Welcome back to term 3, 2015. We hope everyone is refreshed and ready for what we hope will be another wonderful term of teaching and learning. Already this week teachers have met with families and students to discuss student progress. Thank you to all those who took time out of busy schedules to meet with teachers yesterday. Interviews are just as important for teachers as they are for families. Valuable information is shared, student progress discussed, and future goals and plans explained.

As we move into my final term of Acting Principal, the Department of Education and Training has advertised the substantive position for the Principal Ararat North Primary School. Representatives of school council along with nominated staff from the Department of Education and Training will be involved in this process throughout the first half of this term. As this is a confidential process those involved will not be at liberty to discuss any aspect of the process. On behalf of the school community I would like to thank all those involved for taking on this important task.

On Monday of next week we have our information evening for families with beginning students for 2016. If you know of any families with students to start school next year we would ask that you ensure they are aware of this information evening. We have advertised this evening in the local newspaper, provided information to the kindergartens and posted notices in strategic locations within the community.

Each year the Department of Education and Training collects data from schools. One source of data that is collected this term is related to students with a disability. The following paragraph is notification of this process which we are required to publish and make available to all parents. If you would like further details about the information supplied please do not hesitate to contact me.

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability ‘Collection Notice’

All schools in Australia, including Independent and Catholic schools, will participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability this year. The Data Collection is an annual count of the number of students with disability receiving educational adjustments to support their participation in education on the same basis as students without disability. All education agencies are now required under the Australian Education Regulation 2013 to provide information on a student’s level of education, disability and level of adjustment to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training. *Data will continue to be de-identified prior to its transfer to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training. No student’s identity will be provided to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training. The collection of this information from states and territories will inform future policy and program planning in relation to students with disability. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jud Hilbig on 53523766 or the Victorian Department of Education and Training Data Collection Hotline on (03) 9651 3621. For questions after 7 August 2015, please call the Australian Government Department of Education and Training on 1300 566 046. * For more information on Schedule 3—Amendments for the collection of data on students who are persons with a disability Australian Education Regulation 2013 see: http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2014L01723/Html/Text#_Toc404934419

Have a wonderful week

Judy Hilbig
WOOLWORTHS EARN AND LEARN STARTS DURING JULY - PLEASE HELP US BY COLLECTING YOUR DOCKETS AND SENDING THEM TO SCHOOL

CHAPLAIN’S CHAT: SIBLING RIVALRY

Welcome back to a new term and congratulations on surviving the break. Lots of parents struggle to understand why their children fight all the time, especially on holidays, when we expect things to be more relaxed. Sibling rivalry is a factor in every home where there is more than one child. It can be a good thing, when it encourages healthy competition, and stimulates each child to reach for their best. But sometimes it crosses the line into bullying, domination and even physical harm. Our job as parents is to help our children cope with the feelings of jealousy and competitiveness.

So what can we do?

1. Hold each child responsible for their role, each and every time bullying or harm happens, regardless of who started it. You may need to make statements regularly such as “There will be no swearing, screaming, name calling or hurting in this house.” Remind your children that these are the rules even at times when they are getting on well. Also let them know that there will ALWAYS be consequences for anyone who chooses to go against these rules, (and follow through!) Just make sure that your consequences DON’T include swearing, screaming, name calling or hurting 😊

2. Ask the bullying child questions designed to make them think about their own behaviour. For example “Why do you think it’s ok for you to hit, just because you are feeling angry?” “Do you think that the consequences don’t apply to you because you were feeling upset?”

3. Set up a “bickering space”. Every day that your children squabble during the day, they must spend 15 minutes at the end of the day facing each other and “bickering”. They will feel pretty silly and probably will end up laughing, but they must stay there for the full 15 minutes. Remind them that if they don’t want to be there tomorrow, they can choose not to fight during the day.

4. Stop rescuing and taking the referee role. Unless it involves real bullying, tell your children that they have to work out how to solve their problems. You may need to use consequences such as loss of TV or computer time, to motivate them.

5. Catch your children being good. Be quick to point out the strengths that they all have and encourage them to do the same.

Your
Chaplain, Alli

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Ararat Skate Park Fundraiser
Premier Screening
ANT-MAN
Thursday 16th July
7:30pm
$20 per ticket
Includes drink, snack & door prize.
Ararat Astor Cinema

Ticket purchases at the door
Expiry: 10th May 2016

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