

# WESTLETTER

ARARAT WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL - 4720

38/2022 December 1, 2022

E-mail: [ararat.west.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:ararat.west.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/araratwestprimaryschool](http://www.facebook.com/araratwestprimaryschool)

P.O. Box 105

Ararat 3377

(03) 5352 1909

## Mr. K's Corner

With a little over two weeks to go in the school year, we are busy completing End-of-Year reports and preparing for 2023. Tuesday December 13 is the State-wide Transition Day. The 2023 Prep students will spend a full day at school with their teachers for next year. The rest of the school will hold a transition session with their next year's class and teacher from 11:30 - 1:30. Students will learn their new teacher and class for 2023 on this day. Our current Grade 6 students attending Ararat College next year will be involved in their transition day.

Ararat West is pleased to offer our parents a Cybersafety information session being presented by Susan McLean from Cybersafety Solutions. This FREE community event is being held at the Ararat Town Hall on Monday December 5 at 7pm. I highly recommend and encourage parents to take the opportunity to hear from Susan, who is an expert in her field.

Next year we have seen a significant rise in our student numbers and will increase to 250 students. This has meant we have increased to 12 classes for next year. With this, we have had to employ new teachers to our school. We are pleased to welcome to Ararat West Mrs Melinda McAdie who comes to the school with experience in the Early Years area of education and will work in our Foundation area of the school. We also welcome Miss Kimberley Crabtree who has spent the last couple of years working at a Lutheran school in Horsham. She will be working in our Grade 1/2 area which is where she has had her experience teaching. We have a new Art teacher for 2023. Karin Rethus will join our school coming from several years of teaching in the Stawell area. She is very excited to be teaching in the area of her passion. We welcome back Renee Walls to Ararat West in a 1 day a week role after being on family leave. We do say goodbye to a teacher at the end of the year. Miss Downs has gained a position in Stawell and we wish her well with the new job. Helen Kirkpatrick will be taking Long Service Leave in Term 1 of 2023.

**Below is the table of classes and teacher allocation for 2023.**

<u>Classes</u>	<u>Teachers</u>	<u>Specialist Areas</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
<b>Prep WA</b>	Tahnee Walker and Jess Albert	<b>Physical Education</b>	Richard Tucker
<b>Prep B</b>	Emily Borrelli	<b>Science</b>	Richard Tucker
<b>Prep M</b>	Melinda McAdie	<b>Art</b>	Karin Rethus
<b>1/2 F</b>	Melissa Fithall	<b>LOTE</b>	Jess Frampton
<b>1/2 R</b>	Dee Reynold	<b>Tutoring</b>	Amy Lloyd
<b>1/2 C</b>	Kimberley Crabtree	<b>Tutoring</b>	Karly Harris
<b>3/4 T</b>	Jess Tweddle	<b>Wellbeing</b>	Josh McDougall
<b>3/4 N</b>	Alanna Newberry	<b>Music</b>	Leanne McCready
<b>3/4 L</b>	Lisa Nash	<b>ICT</b>	Sri Kalluri
<b>5/6 T</b>	Corey Taylor	<b>Business Manager</b>	Tianee Hurst
<b>5/6 HJ</b>	Emily Hanns and Alistair Johnson	<b>Education Support</b>	Megan Wood Tracie Laidlaw Kim Preston Fiona McLoughlin
<b>5/6 H</b>	Bree Harris	<b>Assistant Principal</b>	Josh McDougall
		<b>Principal</b>	Terry Keilar

At this week's School Council meeting, the Parent Voluntary Contribution for 2023 was approved which was set at \$270. Documentation outlining the Voluntary Contributions for 2023 will be sent home to families outlining the costings, what is covered and process for making the contributions. The documentation will also include information on return to school dates.

In 2023, teachers will return to school on Friday January 27. On Monday January 30 and Tuesday January 31 the school will hold its Back-to-School Assessment days. This is a School Council approved schedule. For new families, the Back-to-School Assessment are one hour sessions for students to spend time with their new teacher, build relationships and complete assessment. There are several mandated assessments that need to occur in specific areas at the start of each year. By completing them in these first couple of days, allows us to get straight into the teaching and learning and not waste the first few weeks trying to get the assessment completed. All students will return to school on Wednesday February 1. This will include our new Foundation students. For the remainder of February, the new Foundation students won't attend on a Wednesday. This allows them to build their school stamina, transitioning to a full, 5 day week. If you have any questions in regards to return to school or the Voluntary Contribution, please contact the office.

Information will be sent home shortly in regards to how to book for a Back-to-School Assessment session for your child/ren. Parents won't be able to make the booking until after the State-wide Transition day on Tuesday December 13. This is when students will know who their teacher for 2023 will be.

Next week is our Outdoor Swimming Program. It will run from Monday to Thursday at the outdoor pool. Each class will attend on each day. Children will be bused to and from the pool. All children are expected to be swimming. The Swimming Program is part of the Victorian Curriculum and our school's programs. If a child is unable to swim, parents need to provide their teacher with a note explaining why they can't swim. Children who aren't swimming will still have to attend to the pool with their class.

Each area of the school will have several events and activities coming up in the last two weeks. This will include items like the Grade 6 Graduation, Grade 2 sleepover etc. Teachers will have informed parents of any key dates. If you are unsure, please contact your child's teacher. There are key dates mentioned in this addition of the newsletter as well.

Today, our Grade 1/2 students attended their excursion to Bendigo's Science Works. I am sure they had a wonderful day with their friends and enjoyed all of the exciting science activities.



Dear 5/6HJ's,

I am writing from a tent in Timboon! Saturday we arrived in Koroit, set up our camp and walked in to town. We saw some Irish music.

On Sunday morning we packed our tent and stuff into Truck Number 2. After breakfast we set off on our bikes to Noorat, 66km!

We stopped at Hopkins Falls and had Chicken Caesar Salad for lunch, yum!

Monday morning, after packing and breakfast, we were off to Timboon, the ice cream town! We stopped at Lake Bullen Merri for water and sunscreen. After we set up camp we caught the shuttle bus to Timboon for ice creams. I had salted caramel ice cream, and we rode 74km today.

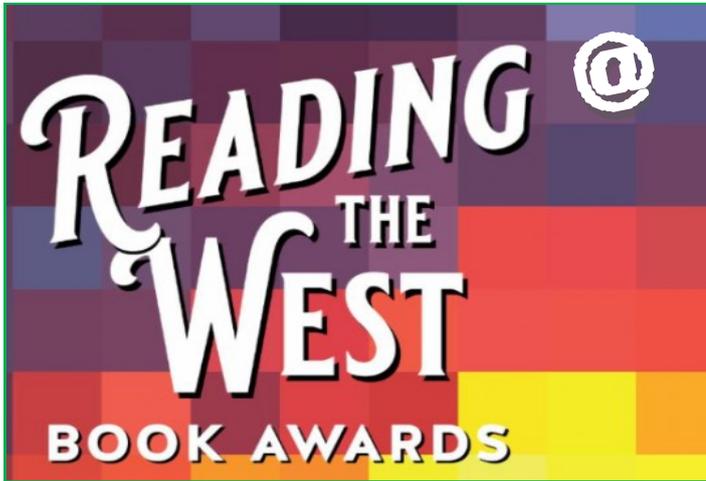
From Lionel



Tyler



Georgia & Paddy



Ava



Jimmy

Lucky jars winner

Congratulations to the following students who received an award at this weeks Assembly...



# Awards

**Q**uinn – Aspiring to do her best in Show and Tell, even though she was nervous. Quinn pushed through her nerves and made a good presentation to her peers. Well done!

**B**ridie – Being an active participant in all classroom tasks. Bridie has been trying her best with her learning and is developing her understanding on sentence structure. Well done, Bridie.

**T**oby – Participating in our Indoor Swimming Program to a very high standard. Toby was enthusiastic about every task he was required to complete. It was great to see you thriving in a different environment. Well done, Toby.

**I**ndy – For the fantastic effort put into your buddy book. Indy, I loved reading your story and looking at your illustrations. It was great to see you taking some pride in your work. Keep aspiring to do your best!

**F**reddie – Always doing his best at school. Freddie has continued to improve and achieve, asking for assistance if unsure. He takes on challenges in a positive way, especially during Mathematic sessions. Well done, Freddie!

**B**raxton – Always trying your best, you listen carefully to feedback and re-adjust your work. Braxton you should be proud of your achievements this Term. Great work!

**P**ia – For being so focused this week during swimming. Pia you have been trying hard in all of the activities and it has been great to see your determination during your swimming lessons. You should be proud of your efforts. Well done, Pia.

**A**iza – Trying hard to achieve her goals. Aiza has set realistic goals and has taken on feedback to improve her work. Her persistence to aspire to achieve her best is an inspiration to others in our Learning Community. Well done, Aiza, we are so proud of you.

**A**imee – For continually trying her best in class time. Aimee listens carefully during instruction, asks questions to clarify her understanding and strives to achieve her very best work. Aimee works well in a group and by herself. Keep up the great work, Aimee!



# Aspiring-Respectful-Resilient

# 5/6 News



# BUDDY BOOKS



Grade 5 students have been busy working on their Buddy Books for next years Foundation students. The students have taken a lot of pride in making these books and I'm sure their Buddies are going to love them! Well done to all.



CyberSafety  
SOLUTIONS

# GROWING UP ONLINE

An educational and empowering session for parents and carers, Susan's unparalleled knowledge leaves audiences shocked at the reality of the online world. The session will cover the positive benefits of technology, as well as what parents need to be aware of:



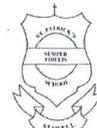
Presented by  
Susan McLean

- Reality and risk
- What kids are doing online
- Online grooming
- Cyberbullying
- Sharing nudes
- Problematic gaming
- Exposure to damaging content
- Top tips
- Question time

**MONDAY 5 DECEMBER AT 7PM**  
**ARARAT TOWN HALL**

Tickets are FREE. Follow the link or scan QR code to book:

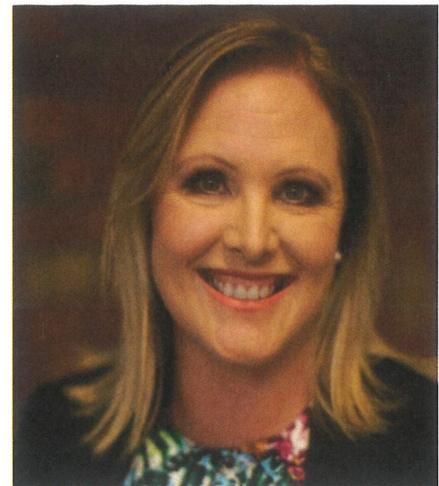
[www.ararattownhall.com.au](http://www.ararattownhall.com.au)



# Growing up Online



An educational & empowering session for Parents and carers, Susan's unparalleled knowledge leaves audiences shocked at the reality of the online world. It is a wake up call to even the most switched on parent and is delivered with Susan's famous 'no nonsense' approach. The session will cover the positive benefits of technology as well as what parents need to be aware of:



- ❖ **Reality & Risk.** The reality of the online world. It's not a matter of if – rather than when.
- ❖ **What are kids doing online.** Learn the latests apps and platforms your kids are either on, want to be on or are being told about at school. TikTok, Omegle, Discord & more.
- ❖ **Online Grooming.** What is it and when/how does it occur? What are the warning signs & what to do if you suspect this is happening to your child.
- ❖ **Cyberbullying.** What it is, where it happens, what it looks like, how to prevent and what to do if it occurs. Also the legal consequences and the possible criminal charges.
- ❖ **Sharing Nudes.** The taking and sending of explicit images. The social and emotional consequences as well as the Law.
- ❖ **Problematic Gaming.** How to manage digital devices in your home to avoid problems and what to do if/when they arise.
- ❖ **Exposure to damaging content.** Including online pornography & site that encourage suicide, self harm & eating disorders.
- ❖ **Top Tips**– how to assist the children in your care to stay safe online with rules, parental controls and restriction passcodes.
- ❖ **The session will conclude with time for questions.**

*Susan McLean is Australia's foremost expert in the area of Cybersafety and young people. She was the first Victorian Police Officer appointed to a position involving Cybersafety and young people. Susan took her first report of cyberbullying in 1994 and since then she has conducted extensive research and has completed advanced training & tertiary studies in both the USA and UK and is a sought after presenter and advisor to Schools, elite sporting bodies such as the AFL, GP's, and both State and Federal Governments. She has authored resources for the Victorian DET, writes and reviews school Policy, provides crisis management/advice to schools & national & international companies. A sought after media commentator for television, print and radio, she recently co-authored the NSW Govt. review into mobile phones in schools. She is the most highly qualified & experienced presenter in Australia & is internationally renowned. Susan is a member of the National Centre Against Bullying (NCAB), a Trusted Education Provider (Office of the eSafety Commissioner) & an ambassador for Collective Shout. A published author, her book 'Sext's Texts & Selfies', is the definitive guide for parents, teachers and carers to help children stay safe online.*

*What Susan doesn't know about Cybersafety is not worth knowing! She is absolutely brilliant and her presentations are dynamic and entertaining. She has the unique ability to connect with each audience from young people to adults.*

*(Dr Michael Carr-Gregg Adolescent Psychologist)*

*The best cybersafety talk I have ever seen! This is why I only choose to have Susan present. Our community deserves the best.*

*(Principal)*

## Diary Dates

<u>Dec. 2</u>	Prep Transition day 2.15-3pm
<u>Dec. 5-8</u>	Outdoor Swimming Program
<u>Dec. 8</u>	Grade 2 Sleepover
<u>Dec. 13</u>	State-wide Transition Day
<u>Dec. 14</u>	Grade 6 Graduation Dinner
<u>Dec. 15</u>	Grade 5/6 Big Day out
<u>Dec. 15</u>	Movie Day
<u>Dec. 16</u>	End-of-Term Assembly
<u>Dec. 20</u>	Last day of Term 4



## BOOKS

### ATTENTION

The End-Of -Year is fast approaching, could all families please check at home for missing Library books. We have many over-due books and towards to end of the year it's a good time to collect as many back as possible.

Many thanks Kim.

Ararat West PS is committed to child safety (Ministerial Order No. 870) and takes all reasonable steps to ensure that the safety of our students is paramount.  
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/protect/Pages/chilsafestandards.aspx>



### Mission Statement



*Developing in our children an interest in learning and a desire to be their best; utilising their skills and attitudes to enable them to reach their full potential in society.*