The third of our values is **responsibility**. Responsibility is about making good decisions. It means doing what needs to be done to take care of yourself, your family, your friends and the community. It means that you can rely on others and that others can rely on you. It means that you follow through on your promises. Students need to learn that acting responsibly might mean doing something difficult. It might mean you have to say ‘no’ to something.

- Person responsibility – I do the right thing.
- Shared responsibility – I encourage others to do the right thing.

Please help us by talking to your child/ren about our values – **RESILIENCE, RESPECT AND RESPONSIBILITY**.

Students in Learning Area 1 and 3 enjoyed a special celebration last week for National Buddy Day. Having an older buddy at school is very important to our younger students (and to our older students!). A buddy is someone that is looking out for you and can help you during the day. It is someone to spend time with and it is someone who listens to you. Our senior buddies take their role very seriously.

While Learning Areas 1 and 3 were busy with their buddy program, Learning Area 2 was out and about exploring Ararat. As part of their history unit they spent the day visiting important sites around the town learning about the history and events important to Ararat.

Australian football has been the lunchtime sport available to students throughout the second half of this term. Thank you to Mr Johnson for organising these activities each Wednesday, Thursday and Friday – especially when it is cold but great to be outside getting some fresh air!

Please note even though Learning Areas 2 and 3 cook on Thursdays, each student still needs to bring their own lunch. The cooking program is not designed to provide a full lunch each week and sometimes it is about cooking or preparing foods for another activity. In recent weeks we have enjoyed cooking with cabbages, cauliflowers, broccoli, silver beet, leeks, beetroots and spring onions from the garden. A yummy mix!

Have a wonderful week
Judy Hilbig
CHAPLAIN’S CHAT: KIDS WILL BE KIDS

How often have we said (or been tempted to say) to our children “Why don’t you just grow up”? The fact is that, as we live in an adult world, with grown up responsibilities, pressures and expectations, we can lose sight of the fact that our children’s world is very different. It’s easy to interpret their behaviour as naughty, or deliberately trying to upset us, when the truth is that they are just busy trying to grow up. Here are a few examples that may seem very familiar:

1. They fidget and wriggle when having to wait. Their body is busy growing at a significant rate and their brain sends them lots of signals to move and exercise to strengthen themselves.

2. They fight with their siblings. In the first 12 years of life, children are still working out how much they are loved and accepted. Attention given to someone else, feels as though something is being taken away from them in order for this to happen, which leads to feelings of insecurity. Lots of reassurance that they are loved too, is what is needed.

3. They seem to deliberately ignore the things you ask them to do. In reality, children focus intently on one thing at a time. If they are playing, reading, in fact doing almost anything when you give them an instruction, chances are it really will go in one ear and out the other. Come close, establish eye contact, give a clear instruction and ask them to repeat it. Give them a very clear time frame, “now” or “before you watch TV”.

These are just a few issues we face as parents, but if we start to have realistic expectations, and use these simple approaches, it will save tears all round.

Don’t forget that if you ever want to talk about any parenting issue (or any other issue which affects your child’s wellbeing,) then I’m at the school every Wednesday and Thursday and am always happy to meet with parents.

Your Chaplain,

Alli

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

Future of Great Western Committee
Bush Dance
4th July, 7.00pm-11.00pm
The band engaged will be teaching the dances throughout the evening.
For further details please contact Heather Ahchow 0473 362887