



# North News

Ararat North Primary School

Friday 22nd May 2026



## A WORD FROM LEADERSHIP

*A busy and exciting week at Ararat North Primary School!*

*It has been another wonderful and eventful week at Ararat North Primary School, with students, families and our wider community coming together to celebrate learning and special milestones.*

*Today we also celebrated National Walk to School Day, with students demonstrating our school value of Responsibility by walking safely and representing our school community so positively. A special thank you to the Ararat Police for joining us and supporting this important event.*

*We would also like to congratulate our students who participated in the Combined Schools Athletics Day at Lake Bolac. Students represented our school with enthusiasm, determination and excellent sportsmanship throughout the day. It was fantastic to see students challenge themselves, give their best effort and encourage one another across the range of events and activities. We are incredibly proud of the way our students represented our school community with such positivity, teamwork and resilience. Events like these provide valuable opportunities for students to build confidence, celebrate their strengths and enjoy healthy competition while connecting with students from other schools. Well done to all students on a fantastic day and a wonderful effort.*

*In other exciting news, we have had our first mandarin grow in our vegetable garden!*

*Finally, a very special congratulations to Kelsie and Mitch on the arrival of their beautiful baby girl, Rudi James, who is now two weeks old. We wish your family many happy moments and special memories together. ❤️*



# LA 1

## Writing Update

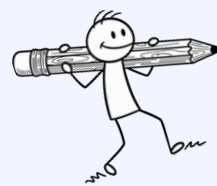
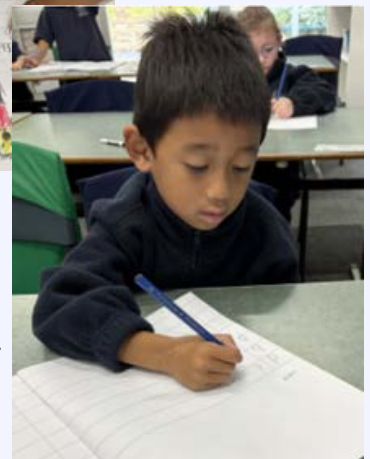
Learning Area 1

Miss Aimee  
Mrs Albert

Over the past two weeks, LA 1 students have begun using lined paper during their writing lessons, and the improvement has been impressive. Their main focus has been forming letters correctly on the 'hard line', helping them build strong handwriting habits.

As part of this learning process, students have also been practising retrying and improving their work during error correction, with special attention to leaving clear spaces between words. To strengthen these skills, they have been writing dictated sentences, applying their learning in real time.

The growth in their writing in such a short period has been phenomenal. Keep up the fantastic work, LA 1!



## Learning Area 2

Miss Ellen

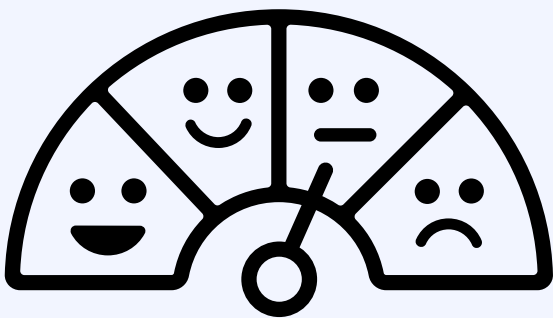
# Respectful Relationships

In our Respectful Relationships lessons over the past few weeks, students have been exploring a range of strategies to help them understand, manage, and cope with big feelings. They have been learning to identify different emotions and recognise how these can feel in their bodies.

Students have practised positive strategies such as taking deep breaths, counting to calm down, using kind words to express their feelings, and seeking help from a trusted adult or friend.

Through discussions, role-play, and classroom activities, students are developing their confidence in using these strategies to respond to challenges in a calm and respectful way.

It has been wonderful to see students building their emotional awareness and continue to practice applying these skills in their everyday interactions.



# LA 3 Transition Visit – Ararat College

Learning Area 3

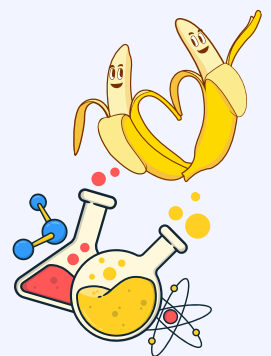
Mrs Ella  
Mrs Alvina

Learning Area 3 students were fortunate to receive a visit from Ararat College, including a Science teacher and past students Maysi, Lucy, and Sophie, who now attend the College.

This visit is part of our transition program designed to support older students in becoming familiar and comfortable with secondary school environments. It provides valuable opportunities to build connections and ease the move into high school.

During the session, students participated in a science lesson where they extracted DNA from a banana. This engaging hands-on activity was an incredible learning experience, and students were highly involved and enthusiastic throughout.

We sincerely thank Ararat College for their ongoing support and for providing such a meaningful experience for our students. We look forward to welcoming them back for future transition activities.



# Budja Budja Visit

Last week, our Year 4, 5 and 6 Indigenous students attended an excursion to Budja Budja in Halls Gap. Students had a fantastic day engaging in a variety of cultural activities, including yarning, bead and necklace making, wildlife spotting, and painting Indigenous symbols onto a totem pole.

The excursion was a great success, with students exploring important Indigenous themes while also having the opportunity to connect with students from other schools and similar backgrounds. It was a valuable and enjoyable experience for all involved.



**Mr Johnson**

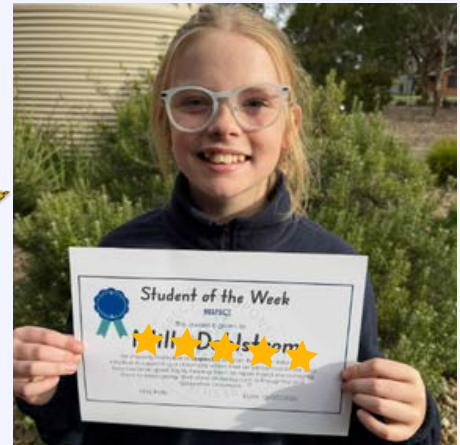
# Award Winners



ARARAT NORTH  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

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:



## Combined Athletics Carnival Age Group Champions



7 YO Boys Champion



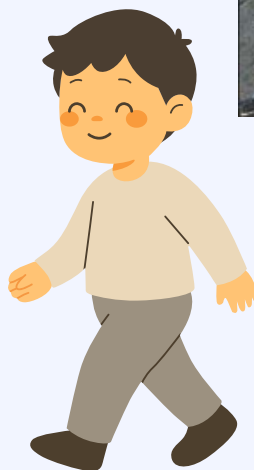
5/6 YO Boys Champion



# Combined Athletics at Lake Bolac



# Walk To School Day





ARARAT NORTH  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

# Expressions Of Interest

# MUSIC LESSONS



WITH ALANIS WILLIAMS  
Bachelor of Music (Performance)

## Individual and Small Group

## On-site at Ararat North Primary School

# PIANO • UKULELE MUSIC THEORY

To express your interest  
please contact the school office

*Unbound Sounds*

Music without Limits Joy Without Bounds

5352 3766

ARARAT.NORTH.PS@EDUCATION.VIC.GOV.AU

- We encourage all students to complete their weekly homework and to read regularly at home with their guardians. This ongoing support helps reinforce classroom learning and builds confidence and fluency in key skills.
- Make sure notifications are turned on in XUNO so you receive all important information through the app.
- Lunch orders are available each Tuesday. Please order via the Qkr! app by Monday prior.

## WINTER UNIFORM ITEMS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE AT THE FRONT OFFICE

BEANIES - \$20

SCARVES - \$20

RAIN JACKETS - \$35



ARARAT NORTH  
PRIMARY SCHOOL



## Important Dates & Events

**King's Birthday Public Holiday - Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June**

**Gymnastics Program - Every Wednesday**

**End of Term Assembly/Colour Walkathon - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June**



## PARENT / CAREGIVER / GUARDIAN INFORMATION AND CONSENT LETTER

### 2026 Student Attitudes to School Survey

Dear Parent / Caregiver / Guardian,

This letter is to inform you about the 2026 Student Attitudes to School Survey (AtoSS), which all government school students in Years 4 to 12 will be invited to complete.

#### About the survey

The AtoSS is a voluntary student survey offered by the Department of Education every year to help schools and the department understand students' experiences of school. We will ask your child about their thoughts and feelings about their school, their learning, relationships with other students, resilience, bullying, health and wellbeing, physical activity, and life in general.

ORIMA Research Pty Ltd has been contracted by the department to manage the collection of the online survey and will provide support to schools through a telephone hotline and email.

This year, the survey will be conducted at your school from 11<sup>th</sup> May to 12<sup>th</sup> June.

#### What are the benefits?

Young people enjoy having a say! This survey has been running for nearly 20 years and helps schools plan programs and activities to improve your child's engagement with school, their wellbeing and their learning. The survey data also helps the Department of Education understand how to improve student learning.

#### What are the risks?

We don't expect many risks of participation, but some students may find some questions personal or sensitive. If you agree for your child to take part, they can still skip questions or withdraw at any time whilst completing the survey if it makes them upset or uncomfortable. A teacher will be present during the survey to support students.

The questions come from validated survey instruments used in Australia and around the world. They focus on your child's strengths and are designed for each year level group.

#### What will my child be asked to do?

Your child will be invited to complete the survey **online during class time** using a purpose built secure online survey tool. We are not "testing" your child. Please note:

- Students can choose if they want to take part, skip questions if they don't want to answer, and can stop doing the survey at any time.
- There are different versions of the survey to let all students take part.
- The survey will take around 20-40 minutes to complete.

#### How is my child's privacy protected?

A teacher will give your child a unique login to complete the survey. This unique student login is an assigned identifier that will be used by the department to link data for analysis and research only. Some student demographic data such as year level, gender, age, and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander status are provided to ORIMA research, and linked with the unique student login ID to administer the survey. This information helps to support analysis and research, to paint a clearer picture of how Victorian school students are faring.

ORIMA Research will only use student personal information for research purposes to facilitate the administration and data collection of the Attitudes to School Survey. To keep your child's survey answers private, ORIMA Research won't include any personally identifiable data in the survey answers file that is provided to the department.

All data is stored on servers located in Australia, and only staff who are working on the project can access it.

All information collected about your child will be handled in accordance with the *Privacy Data and Protection Act 2014 (Vic)*, the *Health Records Act 2001 (Vic)* and the *Public Records Act 1973 (Vic)*, as well as the Department's [Schools' Privacy Policy](#). Please note that consistent with the above legislation and our policy, there are instances where we may be required by law to share information provided by your child. For example, where there is a threat to your child's health and safety.

### How will results be reported?

The department will only use aggregated survey data to report on initiatives and this data may also be used in public discussions of issues about student engagement and wellbeing. An example of how survey data has been previously used includes reporting levels of student engagement in the Performance Summary in the Annual Report to the School Community. The department will not share any identifiable student data with any other party.

Your child's school will only get reports about groups of students. Information about individual students and the student answers data file will not be shared with schools. If there are low numbers of student answers to a question, the report will not show results for this question to protect the privacy of those students.

Your school may share the survey report back to you.

### What if I don't want my child to do the survey?

This survey is **voluntary**. If you **do not** want your child to do the survey, please opt out by emailing your school at [Ararat.north.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Ararat.north.ps@education.vic.gov.au) before the survey starts on 18<sup>th</sup> June.

Student personal information will be shared with ORIMA Research to facilitate survey preparations prior to this opt out process. If you opt your child out of participating, then your school will ensure that your child is not provided with access to the survey. Student details will be deleted by ORIMA Research at the conclusion of the survey.

If your school does not receive a "Refusal of Consent" email from you before the survey begins, we will assume that you agree for your child to take part in the 2026 Attitudes to School Survey. Please remember, as noted above, the survey is voluntary: even with your consent, your child can choose to skip questions or stop doing the survey at any time.

For more information about this survey, including the questions your child will be asked to answer, please visit the department's [survey information page](#).

If you would like more information or have any concerns about the survey, please speak to your child's teacher, or contact the department at [school.surveys@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:school.surveys@education.vic.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,

Department of Education, Victoria



## GARIWERD

### LAECG Meeting

We invite parents, students, and the community to join us to yarn all things Koorie education in the Gariwerd / Grampians area.

**LAECG Chair: Haylee Crispe & Clayton North**

**DINNER PROVIDED**

#### Event details

**Date:** Tuesday, 26th May 2026

**Time:** 4:30pm – 6:00pm

**Place:** Goolum Goolum Hub Stawell

**To register you and your family for catering purposes, please contact:**

**Jasmine-Monique McCaw**

Southwest Marrung Facilitator

0439 802 945 | [jasmine@vaeai.org.au](mailto:jasmine@vaeai.org.au)

**VAEAI**



# 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:

