



Principal's Report

Dear parents, students and friends of Ararat Primary School 800,

On behalf of our staff team, I welcome everyone back for the 2016 school year. Our start-up on Monday was a very positive experience, and it was a great pleasure being greeted by smiling faces and sense of enthusiasm and optimism in students, staff and parents.

We extend a particular welcome to our new Prep students and their families, and look forward to establishing strong, productive home-school partnerships. **Our Preps will attend school four days per week for the first four weeks of the school year – Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays – commencing full time during the week beginning February 29th.** We also welcome to Ararat Primary School a number of new students and their families, who have joined us across all grade levels. We hope your transition into our wonderful school is smooth and natural. As Transition is a high priority for us, we will be asking families to complete a transition survey later this term, to give us feedback regarding our program's effectiveness.

We commence the 2016 school year with twelve classes, as planned at the end of last year, along with a range of specialist programs, continuing the tradition of providing the students of Ararat Primary with the very best of learning opportunities.

We're very pleased to welcome two **new staff members** to our team for 2016 – Miss Maddy Vernon and Mr Owen Kean.

Our class structure and teachers are as follows:

Prep S and D	Katie Sanford and Tammy Dadswell
Grade 1-2 TB	Cathy Tapscott and Natalie Beer
Grade 1-2 V	Maddy Vernon
Grade 1-2 K	Owen Kean
Grade 1-2 FJ	Bernie Fitzpatrick and Heidi Jerram
Grade 3-4 C	Anita Carey
Grade 3-4 H	Travis Hewish
Grade 3-4 B	Darren Beer
Grade 5-6 K	Nicole Kelly and Adrian Pilgrim (Assistant Principal)
Grade 5-6 D	Di Coles
Grade 5-6 C	David Collins
Visual Arts	Leah Sharp
Circus	Chris Fiscalini
Chinese	Heidi Jerram

We're also joined by our outstanding Education Support team members: Marg Dyer, Jenni Jacobi, Carol Turner, Karen Walker, Melissa Hope, Kate Battye, Tammy Ralph, Zac Louder, Kate Harwood and Lisa Hannett.

Ararat Primary School runs an exceptional range of special activities for its students during the course of the school year. The Senior Swimming Program commenced today, and will conclude on February 17th. Please note that the 2016 **Ararat Primary School Swimming Sports will be conducted at the Ararat outdoor pool (hopefully)** on Thursday, February 18th. If pool refurbishments are not finished, we'll relocate to the heated pool. Our 2016 Athletics Sports are scheduled for Monday, March 21st at the Alexandra Oval.

Students in Years 4, 5 and 6 will be able to lease a netbook computer again this year, with details of the agreement sent home earlier this week. We're planning to conduct information sessions for families who intend to lease netbooks in 2016 next Monday afternoon at 5:30pm and Tuesday morning at 9:00am. Attendance at one of the sessions is a requirement of the leasing program. We ask parents of our Year 4 to 6 students to nominate their preferred information session so that arrangements can be finalised.

Students in Years 5 and 6 have also been invited by the **Jailhouse Rock Festival** committee to participate in free after-school rock and roll dance lessons again this year, commencing on Thursday, February 25th. The four sessions will be conducted by local dance instructors, with 'graduating' students set to perform at the festival on Saturday, March 19th. Lessons will take place in our Learning Centre from 3:45 to 4:45pm on February 25th, and March 3rd, 10th and 17th. Permission notes to participate in the program have been distributed today.

Next Monday's morning assembly will be a very special occasion, as our School Captains, Vice Captains and House Captains are presented with their badges of office for 2016. We invite all families and friends to join us at 9:00am.

Preparations for **Ararat's 2016 ANZAC Day floral tribute** will commence at 7:00pm next Wednesday evening, with our team of enthusiastic volunteers planting out our playground garden beds with marigolds. Thank you to our gardening and watering teams, and to Jenni Jacobi and staff from Hopkins Correctional Centre for their coordination of this remarkable community program.

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

Please note that lunch orders will commence tomorrow, with the support of Baker's Brew in Barkly Street. All orders need to be placed in class bags by 9:00am on Thursday mornings, please, and any late orders dropped directly into the shop.

Our 2016 Sporting Schools program will also commence tomorrow, with students in Years Prep, 1 and 2 participating in soccer coaching sessions, conducted by Tameeka Kelly from SEDA. All classes will participate in soccer sessions across the course of first term.

Special thanks to Miss Sanford, Turk, Miss Sharp, Tammy Ralph, Rod Davis, the McGrath family, and their team of helpers for their fantastic work on our new chook shed. If all goes to plan, our 'ladies' (hatched by our Year 1-2 classes last year) will return to roost in their luxurious accommodation next week.

Looking forward into the term, please note that **Monday, February 22nd is a student-free day** at Ararat Primary School. Our staff team will be involved in a Whole School Positive Behaviours training program with other Ararat and district schools.

Finally, we're all very much looking forward to another exciting and productive year at Ararat Primary School, as we support our students to be the best that they can be! As always, please feel free to contact me if you have school-related concerns or issues that you wish to discuss.

Kind regards,

Jennifer Molan

Hoax phone calls to Victorian schools

Dear parents and guardians,

An update in light of the recent hoax threatening phone calls to Victorian schools in the last few days— Ararat Primary School has not received such a call but I wanted to inform you that, like all schools, we have an emergency management plan in place for situations like this, and we practise it throughout the year.

Those schools which did receive a threatening call enacted their emergency management plans and they worked well.

The safety and wellbeing of our students is always our top priority.

If you have any questions please contact me.

Kind Regards,

Jennifer Molan

Prep 2016's first day . . .



LEARNING PIANO - 2016

On Friday last, a very attentive audience of mums and dads and students listened to an Introductory session about the Simply Music piano method at the school. Unmani the presenter, would like to thank the group for their interest.

This is always the first step if there is interest in learning piano, as the method is non-traditional. Checking out www.simplymusicpiano.com is also another way to start understanding it.

Unmani, who proposes to teach Simply Music piano and is also offering introductory violin, accordion and singing at the school in 2016, mentioned she will need at least 12 students to begin working, Friday being the day available in her schedule. The first lesson is proposed for Friday 26th February. Feb 19th is the deadline for student commitment.

If you were unable to make the session and are still interested in booking a time, please contact Unmani by email to make other arrangements for the introductory session and to meet her. Please include your best phone number in the email.

0408103194

unmani52@gmail.com



Meet our new Teachers . . .

How lucky are we to have two new, enthusiastic teachers in the Year One/Two area!

Maddy Vernon and Owen Kean have started the year working really hard to have their classrooms ready and welcoming for their students. They really loved meeting their students last week for the assessment interviews. It gave them a great chance to meet the children and their families.

Maddy is known by many of the children through her dance classes and swimming lessons. Owen, Mr Kean, spent many weeks in 1/2C last year and was involved in many activities throughout fourth term. We are really looking forward to sharing their ideas, skills and love of learning with all of us.

A few secrets – Maddy loves to get dressed up for the races, but often loses her keys. Owen loves to play soccer and can cook a great stir fry.



Marigolds for ANZAC Day . . .

We are looking for volunteers to help with the planting of our marigolds for the ANZAC Day floral tributes. We are being supplied with over 1000 plants, so many hands will make light work.



When: Wednesday, February 10th, 2016

Time: 7pm

Where: Garden beds outside Prep windows (Rundell Street side)

What to bring: Small spade and gloves, if preferred.



All Welcome



School Captains for 2016 . . .

Congratulations to our newly appointed School Captains, Vice Captains and House Captains, who have taken up their leadership responsibilities this week. The team will be formally presented with their badges of office during next Monday's assembly.

School Captains: Olivia McGrath and James Mullin

Vice Captains: Holly McAdie and Flynn Toner



House Captains: Elly Galoso and Bailee Turner (Mitchell - Red)

Amelia Greene and Walter Pope (Flinders - Blue)

Jessica Hope and Cameron Bond (Sturt - Green)

Lucy Harwood and Thomas Bartlett (Henty - Gold)

NICA FUNDRAISER

Icy poles will be available for purchase at recesses starting on Monday February 8th \$1.00 per icy pole.

Funds raised will go towards bus transportation costs.



Dental Van is coming . . .



The East Grampians Health Service's Dental Van will be operating at our school from Wednesday April 20th, 2016.

Appointments will be organised by the East Grampians staff for children, and you will be notified closer to the van's arrival.

Happy Birthday to the following students:

Feb 1st	Jack Bartlett	4th	Gretta Fennell
	Stella Wheeler	6th	Tori Ralph
	Sam Hanson	9th	Tyler Woolley
3rd	Clare Clarke		Tylah Moana



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

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	4th 3-6 Swimming 	5th LUNCH ORDERS 3-6 Swimming Sporting Schools #1
8th Assembly 3-6 Swimming 	9th 3-6 Swimming School Council	10th 3-6 Swimming 	11th 3-6 Swimming 	12th LUNCH ORDERS 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"
22nd STUDENT FREE DAY	23rd	24th	25th	20th NICA- Melbourne 26th LUNCH ORDERS SCHOOL CENSUS DAY Sporting Schools #3

Thank you for donated uniforms . . .

A big thank you to all the families who have donated uniforms they no longer required to our school. It is greatly appreciated. These items are now on sale - at affordable prices, and all proceeds are allocated to our Circus Program for extra equipment and repairs.