Principal’s Comments

Following the work last year and earlier this year we now have our school strategic plan completed and ratified by the Department of Education and Training. The plan sets out the focus for the school for the next four years. As part of developing the plan, the community was invited to participate in an evening forum to determine the values for our school. The three following values were identified - Resilience Respect and Responsibility.

At school we work to help students understand what values are, why they are important and what they look like. Helping your child at home understand these values will support what we do at school.

A small group of learning area three girls joined with Moyston this week to play netball. It was wonderful to have the principal of Moyston ring our school and inform staff how wonderful they had been and what great ambassadors they were for Ararat North Primary School. We have discussed with our senior students how important this is as these new opportunities will pave the way for future student activities outside the school environment.

A very big thank you must go to the Junior School Council for the magnificent work they did organising and running our special day last Friday. Everyone involved enjoyed a yummy lunch and having their hair and makeup done. Thank you to Michelle and Quinny for supporting our Junior School Council.

Please note – Monday is a pupil free day, all staff will be busy working on student reports.

Have a wonderful week
Judy Hilbig

The camp excursion notes that were sent home earlier this week and are attached to this newsletter are due back now. Health care cards/pensioner cards must be sighted when they are returned. If parents do not return these forms ASAP, you will miss out.
CHAPLAIN’S CHAT: PRACTICAL PARENTING

I was grateful to have an older sister who had gone through the parenting stages before I did. She was a great resource, but there was one major difference between us; she and her husband were well off, while we had very little money. She could buy her children all the latest toys and clothes but we couldn’t. We decided however that we were not going to allow our children to grow up thinking that they were hard done by, or that somehow the world owed them.

One of the common challenges of parenting today is dealing with the fact that we can’t meet all our children’s demands and expectations. The first thing to ask ourselves is “Should we try to?” My feeling is that we shouldn’t. Life won’t and part of our role as parents is to prepare our children to handle life. So how should we respond? These are my best tips.

1. Let your children know that you understand their disappointment when they can’t get something they want. Explain that that’s how the world treats everyone - including you. Discuss the fact that the thing they can control is how they handle their disappointment.
2. Be a role model. If our children hear us constantly complaining about what we don’t have, or how unfair life is, then that is the pattern they will copy. Similarly, if we regularly express gratitude for what we do have, then they are more likely to learn that too.
3. Don’t react with anger or name calling such as “selfish” or “greedy”. After all, they are just being kids, and their nature is designed to be self-focused at this stage.
4. Discuss reasonable alternatives. “We can’t do that, but we could do this instead.”
5. Help your children plan how they could work/save towards what they are wanting. The answer doesn’t always have to be “No”, it can just be “not yet”.

Don’t forget that if you ever want to chat about parenting (or any other issues) then you can always contact me. Just a reminder about the community “Parent Support Night” this coming Saturday (May 30th) at 7 pm at the town hall. It’s designed to help you help your kids.

Your chaplain,

Alli

A SHORT REMINDER THAT SCHOOL FEES ARE NOW DUE AND ARE REQUIRED TO BE PAID.