

The Torch

December 8th, 2016



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Dear parents and friends of Ararat Primary School,

Tuesday's **whole-school Transition** event was an outstanding success, with students mixing and mingling in their new class groupings, while meeting members of staff and experiencing, briefly, the 'next step' in their learning, in preparation for 2017. Considerable thought has gone into the development of our class groups, with our objective to find the 'best fit' for every student in our school – a responsibility that we take very seriously.

A further highlight of our transition day was to welcome our 2017 Preps and their families to our school for the final time this year. Once again, our new students thrived on opportunities to experience Prep World, and to spend quality time with their buddies and some of our Year 6 student leaders. Thank you to the parents who joined us for our information session during the course of the morning. A major focus of that session was promoting school-readiness, and the development of strong partnerships between school and home. We hope to conduct a series of **parent 'education' programs in 2017**, focussing on the development of students' literacy and numeracy skills, and revisiting some of the information presented on Tuesday, when it is a little more 'real'.

Still on the transition front, our current Year 6 students are nearing the end of their primary school education, and preparing for next Wednesday's **Graduation Ceremony**, to be conducted at the Alexandra Oval clubrooms between 5:30 and 6:30pm. Please note that students and guests are expected to arrive from 5:15pm onwards, so that we make a timely start to proceedings.

A number of special awards will be presented during the course of the evening, recognising excellence and endeavour, citizenship, sporting and artistic ability. We extend sincere thanks to our award sponsors for their generous support – the Ararat Rotary Club, Ararat Rural City Council, AME Systems, Ararat Community Enterprise Inc., the Jones family, Kaye Powell, Chris Fiscalini, InterSport, the Billett family, 75BC, the Ararat Primary School Council and the Molan family. Award recipients will be recognised in next Thursday's newsletter.

Our **School Council** also conducted their final meeting for 2016 this week. On behalf of everyone associated with our school, I thank Council president, Adam Merrick, and all members of our governance group for their dedication and commitment to ongoing school development – Jamie Toner, Kylie Plunkett, Louise Gray, Leah Heinrich, Nareen Boyd, Leonie Cowey, Anna Greene, Lorelie McGrath, Christine Powell, Kosta Prassopoulos, Adrian Pilgrim, Heidi Jerram, Darren Beer and Kate Harwood.

Friday of next week will see the distribution of **end of year reports**. Parents and carers will receive a written assessment of

Principal's Report

their child's achievements against the AusVELS standards, along with written comments focusing on areas of achievement and future development, attendance information, and suggestions for things you can do at home in the lead up to the 2017 school year.

Final class lists for 2017 will be sent home on Tuesday of next week, along with information regarding student interviews at the start of the 2017 school year, and booking arrangements. Please note that children are not to attend school on Tuesday, January 31st or Wednesday, February 1st, other than with their parents for their half hour assessment session. We ask parents to use the time, while waiting for children to complete their assessment, to organise subject payments and book pack collections.

A reminder that the 2016 school year concludes at 1:30pm on Tuesday, December 20th, but we will conduct our final assembly on Friday of next week, commencing at 2:15pm in the Learning Centre. We invite you to join us for this very special event.

A further reminder for all students and families to join us next Thursday for our Christmas picnic from 5:45 for a 6:00pm start on the little oval near the Learning Centre. Class performances, involving ALL students, will commence at 6:00pm, with the show wrapping up by around 7:00pm. Our KidPreneur team will also have a range of their products on sale, so please bring a little cash with you, in case something catches your eye. It's shaping up to be a great night and we hope to see you there.

We look forward to welcoming all parent and community volunteers to next Monday's special morning tea, recognising their generosity and invaluable contributions to our school during 2016. Our celebrations will commence at 11:00am in the Learning Centre. We look forward to seeing you there.

Congratulations to our Senior School and Buzzy Bee students on the success of their Discoveries and Investigations Expo and Exhibition, over the course of the last two days. Thank you to families and friends who joined in the celebrations of their learning. We plan to continue our expos, exhibition and showcase events in 2017.

Finally, we're very pleased to announce our School Captains and Vice Captains for the 2017 school year: congratulations to Tori Ralph and Adam Quiao, our new Captains, and to Ella Flamsteed and Jai Te Hau, our Vice Captains. Badges of office will be presented to our Senior School leaders during our final assembly next week. House Captain elections will be conducted next week.

Kind regards,

Jennifer Molan



School values: **Respect** **Honesty** **Self Awareness** **Learning** **Belonging**

Dates to remember for Term 4

Wednesday 14th Dec	Grade 6 Graduation at Alexandra Oval	5:30pm
Thursday 15th Dec	Whole of School Family Picnic and Carols	6:00pm
Friday 16th Dec	End of Term 4 Assembly in the Learning Centre	2:15pm

School Reports will be distributed at the end of the day

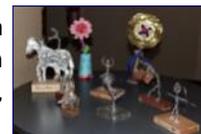


Specialists' Reports . . .

From the Art Room



It's been a busy but exciting year in Visual Art. We have enjoyed workshops at the Ararat Gallery, a special Degas exhibition at the NGV, taken part in the 'Our Sunset, My World' exhibition in Federation Square, and displayed work in the Ararat Show and at the Arts Extravaganza, as well as exploring printing, painting, clay, Impressionism, drawing, collage and construction in our Art classes.



I would like to take a moment to thank everyone who has helped to create such a successful program through generous donations of time, newspapers, materials and support. Your enthusiasm makes this school great. I'd like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe holiday season, and I look forward to seeing you all ready for Art next year.



Circus and Bamboozle

Grade 3-6 students are working frantically to complete their Video Project Task. This involved students writing a script aimed at teaching someone else how to do a Circus trick. It has been wonderful to see how engaged students have been with this project. Please ask them to show you their completed video. If they have any trouble logging in, let me know and I shall do my best to fix it.



Grades 1-2 are busy working to achieve as many goals as they can. Some students will probably have achieved more goals than are mentioned in their reports, by the time you come to read them. Well done, everyone.

Preps are practising being Grade Ones. We are moving from a more play-based approach, to choosing our own equipment to work on.

Bamboozle - Our Grade Six students are working on a performance piece for our Family Picnic and Carols evening, to be held next Thursday. We have had a lot of interest in us performing in the community this term. Unfortunately, we have had to say no to these invitations, at times, due to teachers having other commitments. Hopefully, we can continue to perform in our community next year.



Bamboozle 2017 - We have put together a shortlist of new students, to invite for a trial in Bamboozle, in 2017. Students will receive their invitation at a Monday morning Assembly. We will issue a formal invitation to join, once we've seen how each student participates.

Nica 2017 - An invitation to participate in our NICA program will go out next week. It will first go to Bamboozle participants. If there are spaces available, these will go to other students who have expressed an interest. Families who can commit to all four of the visits, will be given priority.

Chinese

Term Four has been a busy one for our Chinese Program. Students from Years Prep to Year Six have been reflecting upon the learning that has happened this year and how their Chinese language skills are developing. I'm very proud of our students and the effort they have put into their weekly Chinese lessons at the end of a very busy year. A highlight for 2016, was having four visiting students from Shanghai's, Jincai Experimental School in Term 3. This visit helped our students to understand that there is a real purpose for learning Chinese language. Firstly, to help us to communicate with our visitors, and secondly because Chinese is the most spoken language in the modern world. Some other highlights this year were our school's participation in the 2016 China Challenge and the completion of our dragon body panels. Miss Sharp and Mrs Jerram will be purchasing scale fabric in the holidays, so that this project can continue next year. Thank you to all parents, grandparents and carers who assisted us this year. We'll be in touch early first term.



Finally, I would like to thank all of my Chinese Leaders. They've been an awesome bunch of assistants this year, helping me to organise our Chinese Program and classroom. I wish all my students from

P-6 and their families a very 'Merry Christmas' and I hope that you all have a happy and safe holiday. I'm looking forward seeing all of you again in 2017, The Year of the Rooster.



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.

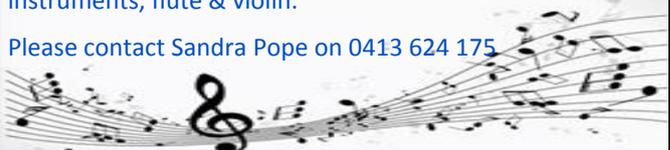
Thanks,
Ms Fis



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



Transition Day #4 - whole of school . . .



'Fabulous Beasts and Where to Find Them' Expo . . .



PUBLISH ME!

A family book making workshop

**Ararat Regional Library
Friday January 27th 2017**

Two workshops:

10 am – 12noon

and

2pm – 4pm

In this workshop, children will be captivated by the magic of publishing.

Christy Flaws, a Kids' Own Publishing artist, will guide school age children, their parents and friends, to produce text and illustrations for individual or collaborative 8 or 12 page books on the theme of their choice. Christy is a Clunes-based circus skills artist who uses her creativity to inspire the creation of books.

Each book will be folded, drawn, written and 'published' (photocopied) – one copy is kept for the Library's collection and the others to be shared with family and friends.

What will your book be about?





December 13th Nadia Lillis
Bella Fiegert
14th Leo Murphy

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'



Breakfast Club 'help yourselves' mornings!

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.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
	<p>School Banking is processed on Tuesdays</p> 	 <p>Students must wear a hat in Term 4. We are a SunSmart school</p>	<p>8th</p> <p>Breakfast Club (final for 2016) 8:30 - 8:50am</p> <p>Year 5 - 6 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 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 FINAL LUNCH ORDERS</p> <p>End of term assembly 2:15pm School Reports distributed to students</p>
<p>19th Assembly</p>	<p>20th</p> <p>Last Day of Term 4 Students dismissed at 1:30pm. Bus students supervised until 2:20pm.</p>	<p>21st</p>	<p>22nd</p>	<p>23rd</p>
<p>School holidays commence. Student interviews will be conducted on January 31st and February 1st. Students return to school Thursday, 2nd February.</p>				
<p>January 30th</p> <p>Teachers return</p>	<p>31st</p> <p>Student assessments and book collection (Please ensure an appointment has been made)</p>	<p>February 1st</p> <p>Student assessments and book collection (Please ensure an appointment has been made)</p>	<p>2nd</p> <p>School commences for all students 8:50am</p>	<p>3rd NO LUNCH ORDERS</p>