

## Principal's Report

Dear parents and friends of Ararat Primary School 800,

Last Friday saw the arrival of our 2017 Preps for their first formal transition session – and a wonderful time was had by all. I congratulate our new students on their courage and enthusiasm, and extend sincere thanks to our current Year 4 students for their commitment and leadership as buddies.

While our 2017 Preps were settling into their new learning spaces, our Year 1 to 5 students also transitioned into their new class areas, spending the afternoon engaged in a wide range of numeracy and 'getting-know-you' activities. **Please note that 2017 class groupings are not set at the moment.** Our Friday afternoon whole-school transition events allow us to see different mixes of children – keeping in mind that we're striving to achieve the 'best fit' for everyone. Our transition program will continue this and next Friday afternoons, culminating in the state-wide transition day on December 6<sup>th</sup>. The final session will include an information session for the parents of our new Preps, so please set aside the morning to join us from 9:45am in the Learning Centre.

Ararat Primary School is very proud of the quality programs that we put in place to cater for the needs and interests of our students. On an annual basis, School Council prepares a budget to provide resources for educational programs, administration, facilities development and maintenance. Our income is funded from two sources:

- **Department of Education and Training (DET) Student Resource Package (SRP)** to pay for school administration, utilities and services, staff salaries, urgent works, maintenance, cleaning and general school operations
- **Payments and contributions provided by our parent community, which are essential components of funding.**

We are conscious that the current economic climate is creating financial challenges for families, so we are pleased to inform you that our fees for 2017 will not increase. The payments proposed are the minimum amount considered essential to enable School Council to continue providing the high quality standards that we have come to expect at Ararat Primary School.

As mentioned in previous newsletters, parents will be responsible for covering the full cost of essential materials, swimming programs, uniforms and camps and excursions in 2017, but eligible families will again be able to access the government's Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund. To do so, you need to hold a

current Health Care Card.

Following is a break-down of our start-up fees for 2017, so that you're able to begin budgeting. If you have any questions regarding arrangements, please feel free to contact me.

### ESSENTIAL MATERIALS

'Essential Materials' are those used in the course of instruction in curriculum programs – classrooms and specialists. These items include student stationery, text books, readers, class sets, consumable materials on-line program subscriptions, and equipment for learning and teaching.

**SWIMMING** (approximately \$70, but the final cost is yet to be confirmed)

**SPECIAL PERFORMANCES** – such as the "Loose Ends" show.

### Additional School Charges

2017 FEE SUMMARY	COST
ESSENTIAL EDUCATIONAL ITEMS LEVY (per child)	<b>\$120.00</b>
SPECIAL PERFORMANCES (per child)	<b>\$15.00</b>
TOTAL ESSENTIAL ITEMS	<b>\$135.00</b>
SWIMMING PROGRAM (Cost is approximate at this stage)	<b>\$70.00</b>
TOTAL FEES FOR 2017	<b>\$205.00</b>

Some additional school charges will arise during the year.

For example:

- School Photographs (Years Prep-6 and scheduled for Tuesday 2nd May 2017)
- Interschool Sports and Athletics (Years 4-6)
- Grade 1 Late Night and Grade 2 Sleepover (Term 4)
- Grade 3-4 Cave Hill Creek camp (Term 3)
- Grade 5 and 6 camps (Term 4)
- Netbook Leasing Program (Year 6)
- NICA Workshops (one per term).

Fees can be paid by Cash, Cheque, Eftpos, Credit Card, Direct Debit (forms available from the office) or BPay (your family reference number will appear on your Statement of Fees).

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

### Dates to remember for Term 4

Friday 25th Nov	2017 Prep Transition day #2	2:20pm to 3:20pm
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



Ararat Primary will offer the following payment options in 2017:

- **Full Payment** - by Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017
- OR**
- **Instalments** – affordable instalments on a weekly or fortnightly basis. First instalment due by Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

**Regular weekly, fortnightly or monthly instalments are encouraged.** You can schedule regular payments via Direct Debit or BPay, or you can send your payments directly to the office.

**PLEASE NOTE – THESE FEES ARE NOT DUE AND PAYABLE UNTIL 2017.** A package of administrative documents, including the Statement of Fees, will be provided to you on book-pack collection days – January 31<sup>st</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

Excitement is starting to build in the lead up to our end of year Christmas picnic and 'concert', scheduled for Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00pm on the 'little oval' adjacent to the Learning Centre. We hope you're able to join us for this fun, informal event.

Finally, our end of year assembly will be conducted from 2:15pm on Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, and reports will be distributed on this day. The school year does not officially end until the following Tuesday at 1:30pm, but we are keen to ensure maximum attendance at our final whole-school event.

Kind regards,

Jennifer Molan

## Buzzy Bees Visit the Melbourne Zoo

Last Thursday, all of the Grade 1-2s went to the Melbourne Zoo, because we have been researching about animals for Discoveries. We had to come to school very early to catch the buses. It took a long time, but we eventually made it to the zoo.

At the zoo, we had morning tea and then went into small groups. Some groups went together. We all wandered around the zoo, going where-ever we liked.

They are fixing the big cat enclosures, so we didn't get to see any leopards or panthers, but we did see the lions.

Because it was so warm, lots of the animals were asleep, and were very tricky to see in their enclosures. In the butterfly house, a lot of us had butterflies land on us. The butterflies were beautiful, but their house was very hot!

We saw the elephants swimming, and some people got to see them breaking up pieces of wood to eat. Some of the animals we saw were giraffes, zebras, seals, tapirs, wombats, red pandas and lemurs.

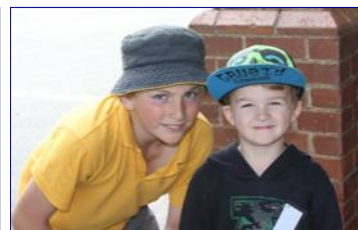
Thank you to all of the parents and grandparents who came with us and helped to make our day so great. Special thanks to Mrs Tapscott, Miss Vernon, Mr Kean, Bernie, Mrs Jerram, Kate and Marg for organising our day at the Melbourne Zoo!

Pheobe and William of 1-2T





## 2017 Prep Transition day #1 . . .



## Specialists' Report . . .



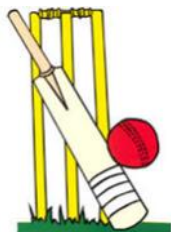
During the first couple of weeks of November, I travelled to New Zealand to participate in a special sketching and painting tour with the artist, Daniel Reeve. It was a very busy, exciting, exhausting, amazing experience that helped me to develop and extend my skills in the areas of watercolour, calligraphy, sketching and soft pastel (among other things). I am now hoping to bring these skills and tips back to our students at 800 PS.

*Miss Sharp*



**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'.

**Would you like to play Under 13's Cricket?**

Chalambar Cricket Club - Under 13's side is looking for more players.

If you are interested please contact:

Tim Colley on 0478 094 690

Gary Cunningham on 0407 059 873

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

November	25th	Lachie Cranstoun
	27th	Levi Wilson
	30th	Eboni Charter

**Kids Learn to Sail with Tackers**

The Boatshed is coming to **STAWELL** during the upcoming Summer holidays to provide kids the opportunity to learn to sail in our Australian Sailing accredited Tackers program.

**Adult & Teenage courses are also available!**

**When**  
24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> January 2017  
8:30am – 1:00pm

**Where**  
Stawell Yacht Club (Lake Fyans)  
Mokepilly Rd, Pomonal

**Contact us now!**  
Adam Gristwood  
03 9686 2571 [info@theboatshed.net.au](mailto:info@theboatshed.net.au)  
[www.theboatshed.net.au](http://www.theboatshed.net.au)

**TACKERS**

Opti.com

YACHTING AUSTRALIA

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
<p>28th <b>Assembly</b></p> <p>Coding 3:20pm – 4:30pm</p>	<p><b>School Banking is processed on Tuesdays</b></p> <p>29th</p> <p>Breakfast Club 8:30 - 8:50am</p>	<p>Students must wear a hat in Term 4.</p> <p>We are a SunSmart school</p> <p>30th</p> <p>Year 3 - 4 "Read With Me"</p>	<p>24th</p> <p>Breakfast Club 8:30 - 8:50am</p> <p>December 1st</p> <p>Breakfast Club 8:30 - 8:50am</p>	<p>25th <b>LUNCH ORDERS</b></p> <p>2017 Preps and school-wide Transition #2</p> <p>2nd <b>LUNCH ORDERS</b></p> <p>2017 Preps and school-wide Transition #3</p>
<p>5th <b>Assembly</b></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</p>	<p>7th</p> <p>Year 3 - 4 Community Games</p> <p>Year 1 - 2 Expo</p> <p><b>School Council</b></p>	<p>8th</p> <p>Breakfast Club (final for 2016) 8:30 - 8:50am</p> <p>Year 5 - 6 Exhibition</p>	<p>9th <b>LUNCH ORDERS</b></p>
<p>12th</p> <p><b>Prep Expo</b></p> <p>Coding 3:20pm - 4:30pm</p>	<p>13th</p> <p><b>Prep Picnic</b></p>	<p>14th</p> <p>Grade 6 Graduation @ Alexandra Oval</p>	<p>15th</p> <p><b>Family Picnic and Carols from 6:00pm</b></p>	<p>16th <b>LUNCH ORDERS</b></p> <p><b>End of term assembly 2:15pm</b></p> <p>School Reports Distributed to Students</p>

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:

[www.araratps.vic.edu.au](http://www.araratps.vic.edu.au)