**Principal’s Comments**

Welcome to 2015! I hope everyone is well rested and looking forward to an exciting year. Staff have been planning and preparing for today, our first day for all students. To ensure all children are ready for their day we do ask that children please be at school prior to 8.50 when the first bell sounds. Students will then be able to enter their learning area and begin their day. For those students needing to access the school breakfast program this is available between 8.15 and 8.45am. We do ask that students do not arrive at school before this time. As outlined in our Sunsmart policy everyone within the school grounds is required to wear an appropriate hat when outside in the school yard. If your child does not have a school hat please see Sue or Michelle at the office to purchase one. Please note caps do not meet the specified hat requirements, everyone is required to wear a bucket or broadbrim style hat and we do ask that this be an official school hat in the correct colour. Please note PMP and PE will be Wednesday, Thursday and Friday each week this year.

Next week our year five and six students will be travelling to Melbourne to attend the DOXA camp. The Doxa City Camp program is structured to ensure the campers experience a wide variety of what Melbourne has to offer. The camp is located on Elizabeth Street in the Melbourne CBD and offers a unique opportunity to participate in an inner city camping program. All campers get to experience a number of diverse cuisines, utilise a wide variety of transport and are able to access the excellent arts, cultural and sporting facilities around Melbourne. Staff attending the camp this year are Mrs Christian and Michelle. Mr White has very kindly offered to attend and assist with the camp. I hope all campers have a wonderful week and we will look forward to hearing about their experiences when they return. The year four students and those not attending the camp from learning area 3 are required to attend school. Their learning program will continue as normal throughout the week.

Each year school council elections take place to elect new members. School council is a very important governing body. It’s a great way to get involved and have a real say in what your school is doing for its students. It’s a very good way to help present and future students of the school. Your children may feel a greater sense of belonging with the school if you are involved.

This year we have two parent positions and one staff position to be advertised. To help parents who may be considering nominating to council I have provided information that outlines the three main responsibilities of council –

- **Finance** – overseeing the development of the school’s annual budget and ensuring proper records are kept of the school’s financial operation.
- **Strategic Planning** – participating in the development and monitoring of the school strategic plan.
- **Policy Development and Review** – developing, reviewing and updating policies that reflect a school’s values and support the school’s broad direction outlined in its strategic plan.

Other key functions of school councils include:

- raising funds for school-related purposes
- maintaining school grounds and facilities
- entering into contracts
- reporting annually to the school community and the Department
- representing and taking the views of the community into account
- regulating and facilitating after-hours use of school premises and grounds
- operating a children’s service at the school.

If you are interested in becoming involved at this level and would like further information please contact me or speak to a current councillor.

**Current parent representatives:**

- Donna Dunmore (retired end 2014)
- Shayna Alexander (councillor until March 2015)
- Tania Charlesworth (councillor until March 2016)
- Daniel Foster (councillor until March 2016)
- Sharlmaine McColl (councillor until March 2016)
- Tammi Thompson (councillor until March 2016)
- Cheryl Mangelsdorf (councillor until March 2016)

**Current teacher representatives:**

- Colleen Quinliven (councillor until March 2015)
- Alistair Johnson (councillor until March 2016)

Have a wonderful week

Judy Hilbig
DATES TO REMEMBER

Foundation students do not attend school on Wednesdays during the month of February.

Monday 2nd – Friday 6th February
DOXA Camp years 5&6

School Council
9th March 6.00pm

School Council
16th March 6.00pm

PERMISSION FORMS AND STUDENT DETAILS

Today all students will have brought home permission notes related to local excursions and media releases. We have also printed the current details we have for each student. Could you please complete the permission forms, check and confirm or correct, the student details document. We would ask that even if student details are correct that you mark that it has been checked and then return it to school along with the permission notes.

PARENT CONTRIBUTIONS 2015

The following parent contributions were set by School Council at the end of 2014. We would ask that families please establish a payment program with the school so we can continue to provide for each and every student. Council has outlined how these monies will be spent at each year level. Parents will be expected to make additional payments for extra curricular activities that take place throughout the year. Please see Sue to establish a payment program.

Parent contribution structure approved by council for 2015

P-2
Book pack $55.00
Classroom supplies $65.00
ICT $40.00
Cultural activities/excursions $40.00
Total $200.00

3-6
Book pack $55.00
Classroom supplies $65.00
ICT $40.00
Cultural activities/excursions $40.00
Cooking $40.00
Total $240.00

NEWSLETTER and ASSEMBLY

To begin 2015 we will be sending home our school newsletter each Friday. We will continue to hold our weekly assembly on Friday in the hall beginning at 3.00pm. All parents and friends are invited to attend our assemblies. It is a time of celebration and sharing and a great opportunity to meet with other parents and teachers. Our first assembly will be tomorrow, a very special one as we welcome our new students to Ararat North Primary School.

A Huge Welcome to the New 2015 Preps at Ararat North P.S