Welcome back to Term Four

Welcome back to our final term of the year. From conversations with the children, I know that many had a wonderful holiday, participated in lots of exciting events, went to lots of interesting places and generally recharged their batteries!

I can’t believe how fast the year has gone. It feels like such a short time ago that we were welcoming Kindergarten to their first day of school. They have launched into their learning and are well on their way to being independent readers. Now they are in their final term getting ready for Year One.

I know that this term will be just as busy as our previous three terms at Narrabri West. Term 4 is a very important time for our students as it is a term in which they will consolidate much of the learning which has occurred in the year so far. It is a term where students will really need to be focussed on completing the year to their full potential. For our teachers it will be the term they will be endeavouring to ensure that the full curriculum has been delivered to their classes and that areas which require further strengthening are given the priority and the time they require. With the time ticking away until the end of year reports, it is vital that we maintain our focus on learning.

Term 4 is also the time for planning for the new school year, to ensure that everything is in place for a successful start. So it’s busy times with budgets, staffing and all those tasks that keep Narrabri West such an interesting place to be.

As Term 4 commences it is an opportune time to reflect on and celebrate what was an extremely busy, but thoroughly productive Term 3, filled with achievements across all aspects of school life. Innovation, excellence and success are very much embedded into each and every one of our classrooms.

BREAKING NEWS: PSSA SOFTBALL KNOCKOUT

Unfortunately our softball team was defeated by Betchington PS in the NSW PSSA knockout in Orange yesterday. Bad luck girls, but what a great effort it was to get that far in this competition. We are very proud of you.
Feature Article

Why reading a book with Dad is important for growing children

The following article appeared in ‘The Daily Telegraph’ during the holidays. It is well worth reading!

There really is something special about story time with dad, with research showing that toddlers who are read to by their fathers develop improved language skills.

Dads were shown to have more impact than mums on children who were read to from the age of two, according to the study which assessed their language a year later - and which also unpicked what it is that fathers do differently.

“The impact is huge, particularly if dads start reading to kids under the age of two,” University of Wollongong Early Childhood Literacy senior lecturer Dr Elisabeth Duursma said.

“The kids had better language skills and that was especially true for girls.”

Dr Duursma’s research, conducted at Harvard University, found that the greater impact of dads came from a combination of differences in the ways they interact with books, as well as the kids being more engaged.

“Reading is seen as a female activity and kids seem to be more tuned in when their dad reads to them - it’s special,” Dr Duursma said.

Dads in the study tended to ask more abstract questions and prompt discussions beyond the storyline, whereas mums behaved more like “teacher” readers and asked questions like: How many apples do you see?

“Dads were more likely to say something like: ‘Oh, look, a ladder. Do you remember when I had that ladder on my truck?’” Dr Duursma said.

“That is great for children’s language development because they have to use their brains more. It’s more cognitively challenging.”

The research will be presented at an international ‘Improving Children’s Lives’ conference next week at the University of Wollongong’s Early Start facility.

Parenting expert Justin Coulson said: “When we read to our children we expand their vocabulary. We help them to feel safe and this can have a profound impact on their capacity for learning. Research has consistently shown that a parent reading to children improves the quality of relationships, academic outcomes and resilience. It can also be a terrific time for dads to bond and be close to their children and to share ideas and conversations that they otherwise might miss out on.”

Either way, children are the winners. Read to them tonight!

Gold Badge Awards - congratulations everyone!

Another large crowd of excited parents and friends gathered at the end of Term 3 for our Gold Badge assembly. Nearly 300 students were presented with their Gold Badge in recognition of their outstanding behaviour and attitude at all times this year.

The Browning Boys – Domenic, Lincoln, Levi, Liandro and Nate with their gold badges.

This clearly demonstrates the high quality of the students attending Narrabri West and their willingness to apply themselves to their work and behaviour. Such qualities enhance the learning opportunities and challenges available to everyone as it allows teachers to concentrate on teaching students.

We all look forward to these days as they are an opportunity to celebrate excellent behaviour and attitude. Our next badge presentations will be the big one – the Platinum Awards on Tuesday 15th December! This will be one of the highlights of the school year.

Ready, Set, Kinder! Transition Program

Last Wednesday we held the first of four full day sessions for children entering Kindergarten next year. Although all were very tired at the end of the day, it was obvious that everyone had a great time and enjoyed themselves. These days will certainly make starting school next year a smooth transition and will ensure that the children can get straight into the important business of learning as soon as they arrive in 2016.

Based on our anticipated enrolments, we will have three classes, with about 19 students in each, although this of course may change with any further enrolments, which of course will be very welcome. We still have plenty of room at Narrabri West! What a great start these new ‘Westies’ will have to their school life!

I would encourage all of our parents with friends who have children entering Kindergarten in 2016 and who are as yet undecided about their choice of school, to tell them about the wonderful learning opportunities available at Narrabri West. Encourage them to visit and have a look and talk to me or any staff members. We have unsurpassed facilities, resources, educational programs and by far the best school spirit that you could wish for.
Footy Colours Day
We supported this worthy cause and raised $217 by coming to school dressed in our favourite footy team’s colours. All proceeds went towards the Bone Marrow Donor Institute’s efforts in fighting cancer and saving lives.

NSW PSSA Athletics Carnival
This week Dylan Williams, Amalie Gosper, Daly Guest, Zara Foley, Grace Hardy, Holly Ford, Chelsea Wallace, Dylan Hazlett, Riley Dickinson and Jordan Baxter will be representing North West Area PSSA at the NSW PSSA Athletics Carnival in Sydney. We wish them all the best and look forward to hearing of their results.

Our best wishes go to Gus Knight who had to withdraw from the relay team due to injury. What bad luck for Gus, but thanks to Riley Dickinson for stepping in at short notice – and his mum and dad and the other team members for organising to get Riley to Sydney.

School Contribution Payments
Those families with outstanding school contributions (and compulsory Pre School fees) will receive an invoice shortly (as well as for other invoiced items, including maths textbooks) and we hope you take the opportunity to forward this payment to the school as soon as possible.

Our school contributions are only:
- $30 for the 1st child
- $25 for the 2nd child; and
- $20 for every other child in the family.

At Narrabri West we use these contributions solely for the purpose of purchasing items that will directly benefit your children. Please assist your child’s education by forwarding payment as soon as possible.

Our school fees remain easily the lowest of any school in Narrabri, therefore they would definitely have to be the best investment that you can make in your child’s future!

Intensive Swimming starts next week
The start of our annual intensive swimming program next week certainly gives an idea of how quickly the year seems to have gone. We are looking forward to this and hope we have nice warm weather. Thank you to all parents in anticipation of your assistance over the next two weeks in getting children ready each day with swimmers, money etc.

For the two week period of Intensive Swimming, Kindergarten to Year 2 will go to the pool each Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, commencing at 12:45pm. This means there is no swimming first thing in the morning, (which is often cold) and allows us to continue our morning English and Maths sessions uninterrupted for these two weeks. Each Wednesday morning, Years 3 – 6 will go to the pool for a swimming session based around lifesaving skills. Narrabri HS will then use the pool for their weekly sports session in the afternoon.

It is important that we stress the importance of all students being taught to swim and we remind parents that our Intensive Swimming program can only teach basic skills and is no substitute for formal swimming lessons. All parents should ensure that if their children are not competent swimmers, they attend other learn to swim lessons.

Information on learn to swim programs is available at the Narrabri Aquatic Centre.

ANZ Citizenship Award
Congratulations to Amelia Beer, who is the latest winner of this award. Amelia is always a great citizen of our school and gives her best effort at all times in the classroom and on the sporting field. We are proud to have Amelia and her commitment to school life at our school!

School Evaluation Surveys
Thank you to all parents who took the time to complete and return these at the end of Term 3. We value your responses and received some very good feedback. We will shortly collate all results and inform you of these. We will also respond to some of the comments you have made, which will assist us in making Narrabri West an even better school than it already is.

ICAS English & Mathematics Competitions
Narrabri West students have again achieved well in the University of New South Wales International Competitions. Students whose achievement was outstanding were awarded certificates of merit. Particularly outstanding were the results of Daniel Smith – well done Daniel!

Mathematics
High Distinction - Daniel Smith
Credit – George Bennett, Erin Flower
Merit – Riley Longworth

English
Distinction - Daniel Smith
Merit – Rhys Jones

Term 4 Calendar
Today our Term 4 calendar has been included with this newsletter. This details all major school events, weekly rehearsals and training for school groups and Library days for students. We will endeavour to include all new events, updates and cancellations in our newsletter, Facebook page and website. Our weekly notifications on our mobile app, Skoolbag, will also alert you to what’s happening in the school.

Obviously in a busy school there are always going to be changes.

The term calendar would be best placed on your fridge in our special magnetic newsletter holder which all families should have. If you do not have one or need a replacement, they are available at the school office.

HSC 2015 - Good luck to all Westies!
Good luck to all of the ex-Westies who commence their HSC at Narrabri High School this week. We are all thinking of you, hope that you achieve the success you deserve and know that you received a great start to your education at Narrabri West!
School starting dates 2016
PLEASE NOTE: starting dates for school for 2016 are as follows. Some of our earlier communication this year was incorrect and had Years 1-6 returning on Wednesday 3rd February and Kindergarten on Thursday 4th February. Students in 2016 DO NOT return to school to Thursday 4th February. Our swimming carnival will be on Friday 5th February. Rather than have Kindergarten commence on a Friday, we will have Kindergarten start on the Monday for their first full week of school.

**Wednesday 3rd February**: School Development Day (no students)
**Thursday 4th February**: Years 1-6 return
**Friday 5th February**: Years 3-6 Swimming Carnival
**Monday 8th February**: Kindergarten start

We look forward to your cooperation and assistance in our continued efforts in Term 4 to ensure that Narrabri West provides the highest possible quality education for all children. We hope to see you at all of our many school events this term.

Best wishes
Stephen Maher
Principal

**Reminders**

**Ready, Set, Kinder!**
Transition to Kindergarten program
CONTINUES TOMORROW!
Term 4
Wednesday 14th, 21st, 28th October
9.25am - 3.25pm
Parent Information Session
Wednesday 28th October
1.00pm - 2.00pm
Student Graduation Ceremony
Wednesday 29th October 2.15pm

**Postie Bike Dash**
On Tuesday 3rd November we will be hosting the entrants in the 2015 Newcastle Variety Postie Bike Bash, which is a 6 day car rally that travels through northern NSW, beginning and ending in Newcastle. Entrants raise money to enter the Bash and the money is then used to purchase special needs equipment for the many children in the Newcastle/Hunter/New England region who may be sick, disabled or disadvantaged in some way. All entrants have to ride a standard Honda CT110 Postie Bike!

We will be providing them with breakfast and this will be an excellent fundraiser for our school. We will be catering for 60 competitors from 7:30am – 9:00am.

This also allows us to apply for a grant from Variety to assist our students. We are anticipating this will be in the vicinity of around $4000, which will be used for further furniture purchases, particularly for those students who have additional needs.

**Fete**
This year’s school fete has made a profit of $16000. Our 2014 fete made a profit of $33500, so we had a big increase. Thank you to everyone who attended and assisted. Your efforts have all contributed to this great result. These funds will now go towards our continuing program of classroom refurbishments.

**Stage 2 - 2/3C, 3/4F & 3/4W**
Stage 2 students are known for being unique and standing out in the crowd! Well they certainly stood out at Lake Keepit recently. They were the best behaved group there and participated in all the activities with enthusiasm.

Students were involved in rock climbing, canoeing, low ropes, archery and night time activities.

Noah D – Rock climbing was great because I pretended to be a spy and jumped down the wall. I liked low ropes because it was challenging.

Amalie – Archery and low ropes were the best activities. I enjoyed rock climbing except when I got a wedgie.

Holly – I liked archery because I got the arrow in the target. Rock climbing was great, I had to trust my team. I also got to serve everyone breakfast which was fun.

Simone – The canoeing was good because we worked as a team. Poor Mrs Charlton had to go with the boys in their canoe, I think she still had fun. Rock climbing was awesome. I made it to the top.

Brock G – I liked the rope course because it was challenging. Canoeing was great because I got to do it with my friends, although I did lose my shoe.

We will be seeking donations of some items for the breakfast, as well as helpers on the morning to assist with cooking, preparing and serving.

There will be a note sent home this week regarding this.

Their bikes will be on display as well and students are invited to come to school a little earlier than usual at 8.30am, if they would like to have a look at these before they leave at 9.00am.

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Principal

**Variety**
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**Extra! Extra! Class News**
Stage 2 students are known for being unique and standing out in the crowd! Well they certainly stood out at Lake Keepit recently. They were the best behaved group there and participated in all the activities with enthusiasm.

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Baylee – I liked rock climbing because I got all the way up the top, but Noah G pulled the rope and I got a wedgie. Canoeing was hard work and my team was not able to make it to the tree, until Mrs Ford came along and pushed us with her kayak. We also lost Ebonie’s hat – it’s at the bottom of the lake now.

Liam – I liked it all, when we went back to our cabins we played around and had so much fun. Canoeing was the best activity. I had to walk in the water and push the canoe out.

Oliver – I loved canoeing, jumping off the little raft was so much fun. The archery was also fun and I shot over the target.

Georgia – I liked archery because I hit the bullseye. Canoeing was fun because I have never done it before and I think it was pretty good. #fun

All students in Stage 2 need to continue their hard work and try to achieve the next level on our merit system whether it is bronze, silver, gold or platinum.

Please remember the teachers are available if you have any questions.

We are looking forward to a busy but rewarding term 4.

Mrs Charlton, Miss Cush and Mrs Ford Class teachers

Welcome back! We hope you are feeling refreshed after the holidays and ready for a busy term. The children have certainly grown over the holidays. This term will be a busy one where the children will continue to be engaged in a variety of learning experiences.

Many children are very interested in the bugs and insects that we see in our Pre School yard. With the help of magnifying glasses, bug catchers and information books, we are learning more about them. Another focus for this term is to learn about Community Workers. Arrangements are being made for some visits to occur, but I would like to hear from any parents or family members who would be interested in talking about their job.

This month our focus country is the continent of Africa. The children are always keen to learn about different countries. We are looking forward to investigating this part of the world. If anyone can contribute to this from their experiences, we would love to hear from you.

During the last week of term 3, we had a wonderful cooking experience with Mrs Watson, who showed us how to make Turkish rissoles. It was great to be able to use our home grown produce in the rissoles. Our parsley and eggs were used! She also told us about some places in Turkey, about some important symbols and we learnt some Turkish words. Thank you so much for this valuable learning experience.

Woodwork is included in our program of learning. It provides the opportunity for many skills to be developed as the children create their own ideas. Woodwork requires concentration, determination and strength to make something. The children have made some really impressive objects to date such as boats, planes and a game. We have received some supplies of wood (thank you), but are in need of more soft wood off cuts. Please send them in.

Please continue to pack foods in your child’s lunchbox that fit in with the guidelines for healthy eating. Please pack a water bottle too. We do provide water, but this is to supplement what you send in.

Spring is here and with it often some ‘spring cleaning’! If you happen to find clothes or shoes that would be suitable for dress-ups please send

Mrs Watson making rissoles with Lamee, Khan, Mia and Emma watching

Tyreece mixing rissoles with the support of Magnus

Delko, Chelsea and Elias rolling rissoles.
them in. Our dolls could do with some fresh clothes too! Our doll play would be enhanced with the addition of some empty containers of baby products also. We appreciate your assistance in this.

‘Ready, Set Kinder’, continues this term with full days on Wednesdays. We had a great day last week and look forward to the next three weeks. This is a great opportunity to prepare your child further for kindergarten.

Thank you for your wonderful support of ‘Operation Christmas Child’. Your generosity enabled us to fill many boxes, which are now on their way to needy children to brighten their Christmas. Special thanks to Mrs Cuell, a past Nan, for her wonderful contribution to this cause.

Parent Help Roster: with the last term being so busy, we would appreciate lots of extra help. Please consider adding your name to the roster.

Have a great fortnight
Louise Stewart & Tricia Lawty

Award Winners

KG
Kaleb Bremner, Maya Watson & Lucas Duff

KL
James Stewart, James Cole & Sophie Brown

KS
Imogen McKenzie, Sophie Brown & Ehren McFarland

1K
Jessie Simpson, Anna Stuart & Blake Carter

1S
Kyal Seymour, Taliyah Earle & Holly Olding

2B
Jacob Stuart, Ava Garbutt & Ella Magann

2D
Ben Shields, Jacky Ham & Cooper Butler

2/3C
Oliver Boehm, Blake Christian & Georgia Dafter

3/4F
Grace Hardy, Piper Williams & Simone Mitchell

3/4W
Noah Dickinson, Davina Leabon & Isabel Graham

4/5K
Miah Burns, Madlyn Phillips & Braxten Fish

5/6P
Aimee Fladrick, Clara Barlow & Riley Longworth

5/6S
Riley Dickinson, Kaylyn Chater & Dylan Williams

CITIZENSHIP AWARDS & STARS OF THE WEEK

ALLIRA TIBBETT
KL

ASHER KELLY
2B

MATTHEW TODD 2/3C

CHARLEE CROAKER 5/6S

K-2 SUPER WESTY
ADRIANNE PHILLIPS

3-6 SUPER WESTY
DENAE SEYMOUR

Roster

Week 2

Wed 14th
Jen Kirk

Thu 15th
June Wilson

Fri 16th
T Shields, G Westman, K Allen

Week 3

Mon 19th
M Richardson

Tue 20th
Kristy Bruce, Nikki McCauley

Wed 21st
Cheryl Hennessy

Thu 22nd
M Griffiths, B Finn

Fri 23rd
S Burley, J Cooke, K Gordon

Week 4

Mon 26th
Christy Browning

Tue 27th
Gai Leech

Wed 28th
Kim Mason

Thu 29th
Bianca Finn

Fri 30th
N Hill, J Wilson, S Burley

Community News

Swim Away with the Narrabri Stingrays!

Calling all swimmers for the 2015/2016 Registration Day

All ages and swimming ability welcome.

Venue: Narrabri Aquatic Centre

Date: Monday, 12th October 2015

Time: 6pm

Age Groups: All Age Groups are welcome

Cost: $80 per swimmer
$25 per non swimmer*
$10 Second Claim

*A swimmer under the age of 18 must have a non-swimmer registered also.
Two FREE Club Nights are offered by the Stingrays for all swimmers to try before committing.

A Free BBQ will be held at the Registration Evening

Narrabri Stingrays Merchandise available to purchase and order.

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Try Training – FREE Session

Still unsure whether to join? Swimmers can Try Training with Coach Karla Carruthers for free on Tuesday, 13th October 2015 at 3.45pm at the Narrabri Aquatic Centre.

Enquiries: Allison Tomlinson, President – 0428 923 391

NARRABRI JUNIOR CRICKET

Commencing Saturday 10th October 2015 with a registration and skills morning

8.30 am at Cooma Oval, Narrabri

Registration Fees

Milo: $75.00

Under 9s to Opens: $50.00 for 1st child and $45.00 for the next

You can obtain a registration form before this date by sending an e-mail to: ndjc2390@gmail.com

Narrabri Tennis Coaching

Learn how to play tennis with two Tennis Australia qualified coaches!!

Private, semi private lessons Mon - Fri (morning/afternoon) & Saturday mornings.

Group lessons using the Tennis Australia Hot Shots Program Mon, Tues, Wed afternoons and Sat morning.

Build your own Hot Shots group option also exists, grab a group of friends (minimum 3 people) and we’ll endeavour to find a timeslot that suits Monday to Friday 330pm to 5pm.

These coaching options cater for children from 4 years of age and can be tackled by anyone!

Adult coaching also available!

Wednesday Night Senior Teams Comp -- Friday Afternoon Junior Comp 5pm -630pm.

For further information contact Narrabri Tennis on Facebook, simply drop into the Dangar Park Tennis Centre or contact Shane Murphy 0405151935.
### Weekly Events

**Monday**
- 3-6 Choir 12:00pm; Fitness Group 3:25pm; P&C Meeting 1st Monday of the month
- 1K, 2D
- KL, 5/6S
- 5/6P, 3/4F
- 3/4C
- KG, KS, 3/4W, 1S, 4/5K

**Tuesday**
- Newsletter (even weeks); Guitar 12:00pm
- 1K, 2D
- KL, 5/6S
- 5/6P, 3/4F
- 3/4C
- KG, KS, 3/4W, 1S, 4/5K

**Wednesday**
- K-2 Choir 12:00pm; Guitar 12:00pm; Recorder 2:10pm
- 1K, 2D
- KL, 5/6S
- 5/6P, 3/4F
- 3/4C
- KG, KS, 3/4W, 1S, 4/5K

**Thursday**
- Guitar 12:00pm; K-6 Choir 12:00pm; Music Lessons (Rosemary Smith); Band 1:00pm
- 1K, 2D
- KL, 5/6S
- 5/6P, 3/4F
- 3/4C
- KG, KS, 3/4W, 1S, 4/5K

**Friday**
- 3-6 Drama 12:00pm; Drums 12:20pm; Assembly 1:00pm; Sport 2:10pm
- 1K, 2D
- KL, 5/6S
- 5/6P, 3/4F
- 3/4C
- KG, KS, 3/4W, 1S, 4/5K

**2016:** Thursday 4th Feb – Years 1-6 return; Friday 5th Feb - Years 3-6 Swimming Carnival; Monday 8th Feb – Kindergarten 2016 starts