PRINCIPALS REPORT

What a warm start to Term 4, weather wise and reception wise! I have had the most wonderful start to my Journey as Principal of Ararat North. The warm and welcoming introduction I have had from staff, students and parents has been truly inspiring. I will remember my first day here in many, many years to come. Thank you to the whole Community for this welcome.

Term 4 will be a busy term for all, with many various activities happening from week to week and culture has taken an incidental front row.

Next week we see the school begin a Mandarin Language Program and I would like to welcome Tanith Margetson to the school, she will be working with all three Learning Areas. I hope all students will be returning home and greeting parents with a “nǐ hǎo”. Added to this new language experience, we have also been working on wonderful cultural creations Projects and multicultural recipes in Mrs. Christian’s Learning Area 3 and we welcome a new student, Masha to Quinny’s LA1. She has joined us all the way from Croatia. We welcome her and her parents to our Ararat North Community.

Finally, again on another ‘cultural’ note, we welcome Bjan, who is a final year German student teacher, to Ararat North. He will be working alongside Alistair on a Friday with the PE Program and be a wonderful source of German knowledge for all our students.

Have a wonderful week.
Dani White

SCHOOL FETE DONATIONS

The school would be very appreciative for donations of the following items for the upcoming fete this term;

- New or used plastic take away containers
- Pre loved, in good condition toys

and

Names of people willing to donate some baked goods for the cake stall.

IT IS COMPULSORY FOR ALL STUDENTS TO WEAR A HAT IN TERM 4

IF YOU HAVE CHANGED STUDENT EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS OF LATE, PLEASE NOTIFY THE SCHOOL OFFICE WITH THE NEW CONTACT DETAILS AND ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT MAY BE OF IMPORTANCE
ATTACHED TO THIS NEWSLETTER IS A PRICE LIST FOR UNIFORMS AND THE SCHOOL CANTEEN

CHAPLAIN’S CHAT  MANAGING CONFLICT

To steal from an old saying, “Conflict is inevitable: warfare is optional.” There is no way that we can protect our children from conflict. But we can teach them how to respond to it appropriately and perhaps even show them how to learn from it and be strengthened by it. The following pointers might get you started.

1. Be a role model. I hated hearing this when my children were small, but there really is no substitute for showing them how to do things well by your example.

2. Encourage them to cool off when upset. This can be as simple as taking a few deep breaths or some stretches. Whatever they choose, help them to see that trying to express themselves when they are angry or tearful, will not work well.

3. Guide them into speaking directly to the person who has upset them. Children will instinctively try to involve a third party, but this keeps them one step removed from their emotions.

4. Set guidelines as to what can be said. The T.H.I.N.K. model is particularly helpful here. Ask the children to consider whether what they are saying is True Helpful Inspiring Necessary Kind. You may need to help them remember not to name call or shift blame.

5. Help them to listen carefully to the other person and then let them know that they have heard what they said. Children will frequently focus on justifying their own behaviour or trying to force the other person into doing what they want. They will need prompts to limit their focus to hearing and reflecting what the other person is saying.

6. Support them in generating possible solutions together and choosing one which they are both willing to try.

Like any new skill, these steps will take practise, but by being patient and reminding them of the healthy way to approach conflict, you will be setting them up for greater success in the future.

Remember that if you ever want support in your parenting role, you are welcome to see me at the school on a Wednesday or a Thursday.

Alli (Chaplain – supporting students and families)
Welcome back to the new term. I have received a generous offer to provide holiday activity boxes at the end of this term to any students who may like them. In order to reserve one, all you need to do is complete the form below and return it to me, or to the front office, no later than Thursday October 29th. The details requested are to enable the providers to choose the contents to suit your child’s age and gender. There are no strings attached, but the cut-off date cannot be extended for any reason. Fill out your form now so you don’t miss out. If you have more than one child who would like a box, just put all their details on the same form.

Thanks,
Alli (Chaplain)

I would be happy for my child to receive a holiday activity box.

Child’s name/s........................................................................................................................................
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Child’s age/s................................................................................................................................................
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Child’s school grade/s.................................................................................................................................
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Parent’s signature.........................................................................................................................................
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Date................................................................................................................................................................