**Principal Ponderings**

**Ian Morgan Visit**

On Thursday the 27th October, local bird expert, Mr Ian Morgan, visited the school to teach the children about bird watching. Before heading out to find birds, Mr Morgan gave the school a copy of his book entitled, ‘Birds and Plants of the Little Desert’ and shared some facts about the birds in the Wimmera. The facts included:

- of the approximate 680 bird species in Australia, 267 can be found in the Wimmera (these include migratory birds)
- the migratory birds fly to Australia from Siberia to escape the cold of the Siberian winter
- the migratory birds begin arriving in late August and depart in April
- the migratory birds breed only in the Northern Hemisphere and not in Australia

After speaking to the children for approximately 20 minutes, the children headed out in groups of three or four to go bird watching. Each group had a pair of binoculars and a recording sheet. The children were amazed by Mr Morgan’s expertise in identifying birds. Often he would identify a bird before anyone had seen it just by the sound it made. With Mr Morgan’s help, the children were able to identify approximately eleven different types of birds.

I would like to thank Mr Morgan for visiting our school and sharing his knowledge about birds. I would also like to thank Mr David Bush for allowing us to use his binoculars.

**Rose Ertler - Young People and Youth Grant**

Musician, Rose Ertler, commenced working with the children on Monday as part of a project entitled ‘Our rhythm, our folk, our rural lives’. The project involves gathering stories from community members regarding life experiences, ideas and stories of growing up in the Marnoo district. Once the stories have been collected, the students will write songs, make a soundtrack and work towards establishing a live theatre performance.

In the first session with Rose, the children brainstormed some questions that could be asked of community members. These included:

- What did you think this town would end up like?
- What was the saddest part of your life?

**Tuesday 8th November 2016**

- the migratory birds only stop once or twice to feed in the 12,000km journey from Siberia.

I would like to thank Mr Morgan for visiting our school and sharing his knowledge about birds. I would also like to thank Mr David Bush for allowing us to use his binoculars.
• Did any of your family play any international sports?
• Were you in the fire brigade? If you were, what did you feel like when you were fighting a fire?
• How did you feel when you had your first day of school?

The project is being funded by the Young People and Youth Grant which was applied for through the Northern Grampians Shire Council Community Grants Scheme.

School Concert Practice
The children have commenced practising for the school concert at the Marnoo Memorial Hall. The children are welcome to bring their costumes to school so that they can wear them during practices.

Grant Fiedler.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

AYRTON

For

His excellent work with Scratch, improving well with his reading comprehension score in Lexile and trying his best with all his work at school.

AYRTON WITH HIS AWARD

P & F Tea Towel Fundraiser
Everyone is encouraged to support the P&F Tea Towel Fundraiser. The tea towels cost $15.00 and can be ordered at the Marnoo Milk Bar. Please have your orders in as soon as possible. Cheques can be made payable to Marnoo Primary School.

The Positive Parenting Telephone Service:
Support for grandparents caring for grandchildren, fathers and rural families

Parenting has the biggest impact on how well children do in life, but contrary to popular belief, people are not born knowing how to be good parents. Parenting is a set of skills that are learnt ‘on the job’ and they can always be improved. Gateway Health is trialling a parenting support program delivered via telephone or online specifically for grandparents, fathers and rural families from across Victoria who sometimes find it difficult to attend parent support services in person.

The Positive Parenting Telephone Service (PPTS) makes it easy to access a proven parenting support program delivered by qualified parent support workers from your home at a time that suits you – daytime, evenings and weekends. PPTS will help parents and carers develop the skills to:

• build better relationships with your children
• encourage the behaviours you want to see from your children
• teach children to think before they act and to keep busy without constant adult attention
• teach your children new skills, to solve problems for themselves and know when to ask for help
• set family rules that are realistic and followed.

Parents and carers will be supported by weekly telephone calls over 6 to 10 weeks. You can also participate in PPTS online - with or without
telephone support. The program is currently free to all grandparents caring for grandchildren, fathers and rural families from across Victoria. The phone number for the Positive Parenting Telephone Service is: 1800 880 660

**IPad Reminder**
As a reminder, all children are required to bring their iPad each day fully charged.

**Garden Roster**
Jobs include mowing, watering, weeding, sweeping and general maintenance of the school grounds, including mowing in the pool grounds. Please mow the lawn at the front of the school each week during the warmer months. As a reminder, if the dates that you are rostered on don’t suit, please swap with someone.

**Garden Roster**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7th Nov – 20th Nov</td>
<td>CAMERON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st Nov – 4th Dec</td>
<td>PLASENCIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th Dec – 18th Dec</td>
<td>CAMARGO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19th Dec – 1st Jan</td>
<td>FIEDLER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Jan – 15th Jan</td>
<td>ZIELINSKI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16th Jan – 29th Jan</td>
<td>SLEE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30th Jan – 12th Feb</td>
<td>GRAGASIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13th Feb – 26th Feb</td>
<td>CAMERON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27th Feb – 12th Mar</td>
<td>PLASENCIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13th Mar – 26th Mar</td>
<td>CAMARGO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27th Mar – 9th Apr</td>
<td>FIEDLER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th Apr – 23rd Apr</td>
<td>ZIELINSKI</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Photo Gallery**

- Olivia showing the contents of her Christmas Shoebox at the School Family Get-together
- Making a go-kart in woodwork
- Above: Monday’s session with Rose at the Marnoo Memorial Hall
- At the principals’ conference that Mr Fiedler attended in Ballarat

Enjoy the rest of the week!