



North News

Ararat North Primary School

Friday 13th February 2026



A WORD FROM LEADERSHIP

A Great Start to the Year!

It has been a fantastic start to the 2026 school year. It has been wonderful to see both familiar and new faces around the school, including new students and staff joining our community.

Our Foundation students have settled in extremely well and are already showing great confidence as they begin their school journey. They are very lucky to have both Miss Aimee and Miss Kelsie supporting them in the classroom this year.

We are also excited to welcome several new staff members to our school:

Aimee Harrison, who has joined our Foundation team, bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience from early childhood education.

Ellen Pither, who is teaching in the Year 1/2 classroom who is bringing her big city experience to our rural city.

Stella Foster-Alexander, who has joined our Educational Support team and has been working predominantly with Learning Area 2.

Taylah Jamieson, joining our Wellbeing team, Taylah has many years of experience supporting young people in the Ararat area. Taylah is a kind, compassionate and highly knowledgeable addition to our team.

We feel incredibly fortunate to have such wonderful new additions to our staff, and we look forward to the positive impact they will have across the school.

On Monday our Curriculum Day, staff attended professional development in Melbourne, focusing on UFLI, a research-based, systematic phonics program. This training reinforced consistent teaching of foundational reading and spelling skills across the school.

Thank you to everyone for such a positive and successful beginning to 2026. We are looking forward to another great year ahead!

A Buzzing Start to the Year in LA 1

Learning Area 1

Miss Aimee & Miss Kelsie

Miss Kelsie and Miss Aimee have warmly welcomed 16 enthusiastic Foundation students into Learning Area 1 this year. The first few weeks have focused on helping everyone settle into the routines of school, and students are already adapting with growing confidence.

They have been learning how to sit on the mat and at their desks like respectful learners, demonstrating excellent listening skills and increasing independence each day.

Toward the end of last week, the class began exploring their first sounds, practising how to recognise them and say them aloud. It has been a wonderful start to the year, and LA 1 is already buzzing with excitement for all the learning still to come.



Learning Area 2

Miss Ellen

A great start to the school year!

In LA 2 we have been focusing on building strong classroom expectations and routines that help everyone feel safe, calm, and ready to learn. We have spent some time practising these routines and talking about what our expectations look like in action - listening respectfully, following directions, and taking responsibility for our learning. By consistently practising these expectations and routines, we are creating a positive learning environment where every student can grow and succeed.



Kinect2Dance: Fun, Fitness, and Fantastic Moves!

Our Grade 1–6 students were lucky enough to take part in the Kinect2Dance incursion last week. Students spent the final hour of the day learning new dance moves, practising routines, and putting everything together in a fun and energetic session.

There were plenty of smiles, laughter, and some very impressive dance moves on display. It was wonderful to see students enjoying themselves while being active and trying something new.

The teachers found it hard to choose the most valuable dancers, but Learning Area 3 took home two winners - well done, Kitsune and Bohdi!



Learning Area 3

Miss Ella



Thank you to Kyle from Kinect2Dance for the free dance session!

A Fun Start to the Year in Auslan and Performing Arts!



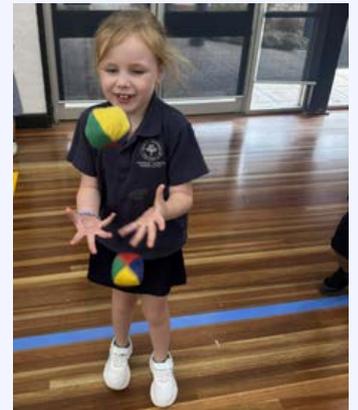
What a fantastic start to the year we've had in the Auslan and Performing Arts space at Ararat North Primary School!

Our newest students in Foundation have been busy learning the names of Australian animals in Auslan. Learning Area 2 students have been revisiting common phrases such as please, thank you, excuse me, and please repeat, while Learning Area 3 students have been refreshing their skills on telling the time in Auslan.

In Performing Arts, we've been eagerly awaiting the arrival of our circus equipment. While we waited, students have been practising juggling. Although no one is quite juggling three balls yet, many have successfully mastered juggling two balls correctly.

Here's a fun challenge: try juggling with your child at home! Two pairs of socks bundled together make perfect, low-cost juggling balls. Your child can show you how to juggle one ball—and even the tricky two-ball pattern, which most people get wrong at first. Be careful—you might get shown up! 😊

All in all, it's been a fun and exciting start to the year, and I look forward to seeing all the amazing learning and laughter ahead in Auslan and Performing Arts.



*Auslan and
Performing Arts*

Mrs Silva



Lake Bolac Athletics Carnival Training

This week, students have started training for our annual Lake Bolac Athletics Carnival, which will be held on Wednesday, 1st April 2026. Families are warmly invited to attend!

Learning Area 3 have begun with High Jump, practising the “Scissor Kick” technique and learning about the run-up and proper execution.

Over the coming weeks, students will continue to develop their skills across all athletics events, including sprinting, discus, shot put, relays, and long-distance running. Further information about the carnival will be sent to families later this term.



*Physical
Education*

Mr Johnson

Welcome New Staff

Our Learning Area 3 students interviewed our new staff members to get to know them a little better. It was a fantastic opportunity to build connections and welcome them into our school community.

Miss Aimee shared that what she loves most about school is helping people learn. So far, her favourite thing about Ararat North Primary School has been how welcoming everyone has been.

Outside of school, Miss Aimee enjoys staying active through running, as well as playing tennis and netball. Her favourite food is pasta, and she proudly barracks for St Kilda.

We are so happy to have Miss Aimee as part of our school community!



Miss Ellen shared that her favourite part of Ararat North Primary School so far has been getting to know everyone and becoming part of our welcoming community.

Outside of school, she enjoys reading and playing sports. Her favourite food is pasta, and she proudly barracks for Geelong.

We are excited to have Miss Ellen joining our school!



Stella shared that she loves everything about school, and her favourite part of Ararat North Primary School so far has been getting to know the students in Learning Area 2.

Outside of school, Stella enjoys playing netball. Her favourite food is steak and chips, and she proudly barracks for Richmond.

Welcome to the team, Stella!



Taylah has appreciated how welcoming everyone at Ararat North Primary School has been. She feels a real sense of community and is enjoying being part of a small school environment.

Outside of school, Taylah enjoys reading and spending time with her family, her favorite food is hot chips.

Taylah is proud to say she is a loyal Carlton supporter!

We are very excited to have Taylah as part of our team!

AWARDS

At each assembly, classroom and specialist awards are presented to acknowledge student achievement and recognise those who demonstrate our School Values of **Resilience, Respect, and Responsibility**.

Here are this week's recipients:



2026 SCHOOL CAPTAINS

Our 2026 School Captains were proudly presented with their badges at our first assembly and have been wearing them with pride ever since.



Important Reminders

- If your child is in Grades 3–6, don't forget to register them for camp at Cottage by the Sea.
- A friendly reminder to drop your child at the gate in the morning, allowing them to build independence and resilience by walking to Breakfast Club on their own.
- If you haven't already, follow Ararat North Primary School on Facebook to stay up to date with the latest news.
- Make sure notifications are turned on in Xuno so you receive all important information through the app.



Important Date or Events

Labour Day Public Holiday - Monday 9th March (school closed)

NAPLAN - Tuesday 10th - Friday 13th March

Camp Monday 16th - Friday 20th March

3 Way Conversations - Friday 27th March

Lake Bolac Athletics Day - Wednesday 1st April

End of Term Assembly/House Tabloid Sports - Thursday 2nd of April



GLASSES FOR KIDS IS COMING TO YOUR SCHOOL!



Your child is eligible to receive **FREE** vision screening, testing and glasses through the Glasses for Kids program—available to **Foundation (Prep) to Year 3** students. This service is provided at no cost and takes place at school.

How does the Glasses for Kids program work?

- GFK partners with qualified optometrists who will visit your child's school and offer your child initial vision screening and if required, further testing and glasses at no cost.
- All screening and testing sessions will be completed during school hours.

Who can participate?

- Primary Schools: Prep – Year 3 students.
- Specialist Schools: Students aged 5 to 10 years old.

How can my child be part of the program?

- Please complete the online consent form using the QR code. If preferred, a paper version is also available from your school and must be returned to your school by the due date.

Can children who currently wear glasses be part of GFK?

- Yes, they can. If their glasses are less than 12 months old, please provide a copy of their latest prescription if available.
- If your child is already under the care of another optometrist, please share any relevant information on the Optometrist Questionnaire.

What if my child is nonverbal or a non-English speaker?

- They can still participate; the optometrists we partner with have resources and techniques to work with nonverbal or non-English speaking students.

Do I have to complete a separate form for each child?

- Yes, each student must have a completed Consent Form

How do I get the results for my child?

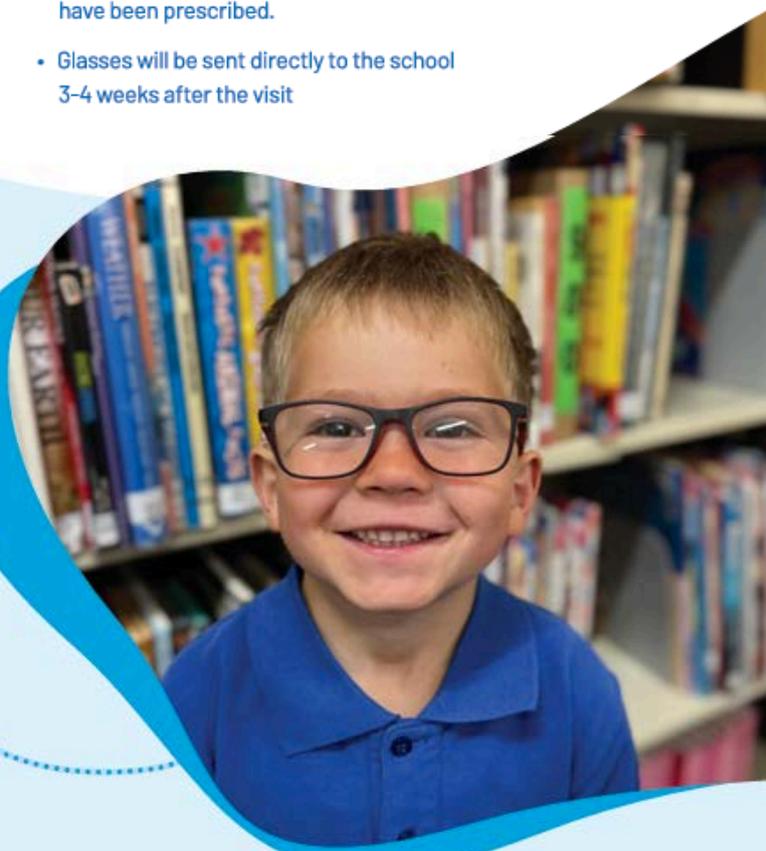
- Your child will receive a letter about their vision screening outcome to bring home at the conclusion of our visit.

What if my child needs glasses?

- If the optometrist prescribes glasses for your child, GFK will provide them at no cost.
- Your child will have the chance to choose their glasses and be fitted on the day.
- Your child will be given a letter telling you why the glasses have been prescribed.
- Glasses will be sent directly to the school 3-4 weeks after the visit

Sign up today by scanning the QR code below

If preferred, you can also complete the attached consent form which must be returned to your school by the due date.



Need help? For more information, or if you have problems accessing the consent form please get in touch with us.

www.glassesforkids.com.au | info@glassesforkids.com.au | (03) 8769 8400



Department of Education



Community Paramedic Program

Our Community Paramedic is visiting your community.
Call in and talk to them about your health.

Location: ARARAT-56 Campbell St

When:

February 26th 2026	11am-2pm
March 12th 2026	11am-2pm
March 26th 2026	11am-2pm

Every Second Thursday

Where: Neighbourhood House

This is a FREE drop in service

For more information, scan to go to the
Grampians Community Health website:





Community Paramedic Program

Community Paramedics run regular clinics in the community for people who need to access healthcare.

What does our community paramedic do?

Ask you questions about your health

Ask about any health services you are using

Check your blood pressure and other health assessments

Provide referrals to primary care and community support

Help you navigate the health care and welfare system

Provide you with health education

Help you set health goals

This is a FREE drop in service

For clinic dates and times, scan to go to the Grampians Community Health website:



Our Services



GCH delivers health care and community services for individuals, families and the community.

- Counselling
- Mental health
- Alcohol and drugs support
- Health and wellness
- Family violence
- Carer support
- Assistance for older people
- Disability services
- In home help
- NDIS
- Youth events

To access our services call **5358 7400** and ask to speak to an **Intake Worker**.

We will connect you to the support you need!



Ararat Early Learning Centre

FETE 2026

THURSDAY 2ND APRIL
5PM - 8PM

Gordon St Recreation Reserve

ADULTS: GOLD COIN DONATION

KIDS: \$10 ENTERTAINMENT WRISTBANDS

PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS RESOURCES FOR AELC & 20% TO THE ROYAL CHILDRENS HOSPITAL

FOOD TRUCKS ★ BBQ ★ RAFFLES ★ LIVE MUSIC

MARKET STALLS ★ FACE PAINTING ★ ANIMALS

JUMPING CASTLE ★ MINI GOLF & **MORE!**

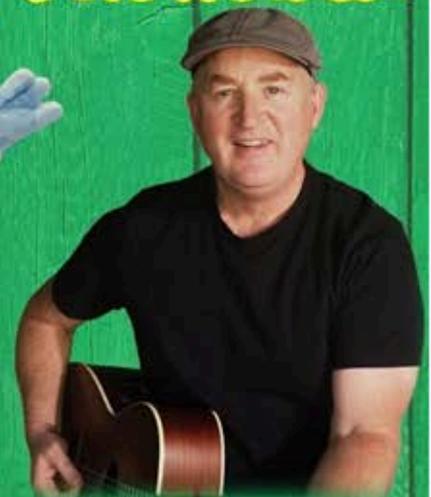
Special Guests

Lionel Holt



Marshall & Bluey

Dave Nicholson



Join the Mates Program!

Mates is a fantastic program for school-aged children. It is a proactive, school-based initiative designed to foster social inclusion, reduce bullying, and build friendships among students.

The program uses a variety of engaging approaches, including peer mentoring, social skills sessions, and wellbeing ambassadors, to support students in developing confidence, kindness, and teamwork.

Come and join us to be part of this positive and supportive community!



WANTED!

ARARAT MENTORS

If you can spare one hour a fortnight to mentor a young person at a school in Ararat, please

contact Nat on **5352 3266** or email

mates@cgllen.org.au

mates

CENTRAL GRAMPians



WILLAURA HEALTH CARE OUTDOOR MARKET

Sunday March 1 2026, 10am-2pm

Grounds adjacent to Willaura Health Care, Delacombe Way



The Willaura Market is a charity event run by the Willaura Health Care Auxiliary, with funds raised going towards improving the lives of residents and patients at Willaura Health Care, East Grampians Health Service.

This boutique country market offers goods from local and regional artisans, gourmet food, music and children's entertainment. The market is set in Willaura, surrounded by fertile farmland, which lies 34 kilometres south of Ararat on the south-eastern edge of the Grampians in Victoria's Western District.

Local producers and local artisans:

- Homewares
- Cards
- Jewellery
- Giftware
- Clothing for babies, children and adults
- Plants
- Gourmet Foods

Variety of food vendors including:

- Gourmet food
- Lions barbecue
- Coffee
- Icecream

+ Children's entertainment, musical entertainment and raffle.

For more information: willauramarket.com



'2026 Willaura Health Care Outdoor Market'

We thank the following sponsors of the market:





Ookami Kids is a registered NDIS provider for Early Childhood Intervention. We are a Ballarat based, mobile paediatric allied health practice with a team that is passionate about making a difference in the lives of children.

At Ookami Kids we believe in **celebrating each child as they are**, building meaningful connection and relationships and providing **personalised support** in a way that **empowers children and their families** to flourish in all aspects of their lives.

We take a strengths-based, neurodiversity affirming approach to therapy and family support with a focus on **connection, communication and collaboration**.

From January 2026 we will be accepting referrals for Early Childhood Intervention **Occupational Therapy Support in Ararat and surrounding areas**.

We have an Occupational Therapist who will be based in **Ararat** and available for outreach appointments on Fridays.

Please refer to our website for more information about us and submit an enquiry for occupational therapy support via the Contact Us tab.

www.ookamikids.com