

A warm welcome to our new students and families and to our returning students and families for 2016.

Over the Christmas holiday break we had a number of major improvements completed, the most obvious job was the raising of the demountable classroom. After the flooding event we experienced last year we requested the department to consider raising this building to minimise the damage, loss of valuable equipment and disruption to students and staff. Our request received support from our Regional facilities staff and was approved by Central Office late 3rd Term 2015. We are appreciative that all parties concerned agreed to complete this work during the holidays to reduce the impact for students with their programming. We also had a mezzanine floor within our major store room (this area also was inundated with flood water in 2015) erected, which allows for expensive equipment to be stored 1.5m above floor level. We have also completed the installation of shuttered awnings to the entrance of the school and a number of stair areas. These are to assist to keep areas dry and slip-free during heavy rain and reduce the risk of students climbing in unsafe areas.

We continue to experience some internal wall structural issues within the pool area and are seeking to have these rectified as quickly as possible. These problems do not impact on the use of the therapy pool area and we will continue to use this very valuable resource for students.

Our enrolment numbers for this year are as follows:
Early Childhood Development Program (ECDP): 24 attending part-time.

Prep to Year 12: 63 students attending fulltime.

Staff allocation:

Administration Staff: Principal and Deputy.

Head of Curriculum: 0.8 (8 day fortnight).

Guidance Officer: 0.3 (3 day fortnight).

Teaching Staff: 17 teachers sharing various roles & classes.

Music: 0.4 (4 day fortnight).

Information Technology (IT): 0.4 (4 day fortnight).

Teacher-Aide hours: 590 hours (includes additional hours to address medical needs).

Hydro-therapy pool: 2 designated staff sharing 70 hrs per fortnight.

Nurse: shared role 0.6 (6 day fortnight) & 0.4 (4 day fortnight) the 2 nurses are regional staff so they are also responsible for training staff in other schools and are not always on this campus.

Occupational & Physio Therapists: 0.5 (5 day fortnight) & 0.8 (8 day fortnight) shared role.

Speech Language Pathologist: 0.5 (5 day fortnight) shared role.

All expected students have returned to school and we have been notified of the reasons for the absence of other students. This information will allow EQ to finalise staffing numbers for our school early next week.

Our curriculum focus this year will continue to be Literacy, Numeracy, Communication, Motor Development, Personal & Social, & Expanded Core Curriculum for vision impaired students. Focus learning areas will be implemented with the school's methodology of Active Learning. We will be offering parent information sessions each Term based on a number of curriculum areas. Term 1 is scheduled for Tuesday 15th March at 9.30am with focus on Numeracy & the Expanded Core Curriculum. Parents will have the opportunity to ask questions and receive an in-depth explanation as to how their child receives learning at Narbethong. We will follow this with a short P&C meeting to which all are invited. For future sessions offered you will receive notification via your child's class teacher as to when these sessions will be held. We are hoping these sessions will afford parents a greater understanding of the teaching and learning opportunity our staff are providing for each student.

P&C – AGM meeting:

The P&C warmly invites all interested families to attend the first meeting of the year. This has been scheduled for Tuesday the 23rd February at 11.30am. We are aware that a number of families seek ways to assist their child's school and often this is via tuckshops, reading groups etc., and it is sometimes not obvious how to help in a special school. Becoming a member of the P&C gives families an opportunity to assist and strengthen the school community, and provide valuable contributions to the school community.

Email communication:

We would like to offer our families the opportunity to receive the newsletter to their personal email addresses instead of receiving a paper copy. If you would like to receive information and specific documents in this form please send your email details through to Kim in the office. Her email address is kheat24@eq.edu.au

Your email will not be disclosed to other recipients.

Emergency Procedures:

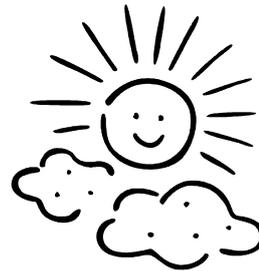
With recent concerns regarding the telephoned bomb threats some schools have received, I would like to assure families that Narbethong has emergency procedures in place to safeguard students and staff. We regularly practise and re-visit our evacuation (fire & bomb threat) and lock-down procedures to ensure staff are familiar and competent with their responsibilities during an emergency.

General Information:

- Narbethong school shirts and sweatshirts are available for purchase from the office.
- P&C Committee meets once or twice a Term and new members are always welcome. Raffles are organised through the P&C and all books either sold or unsold are to be returned to the office with any money.
- The school office does not have EFTPOS facilities but can accept cash, cheque or direct deposit.
- All visitors to the school **must** report via the office to sign in and out. This includes parents who may wish to speak to a teacher or drop off/collect student belongings. Parents whose normal practice is to bring their child to and from school are not required to sign-in unless they intend to stay for a longer time period than normal. This request is to meet safety regulations.
- All student absences need to be reported to the school office or class teacher by the parent. In the past we have sometimes received verbal messages from the bus driver/carer but we require parents to contact us directly.
- Early notification of prolonged periods of student absence will enable us to address transport and staffing requirements.
- Taxi Subsidy Scheme – Interested parents may apply and receive assistance regarding transport. The site is <https://www.qld.gov.au/disability/out-and-about/taxi-subsidy/> We believe these can be used to support your child with transport on school excursions and may be requested by teachers to support students going on regular excursions such as 'sailability' at Manly.
- The Alternate Format Library is seeking volunteers one/two mornings per week to create reading resource packs. These encourage/enable our younger readers (blind & low vision) to engage with reading books alongside their peers. If you would like to get involved please contact either Karen Clark or Sarah for more information, the office will put your call through to the library.
- Gayle Porter (recognised internationally for her work in communication with children with cerebral palsy & multiple disabilities) – Speech Language Pathologist who worked with us in 2015 to improve communication methods for our students will be revisiting the school on the 14th, 15th & 16th March. More information to follow.
- Please note the earliness of Easter this year – our last day of Term 1 is Thursday the 24th March. Plans are underway for our school Easter celebrations which will be held on Tuesday the 22nd March. More information to follow.

Parental follow-up tasks:

- Complete and return to teachers all parent permission forms that require your signature including requests for therapy support/medication forms/excursion consent forms etc.
- Complete and return the 'emergency management & individual health plans' to either the school nurses or the office.
- Complete and return your 'contribution to learning levy' form to the office.
- Complete and return your email details if you would like to receive the newsletter electronically.
- Contact the office with any change of details information, in particular changes to emergency telephone contact numbers. Parents are required to maintain current contact information with the school.
- Send in requests for respite transport with as much notice as possible, either via the class communication book or by email to Robyn office@nARBETHONGSPECS.EQ.EDU.AU It is always a good idea to check respite transport has been approved with the school office. These requests may take some time to be processed due to the number of approval levels that need to be met before being finalised.
- Mark the curriculum information session on your family calendar – Tuesday 15th March – and write your interest to attend in your child's daily communication book or telephone the office on 3823 0777.
- Keep checking in your child's communication book for updates on the Easter celebration planned for Tuesday 22nd March.



IMPORTANT DATES

Last Day Term 1	Thursday 24 th March
Good Friday	Friday 25 th march
Easter Monday	Monday 28 th March
1 st Day Term 2	Monday 11 th April

Anne Nystrom

Principal