Welcome back to another term of learning!

Welcome back to another fun filled ten weeks of learning. We hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable break and we look forward to sharing a busy and productive term with you and your children. It has begun with a rush already! All classes are continuing their program of learning and teachers are developing lessons to meet the educational needs of our students, who have settled back into their routines very quickly - it is like we have never been away.

It promises to be not only very busy, but also very exciting. Some of the upcoming events include the National Assessment Program (NAPLAN) for Years 3 and 5, Cross Country, the Narrabri Eisteddfod and too many more to mention! As always, Narrabri West is an extremely busy place!

The last day of Term One was our annual Family and Friends Day and we had another huge crowd attend the school. They joined us for our Easter Tabloid, a picnic lunch and then our Bronze Certificate presentations.

The Tabloid featured lots of Easter themed sporting activities and was a chance for the whole school to get together and have some fun. We are sure all of our visitors had as much fun as the students did. Thank you to everybody for coming.

Bronze Certificates were also handed out to all students who had reached this level in our Merit Award System, due to their terrific behaviour during Term One. This was a great achievement and again highlights the superb quality of the students attending Narrabri West. It was especially exciting to see every one of our 53 Kindergarten students receive their Bronze Certificate.

The Easter Bunny also hopped in and this was of course a very popular visit! He hopped around the school to meet all of the students and teachers and delivered a huge basket of eggs.

There are some photos later in this newsletter and more on our website at:
Feature Article
How you can help your child cope at school

At Narrabri West we consider ourselves lucky in regards to the support and respect that parents, on a whole, demonstrate towards the staff of the school. Where issues do arise, in the majority of cases, most parents are responsible and understanding as they try to work through the issues to achieve a suitable solution for the benefit of their child’s education and wellbeing.

An article which has recently appeared in an education journal entitled ‘When Teachers Just Can’t Win’, made us reflect on how lucky we are at Narrabri West as compared to what must be the situation in some other schools; but also how quickly a culture can change and stop us from achieving what we most desperately strive for - the best educational outcomes for our students.

The article considers how ‘pushy parents’ are making life hell for teachers in some schools – and ruining their children’s education as well. The article starts by posing the question, “Who would want to be a teacher these days?” It reports that it seems to be getting even harder for teachers to cope, not necessarily with the students, but with their parents. The authors feel that parents of the students, but with their parents. The authors feel that parents of the students, but with their parents.

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The solution to this, in the article, is for “Parents to teach children how to deal with all types of situations and model appropriate responses to help children through life…..it doesn’t help if parents rush to blame others and fix their child’s problems for them. Take the time to assist, coach and teach them (children) the skills they need to navigate through the situation themselves.”

Whilst not all teachers are perfect, research has revealed that in some schools the situation has got to the point where even good teachers worry about making tough education decisions or disciplining students. This has led to an undermining of the authority of the school and teachers in the minds of many children who know Mum and Dad will ‘fix things’ if they get into trouble or miss out on something as a consequence of misbehaviour. In many schools this has created a nightmare for people simply trying to do the best by their students to ensure they are successful learners and are given the best possible opportunities for later life.

In researching the article, the authors found that some parents often blame everyone else but themselves for their child’s poor behaviour and school performance. “The flow on effect of this is that the students then accept no responsibility for their inappropriate actions or poor performance.”

They delve deeper into this and believe that “Many parents believe their child should not experience negative situations and rush into schools, Facebook pages, playgrounds, sporting fields, etc. and physically and/or verbally abuse others.”

As mentioned at the beginning of this article, I believe that we are extremely lucky at Narrabri West. The majority of our parents are supportive of the school and ensure that if they have any concerns or queries, that these are addressed in the correct way and in a way that doesn’t undermine the school’s authority in the eyes of their child.

What to do when things go wrong at school
We all want to spring to our children’s defence when they are upset or life seems unfair. Before taking any action, it’s a good idea to sit down with them and let them tell you, without interruption, what has happened. Find out what has upset them. Ask them what they think would put things right. Children, like us, need the chance to unload to a sympathetic ear. Often children are prepared to fight their own battles and just want to vent. There’s nothing worse than charging into the fray and discovering your child has got over it and moved on.

Help them think through what has happened. Often, clearly thinking about events gets things into perspective or helps them see how they contributed to what happened. A good lesson for children is to learn which battles to choose. Life holds many irritations and we learn to take most of them in our stride. Erupting over minor incidents is no way to build sound relationships with classmates or teachers – or our own credibility.

After you have slept on it, if you are still worried, or your child asks you to, contact the class teacher. The teacher may be worried too and will be able to suggest the next step. Or you will be able to get a clearer picture of, for example, class dynamics or reassurance that the incident was a minor one with no consequences for your child. Schools really appreciate parents who want to find solutions.
rather than lay blame, especially when you show them you understand they have to take into account the interests of all the children in their care and cannot be pushed into punishing other children. The school is your ally and will be able to help you and your children.

Build on your relationship with your children's teachers. Being familiar with the school and the other children helps you put together a more complete picture of what goes on at school. When you and your child’s teachers keep communications open, trusting and positive, your child is the one who will reap the benefits.

ANZAC Day - 100 years on
It was wonderful to see so many of our students participating on ANZAC Day this year, especially considering the significance of the occasion, with it being the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli landing, as well as the first ceremony to be held at the new War Memorial.

Well done to all children who marched and also to everyone who was there to cheer them on as we made our way to the RSL Club. We had our biggest representation of students ever (we stopped counting at 107!) and the crowds that turned out to support the ex-servicemen and women and to join in with the commemorative service was you would think Narrabri’s biggest. Thank you everyone for your help and assistance with having the Narrabri West students attend.

Thank you also to all of our teachers who were there to help with the organisation and to march with our students. It is noticed and appreciated how many of you are prepared to give up your own time to assist the school and local community.

Mrs Smith also played the Last Post and Reveille, so Narrabri West was very well represented.

The photo below is of the Narrabri West World War 1 Roll of Honour, which lists those ex-students and teachers of Narrabri West who served their country, as well as listing those who died. The roll is on display in the hall and some of our current families may well be descendants of, or related to these soldiers.

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Relay for Life
Narrabri West staff members (and a few ring-ins!) participated in the Relay for Life at Collins Park on Saturday 18th April, raising money for supporting cancer victims. We would all know people who have been affected by cancer and our staff members are no exception. Our out of uniform day on Friday with a purple theme was the chance for all students to also participate and the funds raised went towards our schools fundraising tally for the relay.

Three Way Interviews
We had an excellent response to our interviews that were held at the end of Term 1.

This was an opportunity for you to meet with your child’s teacher to discuss the personal growth your child is making academically, socially and behaviourally in class.

It was great to hear parents sharing information with teachers about their child and their learning needs. This three-way communication process is vital in ensuring we work together as partners to best support your child’s learning and wellbeing.

Thank you to our teaching staff for your time and dedication to our parent and student community.

It is not too late to organise an interview if you were unable to attend. Later this term we will provide written half yearly reports.
McDonalds Champion Class

Last term’s McDonalds’ Champion Class was 2D. Well done to the students in 2D and thank you to Narrabri McDonalds for supporting our school. Congratulations to all of the wonderful students in this class. This award is judged by our Student Councillors and McDonalds supplied a free ‘Happy Meal’ to each member of the winning class.

ANZ Citizenship Award - well done Jordan!

Our latest winner of this award, generously sponsored by the ANZ Bank, is Jordan Kay. Jordan is a great citizen at our school and all teachers agreed that she was a very deserving winner of this award.

NAPLAN 2015

Information about NAPLAN testing has been sent home to families of students in Years 3 and 5. This national testing will be conducted from 12th - 14th May 2015 and all students in these years are expected to participate unless they are exempt or withdrawn by parents.

In 2015, as in previous years, the Writing task will be a single common task for all students. The 2015 writing test will require students to respond to either a persuasive or narrative writing prompt. However, the genre of the prompt will not be disclosed prior to the test period.

NAPLAN assesses skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time, through the school curriculum. NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test, but rather shows how individual students in these years are expected to perform.

An individual student NAPLAN report will be provided later this year. Parents can use this information to monitor how their child is progressing and to identify any areas of concern. It should be remembered that this is only one part of our assessment schedule for the year and reflects the student’s ability only in the areas tested. These tests are by no means comprehensive and any concerns that you have after receiving your child’s NAPLAN report should be discussed with their class teacher.

School Fee Payments

Those families with outstanding payments will receive an invoice shortly. 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. As we always say, 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!

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* We have already purchased these items so students can use them.

Currently you can see that $5725 is outstanding for school fees. To give you an idea of the difference payment of these could make to your child’s education, here are some examples of what we could buy for the school with this amount of money:

- 4 years supply of A4 paper
- 4 years supply of gas for our heaters
- 7 years supply of student workbooks
- 4 years supply of school hats
- 10 years supply of First Aid products
- 750 boxes of classroom whiteboard markers
- 4,770 glue sticks
- 11,450 pencils – enough for 10 years!

Canteen (Food Service Unit) AGM

The FSU has held their Annual General Meeting. Thank you to those parents who attended and especially to the ex-parents who still play a pivotal role in ensuring that our Canteen functions in a viable and effective manner. Elections were held at the AGM and the following office bearers were elected:

- President: Gary Wilson
- Vice President: Melissa Richardson
- Secretary: Jenny Kirk
- Treasurer: Alison Steele
- Uniform Room: Jodie Hill
- Roster Clerk: Melissa Richardson

Athletics Carnival - time to start training!

Our annual athletics carnival will be held on Friday 24th July. Field events will be held on Thursday 23rd July. Please keep these days free so you can join us for one of our major sporting events of the year. Our school sport on Fridays is now concentrating on preparing for this major sporting event.

The Uniform Room has T-shirts in all house colours for the Athletics Carnival.

University students

Last week we welcomed trainee teachers from the University of New England to Narrabri West for 4 weeks of teaching experience. We are sure Emily Druitt (1K), Georgie Christakos (2B) and Georgia Brown (KG) will enjoy their stay and benefit from the
great teaching and learning experiences on offer at Narrabri West.

The year ahead ...  
This is another year of huge change in education in New South Wales. We are very fortunate at Narrabri West to have the knowledge and professionalism of our staff to lead us through these changes. There are some tremendous programs and learning happening in all of our classrooms, which continue to be innovative and challenging.

We hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable break and we look forward to working with you and your children in Term 2. Thank you for your continued support of our school and we hope to see you at all of our school events, starting with Cross Country this week.

Our term calendar is with today’s newsletter. Put it on your fridge so that you can keep track of what is coming up in the weeks ahead.

School numbers  
Our school is now the largest it has been since 2003. In 2010 we had 228 students. We now have 324 students. Narrabri West is certainly growing, and growing fast!

Happy Mothers’ Day on Sunday 9th May to all of our mums – you are all very special and we hope you are well and truly spoilt!

Best wishes  
Stephen Maher  
Principal

FETE

Our first fete meeting for the year will be held at 6.00pm on Monday 4th May in the staffroom. The fete is our biggest fundraiser of the year, so it is very important for our school. Usually we have only a small number of helpers on the fete committee so anybody who could come to this meeting and assist in organising the fete would be most welcome. If we have lots of helpers we will all only have to do a little bit each.

Last year’s fete was fantastic – let’s see if 2015 can be even better! If you would like to become involved or have some great ideas, please come along.

Would you like to buy your Mum a special gift for Mothers’ Day? Next week, outside the Library at lunch times, we have for sale a present you could buy your Mum and will show her how special you think she is.

These presents will be for sale for $5 each. We only have a limited supply so you will have to get in quick!

Happy Mothers’ Day!

Everyone in the school community has a role to play in helping with school attendance.

Having students attend school is extremely beneficial to local communities. However some students do not attend school regularly or fail to attend at all.

Schools, parents, local community members and businesses are all an essential part of providing and supporting education in our schools.

The NSW Department of Education and Communities employs Home School Liaison Officers across the state. These officers are teachers who support schools and the school community to ensure that all students attend school regularly.

Parents having difficulty getting their child to school could contact either the school or our local Home School Liaison Officer, Mrs Megan Hartog-Smith, who is based at Narrabri West.

Supervision at School  
Playground supervision commences at 9:00am. Teachers at school before 9.00am are here for lesson preparation and meetings etc. and as part of their work agreement, do not start duty until 9:00am in the mornings. They are not able to provide supervision prior to that.

Parents are reminded you remain legally responsible for your children prior to 9:00am when supervision begins. Please try to avoid having your children arrive at school before 9:00am.

Students who arrive at school before 9:00am are expected to sit on the seats outside the Kindergarten or Year 1 rooms until the 9:00am bell goes. They should keep their bags with them until then. The canteen will be open to take lunch orders only from approximately 8:00am for students as they arrive at school. Sales will not commence until 9:00am.

Education Week 2015

A celebration of 100 days of school, showcasing what we have learnt this year!

49 School Days to Go!
Cross Country Championships

Our annual Cross Country event will be held on Friday, commencing at 1:30pm. Please note the change of time due to a booking clash with Gately Field.

Competitors will start from Gately Field and finish in the front school playground after completing a course around the Narrabri Lake. Presentations of champion medals, participant ribbons and the House Points Trophy will follow the events.

Children may wear their house colours:
- Cunningham - Blue
- Mitchell - Red
- Oxley - Green
- Sturt - Yellow

The school office has T-shirts in house colours for sale for $8 each. These could also be used for the Athletics Carnival in Term 3.

Please note that at no stage do we force children to run in a Cross Country event. Those children who wish to run for all, or part of the way may do so and those who wish to only walk the course are allowed to do this. We do however expect that all children will participate by either running or walking unless they have a medical condition that prevents them from doing so. Children who finish in the first six at our Cross Country will represent Narrabri West at the Narrabri Zone PSSA Trials at Bellata on Friday 22nd May.

PSSA Tennis

On Tuesday March 31st, Jake Seton, Emma and Maddie Richardson, Alexandra Bennett and Rhys Jones played at the Narrabri tennis courts in the PSSA Tennis knockout against Moree Public School. We all played well and had lots of fun but the children from Moree won overall and made it to the next level. We all took turns playing singles, doubles then mixed doubles. It was a very hot day but we had a fantastic day playing.

PSSA Soccer Representatives

Amy Fladrick and Jemma Hedley have represented Narrabri Zone PSSA at the North West PSSA Girls Football Trials recently and in great news, Amy was selected to represent North West Area PSSA at the NSW PSSA Carnival in Sydney later this term. Well done Amy – we are very proud of you!

PSSA Cricket Representatives

Zara Foley, Elsie Ford Amelia Beer and Alexandra Bennett have all been selected to represent North West PSSA at the NSW Girls Cricket Carnival later this year. Well done girls – you have continued the Narrabri West tradition of having lots of representatives in this team.

Daly Guest has also been selected to attend the North West PSSA boys cricket trials, following PSSA Southern Zone trials last week. Well done Daly.

Good for Kids

Supporting student health is one of many priorities for schools. There are many ways schools can assist and support students to lead a healthy lifestyle:

- Incorporating healthy eating and physical activity into what’s taught through the curriculum
- What the culture of the school is e.g. what’s sold in the canteen or the access students have to physical activity equipment in the playground
- How the school community can be involved in healthy lifestyle programs can all contribute to your child’s health and wellbeing.

Below are some examples of strategies schools are implementing to promote healthy eating and physical activity:

- Crunch&Snip® – a daily fruit, vegetable and water program
- Fresh Tastes @ School – healthy canteen menu
- PE lessons have a focus on developing the students fundamental movement skills
- Students have access to physical activity equipment during breaks
- Teachers have been trained in the Live Life Well @ School Program
- Teachers are regularly incorporating healthy eating and physical activity into their physical education and other lessons.

Stage 3

Term 1 was exciting, fun and productive in 5/6P. Our unit of study was rainforests and students really enjoyed learning about the Daintree Rainforest in Australia. Some of the highlights were finding out about the dangers living within the Daintree, including the Wait-A-While Palm and the funnily named Idiot Fruit plant. Their task was to research information about the Daintree Rainforest and work on their note-taking skills to then write an informative text about the topic in their own words. Students worked very hard on this task and produced work of a very high quality. They used some excellent subheadings and topic sentences to organise their writing. Students continually used Learning Goals and Success Criteria to assess their learning and work.

Many students in 5/6P participated in activities outside the classroom as well in Term 1. There were opportunities for students to join sporting teams and attend trial selections. We have also begun practising for our Eisteddfod items. Students in Year 6 in 5/6P have joined with 4/5K and are performing in the poetry section, while students in Year 5 have joined with 5/6S to sing. The Eisteddfod will be held during weeks 5 and 6 of this term.

Art lessons took place on Friday afternoon after recess and although it was sometimes hard to concentrate with the excitement of the upcoming weekend, students in 5/6P did a wonderful job on the artworks they created. In the beginning, we focussed on using shapes (e.g. circles, rectangles) to draw animals. We moved on to drawing trees and how to create shadow in an artwork. Towards the end of the term, we looked at landscape watercolour paintings and had a go at our own. Students showed patience and
persistence to create some excellent pictures.

Mrs Rebecca Parker

5/6S made a very confident and productive start to the year and have settled in well with their new classmates. We have been focusing on learning the social skills of coping and tolerance, as well as respect for ourselves, others and equipment. The ‘COMPLIMENT’ chain has been very popular amongst students giving them a chance to encourage other team members during and following learning times.

Our unit of study on the rainforests and specifically the Borneo rainforest saw many opportunities for our nature lovers and artistic students to show their knowledge through art (charcoal, pastel and water colour) as well as through the use of informative and descriptive writing tasks. This resulted in Mrs Smith even learning a thing or two about different species thanks to the extensive knowledge of some students. Who knew every species of cactus could flower in the right condition?

All students have shown improvements in perseverance and an increased commitment to produce high quality work throughout the term. We look forward to another awesome term of learning in Term 2.

Mrs Jocelyn Smith

Welcome back! We finished last term with our Easter Hat Parades. It was a fun celebration for the children and a great way to bring us all together. Thank you for your support. We will have more opportunities throughout the year to enjoy special activities together.
The dates are:
- Blue Group - Wednesday 13th May
- Red Group - Monday 18th May

Parents are invited to stay for our book character parade then browse and buy books after it, then have a cuppa.

Louise Stewart & Tricia Lawty

Award Winners

KG  
Lucas Griffiths, Quinn Leabon,  
Kennedy Watt, Ava Smith, Lucas Duff & Cindy Jones

KL  
Cruz Ryan, Kaden Hill, Cienna Wilson,  
Alexie Fitzgerald, Chayce Browning & Brayden Hanslow

KS  
Rya Knox, Ben Bland, Jason O’Neil,  
Michelle Gordon, Skye Kinstler & Noah Dhu

1K  
Domenic Browning, Ella Adams, Cody Lane, Mackenzie Fenwick, Callum Nott & Anna Stuart

1S  
Adison Hartog-Smith, Archie Simmonds, Holly Olding, Elizabeth Silver, Ryan Williams & Tahlia Dickinson

2B  
Liandro Browning, Asher Kelly, Beau Fitzgerald, Jasper Bruce, Mitch Dafter & Lillie-Mae Carter

2D  
Mason Kebby, Claire Graham, Taryn Kirk, Imogen McGuiness, James Dhu & Chelsie Smith

3/4C  
Max Stoltenberg, Ryli Phillips, Blake Christian, Laura Flower, Jessica Miller & Grace Gaynor

3/4F  
Jake Farr, Piper Williams, George Bennett, Brock Mallows, Simone Mitchell & Mackenzie Knox

3/4W  
Lily Kelly, Amalie Gosper, Clayton Laws, Noah Ghassan, Denae Seymour & Rileigh Kelly

4/5K  
Miah Burns, Charlette Smith, Ebonie Bruce, Luke Longworth, Charlie Cooke & Jye Cuell

5/6P  
Eden Mor, Alex Dean, Mackenzie Kerr, Daly Guest, Karl Schlack & Riley Longworth

5/6S  
Clayton Briggs, Charlee Croaker, Maddie Richardson, Jim Dent, Rhys Jones & Ella Charlton

CITIZENSHIP AWARDS & STARS OF THE WEEK

LACHLAN SMITH  NOAH GORDON  
KL  2D

JACQUELINE  DYLAN  
COLLETT 3/4F  WILLIAMS 5/6S

K-2 SUPER WESTY
PIP COLLINS KG

3-6 SUPER WESTY
ZOE DUMBLE 3/4F

Canteen News

The 2015 Narrabri Show is on May 1st – 3rd. Each year for the show schools participate in the schoolwork section which is displayed in the pavilion. Show Society members always require help to display the schoolwork items and take them down after the show. If we have any parents who could assist with this, please contact the school, or just turn up at the showground at the following times. The school work displays are being arranged on Wednesday 29th April at 10:00am and taken down on Sunday 3rd May at 3:00pm.

Free Graduated Licensing Scheme Workshops for Parents of Learner Drivers

Young drivers are three times more likely to be involved in casualty crashes. That’s why the Roads and Maritime Services has introduced a new licensing scheme, with more supervised driving practice for learner drivers.

To help parents in supervising learner drivers, the Roads and Maritime Services has set up a FREE 2 hour workshop for parents that will offer practical advice on how to help learner drivers become safer drivers.

A FREE Roads and Maritime Services workshop will be conducted by David Riches on Thursday May 21 at the Narrabri Golf Club from 5.30 pm – 7.30 pm.

Early bookings are essential, by phoning 0434 964 764 now to reserve your place, or email saferlearnerdrivers@gmail.com
Narrabri District Junior Rugby League Club

Parents should register new players online at:
http://www.foxsportspulse.com/club_info.cgi?c=7-35063115180-0-0
and make a credit card payment online or make a cash payment on the first game day. The club is also required to sight new players’ birth certificates so please bring them on May 2nd. Existing players can register online also but require their username and password, which you can receive by emailing the Club Secretary, Erin Barton on ndjrl@outlook.com.au

We are encouraging all players to register as early as possible as we need to put kids in a team, create the draw and purchase new jerseys prior to kick off.

Erin Barton - Club Secretary
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<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19 K-6 Assembly 1:00pm Five Cent Friday</td>
<td>20/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>22 Student Reports</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26 BBQ 11:30am Silver Badge Assembly 12:30pm Five Cent Friday</td>
<td>27/28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Weekly Events**

- **Monday**: 3-6 Choir 12:00pm; Fitness Group 3:25pm; P&C Meeting 1st Monday of the month
- **Tuesday**: Newsletter (even weeks); Guitar 12:00pm
- **Wednesday**: K-2 Choir 12:00pm; Guitar 12:00pm; Recorder 2:10pm
- **Thursday**: Guitar 12:00pm; K-6 Choir 12:00pm; Music Lessons (Rosemary Smith); Band 1:00pm
- **Friday**: Drums 11:40am; 3-6 Drama 12:00pm; Assembly 1:00pm; Sport 2:10pm

**Term 3**: Tuesday 14th July – Friday 18th September

**Term 4**: Tuesday 6th October – Wednesday 16th December
Easter Family Fun Day 2015