NEWSLETTER
Thursday 6th August 2015

Learning Areas 1 and 3 had a great day at Sheepvention on Monday. Working in small groups students explored the various spaces learning about rural living and community. The weather was kind and a very enjoyable day was had by everyone. A very big thankyou to all the adults involved who travelled with and supported students on the day.

In addition to their big day on Monday, yesterday Learning Area 1 had a visit from the Responsible Pet Owners program – ‘Comet’ and her owner Cecilia. The ‘Schools Program’ has visited thousands of Victorian Primary Schools, educating more than one million children. The Program offers free visits by trained pet educators and their temperament tested pets. Visits cover the concepts of choosing a pet, registration, pet housing and husbandry, and in particular, safety around dogs in order to prevent dog attacks.

This week 'The Depot' opened for the first time. 'The Depot' consists of a collection of bits and pieces that can be used for creative constructions and play during recess and lunch breaks. Learning Area 2 were the construction and creative play team for this week. Following an introductory lesson which included exploring the possibilities, the first lunch time session of fun and activity took place. Whilst 'The Depot' will provide an additional activity during some play sessions, it also promotes creative and cooperative skill development. A very big thank you to Mr Johnson who has been instrumental in establishing this activity.

As part of our transition to secondary school, Learning Area 3 students attended the Ararat College school play final dress rehearsal on Wednesday along with students from the other Ararat Primary Schools. All who attended the play thoroughly enjoyed it. We particularly enjoyed seeing several of our last Year 6 students performing - Michael and Amelia!

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: TRYING NEW THINGS

It was my privilege last Monday to be one of the adults accompanying many of our students on an excursion. It was interesting to see the different responses among them: some could hardly keep still, they were so keen to go everywhere and do everything, while others were reluctant to leave my side or to make choices. It’s a fact of life that our children will constantly have to face new experiences and challenges right throughout life, so how can we prepare them in the best way?

1. Encourage your child not to make excuses to not try something new. If they claim that something is too hard, remind them of other hard things which they have done successfully in the past.
2. Provide an open role model. Do you let your children see you tackling things outside your own comfort zone? They will copy what they see in us, rather than what they hear from us.
3. Allow your children to voice their concerns and questions. Try not to shut them down by encouraging them not to “be silly”.
4. Give your child the resources and time to learn about the new experience before they find themselves in it. Talk, research explore together for a better perspective.
5. Encourage questions. Although this can drive us crazy sometimes as parents, it is one of the key ways in which our children learn. Encouraging healthy curiosity will make our children more willing to take on new challenges.
6. Be willing to admit if a new venture doesn’t work out as hoped, but emphasize that this doesn’t mean it was a failure. What did you and your child learn from the experience?

Happy experimenting,
Alli