Dear parents, students and friends of Willaura Primary School,

I had the pleasure of heading to the Black Ranges and Little Desert Division Cross Country event in St Arnaud yesterday, with 7 representatives from our school. These students were Georgie, Angus, Lachlan, Erica, Max P, Floyd, and Ruby. I was very impressed by the effort and determination displayed by all students, and particularly pleased by the sense of camaraderie and good sportsmanship. More than one of our students helped other competitors from other schools when they were hurt and this was lovely to see. A big thankyou to all students for participating and to Kelly Evans and Casey Walker for transporting them to St Arnaud.

Assembly Awards

Congratulations to all students who were recognised at last week’s assembly. It is wonderful to see you all working hard to improve your learning.

Lilli– For the effort she has put into learning her sounds and letters.
Josh– For working hard and contributing valuably to class discussions.
Ruby– For her all round hard work and having a Growth Mindset.

As you are all aware of, our school is focusing on developing Respect at the moment as part of our School Wide Positive Behaviour program and we have been working hard to earn Class Dojo points in this area. The students who received the most points for the month of April were:

Jaspa, Victoria, Max J, Archie, Lachlan, Erica and Nick.

Congratulations to those students who are helping to make our school a respectful place to be for everyone.

Please visit our school Facebook page to get the link to see our Newsletter in full colour!

www.facebook.com/willauraps/
Tammie Meehan

Dates for the family diary.....

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>10th May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>NAPLAN begins for week Grade 3’s involved</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>17th May</td>
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<td></td>
<td>House Sports Day</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>20th May</td>
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<td>Combined Sports</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>25th May</td>
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<td></td>
<td>‘Short &amp; Snotty to Tall and Spotty’ - Free session for Parents/Carers at Ararat Performing Arts Centre 7-9pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>Student Led Conferences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>13th June</td>
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<td>QUEEN’S BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>14th June</td>
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<td>Jon Madin Music Workshop– All students</td>
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TERM DATES 2016

Term 1– 1st February—24th March
Term 2– 11th April– 24th June
Term 3– 11th July—16th September
Term 4– 3rd October—20th December
The highlight on the PE calendar for the past few weeks has been the basketball clinics run at the school by coach “T” & “Chopper”. This culminated on Wednesday morning when the grades 2-6 made the trip into the Ararat YMCA to partake in a full court basketball match. The modified rules made for a fantastic time where everyone had maximum opportunity to experiment, make mistakes and ultimately succeed in what was for most their first foray into basketball. A few cheeky baskets from Miss Rae and Mr B ensured that EVERYONE got involved, the students (and teachers) have had a fantastic time over the past month with the basketball clinics and would like to extend our thanks to coach “T” and “Chopper for their efforts, if anyone is interested in taking up basketball as a permanent sport outside of school contact Mr B and he will put you in touch with the appropriate people to make it happen!

We are starting choir at school next week on Wednesday lunchtimes which is going to be fun! Many of us are looking forward to singing in a choir. It is something new for many of us. Students from all grades are welcome to join if they wish.

We have had only a couple of music/art sessions over the last fortnight due to the Principal meetings that I have had to attend. So, I thought it would be a great opportunity to talk about the wonderful reasons why we value ‘Music’ in our school. In Music, we always begin with a mindfulness activity to ‘switch’ on, then we follow that with a singing activity. After all of that singing, we are ready for a dance/movement activity so that we build our spatial awareness, then we finish off playing and jamming with the instruments.

Music and Art combine with our school culture of learning about neuroscience very well, because our brains LOVE music and the arts. These two activities actually help our brains to improve its ability to improve speech, understanding emotions in the voice and its ability to handle more than one task at the same time. There is even evidence that music can help children improve their reading skills, maths skills and learning generally.

Last week year 4/6 started planting our winter crop, so far we have onion, garlic, lettuce and silver beet. The year P/1 watered and scoped out the new vegetable beds. They then weeded and transplanted some of our creeping strawberries. Fingers crossed they continue to grow! Next week we shall plant the remaining seeds and continue preparing for winter.

This week we have had some generous donations from the Community House who have brought us many beautiful fruits and also some yummy raisin toast. All the classes have been busy making French raisin toast, working on their pan and flipping skills looking at safety and how to make a meal from not much in the fridge! I am hoping parents might have a helping hand for those tired nights that you just don’t want to cook!

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Mrs M

Miss Steph
IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR BUS TRAVELLERS:
THERE IS TO BE NO EATING ON THE BUS. ONLY DRINKS OF WATER ARE ALLOWED.

ARARAT LITTLE ATHLETICS CENTRE

Junior Basketball & Futsal

Term 3 & 4 ~ 2016
Registrations are now OPEN
Get your registration form at the Ararat Fitness Centre, text or email me, return by Friday 24th June.
Phone Donna on 0427 521 074
or email ararat.redbacks@gmail.com

- Have fun
- Keep fit and healthy
- Make friends and develop social skills
- Learn new skills
- Develop Teamwork
- Enhance self esteem

2015 – 2016 Cross Country Season
Information & Registration Night
Thursday 12th May 5.30pm McDonalds Party Room

Season will commence Thursday 9th June and run for 10 weeks.
4.30pm – 4.45pm Registrations $55.00 (includes T-Shirt)
(Plus in current membership)
5.00pm All age groups off and running
Come along and enjoy a run:
Under 6 500m
Under 7-8 1000m
Under 9 & 10 1500m
Under 11 & 12 2000m
13+ 3000m

For more information contact: Melissa or Judy on above numbers

SHORT AND SNOTTY TO TALL AND SPOTTY
FREE session for parents and carers who want to make the transition easier for their kids as they move from short and snotty to tall and spotty, through

- play, role modeling and conversation
- learning to celebrate their “I CAN” lists
- introducing the concept of having a plan

May 25th 7-9pm at the Ararat Performing Arts Centre

Presenter Leigh Bartlett

RSVP Kristy Price 03 5358 7100 or email kristy.p@grampianscommunityhealth.org.au

IMPACT AND SNOTTY TO TALL AND SPOTTY
FREE session for parents and carers who want to make the transition easier for their kids as they move from short and snotty to tall and spotty, through

- play, role modeling and conversation
- learning to celebrate their “I CAN” lists
- introducing the concept of having a plan

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GRAMPIANS COMMUNITY HEALTH
&
BARWON ADOLESCENT TASK FORCE

NO FOOD
Scaffolding children’s learning

“This is just too hard. I can’t do it!” nine-year old Emmet says as he tears the page from his notebook and scrunches it up in frustration. “Mom, can you help?”

As parents and carers, it is hard to see children struggle with their learning, especially when they are frustrated or upset. Sometimes, and often before you know it, you become caught up in trying to help them and you wind up doing their schoolwork for them. How do you find the right balance between telling them, “You just have to do it!” and giving them all the answers? And what if you don’t even have the answers?

Helping children with schoolwork (eg homework assignments or projects) is sometimes a challenge for families as well as for children. However, it can also be an opportunity for parents and carers to get to know what children are learning at school and to support their learning. Children learn better when they have opportunities to share and practise at home what they are learning at school.

It is not necessary for parents or carers to have all the answers when children have difficulties with their schoolwork. If adults simply provide children with the answers, children miss out on the chance to learn and think for themselves. Parents and carers can help children by guiding their learning and thinking and supporting them to try for themselves.

Helping to build children’s learning

In just the same way that scaffolding provides temporary support to a building, parents and carers can also “scaffold” children’s learning. For some things children may need lots of support. This is especially the case when they are learning new things.

As children’s abilities develop, they gradually become more independent in their learning and parents and carers can start to reduce their “scaffolding.”

Tips for scaffolding children’s learning

- Provide a challenge that is just beyond what your child can already do easily by him or herself.
- Give prompts.
- Ask questions.
- Model the steps involved.
- Praise your child for attempting the task, not just for succeeding.
- Watch to see if your child is struggling or becoming frustrated, as these may be signs that the task is too hard.