**NEWSLETTER**

**Thursday 21st May 2015**

**Principal’s Comments**

We hope everyone has enjoyed the pictures and stories about our school in the paper throughout the last couple of weeks. Lots of lovely photos and information shared with the broader community.

On Wednesday the year five and six students attended the first of their orientation visits to Ararat Secondary College. Students visited the music, science, cooking and library areas. Throughout the session students were given a chance to explore what happens in the various places and spaces. All students were wonderful ambassadors for our school and are to be congratulated on their behaviour. Today a leadership team of eight attended the cyber safety workshop at the secondary school. We look forward to their input throughout the next few weeks.

We hope all students and families have enjoyed the activities run throughout this week – education week. Students cooked on Wednesday for our breakfast today and our Junior School Council will be busy tomorrow with their sav and soup and their hair and makeup activities. The kinder students visited learning area one on Wednesday and spent time with students. It was great to see younger brothers and sisters from the kinder in the classroom. Very exciting for everyone!

Have a wonderful week

Judy Hilbig

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**WALK TO SCHOOL SAFELY DAY TOMORROW**

Tomorrow is walk to school safely day. If you are walking make sure you find Mr Johnson when you arrive and collect your sticker!
LUNCH ORDERS – Please note tomorrow is our Junior School Council soup and sav day – please support them if you are wanting a lunch order.

Lunch orders are available on Wednesday and Friday. Please help us by writing orders on an envelope and sending the correct money. Please remember if children are having a lunch order they still need a morning snack from home.

WANTED
Soft drink cans – we still need more!

CHAPLAIN’S CHAT  13/05/2015

I’ve enjoyed chatting with more and more parents as I meet you around the school. It’s become apparent that many people are a little confused as to why I’m here at the school at all and just what I do, so I thought I’d take a moment to introduce myself in a little more detail. Firstly let me say what I am NOT. I am not an employee of Ararat North Primary School or of the education department. The school is kind enough to invite me in as a guest and to provide office space for me, but I am placed here by a non-government agency. Secondly I am not here as a “religious person”, who is trying to preach to you or your children.

So what do I do? My role is to help look after the wellbeing of your children who are students at this school. This might include being a listening ear, helping to sort out disputes, running programmes and small groups, or simply being a friend to a child who is having a tough day. I also act in a role to support the fabulous work that the teaching staff are doing. This might involve being an extra pair of hands at busy times, occasionally providing resources, or simply being there to listen and encourage. (Teachers have tough days too!) And finally, but just as importantly, I am here to provide help and support, to you the parents and carers. If you need someone to talk to confidentially, to ask questions about your child, or to seek support in the challenging role of child raising, then I may be someone who can help.

What training do I have? I think that’s a really important question to ask of anyone who is dealing with your child. I’m not just a do-gooder with kind intentions. I hold a degree in psychology which I practised for 16 years, before returning to university to do a second degree, and eventually a Masters in counselling. In total I have been in practice for 34 years, and when I’m not at the school, I still run my own private counselling practice here in Ararat. This isn’t about bragging: I really hope you will see me as a resource for you and your children.

If you haven’t had the chance to chat with me yet, please make the opportunity to come and say hello when you see me at school. And if you are attending the parent support night on the 30th, at the town hall, I will be the person at the stall selling the delicious cakes and pastries. Hope to see you soon.

Your chaplain, Alli.
You're Invited...

A COMMUNITY PARENT SUPPORT NIGHT

Topic: Being a better Parent, Role Model or Mentor to our next generation.
Light Entertainment & Supper is provided. We will also be giving a Thank-you to local volunteers, mentors & quiet achievers. Q & A evening where you can ask your questions via SMS.

Are you a parent who wants to grow and learn more about being a better parent in this challenging world?
Are you a parent, a worker, a people manager, in the services industry, caring for the community in some way through practical help or nurture?
Are you concerned about the negative impacts on family values, role models and mentors for the next generation?
Then come along and hear some inspiring stories, help and tips from a range of challenging speakers.

Entertainment by...

Dave & the Plushies!

Time: 7-10pm, Saturday 30th May, 2015
Venue: Ararat Performing Arts Centre Auditorium - Town Hall

Cost: Free Entry - An opportunity to give a monetary gift will be encouraged at supper time to cover our costs & support local community needs, including School Chaplaincy & the Red Shield Appeal.

Local Event Supporters
- Ararat Combined Churches
- Ararat Police
- Ararat Rural City Council
- Ararat Salvation Army Corps
- Local Chaplains & Principals

Interactive presentations & Q&A opportunities with:
- Leading Senior Constable - David Cossill & Chief Detective Sergeant - Guy Merchant
- Sports Chaplain - Jeff Heady
- Parent, Grandfather & Chaplain to Sebastopol Football Club
- Ararat College Chaplain - Tim Sevrens

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