

Newsletter 2020



Respect - Responsibility - Excellence

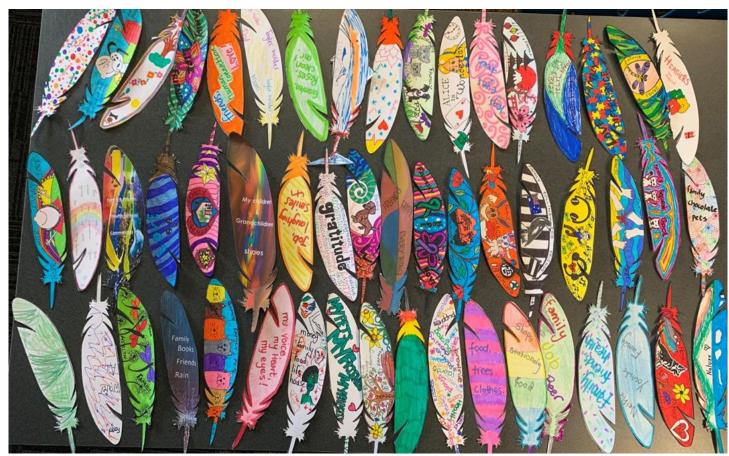
5th June 2020

Term 2 Week 8 Volume 16

Wall of Gratitude



We have been collecting feathers for our 'Wall of Gratitude' that will be displayed at the school. We would like to invite all members of the school community to complete a feather, to focus on the positive things happening Use a feather pattern to in 2020. write or draw the things you are grateful for and send it to school with your students. Ms Poole is in charge of collecting and assembling the feathers into wings to make a display of everything we have to be grateful for. Templates are available from Ms Poole.



A message from the Principal.....

Senior School Student Parent Teacher Interviews

This week we have held interviews with families from our Senior School via phone. This was an opportunity for parents to have more detailed conversations regarding the progress of their child and seek feedback on where they are at in terms of their VCE or VCAL certificates. A big thank you to the families who have used this as an opportunity to catch up with our teachers and to our staff who have implemented this different way of doing things very quickly. Any parents who were not able to make an appointment but would like to contact their child's teachers, please feel free to contact the front office on 5352 4177.

Stage 2 Return

We are looking forward to Tuesday where we will welcome the remainder of our students back to school! This will see the implementation of Stage 2 of our Staggered Return to School. For more information regarding this please <u>click here</u> to view the parent handbook, contact the front office on 5352 4177 or email myself or Ms Henry (<u>ellie.mcdougall@education.vic.gov.au</u>, <u>emma.henry@education.vic.gov.au</u>). We are more than happy to answer any questions that you may have. Some of the main points:

- <u>Tuesday June 9th</u> ALL students are required at school. All students will recommence their full face to face timetable.
- **School Uniform**: All students will need to be in full school uniform.
- <u>Leaving School Grounds</u>: Students will not be allowed to leave school grounds throughout the school day upon returning to school.
- **Drop off and pick up:** We ask that parents remain in their car when dropping their child to school or picking them up from school.
- Mobile Phone Policy: I would like to remind all families that when students are onsite at school they are required to follow the State Mobile Phone Policy that was introduced at the beginning of this year. You can access this policy on our school website. Our students had been doing an exceptional job following this policy, we want them to continue this manner as they return to school.
- <u>School Canteen:</u> Our school canteen will be open. Students MUST order their lunches at recess.
- <u>Late Arrivals:</u> From next week, all Students who are late to school need to report to the college office where the office staff will sign them in.

Thank you to our families

It is fair to say that the last couple of months have been challenging for everyone as we have adjusted to a new way of life. I would like to congratulate all families – parents and students on the amazing way they have approached and responded to the challenge of remote learning. Our staff are very grateful for the hard work that you have all put in to making this work so that the learning of your children has been supported in the best possible way, so thank you!

Parent Feedback

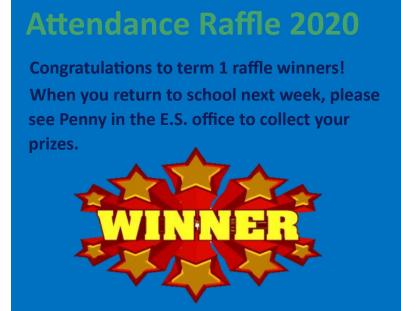
We are currently in the process of collecting feedback from parents on our remote learning program and response to COVID-19. Working in partnership with our school community is important to us. Please click on the link to complete this short survey. https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VK5KM5K Thank you to those who have already taken the time to provide their input!

House Olympics - stay tuned...

In order to provide an opportunity for our students to have a house activity where they can all compete in a fun and social way to earn points for their houses, we will be holding a House Olympics on the last day of term. This will be an opportunity for our Year 12 students to dress up and the younger students to wear house colours whilst competing in different events. The day will start at the end of recess. More details coming soon!



Ellie McDougall Acting Principal



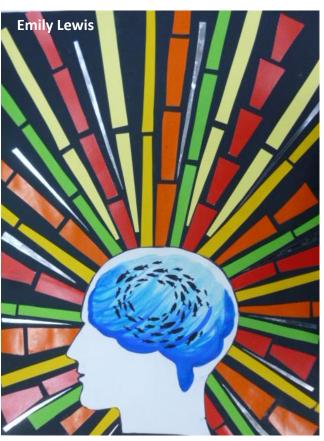
Connar Barrie
Leroy Bell
Milly Billett
Hannah Burns
Alyssa Camilleri
Jasmine Day
Eliza Farrington
Madison Ferguson
Tash Ferguson
Clara Goodey
Olivia Graham
Dylan Jantzen

Tamsyn Kettle
Ethan McKinnon
Summer Merrick
Alby ONeill
Charlotte Ramsay
Audrey Reynolds
Jaz Richards
Rhyder Simpson
Fyn Smithwick
Will Townsend
Connor Tucker
Mia Wood
Tyler Woolley

Year 11 Art

Year 11 Art have been given the theme 'Dreams and Nightmares' for their latest projects. Given the current world circumstances, they have certainly had plenty of topics to find inspiration for their art works.







We would love to get some feedback from our parents on the Remote Learning Program at Ararat College. If you can spare a minute to answer a couple of questions it would be very much appreciated! Please click on the link

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VK5KM5K



Getting through time together (And in one piece.)

An online discussion for families with teens experiencing a change in the home environment due to COVID-19.

Tips, tricks and strategies for getting through prolonged and increased time together as a family.

Whole family participation encouraged!

When

10 June 2020 5.30pm to 6:30pm

Where

Online Via Zoom

To book:

https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/quaranteenin g-tickets-106868975984



headspace National Youth Mental Health Foundation is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health

This Week in VCAL

The past two weeks has seen a return of senior students to their schooling, which includes our VCAL students. For some of the students, the opportunities that remote learning offered allowed them the freedom and flexibility to complete their work at their own pace, whereas other students struggled with the freedom and technological issues presented. However, there is no denying that the students have appreciated the social aspect of returning to school. We have tried to keep things as normal as possible, but there have been some changes.

We now have Mentor Group meetings three mornings a week, where we check in with the students and make sure that they are working towards their goals. This is especially enjoyable at the moment as Mr. Sherwell, who is one of our mentor teachers, is not on site during this time and he is attending the meetings via 'ZOOM'.

VCAL students were also back at the farm this week, tidying up after 2 months of being left unattended. They are happily getting stuck into all the jobs that need doing at this time of year.





WELCOME BACK

The Ararat College Wellbeing Team would like to welcome everyone back to school next week! We understand how challenging the past few months have been and are looking forward to seeing some more friendly faces around the school.

We would like to encourage any students or parents that are have any concerns to please contact us for support. This can be done by phoning the front office on 03 5352 4177. We would also like to remind students that their co-ordinators are also there to support them so please reach out on SMT if you need help.





Feeling anxious about returning to school?

Here are some strategies to assist students and their families when returning to school.

Get back into a routine

Routines are safe and familiar which can reduce anxious feelings

Focus on what you can control

This can help with keeping you in the present moment. Try not to get caught up in the 'what if's'?

Explore the positives

Even if you are worried about returning to school, try and create a list of positives that you can look forward to.

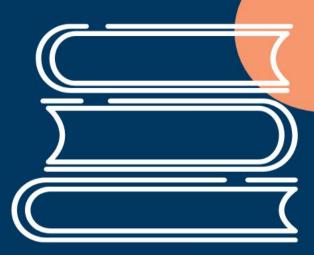
For more information visit kidshelpline.com.au or email Taylah Jamieson at taylah.jamieson@education.vic.gov.au

Create a plan

Get someone to help you create a plan for the first day or two. This will help reduce the feelings of unknown

It's okay to feel anxious

Remember that it is okay to be worried about returning to school. Your friends are most likely worried too.



AC Reads

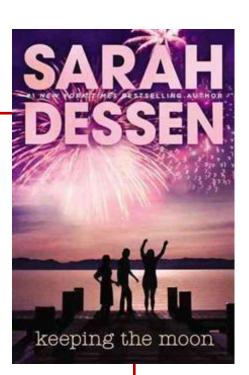
These new novels by popular authors are now available for borrowing from the library.



The icon-maker and angel-summoner Liliath, long-believed dead, has woken from her century-long sleep to pick up the threads of a plan that has already destroyed one kingdom and may yet destroy another. To succeed, Liliath must bring together Agnez the musketeer; Simeon the doctor; Dorotea the mage; and Henri, one of the Cardinal's clerks, and take them into utmost danger ... Set in an alternate 17th century where angels can be summoned (and controlled) by those with a talent for magic, Angel Mage is an action-packed story of angels, heroes, gunpowder and high magic.

Never underestimate the power of friendship.

When Colie goes to spend the summer at the beach, she doesn't expect much. But Colie didn't count on meeting Morgan and Isabel. Through them, she learns what true friendship is all about, and finally starts to realize her potential. And that just might open the door to her first chance at love. . .



Julie 2020			
Week 9	Monday	8	Public Holiday
	Tuesday	9	All students return to onsite learning
	Wednesday	10	
	Thursday	11	
	Friday	12	
Week 10	Monday	15	
	Tuesday	16	
	Wednesday	17	
	Thursday	18	
	Friday	19	
Week 11	Monday	22	Year 9 Careers Counselling
	Tuesday	23	Year 9 Careers Counselling
	Wednesday	24	Year 9 Careers Counselling
	Thursday	25	Year 9 Careers Counselling
	Friday	26	Year 9 Careers Counselling House Olympics - End of Term 2 Student Reports - Cycle 3
July 20	20		
Week 1	Monday	14	First day of term 3
	Tuesday	15	
	Wednesday	16	
	Thursday	17	
	Friday	18	
Week 2	Monday	20	
	Tuesday	21	
	Wednesday	22	
	Thursday	23	
	Friday	24	
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June 2020

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.