

From the Principal

I would like to welcome the return of our students and families and a warm welcome to our new families for 2015.

Staff returned to school last week to ensure preparation to meet our students' needs were in place and to participate in professional development. Unfortunately, due to the rain and flooding from Norman Creek on Friday we did need to shorten the professional development activities and will need to complete these in the near future.

Parents and carers are welcome to visit our school and classrooms, but we do ask that prior arrangements are made through the school office. As I am sure everyone can appreciate we cannot have the class teacher's time taken away from the students and programming without notice.

It is with sadness that I inform our Narbethong community of the death of one of our staff over the holidays. Brad Rowe, teacher-aide, passed away on the 21st December. Brad's family were able to support him during his illness at home and he passed away supported by his family.

Brad began working here in May 2002 and during his time worked in a number of classrooms assisting the teachers with the implementation of programs with a variety of students. Brad is fondly remembered by our older students as he was often a staff member who attended the school camps. Brad is sadly missed by us all.

Transport

Our school transport assessors, Angela O'Connell & Karen Neilson, worked extremely diligently at the end of 2014 to ensure all of our student's transport requirements were converted onto the department's Oneschool database. Due to circumstances beyond this school's control a number of approvals had not been formalised by the end of business Friday (23/01/15). Both Angela and Ricky Turner (Townsend Buses) continued to work over the long weekend to action as many transport arrangements as they could, and Angela will continue to follow up with any remaining concerns this week.



Narbethong State Special School Trivia Night

All families will receive within this newsletter a flyer giving details for our planned Trivia Night this year. We have made some slight changes from last year (which was our first effort) and these are highlighted on the flyer. The new venue is fully air-conditioned and able to accommodate 25 tables of 10 participants per table. To avoid disappointment please contact the office on 3823 0777 to book and organise payment for your table early. All tables must have 10 participants.

Parents who are not able to attend are able to still participate and support the school via the purchase of raffle tickets. These are being sold at 5 tickets for \$5, 12 tickets for \$10 or 25 tickets for \$20. There will be multiple raffle draws on the night. Please use the enclosed ticket ordering sheet and return to the office by the 6th March.

We are also grateful for any donations of suitable items for our raffle draws and these can be left at the school office.

Day 4 & Day 8

Most of our families will understand the significance of Day 4 & Day 8 within our department but for those new to our State education system I would like to provide the following information: Our department completes a state-wide download of student enrolment and attendance on both of these days and this data directly relates to the human and financial resourcing that a school receives for the year. Day 4 is Friday 30th January and Day 8 is Thursday 5th February. If students are enrolled but do not attend the first weeks of school the department will not staff or resource a school for those students unless the school can produce written evidence from the parents / carers with an acceptable explanation regarding student absence. In our school the teacher / student ratio is 1:4 so it is critical that we are able to staff accordingly for the entire year.

If for any reason your child will not be attending for the start of this year please telephone the office and email your child's teacher. Our office can provide you with your child's teacher's email address if necessary.



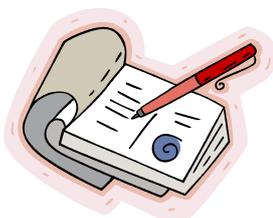
Narbethong Open Day

We are organising an 'Open Day' for families & friends on Wednesday the 18th February. Please mark this date on your family calendar. More information will be sent home over the coming weeks.



IMPORTANT DATES

Narbethong Open Day	Wednesday 18 th February
Narbethong Trivia Night	Saturday 21 st March
Last Day Term 2	Thursday 2 nd April
Good Friday	Friday 3 rd April
Easter Monday	Monday 6 th April
1 st Day Term 2	Monday 20 th April



BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations to the following students who are celebrating their birthdays in the next fortnight.

- Grace
- Trinity
- Ayden
- Patrick



Narbethong P&C

The next P&C meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th February at the school from 9.30am, all parents / carers and members of the Narbethong School community are welcome to attend.

The P&C AGM will be held on Tuesday 3rd March commencing at 9.30am.



The Role of School Nurses

Each year we receive an allocation of teacher-aide nursing hours and a nominated amount of hours of a registered nurse's time for our students. For many years we have had Prue Fraser & Caitlin O'Keefe (registered nurses) based at this school supporting the training of our staff and overseeing the health requirements of individual students. Both Prue and Caitlin are engaging in other professional pursuits in 2015 and we are yet to receive notification of the replacement nurse. Once a suitable replacement has been sourced I will pass this information onto our community. The past couple of years has seen a major shift in the nurses roles & responsibilities so that these staff are now a Regional resource and therefore are required to assist a large number of schools as well as maintaining a supervisory/training role at their base schools.

In the past, we have had some incidents where parents have sent their unwell child to school with a note informing the teacher to have the school nurse 'take a look' and give a medical diagnosis. The role of the nurse is not diagnostic and the nurse is not always in attendance at our school.

It is expected that if a child is unwell that they do not attend school and if necessary the parents seek medical advice from their GP or hospital.

NARBETHONG SCHOOL SHIRTS

Narbethong School shirts are available for purchase from the school office, they are an aqua blue colour with the school emblem in navy blue. Size 4,6,8 \$25.00 each, size 10,12,14 \$26.00 each, size 16 \$27.00 each.

Anne Nystrom

Principal