have positive impacts on students' social and emotional outcomes and wellbeing. We anticipate that we will form 5 Stage 3 classes (Years 5 & 6) and one cross stage class (Years 4 & 5). Quality teaching that is differentiated will continue to be implemented to meet the needs of every student, well supported by mentoring, instructional leadership, teacher collaboration and professional learning.

As usual, a parent and teacher information night will be held at the beginning of the year where further details will be provided including frequently asked questions about the BYOD program and how teachers program and coordinate multi-age classes. Your child's class teacher will be able to answer any questions you may have.

We are all looking forward to a great year with Stage 3 students.

Thank you

Skye Drabsch  
Stage 3 Supervisor

Toni Skinner  
Principal