



Meet School Captain Mia Wood

Hello school community!

I'm Mia Wood, one of your School Captains for 2021 along with my fellow peer, Jack Ward. Jack and I made ourselves known a couple of weeks ago but we decided to share with you who we are as separate individuals. Our Vice Captains will also share a bit about themselves in the coming weeks. So, let me fill you in on my life at Ararat College so far.

I have grown up in Ararat all my life and I'm such a proud member of this welcoming and friendly community. I was always quite a shy person through the beginning of my high school journey, but I have learnt to overcome that, and look where I am today! This year you will hopefully be seeing lots of me around the school, so I thought you should all get to know me as a person, not just as your School Captain.

I have always been a big Geelong Cats fan and I don't plan on changing anytime soon! I also have four older siblings who have all come and gone at Ararat College. My siblings and I have always loved our time at this school and the awesome teachers who are part of it. A question I am constantly asking myself is where do I see myself in 5 years' time? And my answer to that would be travelling and making memories while I still have the chance to do so. Of course, I want to go to University and study a career path that I am passionate about, but do I know what I want to do when I leave school? Absolutely not! But there is time for all of us to work out where and what we want to be in the future.

Last but not least, always know that I am a very friendly face you can come up and chat to in the yard or even if you see me outside of school as I am taking part in community events more often than not. Jack and I are super excited to spend our final schooling year leading such a great bunch of students and the wider school community.

Mia Wood, 2021 School Captain



A message from the Principal....

Year 7 Camp

It has been a big week for our Year 7 students after spending Monday through to Wednesday out on camp at Halls Gap. Year 7 students spent this time engaging in activities focused on building trust and strengthening relationships amongst the cohort, as well as pushing students outside their own comfort zone to encourage personal development and demonstrate their capacity as leaders. A very big thank you to the staff that attended the camp; Mr Krol, Mr Briody, Ms Skewes, Ms Potter, Ms Jamieson and Mr O'Sullivan. Our school captains Jack and Mia also visited the camp to talk to everyone about the opportunities available through our Student Leadership Program. Thank you Jack and Mia for also running the hotly contested Trivia Night. I am sure everyone will be keen for a rest over the weekend!

State Schools Spectacular

This year our school will again participate in this full-scale performance event as part of the mass dance component. They will be working with extremely experienced professionals in the Performing Arts Industry. The event will again be put together utilizing the virtual technologies we are all becoming very familiar with. Thank you to Mr Bowles and Ms Pace for organising for our participation in this worthwhile experience.

Bridging the Digital Divide

Some families may already be aware of an announcement made at the end of last year by the Victorian Government in relation to supporting students and families in their access to digital devices. This announcement means that all students that were loaned devices in 2020 during our remote and flexible learning periods can retain these computers permanently. Students that fell into this category at our school have already been provided with their computers and a charger and have been able to take their devices home at the end of every school day. Eligible families will receive a package in the mail outlining the finer detail of this wonderful initiative in the coming week. A list of frequently asked questions will also be included. Families will also be asked to either accept or decline the computer for their child, through the completion of a form.

Immunisations

On Monday 1st March we have immunisations for our Year 7 and 10 students. Thank you to the families that have returned their slips for this. Please remember to send the immunisation card with your child on Monday if you have not yet returned it.

Ellie McDougall
Principal

Tennis Final Showdown

This Saturday we have two staff members competing against each other in the Ararat & District Tennis Association Grand Final. Miss Tahni Skewes (Ararat) and Mrs Mel Murnane (Elmhurst/Amphitheatre) will take to the court against each other, both playing as no. 1 lady for their teams.

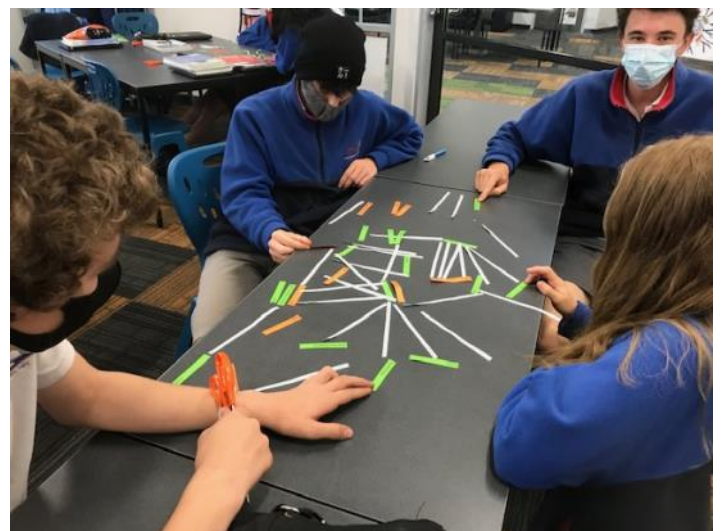
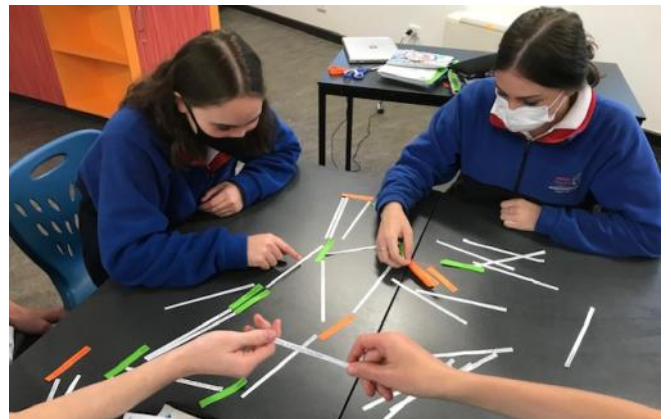
Tahni has the upper-hand having defeated Mel in the grand final last year, however Mel is hoping this re-match will have a different outcome. It's great to see such fun and friendly competition happening in the community. The Grand final will take place at the Landsborough tennis courts beginning at 12noon on Saturday. Good luck to both players!



From the Science Department....

"Year 11 Biology students are linking processes of living and non-living things in preparation for studying energy transformations in autotrophs and heterotrophs."

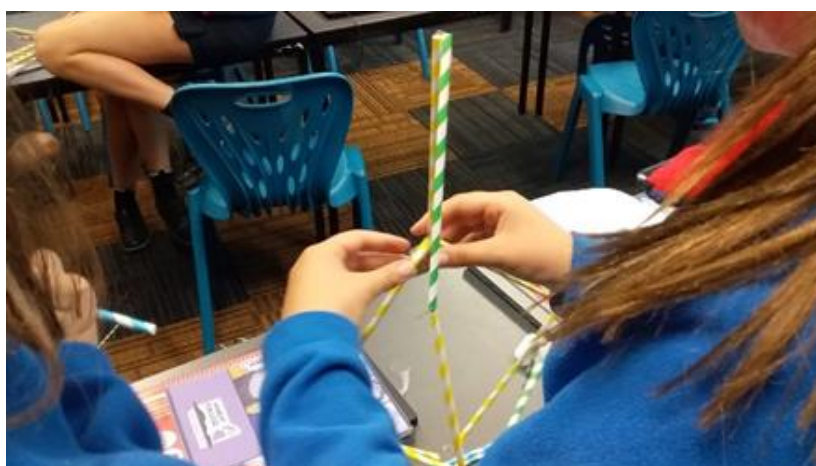
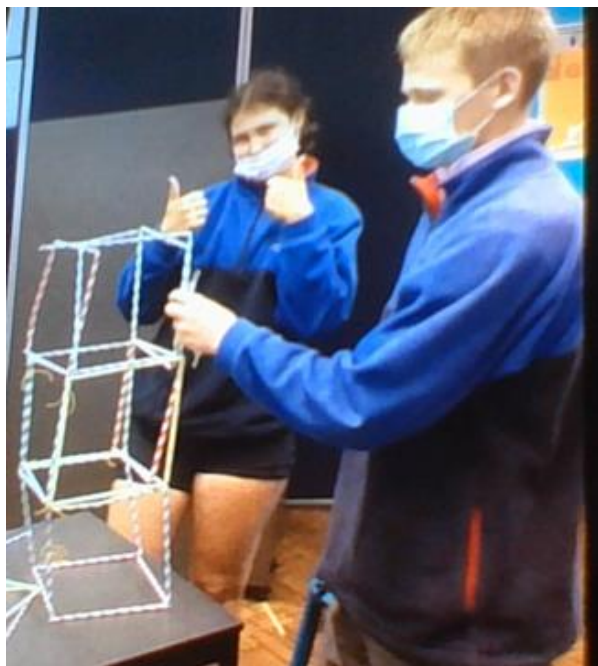
Ms Gaylard



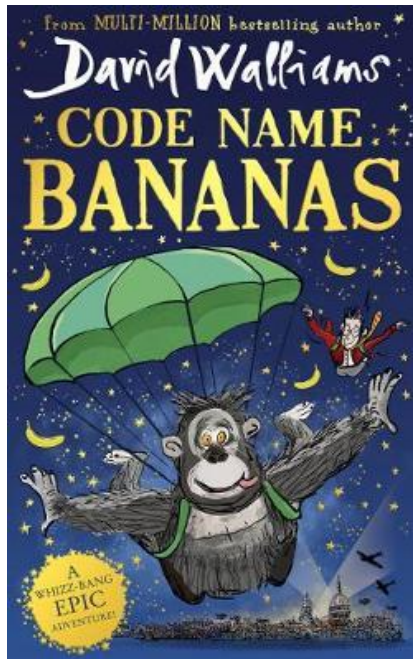
Year 9/10 BYOB (Build Your Own Business)

In Build your own business this week the students were required to build a tower using straws and paper clips. There were three groups that were given different materials to work with, some less and some more. The tower had to be as tall as possible and be free standing. The purpose of this activity was looking at resources, the amount you want, have and need. One group was very disadvantaged and traded resources with other groups. The students weren't aware until the towers were built, that we were focussing on scarcity.

Mrs Prior



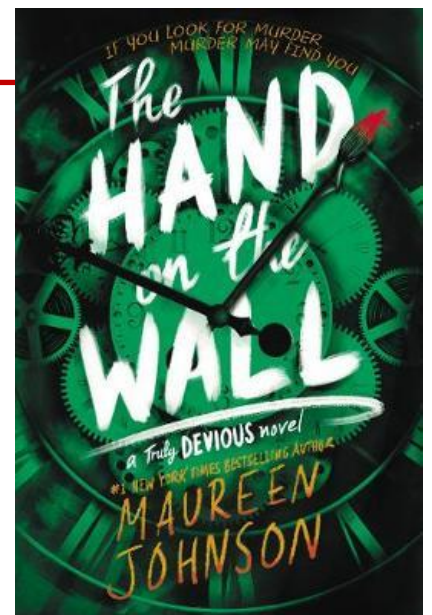
These new novels by popular authors are now available in the library.



Go back in time with bestselling author David Walliams for a whizz-bang epic adventure of action, laughter and secret plots - and the extraordinary friendship between a little boy and a huge gorilla that just might save the day... 1940. Britain is at war with Nazi Germany. Eleven year old Eric spends his days at the place that makes him most happy: London Zoo. And there's one animal in particular he loves: Gertrude the gorilla. With bombs falling all over London, Eric must rescue Gertrude. Together with his Uncle Sid, a keeper at the zoo, the three go on the run. But while hiding out at the seaside they uncover a top-secret Nazi plot... Join David Walliams on this action-packed, laugh-out-loud adventure for all the family!

The conclusion to the Truly Devious Trilogy.

Ellingham Academy must be cursed. Three people are now dead. One, a victim of either a prank gone wrong or a murder. Another, dead by misadventure. And now, an accident in Burlington has claimed another life. All three in the wrong place at the wrong time. All at the exact moment of Stevie's greatest triumph . . . She knows who Truly Devious is. She's solved it. The greatest case of the century. At least, she thinks she has. With this latest tragedy, it's hard to concentrate on the past. Not only has someone died in town, but David disappeared of his own free will and is up to something. Stevie is sure that somehow all these things connect. The three deaths in the present. The deaths in the past. The missing Alice Ellingham and the missing David Eastman. Somewhere in this place of riddles and puzzles there must be answers. Ellingham Academy is evacuated. Obviously, it's time for Stevie to do something stupid. It's time to stay on the mountain and face the storm - and a murderer.



Attendance

VCE Attendance Reminder –

Please note that if a year 11 or 12 VCE student is absent on the day of a scheduled assessment task (SAC) a medical certificate or a statutory declaration must be provided. Student's will then be required to redeem the missed task the following Thursday after school between 3:30-4:30pm. Please contact Jess Erhardt or Melissa Murnane for further details.



AC Book Club

Our first meeting was on Thursday 18th February 2021. We talked about whatever book we had been reading and then explained who we would recommend the book too. Thank you to the students who attended and also to Miss West. Our next meeting will be Thursday 4th March at lunchtime in the Library. Everyone is welcome.

Mrs Prior



Census

**2,665 jobs
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2021 Census Field Manager

\$36.90 per hour (incl 25% loading) + super
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Census

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2021 Census Field Officer

\$24.80 per hour (incl 25% loading) + super
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Secondary School Attendance

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your teenager's education.

Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Being away from school for 1 day a fortnight equals missing 1.5 years over 13 years of school

If your teenager is away

If for any reason your teenager must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don't fall behind:

- Inform the school via your teen's Form/Home Room teacher or Year Level Coordinator
- Find out what work your teenager needs to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teenager's teacher and ensure they complete the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your teenager must miss school, speak with your home room teacher or year level coordinator as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your teenager's school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Training Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Chronic or ongoing attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice being issued to parent/s.

If you're having attendance issues with your teenager, please let the year level coordinator, wellbeing coordinator, principal or other relevant staff member know so you can work together to get your teen to school every day.

Top attendance tips for parents

- Schools want to work in partnership with parents – act early if you have any concerns by contacting your child's school and asking for advice and support
- Remember that every day counts
- There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes and their social connectedness
- Talk positively about school and the importance of attending every day
- Open and prompt communication with your child's school about all absences is a good idea
- Avoid making routine medical and dental appointments during the school day or planning family holidays during the term
- Seek help from your school if you are concerned about your child's attendance and wellbeing. Schools want to work in partnership with parents to support student attendance and wellbeing.

Further information

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit: [Student attendance](#).

March 2021

Week 6	Monday	1	Year 7 and 10 Immunisations
	Tuesday	2	
	Wednesday	3	
	Thursday	4	
	Friday	5	
Week 7	Monday	8	Labour Day Public Holiday
	Tuesday	9	
	Wednesday	10	
	Thursday	11	
	Friday	12	Maria Island Camp 12th –15th March
Week 8	Monday	15	Student Progress Report 1
	Tuesday	16	
	Wednesday	17	
	Thursday	18	
	Friday	19	School Photos
Week 9	Monday	22	
	Tuesday	23	
	Wednesday	24	Music Performance Night
	Thursday	25	Parent / Teacher / Students Conferences
	Friday	26	Parent / Teacher / Students Conferences
Week 10	Monday	29	
	Tuesday	30	
	Wednesday	31	

April 2021

	Thursday	1	Last Day of Term 1
	Friday	2	Easter - Good Friday

Ararat College is committed to child safety (Ministerial Order No. 870) and takes all reasonable steps to ensure that the safety of our students is paramount.

Ararat College acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the country throughout Victoria. We pay our respects to them, their culture and their Elders past, present and emerging.