Narrabri West - such a very busy place!

It is fantastic to see the incredible things happening at Narrabri West. These are a result of our school community working together for our students and it is this partnership between students, parents and staff that is achieving great things for them.

This has been very obvious at the Narrabri Eisteddfod. Well done to all of our students who participated. Once again they performed with distinction, already gaining a number of awards in the many items.

A very big thank you to our staff who dedicate many hours of their own time to prepare items, organise transport and provide supervision. It is because of their efforts that your children have opportunities such as these. Also to the parents and friends who have assisted with transport to and from the Crossing Theatre and with ensuring everyone was in uniform and ready to perform at their very best.

The Narrabri West Cross Country competitors have also been to the Narrabri Zone PSSA Cross Country Trials at Bellata. They faced strong opposition, but competed very well. Those who finished in the top six were selected to represent Narrabri PSSA at the North West Area PSSA trials, which will be held in Coolah on Friday 12th June. Well done everybody! Full results are in our Sports Shorts section.

All teachers are now busily finalising assessment data and preparing written student reports to go home in Week 9 of this term. These provide students and parents with information on student achievement so far this year. They provide clear, comprehensive and consistent information about each child's progress, as well as suggestions on how parents can best support their child with their learning. Students have been undertaking ongoing assessments throughout the year to allow teachers to make judgments about their progress. Teachers have also spent many hours working in their stage teams to ensure that there is consistency across the school and that the reports provide an accurate indication of each child's current learning and needs.
**Feature Article**

**CONFIDENT KIDS**

For most children, starting school means spending more time on learning and less on play. It also means more expectations of them – from parents, teachers and also from themselves.

Children typically start school with high expectations. When they see how well they do things compared to others, their view of their own abilities often changes. They learn that they are good at some things and not so good at others. They also see how other children and school staff respond to what they do. These things influence their confidence in their abilities. They also influence how willing they are to have a go in situations where they feel unsure.

How parents and carers can help confidence improves through building on small successes. Parents (and teachers) can help by:

- Explaining to children that skills develop with practice;
- Encouraging children to persist when they don’t succeed straight away;
- Praising effort, persistence and improvement; and
- Being ready to help when necessary, without taking over.

**Confident thinking**

Self-esteem is an important part of confidence. Having good self-esteem means accepting and feeling positive about yourself. Confidence is not just feeling good, but also knowing you are good at something.

Particular ways of thinking are very important for building confidence. Helpful ways of thinking include:

- Believing that, if you try, you can succeed;
- Finding positive ways to cope with failure that encourage having another go; and
- Enjoying learning for its own sake by competing with your own performance, rather than that of others.

**Dealing with disappointment**

Everybody fails to achieve their goals sometimes. Parents (and teachers) can help by:

- Responding sympathetically and with encouragement (e.g. “That was disappointing, but at least you had a go.”)
- Helping children focus on what they can change to make things better, rather than thinking that the situation is unchangeable or that there is something wrong with them (e.g. “What can you try that might make that work better next time?”)
- Challenging “I can’t” thinking by showing and saying you believe in them and reminding them of what they have achieved.

**Optimistic thinking**

Recognises what has been achieved more than what is lacking. It looks at the glass as half-full rather than half-empty.

**Teaching children to persist**

The ability to persist at a task and see it through to the end is one of the most important attributes that you can develop in a child.

There are numerous times every day when children must persist rather than give in. A young child learning to tie shoelaces must persist. A primary aged student must show determination to finish tasks. They need to be able to persist when work gets hard or life gets tough.

Some children are more naturally predisposed to persist than others. They have a determined, even competitive streak in their temperament that doesn’t allow them to give in. These children and young people can drive themselves very hard to succeed.

Parents and teachers can develop persistence in children and also impede its development by making life too easy for children so that they don’t have opportunities to persist or hang in there.

Parents can promote persistence by encouraging their children to keep going and not give in at the slightest hurdle or difficulty.

Parents can be a sounding board for children’s gripes, but they should show confidence in their ability to cope and get through their difficulties. “You can do it” is far more powerful in terms of promoting an attitude of persistence than “If it is a little too hard then try something else.”

Let children know that there is a direct relationship between effort and success. In fact, they need to learn that by giving effort they will more than likely experience more success. The ability to persist in the face of difficulties is one of the best success attributes that children will ever develop.

Most parents know it pays off when they catch their children being good, but it also pays off to catch them being persistent. Also remind them that persistence generally pays off.

Talk about hard work with your children. They need to understand that to be successful they need to do things that are not fun or easy. While it would be good if all work and learning was fun, in reality, this is not always the case.

**NAPLAN Testing 2015**

NAPLAN testing has occurred across Years 3 and 5. We are very proud of the effort each and every student put into ensuring that they tried their absolute hardest and did their very best. They took to this testing in a very sensible and calm way, especially our Year 3 students who took part in a
formal assessment for the very first time.

We look at this testing as an opportunity to assess the effectiveness of aspects of our educational program and see if there are any areas that need additional attention. Whilst NAPLAN is important, it must be remembered that assessment of students is not just based on this test and that as parents, you should equally be looking at the day-to-day learning of your child in consultation with their teacher to gain a full picture of attainment.

NAPLAN provides a point-in-time picture of student abilities across the school; it does not dictate what happens for the rest of your schooling and rest of your life and should not be treated that way. There is no school pressure regarding results or achievement and there should be none from home either. For us, it is another activity that provides some data we can use to look at how we are travelling as a school and a system, just like we use our regular school activities to do the same. Treat it as an interesting exercise and enjoy the challenge.

Parents and the school will unfortunately not receive the results of these tests for individual students for approximately three months. There are plans in future years for these tests to be completed online, which will make this process much quicker.

Thinking and Learning 2015 Conference
Mrs Nichols, Mrs Gett and I returned today from this four-day conference held in Melbourne. It was attended by over 1650 educators from across Australia and New Zealand. Guest speakers were prominent experts from around the world, who are all acknowledged as leaders in their field. It was a wonderful experience that has given us new ideas, as well as verifying that many of the initiatives we are implementing at Narrabri West are based on current worldwide research and ‘best practice.’ We will be using our upcoming staff meetings and Term 3 School Development Day to inform the rest of teachers about many of the great things we learnt. For our students to keep learning, we need to keep learning as well, and we certainly did that, across four very full-on days!!

We did however get to see a little of what Melbourne has to offer at night - including some St. Kilda restaurants (yum!) and the Sydney Swans v Hawthorn AFL Grand Final re-match at an absolutely packed MCG (90,000+) on Saturday night!

Classroom Learning Spaces
We have recently received delivery of most of the new classroom furniture we have ordered to update our classrooms and help make them inspiring 21st century learning spaces. These were purchased using the fete proceeds from last year, as well as school funds. We anticipate that by the end of term we will have all of this in our classrooms and we look forward to showing it to you and letting you see us using it.

Athletics Carnival - Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th July
Keep this date in your diary as it is coming up soon. This is one of our favourite days in the school calendar, as it is a day for everyone to be involved and is an exciting social and community event as well.

Uniforms
As we move into the cooler weather, I ask students and parents to be aware of the uniform requirements at Narrabri West. Our uniform room has school jumpers, jackets and rugby tops available in school colours with
our emblem on them. Navy blue or red scarves are also permitted. Please assist us to uphold the wonderful uniform standard that we have set.

We have school jackets which can be purchased from the school office for $50.

Pre School Enrolments 2016
Parents are advised that 'Enrolment Expression of Interest' forms are now available at the front office or on the Pre School section of our website for placement at our Pre School in 2016. Please also advise any friends, relatives etc. who would like their children to attend next year of the availability of these forms. We already have a lot of applications for the limited places available.

Canteen donation
As a result of very successful year in 2014, the Canteen has donated $1500 to the school. These funds have been used to purchase some additional seating. Mr. Wilson has installed these and they are another great improvement to our school facilities.

School photos - back soon - we hope!
We know you are waiting for the school photos to arrive, and so are we! We are hoping they will arrive in the next few weeks.

Sick kids!
We have certainly had a mixture of weather in the last few weeks. Of course with the onset of the winter months we also experience the season of colds and flu. While being at school everyday is important to your child's education, we do need to understand that when they are ill they need time to recover.

Colds and flu's spread very easily and quickly in a school environment, with so many people in one small space. Please remind your child of the preventable actions they can take, washing hands, using tissues etc....

If your child says they have a headache, tummy ache, sore throat, or all three, please don't send them to school. This can help stop germs spreading and lessens the chance of other students and staff catching them.

If they do require a day or two off school, please remember to send a note or use the Skoolbag app explaining the absence.

Thank you to our teachers
We have so many wonderful teachers at Narrabri West and are extremely lucky to have them volunteer to run many programs including PSSA, sporting teams, music, etc. Many of these programs are run during their own lunch breaks, in addition to playground duties, professional development and meetings. It is not compulsory for staff to volunteer for these roles and we are privileged that they give up their time due to their commitment, passion and care for our students.

I would like to thank each and every one of them. They go above and beyond to provide the best opportunities for everyone at our school. Our teachers often selflessly give up hours of personal time, work late into the night and many always arrive at school very early! They do this without expecting any recognition or acknowledgement, but just for the benefit of our students.

Their enthusiasm and contribution is to be commended. Thank you!

Some very busy weeks at Narrabri West!
These last few weeks have been extremely hectic and it's great to see the number of students making the most of the many opportunities offered at Narrabri West. There is a downside to all of these extra activities however, as consequently there are a lot of interruptions. Whilst these may sometimes be a disruption to normal school life, they are all valuable learning activities and part of the overall educational experience. Many of them are also chances for students to excel at, or be involved in opportunities that they would not normally receive in the classroom.

There are only four weeks remaining in this term, showing us once again that time simply gets away very quickly. These are very busy but exciting times, with lots happening.

Best wishes
Stephen Maher
Principal

Five Cent Friday Update
So far we have collected $304.85 (or 6,097 five cent pieces)

Reminders

The Student Council is organising our involvement in Crazy Hair Day on Friday 5th June.

Crazy Hair Day raises money for Cystic Fibrosis New South Wales. Cystic Fibrosis is the most common life threatening, recessive genetic condition affecting Australian children. It is a disease that affects a number of organs in the body, especially the lungs and pancreas. At present there is no cure, but the faulty gene has been identified and doctors and scientists are working to find ways of repairing or replacing it. With today's improved treatment most people with CF are able to lead reasonably normal and productive lives. A great amount of time is being directed towards finding new and
improved ways of treating CF and of finally finding a cure.

Students can come to school with crazy hair, wigs, hats, coloured hair etc and pay a gold coin donation. Let’s hope that everyone can join in this fun activity and support a very worthy cause that is very close to the heart of everyone at Narrabri West at the same time.

Website, School App & Facebook
We encourage you to keep an eye on our school website and to keep aware of school events.

We have a free app that works on an iPhone or any smartphone android device (e.g. Samsung) or an iPad. The app is a notification type service that allows you to get updates, reminders and even our school newsletter. It is available through iTunes or Google Play - just search for Narrabri West.

We also have our Facebook page which also allows you to get messages and updates.

Our P&C will hold their next meeting on Monday 1st June at 6:30pm in the staffroom.

Our next fete meeting will be held on Monday 1st June, commencing at 6:00pm in the staffroom. The weeks are disappearing quickly as the fete gets closer and closer (only 12 school weeks to go), so we are hoping that we have lots of interested parents able to come to this meeting. Thank you to those who have already offered their assistance. We always look forward to this highlight of the school year.

PSSA Cross Country
Congratulations to the following athletes who have been selected in the Narrabri Zone PSSA Cross Country team:

Amalie Gosper 2nd
Holly Ford 5th
Brock Gordon 1st
Rileigh Kelly 2nd
Kaylyn Chater 3rd
Mackenzie Kerr 2nd
Karl Schlack 3rd
Jordan Baxter 5th
Jay Ham 6th
Elsie Ford 8th reserve
Jemma Hedley 7th reserve
Riley Dickinson 8th reserve

Photos from the Narrabri West Cross Country championships are below.

Education Week 2015
100 Days of School
A celebration of 100 days of school, showcasing what we have learnt this year!

34 School Days to Go!
Jemma Hedley and Clayton Briggs accepted the winning shield for Sturt!

**Boys’ and Girls’ PSSA Knockouts**

On Friday May 15th, a soccer gala day was organised between four local schools: Narrabri West, Narrabri, Boggabri and Wee Waa.

This was to allow two round games to be played by the boys’ team and one game to be played by the girls’ team.

Unfortunately the girls’ team won via forfeit as Narrabri didn’t turn up. However, as Boggabri girls were visiting they were able to play the West girls. All the girls had lots of fun, with the West girls winning in the end.

The boys’ team played a combined boys and girls team from Wee Waa in their first round game. Unfortunately they lost in a hard fought contest and so didn’t progress through to play the town school in the next round.

It was good to see such a young team working together. Dylan Williams played particularly well in goal saving many. We did have quite a few shots on goal and were able to score one, however, Wee Waa scored four, so were the winners.

Jocelyn Smith
Soccer coordinator

**Stage One’s excursion to the old Gaol**

What a busy term it has been! Congratulations to all our students who performed in the Eisteddfod. You all did a great job and we are very proud of your efforts.

The highlight for this term has been our excursion to the Narrabri Old Gaol. This was planned as a part our COG’s unit ‘Past and Present’ where we needed to investigate artefacts used in our past. This is what some of our students wrote about the day:

Jackson Priest - I thought it was interesting that people did not have any water (taps) in their cells at the old gaol.

Jessie Simpson - I liked the front of the old gaol. It was interesting because of the circular window.

Bree Charlton - I liked the gloves and the dress and the shoes with the sparkles.

Anna Stewart - I liked the wig in the special glass case.

Blake Carter - I liked the old fire cart and how they use to put out fires.

Sienna Earle - I liked seeing the teeth in the cupboard

Kyal Seymour - I liked seeing all the books because I like reading.

Ayla Cunningham - I liked seeing the dummies dressed up in olden day clothes.

Bailey Cooke - I liked the bedroom because the bed was nice.

Holly Olding - I liked seeing the swords the best.

Riley Seccombe - I liked it when we went in the gaol cell and they shut the door!

Callum Wales - I liked the olden days fire truck.

Ashley Johnston - I liked learning all about our history.

Liandro Browning - I liked the gun holder.

Chelsie Smith - I liked when they showed us the old fashioned bedroom.

Kendal Kelly - I liked the old dentist chair.

Nate Browning - It gave me memories of my old pop.

Taylor Kay - I liked when we got to go inside the gaol cell.

Imogen Conomos - I loved the old fashioned dresses.

Claire Graham - I liked seeing where the guard stood up the top.

Taryn Kirk - The army room made me think of my pop.

Jacky Ham - The old hairdryer was cool.
This will be our last week talking about Japan. Our Koi nobori (carp streamers) look amazing. We had so much fun bubble painting that we are going to do some more this week. We did an experiment called, ‘Swirling Colours’ to see colours mixing in another way, which really interested the children and led to ‘eye dropper’ painting.

We will be making and eating Sushi this week at our Sushi Cafe. Thanks to Jacob’s mum, Phoenix’s dad and Magnus’ mum for offering to make it with the children. It will be interesting for the children to experience eating and making this traditional Japanese food. We will also be manipulating chopsticks to pick up small objects, making Samurai hats and listening to some Japanese children’s stories this week.

We are yet to decide which country we will feature next month. We would like to hear from you before we make a decision. Maybe it’s a country you were born in or a country you have visited and would like to share with the children.

We have been advised of a show coming to the Narrabri Library called, ‘Yamba’. It’s a ‘care for kid’s ears’ roadshow. This is perfect as it fits in well with the BBC program we are doing each morning. It’s on 24th June, which is Blue Group’s day. However if parents from Red Group want their children to go, you will need to take them yourself and advise me so I can let the library know, for numbers.

You have now received our Pre School photos taken by Kate Dhu. No doubt you are impressed by their quality. Kate has generously donated a percentage of the sales to our Pre School. We will advise you on what we purchase from it.

**Reminders**

Library books are to come back on the first day your child returns to Preschool. Another book can only be borrowed when it is returned. Also please leave the returned books in the basket at the front door.

Spare clothes: Please remember to send a spare set of clothing in your child’s bag each day.

Please label your child’s clothing, as with coats and jumpers coming off and on, it is important that they are labelled.

**Louise Stewart & Tricia Lawty**

**Award Winners**

**KG**
Quinn Leabon, Pip Collins, Nathan Flower, Nathan Stuart, Kennedy Watt, Hunter Smith

**KL**
Hayleigh Cahill, Cienna Wilson, Kaden Hill, James Stewart, Destani Vernon-Many, Lachlan Smith

**KS**
Michelle Gordon, Jack Jolliffe, Jonothan Anderson, Jason O’Neill, Noah Dhu, Ruby Clayton

**1K**
Ashley Hanslow, Caitlan Bourke, Domenic Browning, Elijah Ghassan, Bree Charlton

**1S**
Bailey Cooke, Ashley Morris, Ayla Cunningham, Tahlia Dickinson, Angus Lamb, Paganne Ryman

**2B**
Isabella Keys, Jacob Stuart, Beau Fitzgerald, Mitch Dafter, Lochie Michell, Jada Hughes

**2D**
Taryn Kirk, Taylor Kay, Jacky Ham
Timmy Stoltenberg, Kendal Kelly, Tamika O’Neill
2/3C
Clare Jensen, Taylor Nott, Jaimie Patel, Duke Farr, Oliver Boehm, Daniel Smith
3/4F
Rosie Ross, Bridie Russell, Jake Farr, Eva Hanslow, Trinity Palmer, Piper Williams
3/4W
Denae Seymour, Damon Russell-Tuhura, Amalie Gosper, Shannon Thomas, Isabel Graham, Will Burns
4/5K
Ebonie Bruce, Flynn Dafter, Will Bennett, Miah Burns, Rachel Jones, Jemma Harvey
5/6P
Claira Barlow, Elizabeth Kay, Erin Flower, Jeremy Alexander, Arron Briggs, Jemma Dafter
5/6S
Jordan Baxter, Kaylyn Chater, Jessica Hanslow, Josh Penny, Clayton Briggs

CITIZENSHIP AWARDS & STARS OF THE WEEK

BRAYDEN HANSLOW KL CINDY JONES KG
STELLA LAWS 1S JACKY HAM 2D
ETHAN HALL 4/5K ZAHLI OLDING 3/4W
MADDIE RICHARDSON 5/6S ADDISON RUSSELL 4/5K

K-2 SUPER WESTY SAVANNAH GOLD-REIS-KELLY

3-6 SUPER WESTY EDEN MOR

Roster
Week 6
Wed 27th K Seymour
Thu 28th J Cooke
Fri 29th K Smith, N Nott

Mon 1st S Burley
Tue 2nd M Richardson
Wed 3rd J Geal
Thu 4th M Griffiths
Fri 5th J Hill, J Wilson, S Burley

Mon 8th PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Tue 9th M Richardson
Wed 10th J Wilson
Thu 11th S Browning
Fri 12th N Hill, J Wilson, S Burley

Narrabri West Public School

ABSENCE NOTE

Students Name: .................................................................
Class: .................................................................
Absent or Sick Date From: __ __ / __ __ / __ __ __ __ to __ __ / __ __ / __ __ __ __
Absent or Sick Reason: .................................................................
Parent / Carers Name: .................................................................
Signed: .................................................................
Date: .................................................................
SAVETHEDATE

Jazz Up The Creek

AT MAULES CREEK

12pm-4pm Entry and kids activities all FREE

Gourmet foods

Entertainment

Galahs

Saturday 13th June

AT MAULES CREEK HALL

G screamed discord

GILDA ST GEORGE, GILLY GODDESS, JAZZ JUNCTION

Ww.facebook.com/jazzupthecreek

THE COURIER

Tony Dafter

IT Services

Home & small office networking
Computer repairs & maintenance
Virus and malware removal
Consultation, support & advice
Service that comes to you
in-home & on-site

Email: toby@laptop.com

CONTACT DETAILS

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Phone App:
Web:
www.narrabriw-pschools.nsw.edu.au
Facebook:
www.facebook.com/NarrabriWestPS
**May**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25-27</td>
<td>Narrabri Eisteddfod (Music)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Softball Knockout v Narrabri &amp; PSSA Trials 9:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>K-6 Assembly 1:00pm; 5 Cent Friday</td>
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**June**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fete Meeting 6:00pm; P&amp;C Meeting 6:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>K-6 Assembly 1:00pm; 5 Cent Friday; Crazy Hair Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Long Weekend</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>North West PSSA Cross Country; K-6 Assembly 1:00pm; 5 Cent Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>K-6 Assembly 1:00pm; 5 Cent Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Semester One Reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Silver Badge Assembly 12:30pm; Sausage Sizzle 11:30am; <em>Last day of Term 2</em>; 5 Cent Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>29-30</td>
<td>Winter holidays</td>
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**July**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1-10</td>
<td>Winter holidays</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>School Development Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td><em>Term 3 commences</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>NSW PSSA Cross Country; K-6 Assembly 1:00pm; 5 Cent Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Year 7 2016 Parent Information Session – Narrabri HS – Common Room 4:30-6:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Athletics Carnival (Field Events)</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Athletics Carnival (Track Events)</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Education &amp; NAIDOC Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>100 Days of School and Education Week Assembly; Year 7 2016 Parent Information Session – Narrabri HS – Common Room 7:00-8:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>K-6 Assembly 1:00pm; 5 Cent Friday; Jeans for Genes Day</td>
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**August**

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting 6:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>PSSA Athletics – Wee Waa; K-6 Assembly 1:00pm; 5 Cent Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>K-6 Assembly 1:00pm; 5 Cent Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>VP/Long Tan Day – Narrabri RSL 11:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Back to School Night – Narrabri HS – for parents of Year 7 2016 - 6:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>‘Ready, Set, Kinder!’ – 2:10pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>K-6 Assembly 1:00pm; 5 Cent Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>‘Ready, Set, Kinder!’ – 2:10pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>K-6 Assembly 1:00pm; 5 Cent Friday; North West PSSA Athletics – Tamworth</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>Stage 3 Canberra Excursion</td>
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**September**

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>1-4</td>
<td>Stage 3 Canberra Excursion</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>‘Ready, Set, Kinder!’ – 2:10pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>K-6 Assembly 1:00pm; 5 Cent Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting 6:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>‘Ready, Set, Kinder!’ – 2:10pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Fete 5:00pm-8:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>16-18</td>
<td>Stage 2 Lake Keepit Excursion</td>
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