



# NARBETHONG SPECIAL SCHOOL

## Quarterly Contact Newsletter

NARBETHONG STATE SPECIAL SCHOOL

March 2017 Issue 1

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

In week 4 of this Term our school was impacted by a burst plumbing hose in an upstairs room in C block. It appears that this may have burst on the Saturday morning and unfortunately water was flowing unchecked the entire weekend. This water caused damage to all of the class area floors and some furniture on Level 2, as the water travelled down through the ceiling of Level 1 it caused significant damage to these classrooms including all of the electrical system (fans, air-cons, lights, powerpoints, etc.) minor impact on equipment, paint damage and flooring damage to classrooms and the toilet area. The water then continued in the GA room on the bottom level and caused part of the ceiling to collapse. The department responded immediately when contacted on the Monday morning and within an hour we had facilities staff here to assess the damage and begin arranging for contractors to start the clean-up/repair work.

All classes had to be reassigned spaces and staff have worked very hard to ensure the impact for students was kept to a minimum. It is expected all repairs will be completed by the end of this Term.

We continue to experience some issues with the pool area and the repairs will require draining of the water. The work has begun and it is expected that the pool will operational for the start of Term 2.

Our enrolment numbers continue to be stable from the start of the school year.

#### **Emergency Procedures:**

We have completed a 'fire evacuation' practice drill this Term and all staff were extremely competent in their knowledge of procedures to follow.

There will be a lock-down procedure before the end of Term 1 to ensure staff are familiar and competent with their responsibilities during this emergency.

There has been an amendment to the safety procedures for pool usage. All students who are nil by mouth must now have their head floatation device attached before entering the water and not removed until they are hoisted clear of the pool. All staff have been instructed to follow this directive without exception.

### 2017 SCHOOL NEWS

- End of Term 1** – Friday, 31 March
- Public Holiday** – Monday, 17 April
- Term 2 Commences** – Tuesday, 18 April
- Anzac Day Celebration** – Monday, 24 April
- Anzac Day Public Holiday** – Tuesday, 25 April
- Public Holiday** – Monday, 1 May
- Trivia night** – Saturday, 13 May
- Under 8's week** – Monday, 22 May
- Harmony Day** – Wednesday, 21 June
- End of Term 2** – Friday, 23 June

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### General Information:

- Over the end of Term 1 and the first few weeks of Term 2 we will be hosting 10 QUT student teachers as part of their study requirements. These students are in their 4th year of training and each will spend 4 days in our school.
- As part of our support for the school in Tonga one of their staff has visited our school to further develop their understanding and knowledge of our programs and methodology.
- Most families have taken part with their child's teacher to develop the next ICP (Individual Curriculum Plan) and for some the ILP (Individual Learning Plan) all ESPs (Education Support Plans) have been completed and submitted.
- All tables have now been booked for our Trivia Night on May 13th. Response for donation requests has been extremely strong with previous sponsors again offering support. We will be offering the opportunity for those unable to attend to purchase raffle tickets for the general draws. Tickets are 3 for \$5, 8 for \$10 or 20 for \$20.

Further information will become available for parents who may wish to support us with the purchase of raffle tickets.

*Anne*

### INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN A RESEARCH STUDY

Researchers from the University of Queensland are conducting a research study to evaluate a new assessment tool that measures the everyday strengths and challenges of parents, families and people with a disability.

#### **How you can help:**

We are seeking **parents or family carers** of children, adolescents and young adults with a disability (up to 25 years of age) to complete a 15 minute questionnaire about their parenting/caring experiences.

The questionnaire can be completed at the following website (<https://goo.gl/UGa4Xt>) using the access password '**parent**'. Alternatively, if you would like to complete the questionnaire on paper, please contact Maria (m.vassos@uq.edu.au or 0491 218 256).

#### **If you have any questions:**

Feel free to contact Maria (details above) if you have any queries about this study.

## P & C NEWS

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A big thanks to school families who have contributed to the mountain of Easter chocolates sitting in the office at the moment. We'll be drawing the raffle this week and sending home the goodies by the end of term.

Thanks also to everyone who volunteered their time at the BBQ at IGA Greenslopes. It was the first time we have done this and we raised a little over \$400. I enjoyed meeting a few new people from our school family and we were pleased to get so many volunteers.



In Term 1 the P&C met for our first meeting of the year in week three and then held our AGM on the 14th of March. All office bearers were re-elected uncontested, probably due to the fact that there was no-one else to contest! We're a small school and numbers on the P&C have always reflected that, but we would love to have some more people join us. Meetings are short and informative and are only held once a term. We won't ask you to take on any jobs (and you're safe from being elected President for the next year) but we would love to hear your ideas and just get to know you.

Our next meeting will be in week three of next term, on Tuesday May 2nd at 9.30am. In Term 2 we will be running a Mother's Day raffle and we will be looking for donations for this next term.

Happy holidays.

Naree Keighley  
on behalf of the P&C

## ALTERNATIVE FORMAT LIBRARY

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### Added to our collection...

New titles continue to be added to our collection. Many students are enjoying borrowing these for take home reading. If you have a special request for topics or a special interest to read at home, just send a note in with your child for their classroom teacher.

### National Simultaneous Storytime

Next term we will join with schools all over the country in the National Simultaneous Story time. This is a campaign that aims to encourage more Australians to read and enjoy books. This year's book is "The Cow Tripped Over the Moon" by Tony Wilson. To read more about how the author was inspired by his son, Jack, who has cerebral palsy and a cortical vision impairment, you can follow this link: <http://tonywilson.com.au/books/the-cow-tripped-over-the-moon>

### Thanks...

To our volunteers who have been making some tactile books and kit for loan throughout the state. The latest tactile book, "My Daddy" looks great. We appreciate the time that these ladies give each Tuesday morning.

### Baby News

Our congratulations to Sarah and her husband David on the birth of their first baby, Eli David. Eli arrived on 31st January, weighing a hefty 10 pound 4 ounces. Sarah and Eli are both doing well, and we're looking forward to meeting him.

## CIRRICULUM CO-ORDINATOR TEACHER – ANGELA

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Term 1 is always a busy time of the school year and as we come to the end of it I would like to say how much I have enjoyed my new role of Curriculum Co-ordinator Teacher. I have had the opportunity to see what wonderful class and individual programs have been planned for and implemented for the students. I believe that by incorporating the Australian Curriculum through our ICPs and an individualised curriculum which includes the Expanded Core Curriculum for Students with Vision Impairments through our ILPs, we offer programs which teach students in the way that engages them in meaningful learning.

Our Active Learning pedagogy and philosophy supports the aim of delivering our units, which is to provide multiple opportunities for students to explore and consolidate ideas, skills and concepts by considering how students learn best and by using a variety of teaching strategies. The Senior School students who are working on their Senior Education and Training Plans have also targeted their learning to support them in their transitions from school in the coming years.

I look forward to reading how the students have worked towards their learning goals in their reports at the end of semester 2.

**Angela Hallam (Curriculum Co-ordinator Teacher)**

## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AT NARBETHONG

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This term has seen the Narby switch clinic in action again, focussing on students who aren't actively working on switching with another agency. The Narbethong team includes John Reed (IT teacher), Kerrie McLean (Speech Language Pathologist) and Teresa Emblen (Occupational Therapist) working together with the student and their class teacher to try to find the best type of switch for the student, where it is best positioned and what activities they most enjoy activating with their switches. We have purchased a number of new switches and blue tooth connectors so students can use class iPads or computers to play games, turn on music and a number of different activities like fans, vibration tubes or toys. Each class now has a range of switching equipment for use with many of the students, with a never ending wish-list of other bits of equipment, programs and activities that we'd like to have available for all students to use.

Composite class 2 have been busy participating in a weekly sensory program. Each child experiences a half hour session working on sensory stimulation and body awareness through hands on massage with orange scented massage oil, vibration massage, wet/dry and hot/ cold sensations. The students then have an opportunity to smell and taste a fresh orange, followed by two different scents, enjoying fresh crushed basil and lime this term. The children have varied in their responses from week to week, and have been showing us that they have preferred sensations and those that they don't like at all. This program has shown us that the student can respond to the different sensations and smells and are building their awareness of their bodies and the environment around them. We will continue with the sensory group next term, changing the scents and activities a little to maintain interest.

If any parents are interested in expanding similar activities as described above to their home situation, I'd be very happy to talk to you and see how you can include these ideas into your daily routines.

**Teresa Emblen (Occupational Therapist)**

## PHYSIOTHERAPY AT NARBETHONG

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The start of the school has been very exciting for us physiotherapists.

We started the year with a presentation at the SPEVI conference. Kathryn Illif (teacher), Bhumika and I presented about the Yoga the students in Kathryn's class have been doing last year and we were very happy to be able to show how they have improved their physical skills e.g improved balance, improved the time they are able to stand in a plank position.

Bhumika has been working with your child, the teachers and teacher-aides on a Yoga program in the classroom. This has been going very well, with everybody enjoying it very much, with lots of learning by the students and the teachers. It is great to see that even though Bhumika has gone to visit her family in India, the classes have continued the Yoga lessons. And they are doing a great job!

We have also been very excited with the arrival of the TRAM: The Rifton TRAM is a transfer and mobility device designed to deliver three powerful functions in one compact unit: gait training, sit-to-stand transfers and seated transfers. This is ideal for students who still have the ability to stand up with support and who are able to walk with support. Keeping fit and active is what we physiotherapists encourage everybody to do.

**Bhumika Chelwani and Hilly de Jongh (Physiotherapists)**

## COMMUNICATION UPDATE

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### I C.A.N.-- Communication At Narbethong

It is already the end of Term 1-each year it seems to go by faster! This year we welcomed a new SLP to replace Lidia Culpo who is on maternity leave-she and her husband Phil are the proud parents of a baby boy Luca Joseph. Heidi Yau is now part of our team and visits Narbethong SSS every second Thursday.

This term we have been settling into our daily routines. We have planned morning greeting times and how to incorporate our PODDs into this time. It has also been a term of introducing new teachers to PODDs and students and their PODDs to their new teachers.

Next term we hope to be more involved in the class modelling of the books to help all staff and students continue to make the most of every language and communication learning opportunities. Yoga has become very popular with several students telling me "I like it-my favourite". In some classes we hope to start "A Friendship Group" as part of yoga so we chat about yoga and how we feel after it and any messages we may have for our friends.

We are using the book "Going On a Bear Hunt" to provide a context based learning environment for literacy and numeracy using sensory skills, communication and orientation and mobility in one of the Junior classes.

A new project is especially for our mobile students is working on a series of oro-motor games to strengthen the oro-motor muscles that are needed for strong "clicks" and "clucks" (Daniel Kish) for echolocation. We are trying to play new and different games with sound imitation and vocalisations using metal bowls etc in our Family and Child groups. This is new and exciting work and we are working closely with the Orientation and Mobility teachers based at the Alternative Format Library.

No doubt Term 2 will come and go quickly so we look forward to the next newsletter to follow up on all the communication news!

**Kerrie McLean (SLP)-DET and Heidi Yau (SLP DET) the Narby Team**

# CLASSROOM NEWS

## EARLY SPECIAL EDUCATION 1 - JENNY

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This year our class group attends school on Monday and Tuesday, with seven students enrolled over the 2 days. Elle, Freya and Georgina are continuing in the pre-prep class along with Austin, Cailin, Frankie and Oscar joining from playgroup or new to the school.

This term has been about us getting to know each other, the skills of our students and developing a routine within each day. We have undertaken a yoga programme instigated by Bhumika. Students are developing body awareness, motor planning and co-ordination whilst also increasing their spatial and proprioceptive awareness.

Karen from the Alternative Format Library visits us each week to read an interactive story with relating sensory objects/toys. This is always fun and we can't wait to hear what story she will bring.

Lee has also visited our class with her popular songs that include yes/no movements and counting. The finger bells were a hit with their delicate sounds.

## EARLY SPECIAL EDUCATION 2 – MICHAELA

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The pre-preps have had a busy start to the year! Dylan, James, Hudson, Ivan and Payton have all been having lots of fun playing at Narby on Mondays and Tuesdays. This term we have been learning all about creepy crawlies. We have been reading stories, singing songs and doing lots of activities about them. Two of our favourite books were "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" and "The Very Busy Spider". We had a visit from Dr Lani, the bug lady, who shared some interesting facts about bugs and brought in real ones for us to hold and feel. There was even a big stick insect that tickled when it walked across our hands.

Other activities we have enjoyed are O&M, music, playdough, cooking, water play, cars, yoga, computer, craft, bike-riding and visiting the library. We have also played lots of fireman games and been busy making cups of tea in home corner. This term we have missed our friend, Esther, who is very sick. We think about her all the time and hope she is much better soon. We would like to wish all of our Narby friends a happy and safe holiday!

## JUNIOR 1 – ANITA & LEE

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This term our class has been focusing on retelling events and experiences to communicate about our favourite things and exploring shapes and objects.

We enjoy reading stories and explore tactile books, twin vision books and concrete objects that help us to understand the story. We have a number of students who are learning Braille or developing their pre-Braille skills.

We have a busy class program and some of our favourite things are: exploring the school grounds, playing in the playgrounds, trampolines, swings, bike riding, gym program, yoga, library, music class and swimming.

The last couple of weeks we have been engaged in Easter activities. We have made bunny masks, cards, decorated biscuits with icing and mini-M&Ms and had an Easter Egg Hunt.

We are proud of how hard each student is working and are particularly happy with how friendly and kind they all are to each other.

## JUNIOR 2 & 3 – T & ANITA

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This term Junior 2 & 3 welcome: Belsen, Luca, Nathan, Nicholas, Tyler, Ulil, and Willow to our class. All of our children have been getting to know each other and some have been adjusting to being at school for five whole days!

We have been sharing news about our favourite things and reading our class book, Wombat Stew complete with all of our tactile objects from the story. Into our busy week we have established our swimming program and begun a yoga relaxation session in class. Our in class celebrations have included Birthday's and the return of class mates after a period of absence. Children enjoy an active morning in our bustling, busy entrance room, followed by a relaxing afternoon in the quieter, shaded area of our classroom.

We are looking forward to an exciting Term Two!

## COMPOSITE 2 – LIBBY & JENNY

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Composite 2 has had a busy start to the year with a new child added to our little group. He has settled very well and we are well into the flow of a school week. We have an active, varied program which includes weekly outings to Whites Hill Reserve to explore the playground and use our O & M skills and a trip to the café to extend our knowledge of money by purchasing morning tea. We bike ride and go to the gym twice a week. An absolute highlight is our weekly swimming session. We enjoy a class music lesson with Lee and a weekly library session to read stories and borrow a book. We have had a great start to the year and look forward to seeing where your children will go this year.

## MIDDLE 1 & SENIOR 2 – JEAN & OLIVIA

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We have had a busy time settling into the new year.

This term we have worked very hard on our gross motor programs. Our outside area has been a very busy space with students working in the hopsadress, walker, standing frames, swings and the trampoline. There is a lot of passing traffic in this area giving our students the opportunity to interact with other students and staff.

Dylan Ryan has joined the senior classes for 2 trips to Manly for Sailability. He has enjoyed these opportunities and will continue this for the remainder of the year (prior to becoming a senior student in 2018).

Next term we are looking forward to attending a symphony orchestra concert around the theme of 'Animals' which links to our literacy unit (which has a focus on animals). We will also hold the first of our sleepovers for the year, joined by another middle school class. Second term is looking great!

## MIDDLE 3 – ANGELIQUE

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What a busy start to the year Gemma, Hannah, Matthew and Milli, from Middle 3, have had!

In addition to the curriculum based activities and learning in numeracy and literacy, their term has been filled with hip hop lessons with Jessie and the senior class; swimming with the Churchie boys; cooking with the focus on spreading with a knife; bike riding; yoga; developing ball skills so they can play games in the playground and; exploring various drawing mediums in art sessions.

The highlight of the term was an excursion to the Queensland Symphony Orchestra to see the orchestra perform a concert called Dance Inspirations. After seven weeks of listening to the various pieces the orchestra would play, practicing concert manners, by transforming the class into a pretend concert hall and role playing going to the concert, the students attended the concert with the senior class. All of the students did so well and enjoyed the performance that we're looking at attending another concert next term.

We hope you have a safe and enjoyable holiday – Happy Easter

## MIDDLE 4 – MEG

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This term has been busy but also lots of fun.

We have been looking at animals and emotions as part of our literacy unit and the concept of big and little for our maths unit. In looking at these units we have had a few trips to the park to look at different types and sizes of animals and plants that we find in our environment. We also made a few trips to Aldi to buy ingredients to make our very own bird feeders to encourage our feathery friends to come and visit. We have also bought some special ingredients but these are secret – until the holidays anyway. We are hoping to continue our outings next term, including a trip to a symphony orchestra concert before our very first sleepover for the year.

## SENIOR 1 & SENIOR 2 – LILA & MADI

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Wow – what a busy first term we have all had! Having a regular routine has helped create a calmer class and many times our students have really impressed us with their patience and participation. We have focused on gross motor play with extra swimming and tried to balance it with quieter activities such as interactive storytelling, posting activities, playing with boxes and adult/child play.

We didn't venture out beyond the school gates this term – but watch out term 2! We have sailing and lots of other outings planned for when the weather is more comfortable.

## COMPOSITE 1 – KATHRYN & JESSIE

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This term we have enjoyed going swimming at Colmslie Pool where our students have been swimming full lengths of the 50m pool using kickboards and noodles. Going to the pool has also allowed students to partake in money handling when paying for entry. In addition to the pool, we have also continued our community access and one-on-one orientation and mobility, as we have been going to Aldi each week to buy our groceries for cooking.

The highlight of our term, however, has definitely been going to QPAC to listen to the Queensland Symphony Orchestra. Students were given a choice to either sit in the front row or on the wooden floor to feel the vibration of the instruments. All students were completely engrossed in the music, smiling, picking out the instruments being played and dancing in their seats. A new experience for many of our students on this outing was catching the Brisbane City Council bus. To better student understanding and confidence in using BCC buses, we are going to organise for the council to bring a bus to school for our students to explore.

## TRANSITION CLASS 1 & 2 – DI & JOHN

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We had a great start to 2017; including welcoming Carl to our student group.

We have been residing in the music room for the last 5 weeks due to our classroom flooding. This has changed our daily program due to limited space for 8 students and equipment. On a positive note we have spent time creating a music list for our students by asking about favourite music preferences. Staff ask students yes/no questions relating to the music then expand on that answer by asking if they think that song is 'great', 'good', etc (following the PODD book audio scanning procedure)..

Our students, (on a rotational basis) have been attending the free lunch time concert at City Hall on Tuesdays. We have been catching bus 222 from the Stones Corner Busway which takes us to King George Square. This has been an outing enjoyed by all as a variety of music is presented.

Sailability at Manly has also been a new experience for Grace and Carl this year. We only have to look at the happy faces to know how much all of our students enjoy sailing. Swimming, yoga, music, library and footy tipping are also part of our busy week.



# School Transport Assistance Program for Students with Disabilities



## Parent Carer Responsibilities

Parents and Carers together with Queensland Government staff and transport providers have key roles and responsibilities in the safe transport of students to school. This information sheet explains the responsibilities of parent/carers in supporting the safe, responsible travel of their children between home and school.

You can enhance your child's experience by discussing good travel practices with your child at home and possible consequences for misconduct. It is important you are aware as a result of your child's behaviour you may be required to make amends with transport operators for any damage, soiling and subsequent vehicle time off the road.

Contact with the School Transport Assessor is required **as soon as possible** with information that may affect transport arrangements eg new address details, contact details, days/times, your child's health and well-being, concerns regarding transport arrangements.

**Parents or carers are not to approach transport operators directly to make changes** such as change of collection or drop of address or changes to days travelling.

## Conveyance

Where *Conveyance* is the Department of Education Training and Employment approved transport assistance for your child, the allowance is paid twice a year (in the first week of holidays in June/July and December). This allowance is paid directly into your bank account by the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR). Please update your bank details as soon as possible at the school office.

## Category 1 – Public Transport (Bus/Rail/Ferry)

Where Category 1 is the Department of Education Training and Employment approved transport assistance for your child, it is your responsibility to:

- ensure transport passes (for travel between home and school) are used by your eligible child ONLY
- discuss good travel practices with your child at home and consequences for misconduct
- make amends with transport operators for any damage, soiling and subsequent vehicle time off the road as required

## Category 2 – Contract Transport (Minibus or Taxi)

Where Category 2 is the Department of Education Training and Employment approved transport assistance for your child, you have a number of responsibilities to be fulfilled for the continuation of transport arrangements.

These are:

- **ONLY the child approved to travel on contract transport can do so**
- **a responsible adult** (you **or** a person over the age of 18 with contact details provided to the operator) is ready to meet the transport driver at the specified time and place (**AM and/or PM journey**)
- provide any car seats or specialised equipment that your child requires to travel safely such as seatbelt harness, seatbelt buckle guards or other specialised seating. It is the responsible adults role to safely secure the child in and out of the seat. The driver will ensure the item is appropriately anchored/attached to the vehicle
- immediately contact the **transport operator AND school** as early as possible when your child is going to be **absent** due to illness, holidays etc.
- to be available for discussions about the behaviour of your child
- discuss good travel practices with your child at home and consequences for misconduct
- to make amends with transport operators for any damage, soiling and subsequent vehicle time off the road as required.

### **Temporary Residential Accommodation**

Requests for transport assistance should be made to the school transport assessor as early as possible. **ONLY** the student is transported between school and the accommodation centre.

You are responsible for:

- the delivery and collection of medication and belongings to the accommodation centre
- transport of your child between home and the accommodation centre.

### **Further Information**

The School Transport Assistance Program for Students with Disabilities procedure provides further information regarding this program.