

Principal's Report

Dear parents and friends of Ararat Primary School,

Staffing arrangements for the new school year are now close to being finalised, with a number of changes taking place, and staff members welcomed back to our team:

Our staffing profile for 2017 is as follows:

- Prep World - Katie Sanford and Terri Dalglish – and Nat Beer from Term 2
- Grade 1-2 Buzzy Bees – Cathy Tapscott and Leah Sharp (shared arrangement), Maddy Vernon, and Bernie Fitzpatrick and Heidi Jerram (shared arrangement)
- Grade 3-4 Middle School – Di Coles, Owen Kean and Travis Hewish
- Grade 5-6 Senior School – Nicky Kelly and Chris Fiscalini (shared arrangement) David Collins, Jess Smart and Adrian Pilgrim (shared arrangement)

Our outstanding specialist programs will continue in 2017, with Mrs Jerram teaching Chinese, Ms Sharp, Visual Arts and Ms Fiscalini, Circus.

We're also fortunate to have our wonderful Education Support staff team with us again in the new-year – Kate Harwood, Lisa Hannett, Marg Dyer, Carol Turner, Jenni Jacobi, Melissa Hope, Kate Battye, Karen Walker and Zach Louder.

We welcome back Mrs Kelly and Mrs Smart to Ararat Primary for the 2017 school year. We also extend best wishes to Anita Carey and Jamie Gatehouse, who are taking up a teaching opportunities in other schools, and to Darren Beer, who has been appointed Principal of Maroona Primary School. Formal recognition of Anita, Darren and Jamie's contributions to Ararat Primary will be acknowledged at our final assembly on December 16th.

Next Tuesday will see all Ararat Primary students involved in their most significant transition event in preparation for the 2017 school year. Many of our Year 6 students will spend the day at Ararat College, while our 2017 Prep students will join us between 9:30am and 2:20pm. **Parents of our new students are invited to join Katie, Terri, Lisa, Kate and myself for an information session and morning tea in the Learning Centre between 9:45 and 10:30am.**

All of our current Prep to Year 5 students will transition internally for the day, joining their new teacher(s) and class groups – which are not yet set. A great deal of work continues to go into the organisation of our classes, to find the 'best fit' for every individual student, based on their learning and social needs, friendship preferences, and a significant number of parental requests. **We ask you to please respect and support the class placement decisions we have made – which are very considered and heavily negotiated. Please note that final class lists will be distributed on December 13th.**

Information regarding booking arrangements for our individual student assessment sessions, planned for Tuesday and Wednesday,

January 31st and February 1st, at the start of the 2017 school year, will also be distributed on December 13th, and go **live online via the www.schoolinterviews.com.au** site that day. Parents will be invited to book half-hour sessions for their children to complete numeracy and literacy assessments. **We encourage all families to book a time, even if your child is fortunate to spend a second year with a class teacher. Children who are not assessed at that time have to be 'caught up' – which can delay the identification of their individualised learning needs.**

Classes commence for all students, including our Preps, on Thursday, February 2nd. Please note that our 2017 book collection days are also scheduled for January 31st and February 1st, and we'd appreciate families visiting the office while children are being interviewed, so that waiting times are minimised.

Tasks to be completed at that time are:

- Family information updates, including phone numbers and emergency contact details
- Subject contribution payments
- Year 6 jacket orders and payments
- Head lice check authorisations
- Local excursions authorisations
- Publication of photos and students' work authorisations

We estimate that all administrative tasks should be comfortably completed within the half hour allocated.

With the end of the school year rapidly approaching, we ask that you note the following special events on your calendars, and set aside time to join us:

- Whole-school Transition session number three tomorrow afternoon from 2:10
- Year 1-2 Expo (2:15pm) and Year 3-4 Community Games (10:00am) next Wednesday, December 7th, at our Learning Centre and Alexandra Gardens, respectively
- Year 5-6 Science Exhibition next Thursday afternoon, December 8th, from 2:15 in the Learning Centre
- Our Volunteers' Morning Tea at 11:00am on Monday, December 12th, along with the Prep World Expo in the afternoon from 2:15 in the Learning Centre
- Grade 6 Graduation from 5:30pm on Wednesday, December 14th at the Alexandra Oval's Fiscalini Room
- Ararat Primary's family picnic and carols – Thursday, December 15th from 6:00pm outside the Learning Centre
- End of year assembly from 2:15pm on Friday, December 16th in the Learning Centre.

We look forward to you joining us for these special events, as our school year comes to a close.

Kind regards,

Jennifer Molan

School values: **Respect** **Honesty** **Self Aware**

Dates to remember for Term 4



Friday 2nd Dec	2017 Prep Transition day #3	2:20pm to 3:20pm
Tuesday 6th Dec	Whole of School Transition day #4	9:30am to 2:20pm
Wednesday 14th Dec	Grade 6 Graduation at Alexandra Oval	5:30pm start
Thursday 15th Dec	Whole of School Family Picnic and Carols	6:00pm



Prep World . . .

Prep World is very excited to announce our Term 4 Expo, 'Curiosity'. We have been busy creating invitations, researching different animals from around the world and creating scientific drawings of them. Please come along and join us if you can on...

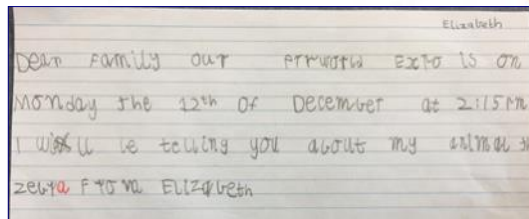
Date: Monday, December 12th, 2016

Time: 2:15

Location: Learning Centre



CURIOSITY



Buzzy Bees . . .



The Buzzy Bees have been very buzzzzzy completing their Discoveries projects in preparation for their Term Four Expo. We have been learning all about 'Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them', and have some amazing projects to show you. Here is a sneak peak of what you will see. Inika has created a habitat for penguins and Levi is going to show you the habitat of an Iberian Lynx. Come along next Wednesday, the 7th of December, at 2.15, and you will see many more exciting research projects, and creations, about our Fantastic Beasts.

FANTASTIC BEASTS

AND WHERE TO FIND THEM



Middle School . . .

Over the past few weeks, all Grade 3/4s have worked really hard on their narratives. They have become real authors, learning to write drafts, which include similes, onomatopoeia, alliteration and idioms—all things that they have learnt about in class, which can make their writing more interesting and descriptive. They then went through an extensive editing phase where they edited in their books and continued to make many edits on their printed versions, just like real authors! Finally, their narratives were ready to turn into books, slideshows, puppet shows and plays, ready for our expo.

Thank you to all the family members and classes who visited us at our 'Read With Me' Expo. The 3/4s really enjoyed sharing their narratives. You can see some photos from the Expo below.

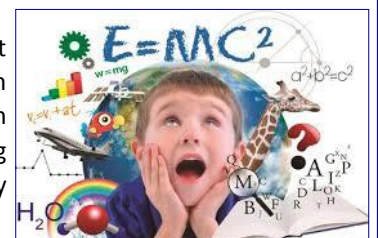


Senior School . . .

THE GREAT DEBATE

This term, the Senior School is looking at debates, and today we did our **GREAT DEBATE**. We spent a lot of time learning different ways to engage people, and make them think we are the ones to agree with. Our class had four different debate topics— 'Pets should be allowed at school', 'Detention centres should all be closed', 'Apples are better than bananas', and 'YouTube is better than Netflix'. It was fun to be able to recreate a debate and share it in front of people, just like the parliamentarians do.

Now that our GREAT DEBATES are over, we move on to our Science Expo, which will be next week. Our theme is 'Curious about Science'. We hope you can come along to see the fun and cool experiments that the Senior School students have prepared for you. We have been working on our science since the start of Term 4, and we have spent a lot of time choosing experiments. The Senior School team is excited to show off their amazing work that they have put together.



Breakfast Club wrap up . . . and 'help yourselves' mornings!

Our very popular Breakfast Club program will wrap up for the 2016 school year on Thursday, December 8th. Sincere thanks to all families for your support, and to our wonderful team of staff and parent volunteers, whose hard work has ensured the success of the program.

We're very pleased to announce that Breakfast Club will continue two mornings per week in 2017. We will put out a request for parental assistance early in the new year.

We have a significant supply of breakfast food left over from this year, which we're very keen to give away—

- Vita Brits
- Rolled oats
- Baked beans
- Long life milk



We invite you to our **'help yourselves' mornings** on Friday, December 9th, and Monday, December 12th. Trestle tables will be set up outside the Learning Centre, so please feel free to drop by and help yourself!

All remaining breakfast supplies will be donated to local charities.



Coding Club . . .

'It's not just enough for children to know how to use technology and enjoy it. We want kids to understand how to create with technology- not just interact with it.' Coding Club Australia is part of the Code Club world network, and the above statement has come from the website <https://www.codeclub.org.au>



Coding Club has been running on Mondays, after school throughout Term 4. Students and teachers, who indicated an interest, have been supported by Iestyn Opie, an avid computer and technology "whiz".

Each week, Iestyn brings a new challenge into the class, which students need to complete. Each challenge starts with instructions, then students need to finish the challenge without instructions as they 'dry up' along the way. The students are learning how important it is for their English and Maths skills to be perfect to complete the codes, and for the codes to work. At present, the students and teachers are learning a language called 'Python'.

Everyone who is attending the class is having a great time, and learning a lot of interesting things. Thank you, Iestyn!



As we approach the end of Term 4, all **BAMBOOZLE UNIFORMS and EQUIPMENT NEED TO BE RETURNED** to the Circus Hall as soon as possible.

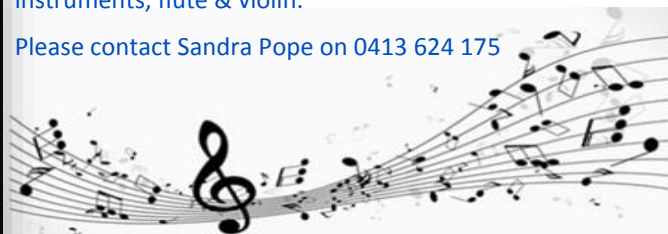
Thanks,
Ms Eis



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC LESSONS

Expressions of interest for music lessons, during school time in 2017, are now being taken for all brass instruments, flute & violin.

Please contact Sandra Pope on 0413 624 175



Newsletter delivery by email . . .


To receive your copy of "The Torch" by email in 2017, please complete the section below and return it to the office before the last day of term.



Student's name and grade: _____

Email address _____



	December 2nd	Jenae Marr
	5th	Dante Plunkett Prassopoulos
	6th	Sativah Green Kiera Milsome
	8th	Tanu Parsons Callum Roberts

Ararat OSHC Vacation Care



Will be running from

January 16th to January 27th

For further details and bookings

Call Grampians YMCA on

PH 03 5358 1100

or visit

Grampians.ymca.org.au

and 'click on the Ararat button'



MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
	<p>School Banking is processed on Tuesdays</p> 	 <p>Students must wear a hat in Term 4.</p> <p>We are a SunSmart school</p>	<p>December 1st</p> <p>Breakfast Club 8:30 - 8:50am</p> <p>Year 5-6</p> <p>Great Debates</p>	<p>2nd LUNCH ORDERS</p> <p>2017 Preps and school-wide Transition #3</p>
<p>5th Assembly</p>  <p>Coding 3:20pm - 4:30pm</p>	<p>6th</p> <p>Breakfast Club 8:30 - 8:50am</p> <p>2017 Preps and school-wide Transition #4</p>	<p>7th</p> <p>Year 3 - 4</p> <p>Community Games 10am Alexandra Gardens</p> <p>Year 1 - 2 Expo 2:15pm "Fabulous Beasts and Where to Find Them"</p> <p>School Council</p>	<p>8th</p> <p>Breakfast Club (final for 2016) 8:30 - 8:50am</p> <p>Year 5 - 6</p> <p>Exhibition 11:30am "Curious about Science?"</p>	<p>9th LUNCH ORDERS</p> <p>Breakfast food give-aways, outside the Learning Centre from 8:50am</p>
<p>12th Assembly</p> <p>Breakfast food give-aways, outside the Learning Centre from 8:50am</p> <p>VOLUNTEERS' MORNING TEA</p> <p>Prep Expo</p> <p>Coding 3:20pm - 4:30pm</p>	<p>13th</p> <p>Prep Picnic</p>	<p>14th</p> <p>Grade 6 Graduation @ Alexandra Oval</p>	 <p>15th</p> <p>Family Picnic and Carols from 6:00pm</p>	<p>16th LUNCH ORDERS</p> <p>End of term assembly 2:15pm</p> <p>School Reports distributed to students</p>
<p>19th Assembly</p>	<p>20th</p> <p>Last Day of Term 4</p> <p>Students dismissed at 1:30pm.</p> <p>Bus students supervised until 2:20pm.</p>	<p>School Holidays commence.</p> <p>Student interviews will be conducted on January 31st and February 1st.</p> <p>Students return to school Thursday, 2nd February.</p>		

Visible Learning Focus . . .

We have moved on to a new Visible Learning focus, after looking carefully at the concept of 'Do you ask questions, questions and more questions'? Our student's will now be looking at 'How to become more resilient in their learning and responding to new challenges with a positive attitude'.

Resilience

