Newsletter

Term 2 - Week 2, 2025

POMONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

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RESPECT RESILIENCE RESPONSIBLITY

Reading Awards

Congratulations to our first lot of students who have reached 50 nights of reading. Aston, Emilee, Hudson, Lucy, Olivia, Paige, Sam Hurley and Zakiyah. Well done!

Welcome our new Student Placement Teacher, Olga

Olga came to our school from Melbourne. She loves spending time with kids, going outside, playing with her dog Roo (what a weird name for a dog!) and travel. Olga will stay with us for 4 weeks for her teaching placement. Fun fact about Olga is that she can speak Russian.

News from the Junior Room

It was wonderful to welcome our whole class back to school last week after our first term break. The children were all eager to share what they had done and especially what 'Easter bunny' had brought them.

After this sharing the children discussed what ANZAC day meant to them and why we celebrate this day. They made a large poppy on Wednesday and followed this up on Thursday by making personal wrist bands and completing an Anzac Day wordsearch.

These activities were done around a special Art session on Wednesday with Mrs Powell and an exciting Science session on Thursday with Mrs McCann introducing the new topic of 'The state of Matter'. This involved making scones and beating cream in a jar, then adding marbles to turn into butter. The children were delighted to share their scones and cream with the whole school at recess.

We were also excited to have Grace (last year's grade six student) join our class.

This term the Juniors will be having:
· Daily reader change
· Nightly spelling practice – tested on Monday
· Completing heirloom project
· Fortnightly visits to the Men's shed
· Athletic sports practice – please send your child with appropriate footwear, if possible.

25 Nights Reading Certificates

Congratulations to Ike and Aston for completing 25 nights of reading.

Recognition Award

A special recognition certificate was awarded to Bodhi for taking responsibility for the rubbish collection.
Thank you Bodhi.

News from the Senior Class

The Calm Corner

We have created a Wellbeing Corner to support our students' emotional health, self-regulation, and social skills. We've called this space the *Calm Corner*.

Students who are feeling overwhelmed, anxious or just need some timeout can spend time in this relaxing, calm environment.

Students can listen to calming music, lay on the couch, hug a teddy, read a book, stare out the window, do breathing exercises or even take a little nap if they are tired.

This new space is a wonderful place for our students' wellbeing.

Art Class

It was hive of activity in our Art Class this week.
Our students learnt the art of Print Making and also created some graphite designs which they will use to create Paper Mache Hares.
Watch this space to see how those model hares turn out.....

PE with Olga

Olga had both our Junior and Senior classes practice relays for PE.
Relay races combine fun, teamwork, and physical activity.
It was great to see all our students having fun and participating in this event.

Update from OSHC

Our OSHC students entered the Moyston Easter Market Pumpkin Competition with two pumpkins they grew in our garden over the summer. They were almost 9kg and 15kg each! Even though we had high hopes, unfortunately we were pipped by a 127kg pumpkin that came all the way from Queensland! Nonetheless, we are very proud of their efforts and looking forward to what we can achieve next year ... we're in the market for pumpkin seeds with really good (BIG) genetics, if you have any leads .... 😉

We are also really pleased to let you know that Erin has fitted into OSHC like a hand in a glove, which has made us all so happy ❤️. She is introducing a great program and has created more opportunities for parents to catch up with what their children are doing through the XPLOR app. She will be taking over as Co-ordinator from Monday 12th May and Rowena will be stepping back as assistant educator.

We will be having a formal acknowledgement of Rowena's service with cake at 3.00pm on Monday 12th May.

We've also started planning for our next school holiday program which will run Monday 7th July – Friday 11th July. Watch this space for more details.

Book Fair

Monday 5th - Thursday 22nd May
There will be a selection of books for sale in the OSCH shed. Please pay at the office.

uEducateUs -Staff Communication, Morning Procedures and absences

To minimise staff disruptions, all communication is to now go through uEducateUs please rather than calling, texting or verbally providing reminders.

Please use the **communication tab**, click on **conversations,** click on the [+] box, start typing the staff member in the participant box and the name will come up.
Absences: Please record all absences with a reason (and comment) on uEducateus. (if you need assistance logging on, please see Belinda).

When staff are not rostered on yard duty, mornings are important times for them to prepare for their daily lessons and to meet with the other teachers and aides to plan the running's of the day.

We ask that students/ parents please do not enter the classrooms during these times unless a prior meeting has been arranged.

To enable students to be ready for class with water, fruit readers etc, they can store their belongings in the cupboards outside the doors for quick access.
This term for consistency for students, we will start with RWI or reading comprehension at 9am every day. Assemblies have been moved to Monday afternoons (3pm) for this reason.

SPARK Program

Schools
Parents
And
Resilient
Kids

Schools, Parents and Resilient Kids (SPARK) is a school program run by Grampians Health Infant, Child and Youth Mental Health Service Stream, working together with schools, teachers, students and their families. The SPARK program aims to help children in Foundation/Prep to Grade 3 build social, emotional, and behavioural skills in early primary school.

SPARK will be in our school in Term 2 2025 and Term 3 2025. The team will begin in Term 2 by working with teachers and parents/carers to identify the individual strengths and difficulties of each child. In Term 3 2025, they will begin the weekly SPARK program to the decided child group.

Parents will be invited to be involved too. We will be offering a parenting group which all parents of the school are invited to attend. The Bringing Up Great Kids Parenting (BUGK) program will be run in alongside SPARK in Term 3 2025, for 6 weeks. This program is a great way for all parents to develop your existing parenting skills and learning new strategies to assist your child.

Each week in Term 3 we will also send home tips for parents/carers in your school newsletter.

If you have any questions or would like specific topics to be discussed, please do not hesitate to contact your SPARK school representative Belinda Wethers.

Community Announcements

Brain Sweet Building Mental Resilience

Nurture your brain, benefit your wellbeing

15 May | 5-7.30pm | Ararat RSL | Tickets from $10

In this session, Clare introduces you to Whole Brain theory, and it's origins in neuroscientific research. You will learn:

- That there are 4 different 'types' of thinking, or cognition
- We all do them all, but we don't PREFER them equally. Therefore we tend to use one or two thinking styles more frequently than others.
- As a result, it is sometimes like we're speaking in different languages – we simply aren't able to influence colleagues effectively, because they prefer a different thinking style to us.

CommerceBallarat

Ararat Rural City

Central Highlands

Ararat OPEN DAYS

Ararat North Kindercare
Tuesday May 13, 3.30pm - 4.00pm
66 Blake St, Ararat | (03) 4311 1563

Carey Street Kindergarten
Tuesday May 13, 3.00pm - 3.30pm
9 Carey St, Ararat | (03) 4311 1508

Jack and Jill Kindergarten
Tuesday May 13, 4.30pm - 5.00pm
19 Robsons Lane, Ararat | (03) 4311 1576

St Andrews Kindergarten
Tuesday May 13, 5.00pm - 5.30pm
275 Barkly St, Ararat | (03) 4311 1586

Registrations are now open!

Register online at ykinders.org.au Enquiries: Please contact 4311 1500 or earlyyears@ykinders.org.au

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the Y Kinders