

The Torch

April 21st, 2016



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Principal's Report

Dear parents, friends and students of Ararat Primary 800,

Our School Council conducted their Annual General Meeting yesterday evening, at which time I had the honour of presenting our [2015 Annual Report](#) to the School Community. This highly informative document covers the areas of Achievement, Engagement, Wellbeing, Productivity and Financial Performance and Position. Overall, our achievements during 2015 were very pleasing, with Ararat Primary performing above state medians and comparison schools in a number of areas. To me, the document reflects the outstanding work of our students and staff, and the strong partnerships we have with our families and broader school community. The final line in our Commitment Statement resonates throughout the report – “Together we achieve” – for which I thank you! Our 2015 Annual Report to the School Community will be posted on our website and Facebook Page for your consideration. Additional copies are also available at the front office. Please take a little time to look through it.

Tuesday's School Photo day was a great success, and much was achieved in a relatively short period of time. Thank you for ensuring that our children were well groomed and dressed in uniform for the occasion – they looked fabulous! Special thanks to Tracey Bell, Kelly Sobey and Tara Bajer for their assistance, and to our School Captains and Vice Captains, Olivia, James, Holly and Flynn, for their ‘leg work’ throughout the day. In addition to individual, class and family photos, the following group photographs were also taken and will be available for purchase: School Captains, House Captains, Junior and Senior Choir, 800 Decibels, Bamboozle, NICA, Earthlings and SRC.

Over the course of Saturday and Sunday we'll launch into the final stages of preparations for [ANZAC Day 2016](#), with students, staff, parents and community members harvesting marigold and dahlia crops in our playground, at Hopkins Correctional Centre and in family gardens around the town. Staff and families will work together during the course of Sunday morning in the preparation of our “Lest We Forget” floral tribute, while our committed community team will prepare Ararat’s traditional ANZAC Day display at the cenotaph in Barkly Street. April 24th is always a massive day for our school community, and we wish the teams well in their endeavours. If you are able to lend a hand – either at school or at the cenotaph – your assistance will be greatly appreciated, and you’ll forever have memories of contributing to Ararat Primary’s ANZAC tradition.

Looking forward to ANZAC Day on Monday, our School Captains, Olivia and James, supported by their deputies, Holly and Flynn, will be our official ambassadors at Ararat’s ceremony. The commemorative service will be conducted from 10:00am at the

cenotaph in Barkly Street, where our student leaders will lay a wreath on behalf of all of our students and school community. As has happened in previous years, many of our students and staff will also be in attendance as part of our ‘Contributing to Our Community’ commitment. If possible, we ask our students to wear their school uniform to the event, please. Our Senior Choir will also join students from Ararat West in performing the Australian and New Zealand national anthems. We cordially invite all members of our school community to join us at the Cenotaph on Monday morning for this very important national occasion.

[Mothers' Day](#) is also on the horizon, and we remind students to order a present for their Mum and Grandmas; additional order forms are available from the school office. All gifts are \$5, and an impressive array will be available again this year. The Mothers' Day stall will take place from 9:15am on Wednesday, May 4th, following our “[Girls, Giggles and Games](#)” morning. We extend a special invitation to our girls, their Mums, aunties and Grandmas to join us from 8:15am on May 4th for breakfast and lots of ‘girly’ activities in recognition of Mothers’ Day, 2016. Don’t worry boys – your turn will come with our “[Blokes Breaky](#)” in the lead up to Fathers’ Day in Term 3.

Still on the breakfast front, this morning we launched our “[Breakfast Club](#)”, and what an amazing turnout we had. Our menu consisted of Vitabrits, porridge, fruit, baked beans, milk and milo, all of which was greatly appreciated by our excited students. The food was provided by the Victorian Foodbank, in conjunction with the Department of Education. Special thanks to our wonderful team of staff, parents and Senior School students, who worked together like a well-oiled machine to prepare, serve and clean up – an amazing achievement! Please note that our Breakfast Club is free and open to all students, and will operate on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30am in the Learning Centre. We’re still on the hunt for additional parent volunteers, so if you’re available to lend a hand, please contact me on 5352 1253.

Finally, thank you to the Ralph family for reinstating our goal posts, and to Alistair Johnson and our Senior School go-to students for replacing soft-fall material under our orange play equipment. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

Jennifer

2016 Poppy Appeal merchandise will be on sale tomorrow morning before school and at recess in the Prep World play courtyard.

School values: Respect Honesty Self Awareness Learning Belonging

Dates to remember in Term 2

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sunday 24th April | ANZAC floral display construction |
| Monday 25th April | ANZAC Day - Public Holiday |
| Friday 20th May | Staff PD - Student free day |
| Monday 30th May | Report Writing Day - Student free day |
| Monday 13th June | Queen's Birthday - Public Holiday |



TERM DATES 2016

- | |
|-------------------------------------|
| Term 2: 11th April - 24th June |
| Term 3: 11th July - 16th September |
| Term 4: 3rd October - 20th December |

Classroom Reports . . .

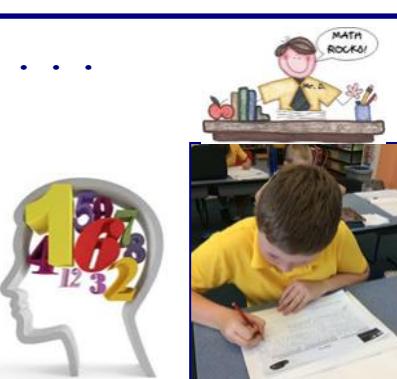
Prep World . . .

This term we are focussing on history and change in Discoveries. We thought it would be a great idea to draw on the valuable resource of our older generation by visiting Gorrinn House at the Ararat Retirement Village. We had our first visit on Tuesday and the students and residents had a wonderful time. We recited some of our rhymes to the residents, read them a book and introduced ourselves. We are looking forward to visiting each week throughout Term 2.

"It was good because we got to meet some old people. There was a lady called Ruby too!" - Ruby (Prep S)



Middle School . . .



It has been an exciting start to the term for the 3/4s who are already deeply immersed in their new MAPPEN topic, 'Looking Backwards to Look Forwards'. Our new topic is about history. Students have been learning about Australia's war history, focussing on ANZAC Day. The 3/4s have really enjoyed using their netbooks and working together in teams to learn more about the ANZAC Day symbols, as well finding out about the wars that Australia has been involved in.



Buzzy Bees . . .



In Buzzy Bee World we have been focussing on our maths goals. Three times a week we get all mixed up and go to different classrooms so we can work with people working towards the same place value goal. We are all having lots of fun and learning how to read, write, order and make 2, 3 and 4 digit numbers.



Senior School . . .

Our Grades are very busy this term. We have started our rehearsals for Production titled, "Danger Kids". The students' have been given their roles, with the main cast members being Erin, James, Angel and Adam. Many other students are in important supporting roles and everyone in the Senior Unit will play a major role in the Production.

We have also been practising for Our Winter Sports which, are footy, soccer and netball. The students are each having a go at all the sports and are learning new skills.



Girls, Giggles & Games

on
Wednesday 4th May 2016

8:15am

in the

Learning Centre Girls only

(Students, Mums, Grandmas, Aunties . . .)

ARARAT JUNIOR NETBALL COMPETITION



8 - 12 Years Competition
on
Tuesday nights from 4pm to 5pm
Coaching also available



If you are interested in playing or coaching, please contact Tracie Laidlaw on 5352 3183

MATHS INFORMATION NIGHT

All Grade 3-6 Students, and their families are invited to attend a Maths Information Night at our school library next **Wednesday the 27th of April**.

Similar seminars that were held last year were very popular and received lots of positive feedback.

Families will have the opportunity to explore and borrow equipment and games from our 'maths wing' and discover new and exciting ways to support students' numeracy learning at home.

It will be a very practical, hands-on session and lots of fun.

The seminar will run from **5:30pm – 6:15pm**.

We hope to see you there.

Darren Beer
Middle School Teacher
Numeracy Leader
Ararat 800 Primary School



Drought Assistance - Deadline – 27th April 2016

NO FORM - NO PAYMENT

Recently the Victorian Government extended its Drought Assistance package, administered through the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF), to all Ararat Primary School students. This is a one off payment in 2016 only.

Subject to the receipt of a completed Drought Assistance Application form, all enrolled students are eligible for this payment. A "one off" amount of \$375 per student will be paid to the school to be used towards educational expenses for the direct benefit of your child.

Have you returned your form?

Piano Lessons at 800

Several students, ranging in age from 5 to 14 years, have begun learning piano at school in 2016. With fantastic enthusiastic mums in attendance (who are learning by default as well) they have already mastered at least three pieces by memory plus doing composition and improvisation regularly. Blues is next!

Singing lessons are also in progress.

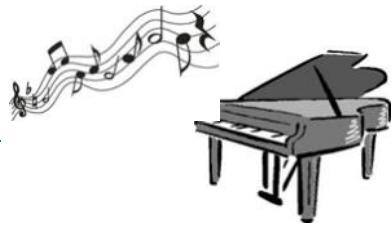
I look forward to seeing the students show off their talents busking to the passing parade under the oak tree over break times.

Enrolments are still open at this stage. Violin and accordion are also offered.

Enquiries - Unmani

unmani52@gmail.com

0408103194



Mother's Day Stall

Wednesday 4th May 2016

Order form and money to be returned to the office
by Tuesday 3rd May 2016



April 14th	Sylvan Day	
15th	Flynn Toner	
	Cameron Nichols	
16th	Amy Clarke	
17th	Jacob Powell	
19th	Eli O'Neill	
20th	Will Anderson	
	Koopa Xalpha-Alexander	
21st	Ryan McAdie	
	Dakota Barrie	

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
			21st	22nd LUNCH ORDERS
25th ANZAC DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY	26th Breakfast Club 8:30 - 8:50am	27th Bamboozle 3:30pm - 4:45pm	Breakfast Club 8:30 - 8:50am	24th—ANZAC Day preparations
				29th LUNCH ORDERS
May 2nd Assembly	3rd Division Cross Country Breakfast Club 8:30 - 8:50am	4th Girls, Giggles and Games Mothers' Day Stall Bamboozle 3:30pm - 4:45pm	5th Breakfast Club 8:30 - 8:50am	6th LUNCH ORDERS Northcote College Band performance
				30th - NICa Melbourne
9th Assembly	10th NAPLAN LC and Writing Breakfast Club 8:30 - 8:50am	11th NAPLAN Reading Bamboozle 3:30pm - 4:45pm	12th NAPLAN Numeracy Breakfast Club 8:30 - 8:50am	13th LUNCH ORDERS NAPLAN Catch-up day

Stay up to date with all our news and events by following us on our website. All school notes sent home can be found in our virtual office.

You can find us at: www.araratps.vic.edu.au