

The Torch



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Principal's Report

Dear families and friends of Ararat 800,

Our incredibly busy term is almost at an end. On behalf of our staff team, thank you for your continuing enthusiasm, loyalty and commitment to our school – your support is greatly appreciated.

Our students **really** appreciated last Wednesday's [School Wide Positive Behaviours games afternoon celebration](#), and strongly suggested that we do it again. Thank you to family members and friends who joined us for the event, which recognised students' respectful behaviours.

Last Friday night's [Disco](#) was a roaring success, with a brilliant time had by all. Thank you to our School Councillors, staff team and parent volunteers, who made sure the evening ran smoothly, and congratulations to our students who were beautifully behaved. Special thanks to Brendan and the team from Central Grampians LLEN, and Jamie the DJ, who kept everyone up and dancing. Monies raised from the event have been put towards the purchase of new shelving in our Library, which we hope will have arrived by the start of next term.

Exhibitions, [showcases](#) and [expos](#) have been the order of the day during the past week, with all classes presenting their Discoveries and Investigations work to peers, families and friends. Well done to all of our students, and thank you to our amazing staff team on pulling it all together.

During the past few weeks, all staff have been heavily involved in assessment and reporting processes, which have involved countless hours outside their normal working week. I commend our staff on their commitment and dedication to providing constructive, accurate, individualised and reader-friendly mid-year reports to parents and guardians. Overall, our results this semester have been very pleasing, with students making significant progress and many achieving above the expected standard in Literacy and Numeracy. I congratulate all of our students on their learning leadership, and sincerely thank the members of our staff team for their commitment to the achievement of excellence for all.

Those reports have been distributed this afternoon. [Three-Way Conferences will be conducted in Week 8 of Term 3, commencing Monday, August 29th](#). Information regarding conferences, using our on-line booking system, will be distributed early next term.

As flagged last year, our mid-year reports look a little different to those of previous years. They continue to give your child a rating against expected nation-wide AusVELS standards, and record individual growth since 2015 in each of the learning areas. The first page also provides information about your child's work-habits, with Class Behaviour, Playground Behaviour and Growth Mindset new additions this year.

What is the notion of 'Growth Mindset' all about?

People with a Growth Mindset believe that their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work – brains and talent are just the starting point. This attitude creates a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for great accomplishment. Students who demonstrate a Growth Mindset (the vast majority of Ararat Primary's students) are enthusiastic, hard-working, persistent learners. They take charge of their own success, and recognise that making mistakes is an essential part of the learning process. It's quite common for me to hear comments from children along the lines, "Mistakes are good, because you learn from them", and "This is really stretching my brain!"



As parents, you can nurture a Growth Mindset in your child, just as our teachers do, by praising them for their persistence and strategies (rather than for their intelligence or talent), by telling success stories that emphasize hard work and love of learning, and by teaching them about the brain as a 'learning machine' that never gives up, loves being stretched, and recognizes and makes the most of every learning opportunity. Together, we can teach our children the joy of learning by expressing positive views of challenges, effort and mistakes.

The alternative mindset is termed "Fixed", and brings with it the following attitudes and behaviours: I'm either good at it, or I'm not. When I'm frustrated, I give up. I don't like to be challenged. When I fail, I'm no good. Tell me I'm smart. If you succeed, I feel threatened. My abilities determine everything. We work very hard at our school to discourage "Fixed Mindsets"!

Looking forward to next term, our first [Parent Information Session](#) for

School Values: [Respect](#) [Honesty](#) [Self Awareness](#) [Learning](#) [Belonging](#)



Dates to remember in Term 2

Friday 24th June

End of term assembly 12:00 noon

Monday 11th July

Term 3 commences

TERM DATES 2016

Term 2: 11th April - 24th June

Term 3: 11th July - 16th September

Term 4: 3rd October - 20th December

2017 Preps will be conducted from 5:30pm on Wednesday, July 20th. **Please note that 2017 enrolments are currently being accepted.** We'll also celebrate Children's Book Week and National Literacy and Numeracy Week, and our Grade 5 and 6 students will take to the stage on September 1st and 2nd for their 2016 School Production – "Danger Kids".

School will dismiss at 1:30pm tomorrow, following our end of term assembly, which is due to commence at 12:00 midday in the Learning Centre. We look forward to seeing you there. Highlights of the assembly will include the presentation of end of term awards, performances by our Junior and Senior Choirs, and instrumental students, and the drawing of our "Community Conversations" prize – a family pass to the Halls Gap Zoo. We'll also take a moment

to wish Mrs Kelly all the best, as she commences family leave, pending the arrival of her beautiful baby girl—we hope it all goes smoothly. Country bus travellers, who are unable to make other arrangements, will remain at school, under supervision, until 2:20pm.

Congratulations to Tammie Meehan on her official appointment as Principal of Willaura PS. We have organised for Tammie to join us for our Mid-term 3 assembly, so that we can collectively say, "Thank you!".

Finally, I hope your winter break is both safe and enjoyable, and look forward to catching up with you on July 11th.

Kind regards,

Jennifer Molan

Specialists' Report . . .



As we arrive at the end of Term Two, the Specialist Team would like to thank all our students and parents for their support of our Art, Chinese and Circus programs this semester. Thank you, once again, to the parents, grandparents and friends who sewed our body panels this term. Miss Sharp and Mrs Jerram will be purchasing material to cut out the side scales of our dragon body, during the term break.

Students have enjoyed learning about the Impressionist painters, developing their Circus performance skills and learning Chinese greetings and phrases to use in conversations.



Students have also been busy this term setting new learning goals for Semester 2. The Specialist team hopes that all our students have a great holiday, and we look forward to seeing everyone happy and healthy in Term 3.

Mrs Jerram, Ms Fiscalini and Miss Sharp



Prep World Expo - Visit to Gorrin House . . .

Yesterday we had our last visit to Gorrin House and our Discoveries Expo. Everyone had a great morning together and we would like to say a big thank you to all of the families who were able to come along. Each member of Prep World has really enjoyed visiting our buddies each week and spending some special time with them. Some quotes from our Prep's are...

"We like going to the retirement village because the people are nice".

"We like looking at the older people's faces because they are different to ours".

"We like our buddies hands because they are soft and warm".

"We like reading to our buddies at the retirement village".

"We like everything about the retirement village".



Buzzy Bees Expo - 'Where in the World?'. . .



Term 2 Winter Disco



Winter School Holiday Program

Halls Gap Zoo

Tuesday 28th June 11.00am-12.00pm

The amazing Halls Gap Zoo will be here to educate you about Australia's wildlife. Don't forget your camera! No bookings needed.

Earl Leonard – Music for Kids

Wednesday 29th June 11.00am-12.00pm

Earl plays a mix of traditional and original songs and gets everyone dancing and creating new songs as they go. High energy and highly creative, that's music for kids. Bookings required.

Learn to Knit

Friday 1st July and 8th July 11.00am 12.30pm

On 2 Friday's Gwenda Davies will be at the library from 11.00am to 12.00pm to teach a variety of knitting techniques. An opportunity to learn knitting using needles, French knitting or finger knitting. Suitable for anyone! Crochet available too. You will take home something you have created on the morning.

Celebrate NAIDOC

Tuesday 5th July 11.00am-12.00pm

Join us for this family event with Bill Speedy who will be teaching dancing, painting and stories from the dreamtime and more... A great family event, all welcome and no bookings needed.

Storytelling with Alli

Wed 6th July 11.00am-12.00pm

Storytelling can introduce new vocabulary, enhance listening skills and conjure the imagination to visualise. Join us for a fun interactive story telling session with Alli with a winter theme. Suitable for up to middle primary years. **Bookings essential.**

All activities are free. Contact Ararat Library for more information on PH: (03) 53521722 or email

'The problem is we've become so dependent on fossil fuels we have forgotten how to warm ourselves with wool'



SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT ARTS MOVEMENT INC.

Calling all Knitters!

WARM is a 'SEAM Inc' community textile art project resulting in the creation of a collaborative, large-scale, knitted artwork.

Join us and be part of this cozy project!

FREE 'WARM' Knitting Workshops

At: Ararat Regional Art Gallery
On: Tuesday, 5 July 2016
From: 10.30 - 12.30 (for children aged 8 to 16)
 1.30 - 3.30 (for all ages)
Inquiries: 5352 2836 / galleries@ararat.vic.gov.au

The artwork will portray a future where we no longer rely on coal, and the landscape once damaged by coal mining, is regenerated.

- Workshops are open to knitters of all skill levels.
- Participants will be provided with; Knitting patterns, Needles and Wool, to produce individual pieces of the artwork.
- The final artwork will be assembled for a public outcome at Art Gallery of Ballarat in Spring 2016.

For further information and access to patterns visit www.seam.org.au/warm

Student Family Occupation Reminder . . .

Families received a letter recently, requesting parents to update and confirm school information in relation to Student Family Occupation and Education (SFOE). This data is very important, as it determines the level of funding we receive to run school programs.



Thank you to all families who have returned their form already.

If you have not returned your form, please do so by **Tomorrow, Friday 24th June**.



24th	Charlie Bartlett	5th	Chloe Bond
25th	Tyson Shill	8th	Amber Bligh
27th	Alby O'Neill		
28th	Gio McKinnis		
29th	Jordan Jantzen Thomas Bartlett Arianna Bajer		
June 19th	Walter Pope	July 1st	Xavier Murphy
22nd	Matthew Fisher	2nd	Auston Boyd



MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
	 School Banking processed on Tuesdays	 No Excuses Go to School <i>Learn, play, explore.</i>	23rd Breakfast Club 8:30 - 8:50am Flinders College Band performance 9:30am Gr 3-4 Expo at the Learning Centre (12:30, 1:00, and 2:15pm) Production rehearsal - Scene 8 & 9 3:30pm to 5pm	24th NO LUNCH ORDERS End of Term assembly 12:00 noon Students to be dismissed at 1:30pm. (Bus travellers will remain at school until bus departures at 2:20pm)

School Holidays Term 3 commences Monday July 11th, 2016

July 11th Assembly	12th Breakfast Club 8:30 - 8:50am	13th	14th Breakfast Club 8:30 - 8:50am Production rehearsal	15th LUNCH ORDERS
18th Assembly	19th	20th Prep 2017 Information session 5:30pm in Prep World	22nd Production rehearsal	23rd LUNCH ORDERS

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: