



WESTLETTER

31/2025 October 16 2025

ARARAT WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL –

E-mail: ararat.west.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/araratwestprimaryschool

P.O. Box 105

Ararat 3377

(03) 5352 1909

Ms Knight Writes

MELBOURNE

Term 4, Week 2! I am typing this on Melbourne Camp with our superstar Year 5's and a team of dedicated teachers, ES and two amazing Dads along for the adventure! Camps really are a team effort. They take a lot of organising, are often quite hard work for the staff attending (i.e. very little sleep!), and often extra work for those teachers back at school as they cover classes and pick-up extra yard duty. But they are incredibly important experiences for students. Not only is there lots of learning in terms of the school curriculum, but personal development is also a huge part of a school camps program. And, having short stints away from home helps children build independence, organisation, and resilience. It is completely normal for children to be a bit anxious about being away from their family. Resilience builds from facing manageable challenges and developing strategies to get through them. Camps are a huge amount of fun. And I sometimes say to families, if you don't want your children living at home when they are 25, start building that independence gradually, from an early age! We have had a fantastic day today – thanks to Mr Taylor for his organisation. After an early start on the 7.10am train, we dropped luggage off, walked and took tram rides, went ice skating, visited Fed Square and St Pauls Cathedral (to look at the amazing stained glass windows), looked at Mirka Moira's mosaic mural at Flinders Street Station, had dinner at Schnitz, some games at King Pin, and an ice cream on the way home. There are some pretty tired kids and adults at camp tonight!

OHS Audit: Well done to Mr Mac and Tianee for all their hard work in the lead up to our Occupational Health and Safety Audit on Tuesday along with all staff for their assistance. Every four years the department has external auditors visit schools, to check a huge range of things – chemical registers, material safety data sheets for every product we have at school, emergency management plans, contractor induction – there is a huge list of things that schools must now comply with to make sure that our physical and social environment is a safe one. After the audit, which generally lasts almost a full day, schools have a list of urgent and less urgent actions to complete, depending on how the audit went. Due to Mr Mac's and Tianee's hard work, our list is short! If there is anything around the school that your notice and think it is a safety issues, no matter how small, please just let us know.

Toilet Renovation: This is tracking well although we cannot wait for it to be finished. Everyone is doing a brilliant job with the different toileting plan we have, but we can't wait to have our external toilets back in action. Thankyou for your support too as we know that many families are walking further around the school and have changed pick-up spots. Only a few weeks to go!

School Council: Our October meeting is next Tuesday, and we have two more meetings for the year after that. We have one parent representative with a child in Year 6, so there will definitely be at least one vacancy next February/March when the membership cycle comes around. Please think about nominating. AWPS is lucky to have an amazing School Council of very supportive parents and carers, and it is great to have new members come onboard. Information will be in the newsletter early next year about how to nominate for a two-year term.

**SCHOOL
COUNCIL**



Fete: Keep Friday November 7 free! The Ararat West PS Fete celebrates it's 60th year this year – which is pretty exciting! This is always a wonderful day, so please make sure you spread the word and bring friends and family members along. It is particularly suited to families as there are so many wonderful children's activities.

Sport and Aths: Well done to the 16 athletes and their supporters for the amazing efforts at the Regional Athletics last Friday. Also a huge well done to our boys and girls Year 6 basketball teams. The boys team has made it through to the next level and will compete next Friday. And the Futsal boys who travelled to Brisbane in the holidays will write a bit of a report in next weeks newsletter. By all accounts they had an amazing time.



Attendance: A huge thanks to those families and students who have worked hard on their attendance this year. Absence rates at AWPS were high in 2022 and 2023, and we totally turned this around last year. Families and students know that missing up to 10 days is fine over a year – that is a day every four weeks. Lots of students miss less than this, which is wonderful. The band between 10-20 days means a student is slightly at risk, as heading up towards 20 is a lot of days to miss over a year. Once a student misses 20 days, they have missed 40 hours of literacy, which is the equivalent to 8 full days of school, JUST focussing on reading, writing, and spelling. They have also missed 20 hours of maths. That is a LOT. If you do 20 hours of anything you get better! Term 4 can be the term where attendance slips a bit. So please just keep this in mind, and make sure your child is at school every day, unless they are really unwell. Parents often underestimate how many days students have missed, so check with your child's teacher if needed. And again, a huge well done to those families who have made it through to this week with their child having missed under 10 days. Thankyou. Please see your child's teacher if you have any concerns about any aspect of school which means a child might be reluctant to attend. We work with lots of families to make school transitions, class time, and break times as stress-free as possible. Having a reluctant school attender is really challenging for families. Often children are really stressed or worried about aspects of school. We are here to help and work with you in these situations. And at times, students may miss a lot more than 10 days because of these issues. That's when we work closely with families, and attendance may not be the most important goal at the moment.

Have a wonderful finish to Week 2, and further camp news will be shared in next weeks newsletter. Tomorrow it's the MCG, the Rialto Tower, and a swim in the wave pool at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre. Fun!

Ms Knight

Help is within reach!



Kindergarten Outreach Program

A free program that supports culturally and linguistically diverse families who live, work, study in Ararat and districts.

Our CALD Outreach officer works directly with families and local service providers to support inclusion and ongoing participation in early years services.

Support for families include:

- Register and enrol eligible children into three- or four-year-old kindergarten or Early Start Kindergarten
- Address issues impacting child's participation and attendance in kinder, following enrolment and in partnership with the service
- Engage in other early childhood supports in the local area, such as community playgroups and Maternal and Child Health services
- Support successful transitions from kindergarten to school

For more information, please contact:
Anita San Ba
0447 397 658 or 03 5355 0200
anitas@ararat.vic.gov.au

Free interpreter available for families

This program is funded by Victorian Government



**Congratulations to the following students
who received a Positive Behaviour Award
at Assembly ...**



Awards

Esmae– Coming back from holidays ready to always try her best. Esmae is attentive to her learning and contributes to classroom discussions positively. Esmae is also kind and inclusive when playing with others. She makes sure all peers feel included. Keep being wonderful, Esmae.

Ollie– Having a flying start to Term 4! Ollie, you have been trying your best to focus in class and to produce your best work. It has been wonderful to see you enjoying playing nicely with your friends in the yard. Keep up the great work!

Koby– Coming to school each day with a great attitude. Koby applies himself to his learning and shows kindness and friendship to others while bringing a wonderful sense of humour to our classroom. He is also a great sport, always putting in his best effort and cheering on others. Great work Koby!

Sophie– Returning to school after the holidays with a fantastic attitude! Sophie has been settled, focused, and ready to learn. She has shown wonderful transitions, completed all tasks with care, and taken on feedback beautifully. What a fabulous start to the term Sophie– keep it up!

Lexus– For making a fantastic start to the term. Lexus has shown exceptional focus and dedication throughout the week, consistently working hard and setting a great example for others. Well done Lexus, keep up the excellent work!

Sebastian– Demonstrating resilience, especially during writing. Sebastian, you have been persevering even when things are difficult. Your ability to bounce back from challenges and get yourself back on track has been wonderful to see. Way to go, Sebastian!

William– He has made an excellent start to Term 4. He is making well thought-out contributions to class discussions and leaving his comfort zone more consistently. William demonstrates kindness and respect towards peers and teachers and is an excellent exponent of the GEM principals.

Bradley– For making a great start to Term 4. I have been impressed by how quickly you have got back into your routines and good working habits. I look forward to seeing this continued for the rest of the year. Well done, Bradley!

Blake– Demonstrating our Ararat West values to the highest standard. Blake treats everyone with respect and kindness. He shows care, consideration and actively finds ways to include others. When learning, Blake uses his critical thinking skills and initiative to aspire to do his best. He always finds ways to encourage others with their learning, modelling correct behaviour and demonstrating leadership skills. Keep up the amazing work Blake!



Aspiring Respectful Resilient



Boy's Black Ranges Basketball

Girl's Black Ranges Basketball



**School
Fete**



**Stall holders wanted for
our Fete November 7
\$15 per stall please
contact the office to
book 53521909**



Reading

100

Awards





Grade 5 Melbourne Camp



Year 5 students have arrived safely in Melbourne for camp. We have had a great time ice skating, riding on a tram and learning all about Federation Square. We will all sleep well tonight!



Greater Western Athletics





IMAGINE THE FUN

\$25 Cricket Blast Program

Join Woolworths Cricket Blast

Designed specifically for kids, our weekly sessions are full of movement, friendships and fun!

CRICKET VICTORIA & GCA PROGRAM
WOOLWORTHS COMMUNITY FUND
VENUE: GORDON STREET OVAL
DATE: WED 29TH OCT , 5TH, 12TH, 19TH, 26TH NOV &
3RD DEC
TIME: 4-5PM
SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER!



SIGN UP TODAY!

 Play Cricket

SPOTS ARE LIMITED!

THE RED BASKET BALL



3V3 COMP

ARARAT FITNESS CENTRE

Gold Coin Donation

FREE ENTRY

AGE GROUPS: UNDER 18 & UNDER 14

MINIMUM AGE 10

HALF-TIME SHOOTING COMP

AMBULANCE VICTORIA DEMONSTRATIONS

FOOD VANS & ROTARY BBQ

OCTOBER

18

11AM-4PM



REGISTER HERE!

SEND US A
MESSAGE

Proudly
supported by



THE
WEEKLY ADVERTISER



MIXX FM

Ambulance
Victoria



Ararat Rural City

ARARAT
FITNESS
CENTRE



**Ararat Little Athletics
2025/2026 Registrations
are now open!**

Season kicks off: Thursday 16 Oct
New start time: 5pm
@Gordon St Oval

Come and give athletics a go-
running, jumping, throwing and
most importantly...having fun!

First 2 sessions free for new
members!

 Follow us for updates:
Ararat Little Athletics No.51

 @araratlittleathletics

 ararat@lavic.com.au



\$100! POWER SAVING BONUS

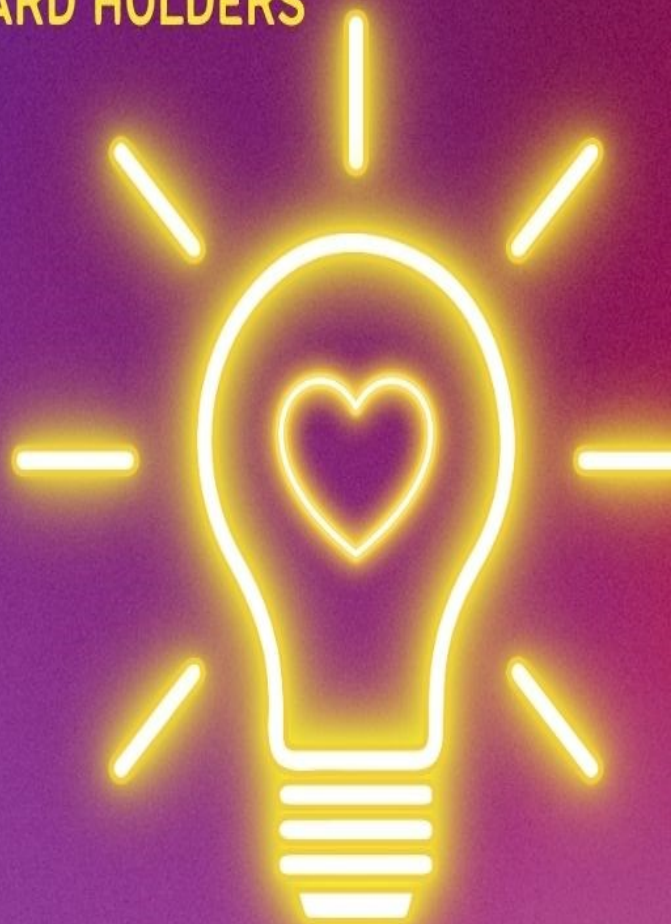
FOR ELIGIBLE CONCESSION CARD HOLDERS

VISIT ARARAT
NEIGHBOURHOOD
HOUSE FOR
ASSISTANCE



ARARAT NEIGHBORHOOD
HOUSE INC.

The Heart of our Community



56 Campbell Street
Ararat, VIC 3377
Ph: (03) 5352 1551

FIND OUT MORE:

NHVIC.ORG.AU/PSB



Neighbourhood
Houses Victoria™



Moyston Easter Market 2026
Saturday 4th April, 2026



GIANT PUMPKIN COMPETITION

A FUN COMMUNITY EVENT THAT YOUNG
AND OLD CAN PARTICIPATE IN

LETS SEE WHO CAN GROW THE...

Biggest Pumpkin Ever!
Biggest School Grown Pumpkin Ever!
Wartiest Pumpkin (Galeux d'Eysines) Ooooo
Best Decorated Pumpkin Nice!
Longest Zucchini Yum
Most Weirdest Vegetable WOW

GET PLANTING SOON !!!!!

Limited seeds available for Giant Pumpkins
and Warty Pumpkins
GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY GROWMASTER GRAMPIANS
Just ring Teresa on 0429 953 625
and we'll arrange pick up or drop off of your seeds

Drop off mature pumpkins
Thursday 2nd April, 2026 1PM-6PM
Judging on Friday 3rd April, 2026
\$2 ENTRY PER PUMPKIN

Dear families,

Ararat West Primary School reminds our wider community that grass pollen season brings an increased risk of asthma and hay fever.

Thunderstorm asthma is thought to be triggered by a unique combination of high amounts of grass pollen in the air and a certain type of thunderstorm (typically between October and end December). It can result in people wheezing, feeling short of breath, and tight in the chest with coughing. This can be sudden, serious, and even life threatening.

Anyone can be affected, even if they don't have a history of asthma.

If your child has current, past or undiagnosed asthma or seasonal hay fever they are at risk of thunderstorm asthma. Don't ignore symptoms like wheezing or shortness of breath.

Ararat West Primary School encourages families to communicate any updated asthma action plans with staff. Our staff will monitor the Vic Emergency app to receive thunderstorm warnings, and, where appropriate, keep students indoors when weather forecasts identify a greater level of risk.

Protect your family this pollen season

For people with asthma or hay fever, especially those who wheeze and sneeze during spring, thunderstorm asthma can be sudden, serious and even life threatening.

There are things you can do to prepare and protect yourself and those in your care:

It's important for everyone in the community to know the four steps of **asthma first aid** so they know what to do if they or someone is having an asthma attack.

Avoid being outside during thunderstorms from October through December – especially in the wind gusts that come before the storm. Go inside and close your doors and windows. Turn off any air conditioner that brings outside air in (e.g. evaporative air conditioners).

If your child has ever had asthma – talk to your doctor about what you can do to help protect them from the risk of thunderstorm asthma this pollen season, including updating their asthma action plan. Remember, taking an asthma preventer as prescribed is key to preventing asthma, including thunderstorm asthma.

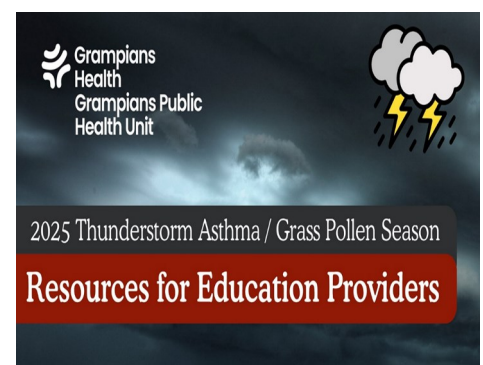
If your child has ever had hay fever – see your GP to make sure they don't also have asthma and discuss how to stay safe during grass pollen season.

Asthma reliever medication is available over the counter at pharmacies. Ideally, this should be used with a spacer, for both children and adults. If your child is needing to use their reliever medication more than usual, this may mean that their asthma management plan needs updating – see your GP and make sure that you communicate updated asthma action plans with your child's school.

Monitor the epidemic thunderstorm asthma risk forecast on the Vic Emergency thunderstorm asthma forecast webpage or download the VicEmergency app (App Store or Google Play) – you can set up a 'watch zone' for your location to receive advice and warnings about potential epidemic thunderstorm asthma events during the grass pollen season.

Protect yourself and those in your care this pollen season – preventing and managing asthma matters. There are a range of videos for caregivers on the Asthma Australia website

<https://asthma.org.au/resources/videos>



Dates for the Diary



October 15-17	Grade 5 Camp Melbourne
October 20,21 &22	Grade 3 Camp Roses Gap
Tuesday October 21	School Council
Thursday October 23	Grade 2 Sleepover
Monday Nov 3	Student Free Day
Tuesday Nov 4	Melb Cup (No students at school)
Friday Nov 7	AWPS Fete
Nov 25-27	Grade 6 Camp Canberra

CHANGES TO STUDENT DETAILS

Please notify the office and obtain a 'Changes to Student Details' form for any of the following reasons:

• Change of address	• Change of emergency details/contacts
• Change of occupation	• Medical alert information
• Change of telephone numbers	• Change of email address

These changes are vital to keep your child/ren's details up-to-date in case of an emergency. Please note - changes can also be made on Xuno.

Note:- Please remember that when you come into the school for any reason you must come via the Front Office and sign in at the Ipad. Please also use the Ipad to sign your children out when collecting them early. This is for safety reasons and must be adhered to. Thank you.



Ararat West PS is committed to child safety (Ministerial Order No. 1359) and takes all reasonable steps to ensure that the safety of our students is paramount.

<https://www.vic.gov.au/protect>



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.