Term 4 is well on its way

It is Week 4 already in a term which is always exciting and busy. It’s also the term that before you know it you realise you are coming into December. It is also the last term for our Year Six students who are naturally excited and a little anxious about moving to the next phase of their lives. It is also the term of farewells, awards and appreciation. Our teachers have commenced preparing Semester 2 reports and are working hard to provide you with an authentic snapshot of your child’s learning. These reports are the culmination of class work and assessment tasks from Term Three and Term Four. As you can imagine it is a process which requires thorough knowledge of student strengths, weaknesses and interests.

End of year activities often mean disruption and changes of routine at school. Please assist us by reminding your children to enjoy all of the ‘extras’ that seem to happen at this time of year, but also to remain focused in class.

Students are currently enjoying Intensive Swimming. This is an essential part of our school sporting program and is always a time that is looked forward to by staff and students. We are very appreciative of the assistance from all the parents who have volunteered to help with the program.

‘Ready, Set, Kinder!’ is continuing with an excited group of 2016 Kindergarten students participating each Wednesday. Our teachers are impressed with their attitude, skills and behaviour and there is no doubt that they are preparing well for Kindergarten. The skills being developed in these sessions will allow them to settle quickly into school and ensure that their introduction to school life is an easy and happy one (for parents too!).

This week will see the conclusion of the program with a parent information session and an assembly for all children attending, as well as those from our current Kindergarten. ‘Ready, Set, Kinder!’ portfolios will be presented and we know that all Mums and Dads will be very impressed by the work the children have completed over the four week period.
Visual Literacy:
the ability to effectively find, interpret, evaluate, use, and create images and visual media.

With the introduction of the new English K-10 syllabus Narrabri West has adopted a concept-based approach to the programming of literacy units. This approach enables students to develop deep thinking and understanding of rich literature. Our students are enjoying studying the different texts chosen to develop their understanding of concepts such as characterisation, adaptation, appreciation and representation. The syllabus requires students to study a variety of literacy formats – written, visual and multimodal.

Written texts use words to convey meaning and include books, magazines, newspapers and websites where the information is given in written format. In visual texts the meaning is shaped and communicated by images rather than words. Visual texts use techniques such as line, shape, space, colour, movement, perspective, angle and juxtaposition to shape meaning. Examples of visual texts include cartoons, billboards, photographs, film, TV, artworks, web pages and illustrations. Multimodal texts use a combination of two or more communication modes, for example print, image and spoken text, as in film or computer presentations.

Why learn about Visual Literacy?
A picture is worth a thousand words. We live in a world where visual images are becoming increasingly important as information is presented as a combination of words and images. It is essential that students not only have the capacity to derive literal meanings from texts, but also to develop an understanding of how the texts are produced. Visual literacy is based on the idea that pictures can be ‘read’ and that meaning can be communicated through a process of reading.

Visual literacy is essential in the 21st Century for the following reasons:
- Many information texts use visual elements;
- Visual texts are accessible to all readers;
- Visual texts are complex, multilayered texts;
- Visual texts communicate certain information more clearly than verbal texts;
- Students need practice in choosing the appropriate text to use;
- Visual texts are widely used in the electronic media;
- Visual texts can help with comprehension;
- Visual texts can help with planning an essay; and
- Visual literacy is a life skill.

At Narrabri West our literacy programs provide students with the skills to interpret information from the variety of literacy formats available in the 21st century.

In Term 4 this year all classes have a focus on visual literacy in their learning.

Planning for 2016
2016 is not that far way in terms of weeks at school, so already we are working on planning and organisation for next year. One of the things we need to know is the number of students we can expect to have returning to our school next year.

Parents are asked to help in a number of ways. Firstly, if you know that you will be moving or enrolling in another school next year, it would assist us if you could advise the school as soon as possible.

Similarly, if you plan to have an extended holiday and will be returning to school later than 4th February, it is very important for you to write advising of your return date, as we are not allowed to include students in our numbers for 2016 unless we have written notification from parents indicating that they will be returning and when this will be.

All of this is particularly important in 2016, as we are very close to being able to form an additional class, which will make for small class sizes throughout the school. Our student numbers are currently only a few short of having the ‘magic’ number required to gain this extra class, which will be an advantage to the learning of all students at the school.

A note was sent home last week that could be used to provide this information to us.

Student Leaders 2016
Each year in Term 4 the students elect their school leaders for the following year. We elect two captains and up to four prefects. Our student leader elections this year will be held on Thursday 26th November and the elected student’s badges will be presented on Presentation Night (30th December).

Five Cent Friday Update
The new sports equipment we bought with the money raised from our Five Cent Fridays earlier this year has (finally) arrived. The SRC and all classes discussed some ideas on how to spend this money ($600) and all decided that sports equipment was the way to go. We were able to get lots of hoops, skipping ropes, balls and storage equipment. These were all things the students asked for.

NSW PSSA Athletics Carnival
Congratulations to Dylan Williams, Amalie Gosper, Daly Guest, Zara Foley, Grace Hardy, Holly Ford, Chelsea Wallace, Dylan Hazlett, Riley...
Dickinson and Jordan Baxter who competed well at the NSW PSSA Athletics Carnival. They tried very hard against some very strong competition. Well done everyone.

Latest news from Westy
Westy Bear is currently in America (that’s right – it’s his second trip there this year!). This time he is in New York with Clare Jensen and her family and looks like he is having a great time. You can see his updates on his Facebook page.

Professional Learning
Teacher professional learning, professional reading and dialogue are important components in order to ensure that teachers in all schools continue to keep up to date with current trends, programs and philosophy and that our students continually receive the very best teaching and learning possible.

Narrabri West is committed to ensuring that its teachers are involved in a process of continual learning and regularly attending quality professional learning opportunities. Throughout 2015, teachers have been involved in many varied and innovative professional learning activities.

The knowledge, skills and teaching practice they bring back to our school, their classrooms and for your children will be pivotal in ensuring that what happens in the classrooms is exemplary, up-to-date teaching.

Our school has a structured process in place for when teachers attend important learning opportunities. Teaching and learning programs continue and are carried out by other teachers (or one of our exceptional casual teachers) covering classes.

The time teachers invest in teacher professional learning is all about making a difference for your children.

New seating
We have purchased some additional seating for our Stage 2 area so these students have more places to sit during lunch and outside group activities. Mr Wilson has put the seats together and this morning began installing them ready for their first use at lunch time today.

The term ahead
Thank you to all parents for your continuing support for our school. These next few weeks will be extremely busy, but as always will be lots of fun and certainly exciting!

Please keep referring to the term calendar we include with each newsletter so that you can keep up to date with all of the events at school.

World Teachers Day
This Friday we celebrate World Teachers Day. World Teachers Day is celebrated in over 100 countries around the world and for most countries this occurs on 5th October each year. However, since this is typically the school holiday period in various states around Australia, Australians celebrate World Teachers day on the last Friday in October.

World Teachers Day is a day we can acknowledge the remarkable efforts of our amazing teachers at a time of significant change and increasing complexity. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank the teaching staff at our school for their tremendous efforts and dedication.

Each makes unique and valuable contributions to the children and our school. I really believe that a school is as good as its teachers and we certainly have so much to celebrate when I see our teachers at work.

Please join me in thanking our fantastic teachers this week. A few well-chosen words on a note or card, or a simple spoken ‘thank you’ if you are at the school during the week, would go a long way towards acknowledging their work. Many of us lead such busy lives but I can assure you that a few words of praise or thanks only encourages each of them to raise the bar even further.

Best wishes
Stephen Maher
Principal

On Tuesday 3rd November we will be hosting the entrants in the 2015 Newcastle Variety Postie Bike Bash, which is a 6 day 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.

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.

Hosting the breakfast allows us to apply for a grant from Variety to assist our students. We are hoping 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.

We are still seeking helpers on the morning to assist with cooking, preparing and serving. WE DO NOT need any further donations of eggs, bacon or sausages – we have heaps!! Thanks everyone for your fantastic support for this.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 2nd November in the staffroom commencing at 6:30pm.

PSSA Softball Knockout
On Monday 12th October, the Softball team travelled to Orange to play Bletchington Public School in round 6 of the NSW PSSA Girls Softball Knockout. We won the toss and elected to field with Elsie Ford again pitching accurately and Zara Foley catching a tidy game.

Bletchington batters got off to a flying start scoring 10 runs in the first innings. The fast and accurate pitching from Bletchington then kept us to just 2 runs in the first innings. In the second innings our girls pitched and fielded well but the experience of the Bletchington batters put on 15 runs for the innings. Westies then had an excellent third innings keeping their opponents scoreless through accurate pitching and amazing fielding. We scored 5 runs in our final innings but unfortunately the damage was done in the first two innings and we went down 25 -7. Player of the day would have to go to the birthday girl, Jemma Hedley with her fantastic fielding at 2nd base. We are very proud of how the girls played, especially against a team that play in competitions every weekend. The day was most enjoyable, capped off by a BBQ at Bletchington Public School before travelling home. I would like to thank the parents for their support of

Results were as follows:

Jye Cuell riding Topsy in the 11yrs Hacking - Round 1 - 2nd Boy Rider.


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the team throughout the season and the players dedication and fun attitude. The team consisted of Amiee Fladrick, Elsie Ford, Zara Foley, Alex Hall, Alexandra Bennett, Meika Foley, Maddie Richardson, Paige Russell, Jemma Hedley, Emma Richardson.

Mrs Hartog-Smith

Intensive Swimming Snapshot

The children are being challenged to further develop and strengthen their skills and abilities in a variety of areas. During our outdoor time we are practising the ball skills of stationary dribbling and the locomotion skill of hopping. These are fundamental movement skills from the ‘Munch & Move’ program.

Insects and bugs are becoming a hot topic as the children discover them in our yard. Ladybeetles and butterflies are the main interest at the moment. We have read a story, ‘One Hungry Spider’ which gave an opportunity for the children to count and identify different insects. We have made a class counting book based on this story with the children working with a partner to illustrate the animals from the story. It will be in the library area for you to read. They have also been enjoying a music activity lately called ‘Huggy Bear!’

We have recently received some brochures from Colgate to encourage
teeth cleaning and hand washing. We will send them home soon. They have charts included to help and encourage your child to be routine in these important practises.

This week is our last week of ‘Ready Set Kinder!’ We will be celebrating your child’s achievements with an Assembly and Graduation Ceremony at 2:15pm. A Parent Information session will be held from 1:00 – 2:00pm. It has been a great learning and preparation time for the children for Kindergarten.

Christmas time is drawing near. We will begin activities soon relating to this with art and craft as we begin to prepare for our end of year Christmas concerts and parties. More details will be sent home regarding these and other end of year activities. The dates are for the Christmas parties are:

Red Group - Tuesday 15th December
Blue Group - Thursday 10th December

Since talking about woodwork in the last letter, some amazing constructions have been made.

We have quite a few vacant spots on our Roster for this term. We would really love the extra help. Please come and see us if you are able to assist.

Thank you for the boxes that have been brought in for our craft. At the moment we have an abundance of them, so we won’t need any more for now. Thanks again. More cylinders would be great though!

Have a great fortnight
Louise Stewart & Tricia Lawty

Award Winners

KG
Liam Nott, Hunter Smith, Hayley Gordon, Cindy Jones, Kennedy Watt, Quinn Leabon

KL
Hayleigh Cahill, Xanthe Kirk, Cruz Ryan, Kaden Hill, Alexie Fitzgerald, Douglas Parker

KS
Savannah Gold-Reis-Kelly, Haylo Hill, Davis, Aiden McKenzie, Ruby Clayton, Hanna Sheilds, Rya Knox

1K
Robert Morris, Caitlan Bourke, Sienna Earle, Nate Wilkins, Elijah Ghassan, Mackenzie Fenwick

1S
Seraiya Hoffman, Ayla Cunningham, Riley Seccombe, Adison Hartog-Smith, Ryan Williams, Charleigh-Anne Bennett

2B
Isabella Keys, Liandro Browning, Summer Fernance, Jack Anderson, Ashley Johnston, Callum Wales

2D
Connor Gordon, Logan Shields, Charlie Bennett, Taylor Kay, riley Kelly, Kendal Kelly

2/3C
Clare Jensen, Daniel Smith, Jessica Miller, Lilly Grist, Ryli Phillips, Lily Campbell

3/4F
Tyleah McQuilty, Makayla Cook, Josh McKnight, Brock Gordon, Zoe dumble, Chaira Leabon

3/4W
Zane Cuell, Clayton Laws, Chloe Mason, Neeve Mor, Rileigh Kelly, Lily Kelly

4/5K
Brinley Davis, Marlin Ryman, Hannah Strickland, Addison Russell, Will Bennett, Charlette Smith

5/6P
Alexandra Bennett, Bradley Miller, Sarah Stiller, Daly Guest, Zara Foley, Alex Dean

5/6S
Jim Dent, Ethan Morris, Jemma Hedley, Alex Hall, Eden Westman, Harry Legg

CITIZENSHIP AWARDS & STARS OF THE WEEK

SOPHIE MICHELL
KS

LUCAS GRIFFITHS KG

TALIYAH EARLE
1S

IMOGEN MCGUINNESS 2D

JAKE FARR
3/4F

REMEE BENNETT
3/4W

EMMA RICHARDSON
4/5K

RILEY LONGWORTH
5/6P

K-2 SUPER WESTY
GEORGIA THOMAS – 1K
LILY GRIST – 2/3C

3-6 SUPER WESTY
ISABEL GRAHAM – 3/4W
MAKAYLA COOK – 3/4F

Week 4

Wed Kim Mason
Thu Bianca Finn
Fri Norma Hill, June Wilson, Sharon Burley

Week 5

Mon Amber Fitzgerald
Tue Kylee Butler
Wed Carly Watt
Thu Susan Browning
Fri M Simpson, Kate Holman, N Nott

Week 6

Mon Mel Richardson
Tue Beryl Gordon
Wed Joy Geal
Thu Jess Michell
Fri Jodie Hill, M Cameron, H Hill
Community News

Christian Endeavour has started up again for the term. CE is for all kids, Kindy to Year 6 and is held on Wed afternoons, 3:30pm to 5:00pm, at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Balonne St, Narrabri. We have games, afternoon tea, Bible story time, craft and it’s free! For kids at the West School, transport can be arranged to get there by phoning Julie Leven 6792 2402.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>October</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>‘Ready, Set, Kinder!’ 9:30am – (inc. Parent Session 1:00pm &amp; Graduation Assembly 2:10pm); Intensive Swimming Years 5 &amp; 6 10:30-12:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Intensive Swimming continues K-4 12:30-3:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Intensive Swimming continues K-4, 12:30-3:00pm; 3-6 Assembly 1:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<th>November</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting 6:30pm</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Variety Club Postie Bike Dash Breakfast 7:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>K-6 Assembly 1:00pm</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Band Shield 1:00pm</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Remembrance Day Narrabri RSL 10:45am</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Year 6 Yarrie Lake – Transition to high school activity; Combined Scripture Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>K-6 Assembly 1:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Recorder Shield 2:10pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>K-6 Assembly 1:00pm</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>2016 Captains and Prefects Elections 9:30am</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Beach to Bush Surf Lifesaving Presentation; K-6 Assembly 1:30pm</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Year 7 2016 Orientation Day – Narrabri HS</td>
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<tr>
<th>December</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Beach Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Pre School Red Group Beach Party; P&amp;C 6:30pm</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Year 6 Car Wash</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Pre School Blue Christmas Party; Presentation Night 7:00pm Narrabri HS</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Presentation Assembly 12:30pm</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Stage 2 Genius Hour Fair; Movie Day; Year 6 Farewell (Chan’s @ 6:00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Platinum Badge Assembly 12:30pm; Pre School Red Christmas Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Sausage Sizzle 11:30am; Last day of school 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>17-18</td>
<td>School Development Days</td>
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<tr>
<th>February 2016</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Staff return</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Years 1-6 return</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Years 3-6 Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Kindergarten start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Pre School Red Group starts</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Pre School Blue Group starts</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Narrabri Zone PSSA Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<th>March 2016</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>School photos</td>
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