



Principal's Report

Dear parents and friends of Ararat Primary School,

Ararat Primary 800 is about to commence the **School Council election** process for 2016, and we invite you to consider becoming part of our dynamic and committed council team. A School Council is a legally formed body that is given powers under the Education and Training Reform Act of 2006. It is the major governing body, deciding future directions for the school and overseeing the school's operations.

School Council meets at least eight times each year, and at least twice per school term. Our meetings are restricted to two hours' duration at most. All School Councilors are also expected to sit on at least one sub-committee – Finance, Buildings and Grounds, Community Connections and Policy Development. Sub-committees also meet at least twice each term. Council appointments are of two years duration.

A 'Notice of Election and Call for Nominations' form has been included on Page 2 of this newsletter, detailing the number of Ararat Primary School Council positions declared vacant. Nominations will open on Monday of next week, February 15th, and close at 4:00pm on Monday, February 22nd, 2016. Nomination forms will be available from the school office from Monday, with completed forms to be placed in the 'School Council Elections' box in the office foyer.

Involvement in School Council is a highly rewarding experience and I encourage you to consider nomination. If you have any questions regarding School Council, please feel free to contact me.

As a community, we extend sincere thanks to our retiring Council members, who have worked tirelessly on behalf of our students and school during their terms in office: Adam Merrick (Council President), Angela Day, Leonie Cowey, Adrian Pilgrim and Heidi Jerram. Their leadership, loyalty, support and commitment are greatly appreciated.

As a learning-community, we're very proud of our extensive professional learning agenda and commitment to student engagement and wellbeing. That commitment will continue during the next few months with Monday, February 22nd set aside as a student-free day by the Ararat and district schools to work on the implementation of the "Whole School Positive Behaviours Framework". Highly recognized educator, Mr George Booker, will return to work with us on May 20th, extending our teachers' understandings of mathematics instruction and the stepping stones of maths learning. **Please note that February 22nd and May 20th have been approved as student-free by the DET and School Council.** Our School Councilors will be involved in their own training program on March 1st, focusing on Strategic Planning as

part of our 2016 school review process.

"Quality Beginnings" is the focus of our curriculum during the first few weeks of the year, with all classes establishing their mission statements, clarifying their standards and expectations and building strong, positive working and social relationships. A highlight of the program again this year will be our **"Quality Beginnings" balloon launch**, planned for Friday morning of next week, followed by our annual **"Welcome Back Games"**. We invite you to join us for this very special occasion, as our students share their mission statements with each other, and the world, and enjoy a fun morning of getting-to-know-you activities.

We also invite you to join us at the Ararat Fitness Centre on Thursday of next week for our **2016 "Let's Have a Go" Swimming Carnival**. All students in Years 3 to 6 will be involved in events and activities, and it's shaping up to be a great program. Please note that events will commence promptly at 9:40am - a copy of the schedule has been included overleaf. We're very keen for parent volunteers to assist us on the day. If you're available to lend a hand, please contact Adrian Pilgrim or leave a message at the office. We look forward to seeing you there!

Looking ahead, **3-Way Conferences** for Year Prep to 6 students and their families will be conducted over two days on March 8th and 9th. Please note that children are required to attend school as usual on these days, and will be withdrawn from their class to attend the conference with their teacher and parents. Conference bookings will be available using our on-line system, with further information distributed during the next few weeks.

Finally, ensuring the safety and well-being of all of our students at all times is central to our school's operations. Given this commitment, it is important to remind you that the Department of Education and Training, and Ararat Primary School, **do not provide personal accident insurance for students**. Parents and guardians are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transportation costs. In the event of the use of an ambulance, parents who do not hold a Pensioner Concession Card, Health Care Card or Health Benefits Card will be charged for that use if they are not members of an ambulance fund. We urge all parents and guardians who are not holders of one of the above-mentioned cards to join a fund. Ambulance services are very expensive, so please give this matter serious consideration. Reasonably low cost student accident insurance policies are available from commercial insurers. Student Insurance information is also available through our school office.

Kind regards,

Jennifer Molan

School values: Respect Honesty Self Awareness Learning Belonging

STUDENT FREE DAYS

Please note the following Student Free dates:

Monday, February 22nd - Whole School Positive Behaviours Framework PD

Friday, May 20th - Differentiating Number and Algebra PD

To be advised - Term 2 Report Writing Day



TERM DATES 2016

Term 1: 1st February - 24th March

Term 2: 11th April - 24th June

Term 3: 11th July - 16th September

Term 4: 3rd October - 20th December

Grade 3-6 'Let's Have-A-Go' Swimming Carnival



Thursday, February 18th at Ararat Fitness Centre

9:40 am - 2:30 pm



TIME	AGE	EVENT	EVENT	TIME	AGE	EVENT	EVENT
9:40	12/13 yr	50m Freestyle	25m Freestyle	11:40	8 Yr	50m Freestyle	25m Freestyle
9:50	11 yr	50m Freestyle	25m Freestyle	11:50	10 yr	50m Backstroke	25m Backstroke
10:00	12/13 yr	50m Backstroke	25m Backstroke	12:00	9 yr	50m Backstroke	25m Backstroke
10:10	11 yr	50m Backstroke	25m Backstroke	12:10	8 yr	50m Backstroke	25m Backstroke
10:20	11/12/13 yr	Kickboard race		12:20	8/9/10 yr	Kickboard race	
10:40	12/13 yr	50m Breaststroke	25m Breaststroke	12:40	10 yr	50m Breaststroke	25m Breaststroke
10:50	11 yr	50m Breaststroke	25m Breaststroke	12:50	9 yr	50m Breaststroke	25m Breaststroke
11:00	11/12/13 yr	25m Butterfly		1:00	8 yr	50m Breaststroke	20m Breaststroke
11:10	11/12/13 yr	Noodle race		1:10	8/9/10 yr	25m Butterfly	
11:20	10 yr	50m Freestyle	25m Freestyle	1:20	8/9/10 yr	Noodle race	
11:30	9 yr	50m Freestyle	25m Freestyle	1:30	All ages	Freestyle relays	



Ararat Primary School Council Elections 2016 Call for nominations



An election is to be conducted for members of the Ararat Primary School Council.

Our Council is made up of nine parent members, two co-opted community representatives and four Department of Education and Training (DET) representatives. Parent representatives on the School Council provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of our school. Parents who become active members of School Council find their involvement satisfying in itself, and often find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

The term of office for newly elected members is two years, ending on the day of the declaration of the poll in February of 2018. A proportion of the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for annual School Council elections.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school office from Monday, February 15th, and must be lodged by 4:00pm on Monday, February 22nd, 2016.

The ballot will close at 4:00pm on Monday, March 7th, 2016. Following the closing of nominations, a list of nominations received will be posted in the school's foyer.

The terms of office and number of positions in the Parent Category open for election are as follows:

Membership category	Term of office	Number of positions
Parent member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2016 to, and inclusive of, the date of the declaration of the poll in 2018.	2
DET member		3

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect, and calling for further nominations, will be posted on our website and Facebook page, through the school newsletter and in a prominent position in the school foyer.

If you are interested in standing for election but are not sure of the process, or require further information about the roles and responsibilities of School Council members, please arrange a time to meet with me, or speak to a current council member.

Jennifer Molan

Drum and Guitar Lessons at Ararat 800 Primary School

Students at Ararat 800 Primary School have the opportunity to receive drum or guitar lessons from Mark Gillett at Marian College.



For information, pricing and terms see Mark's website:

www.markgillett.com.au

You can call or text Mark on 0417 574 499 or email Mark at markgillett@exemail.com.au



Marigolds for ANZAC Day . . .

Thankyou to all of the helpers who planted 500 marigold plants last night. **Our garden beds look spectacular!**



Change to Canteen List . . .NO NOODLES!

Please note that Chicken Noodles (cup) will no longer be available on our canteen list.



Thursday 3rd March 2016

U13 Registration & Information Night

(5:00 – 6:00pm)

&

Association AGM

(6:30 – 7:00pm)

Where: Richardson Oval



Earn and Learn . . .

Our Earn and Learn order is on its way!



It's delivery time!



Our students last year were very busy collecting the Woolworths Earn and Learn stickers, collecting a total of 28,560 which filled 476 stickers, giving our SCR students plenty of work to collate.

Because of such a fantastic effort, the SRC have been able to place an order for the following items for the whole school to use: a first tools complete gardening set of 10, which the Earthlings will use for the Herb Caterpillar; a Polydron Giant Octoplay super set of 60 pieces, giant dominos, three different sets of glove puppets and a human skeleton with stand.



Earthlings . . .

Our Earthlings meetings have started again and it is great to see some familiar faces from last year, as well as some new ones. We held our first 'Nude Food Lunch' today and the Earthling members will be encouraging each classroom to have the smallest amount of rubbish within their lunchboxes each Thursday.



Last year, Buzzy Bee World was fortunate enough to borrow two incubators and watch the process of a chicken's development during our 'Where does it come from' Discoveries theme. The hens from this project have settled back into the school yard in their new home and it is great to see so many people stopping in to visit them. We would like to thank the McGrath family, once again, for their long running support, assistance and chook-sitting services!



We would also like to extend a big thank you to Rod, Turk and Tammy for their help building the chicken coop, as well as Bernie for her help watering the herbs and fruit trees during the summer holidays. We greatly appreciate all of your help!

We have plenty of mint, parsley and basil growing in our herb garden near the Learning Centre and encourage families to come and pick some if they need it.

- Ms Sharp, Mr Kean and Miss Sanford



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC LESSONS

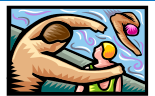
Available during school time on Tuesdays

All brass instruments, flute & violin

Contact Sandra Pope 0413 624 175



Grades 3-6 Swimming Program 2016



Thursday 4th February to Wednesday 17th February

Swimming Carnival is on Thursday 18th

Swimming roster: classes departing school at

3/4B - 9:00, 5/6D - 9:30, 3/4 C - 10:00

5/6C - 10:30, 3/4H - 11:00, 5/6K - 11:30

Happy Birthday to:

Feb 12th Maggie Croft

13th Lacey Farrington
Holly McAdie

16th Dakota Back

17th Xavier Wilson
Rishi Kalluri
Madison Ferguson
Summer Clarke



NICA FUNDRAISER

Icy poles will be available for purchase at lunch time \$1.00 per icy pole.

Funds raised will go towards bus transportation costs.



Ararat City Band

Development Program

Applications are now open for Term 1













Instruments Available:
Cornet, Tenor Horn, Trombone,
Baritone / Euphonium, Tuba & Percussion

Cost: \$50 per term (includes instrument hire)



Enquiries - Sandra Pope
0413 624 175

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
	 School Banking processed on Tuesdays	 SUNSMART POLICY Hats must be worn when outside during Term One	11th 3-6 Swimming 	12th LUNCH ORDERS NO NOODLES 3-6 Swimming  Sporting Schools #2
15th Assembly 3-6 Swimming 	16th 3-6 Swimming 	17th 3-6 Swimming 	18th SWIMMING CARNIVAL Gr 3-6 	19th LUNCH ORDERS Balloon Launch & Buddy Family "Welcome Games" from 9:00am
22nd STUDENT FREE DAY	23rd	24th	25th Rock 'n' Roll Dance Lesson #1	20th NICA- Melbourne 26th LUNCH ORDERS Sporting Schools #3
29th Preps commence full time SCHOOL CENSUS DAY	March 1st Black Ranges Swimming Carnival	2nd Assembly	3rd Rock 'n' Roll Dance Lesson #2	4th LUNCH ORDERS Sporting Schools #4 6th Willaura - Bamboozle

Price List for 2nd Hand Uniforms . . .

We now have set prices for our 2nd hand uniform pieces.

School Jumpers	\$5-00
Dresses	\$2-00
T'Shirts & Bottoms	\$1-00



All funds raised are used to support the circus program.

