



NARBETHONG SPECIAL SCHOOL

Quarterly Contact Newsletter

NARBETHONG STATE SPECIAL SCHOOL

July 2017 Issue 2

PRINCIPAL'S REFLECTION

Facilities:

All improvements were completed within the scheduled time over the school break. The ceilings in the 3 bottom classrooms of B block have had the ceilings and lighting replaced and this has made a huge difference with staff now able to control the brightness of the lights to suit the learning needs of the students.

Our lift has been replaced and the difference has been noted and commented on by both students and staff. The company employed to complete this job worked 20 hour days to ensure all work was completed by our return to school on the 10th July.

The pool is back up and running and is being used by classes. The filtration system has been replaced with a system specifically designed for chlorine use. The 2 filters cost \$6 000 and needed to be purchased from Sydney. To assist us to control the large amount of condensation that occurs from the heated water we are installing more 'whirly-birds' in the roof. This work should not impact on the availability of the pool for students.

Emergency Procedures:

We have completed a 'fire evacuation' practice drill Term 2 and all staff were extremely competent in their knowledge of procedures to follow.

We also completed a lock-down procedure in both Term 1 & 2 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.

- 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.

Anne

2017 SCHOOL NEWS

School Opinion Survey open

- Monday, 31 July

EKKA Show Holiday

- Wednesday, 16 August

Disability Action Week

- Monday, 11 September

End of Term 3

- Friday, 15 September

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P&C REPORT

We normally meet on the Tuesday of week three of each term but our meeting for term 2 got postponed until a few weeks later. At this meeting we discussed the offer from Club Greenslopes to use their bowling green and beer garden for a school fundraiser. It looks like this will be going ahead on Sunday October 8th and so we are in the planning process at the moment. Our main aims for this event are for it to be inclusive and accessible so that kids of all abilities (and their families) can have a fun day. We are hoping there will be amusement rides, a jumping castle, show bags, an animal petting zoo and live entertainment as well as barefoot/wheelchair bowls. All of this is dependent on a community grant so we'll keep you posted once we know more.

Last term the P&C decided to cancel the Mother's Day raffle as it was very close to our Easter raffle. We did go ahead with the Homestyle Bake Pie Drive and raised \$554.69 through this. We hope you are enjoying your pies and goodies.

Currently the P&C consists of Naree Keighley (president), Tracy Pareezer (vice president), Kay Beirne (treasurer) and Bruce Clark (secretary). Both Kay and Tracy are long-standing members of the P&C, however both their kids are due to graduate from Narbethong at the end of next year. If you have ever considered joining the P&C now would be a great time!

ALTERNATIVE FORMAT LIBRARY

Premier's Reading Challenge

Some new titles have been added to our collection that were included on a list of recommended titles for the Premier's Reading Challenge. Every year the Premier of Queensland encourages children to participate in a Reading challenge. The aim is for students to develop a love of reading for life. Through the challenge children and students are given an opportunity to develop their appreciation of the English language and are encouraged to explore and enjoy a wide range of literary texts. The Reading period runs from May to August and certificates are awarded later in the year. Here are some of the new titles:

- Ella Kazoo will not brush her hair
- Clancy & Millie and the very fine house
- Do not open this book
- Grandpa's big adventure
- Busting!
- The fabulous friend machine

National Simultaneous Storytime

During late May, many of the classes shared a reading time where we read the story "The Cow Tripped Over the Moon" written by author Tony Wilson. This story was read by students in schools all over Australia! We were lucky enough to have a kit prepared that included all of the characters in the story – the cat, the little dog, the cow, the dish and the spoon and even a working "fiddle" which was very interesting for the students to play. If your student enjoyed the story, we have copies here in Braille and in Large Print that are available for loan. Why not share the story at your house?

Book Week

Week 7 of this term will be the National Book Week, organised by the Children's Book Council of Australia. The theme for this year's celebration is "Escape to Everywhere"- sounds nice, doesn't it? We hope to have many of the short-listed titles to let the classes have so that they can read the books before the winners of the Australian Book Awards are announced on the 18th August. I wonder if we can pick who the winners will be?

Tactile Kits

A big thanks to our volunteers who have been making some tactile books and kits for loan throughout the state. The latest tactile kits include, "Grandpa and Thomas and the green umbrella" and "The Great Pet Sale", along with a couple of early counting books. We appreciate the time that these ladies give each Tuesday morning. If you have a couple of hours to spare and would like to enjoy some craft time in the library helping to make these resources, please phone the school and they'll put you through to us.

Karen Clark - Alternative Format Library

CURRICULUM CO-ORDINATOR TEACHER – ANGELA

Hello everyone. Congratulations to all students on their achievements during Semester 1. Your end of semester reports told a great story in words and pictures of all of the work that has been put into the first 20 weeks of school by students, teachers, families, teacher aids, therapists and others in our school community to reach individual goals. In semester two, the context of our learning has a focus around culture, and students will be communicating and exploring language, literature and numeracy concepts within that theme, with Early Years discussing 'who am I?', Middle Years exploring the culture of wider community groups with 'who's next door?' in their local community and Junior Secondary and Senior Students exploring "Who's in my city?". In the last week of term 2 we had a nice introduction to this theme as we celebrated "Harmony Day". In the first week of this term, students took part in the Darling Point Fun Run, which gave them a community experience to communicate about straight away. Hi hope you all had a happy, relaxing winter holiday and are ready for another great semester of school.

Angela Hallam (Curriculum Co-Ordinator Teacher)

CLASSROOM NEWS

EARLY SPECIAL EDUCATION 1 - SUE

Another term has passed and we're half way through the year! Our class group of 7 students fit a lot into their two school days with highlights of the relaxing yoga session, fun-filled library stories from Karen and lively music from Lee. We've also celebrated 'Under 8's Week' with lots of Country to Coast themed activities; sea animal water play, shell search in sand, stories and music.

Over this semester it's been wonderful to see the student's ongoing development across their programme including head control and sitting skills, rolling, sit-to-stand, stepping in walkers or Hopsa-dress, two hand play, switch activation and some burgeoning 'yes/no' skills. Challenging adult-child play environments are a delightful way to engage and interact together, building skills and establishing trust.

Thank you to the families and team for making this another brilliant term together.

JUNIOR 1 – ANITA & LEE

Wow, it is the end of Term 2 already? Time really does fly when you are having fun 😊

This term we have been busy working on our class program. 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.

Vision Australia has been visiting our class on a Wednesday and have been running a cooking program. Our class has enjoyed exploring a variety of ingredients by touching, smelling and tasting them. We have been learning to use knives to spread and cut. The best part is when we get to sample the finished product! The pizzas we made on muffin bases have been our favourite so far.

We joined T and Anita's class for the National Simultaneous Storybook reading of "Cow Tripped Over the Moon" and on Tuesday 23rd May, we celebrated Under Eight's Week with an activities morning with the other junior students.

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

We hope that all our students and families had a fantastic holiday and we would like to extend a big warm welcome back to our students! Last term we completed our English Unit around our favourite things and students engaged very well when exploring the story 'We're going on a Bear Hunt'. Children also developed their skills with swimming and yoga and enjoyed visiting the playground.

This term for our English Unit, we will be exploring the concept of 'Who am I?' with a focus on students' cultural backgrounds. We will be exploring the texts 'Just the way we are' and 'I'm Australian too' and discussing how people greet each other in different cultures. In maths we will be exploring patterning and measurement concepts incorporating language such as long, short, heavy, light, full and empty. We will continue activities such as swimming, yoga, outdoor play and our sensory awareness program. We have also arranged to join up with our buddy class each week to develop our social/emotional awareness and we hope to arrange an exciting trip to the Ekka! We look forward working together with you and your child this term.

COMPOSITE 1 – TRISHA

It has been a great semester for all our students in Composite 1! We have had such a great time reuniting with familiar faces and welcoming some new people to the team! Some in-class highlights from this semester include weekly sensory, yoga & music session.

Our awesome sensory session was designed and led by Teresa our EQ physio. The weekly interactive session stimulated our olfactory, tactile, auditory and taste senses. During the session we collected data about student responses and discovered that Anna-Mary loved back massages with the big massager and Dean loved the bold smell of basil and kaffir lime leaves but wasn't too fussed on the smell of crushed cinnamon sticks.

Another weekly program we have enjoyed participating in this semester is our Yoga program which was designed by EQ physio Bhumika. This weekly program has helped us all harness our inner yogi's. Noorjan has perfected the 'Cobra pose', while Macka is a pro at the 'Relaxation pose'. This session has provided the class with a lovely opportunity for staff and students to work together in an adult-child activity. It has been interesting to learn some relaxation techniques for our students, although we are all pretty chilled out in C1, and to observe which movements and stretches each students enjoy most.

Lee our music teacher has worked so hard this semester to develop a music program that caters specifically to our class's needs. Our music session incorporates tactile body rhymes, percussive rhythms and music vibrations which are all aimed at helping develop communication systems. Miss Lee is fantastic at engaging all the students and this session is definitely a weekly highlight and a great way to end our school week!

COMPOSITE 2 – LIBBY & JENNY

Term 2 flew by for Composite 2 with our four children being very busy with their learning programs. Our English unit saw us exploring stories about animals and this was enjoyed by all. We have been heading across to the library for story time and practising our orientation and mobility skills along the way. The children are doing very well with this endeavour and enjoying the library, story time and choosing books for home borrowing. We have continued to enjoy an outing each Wednesday to White's Hill Reserve where we also use our O & M skills as well as incorporate a money component of our Maths program while accessing a small café to buy hot chips, an absolute favourite for all.

Our Maths program has seen us set up a little 'Narby shop' where the children walk around to the office with an adult – talking about the coins (thickness and size) as they go and then 'buy' something from the office staff (eg the cake mix for cooking, a piece of fruit lunch etc) take it back and enjoy it. The children are loving this and are doing well with beginning to learn the different coins, asking with manners etc their O & M comes into play again at this time.

We have continued with various other programs including class music lessons, swimming and lots of O & M around the school. In class there is a great variety of activities and weekly sensory play and cooking as well.

We are very pleased with the way the children are progressing and looking forward to see this continuing into the second semester.

MIDDLE 1 & SENIOR 2 – JEAN & OLIVIA

Our class has enjoyed a great term together.

One of the highlights was our class outing to The Symphony Orchestra's performance of "The Happiness Box", at Southbank. It was an amazing experience with a very gifted storyteller reading the text. He made the story very interactive, having the audience 'yell' at appropriate times in the tale. The musicians played wonderfully; enhancing and heightening different aspects of the story.

Both before and after the performance some musicians as well as the storyteller came to our class and chatted with them. They were very pleased to see that our students enjoyed the music and the story. Some musicians even lightly played their instruments to engage the children.

The students also enjoyed the train trip and having lunch together in the park.

Later in the same week 4 of our students remained at school for a sleepover with another class. As always, this was a lot of fun. Movies, nail painting, chatting and just hanging out together was the order of the night. Everyone slept pretty well and we had a quiet day in class the following day.

Our regular class programs have included; swimming sessions, wheelchair games/dancing with another class, music (including the lunchtime programs of choir and drumming for interested students) and lots of outdoor time in our garden area doing our gross motor work.

Our grade 10 student Dylan has enjoyed joining senior groups for sailing at Manly on a few occasions as a lead in to his senior program beginning next year.

MIDDLE 3 – ANGELIQUE

This term we ended the semester with an overnight camp at school. The students were so excited to be having a sleepover!

The weeks prior to the camp, the students participated in a personal hygiene program which worked towards them independently brushing their teeth and hair, undressing and dressing themselves and practising to pack away their clothes after swimming. In maths, the students worked on their money skills so that they could purchase ingredients from ALDI for the camp and a meal from McDonalds. In class we set up a McDonald's restaurant where students could role play asking for a meal and paying for it using real money.

When the day of the sleepover finally arrived all four students (and staff – Jessie, Zoe and Angelique) were bouncing with excitement! They all did an amazing job using their words to ask for a meal at McDonalds and paying for it with their money. At ALDI they shopped for the ingredients, on the shopping list they created, and helped pack away the groceries. At school they all made their own beds with some assistance and used the skills they had been practising in their personal hygiene program to prepare for bed.

The next day, the students prepared their own breakfast and lunch. Using the microwave, they made porridge for breakfast. With their spreading skills they made mini pizzas for lunch and had ANZAC biscuits which they had made on Wednesday during their cooking session.

It was a wonderful way to end the term and to see how far they have come this semester.

MIDDLE 4 – MEG

Once again our students participated in the biannual sleepover. Bags, bags and more bags arrived on the bus along with our students and the fun began. All the students enjoyed listening to the buses come, then go again. We were joined in our classroom by another class and watched as the room transformed into a camping ground. Lots of fun activities including glow bowling and nail painting before relaxing in front of the television watching Moana. A great night was had by all and we are really looking forward to the next one.

Another highlight to the term was seeing the Queensland Symphony Orchestra at Southbank. As part of our sleepover fun, our class joined another class in catching the train to Southbank and watching the orchestra play. The students appeared to really enjoy this performance being totally engaged in the music and the story. This was followed up by a picnic near the river. It really was a fantastic day.

Students have also been on other outings including the shops, Carindale Library and the Museum. Outings are such a wonderful part of our program and gives us the opportunity to not only learn but also to socialise within our community. We are really looking forward to continuing these outings next Semester.

We have worked really hard on our Literacy and Numeracy units learning about big and small and also emotions and different types of animals, in particular, animals found in Australia. We have done some really great things as part of these units, including making bird feeders, going to the Museum to look at the different types of animals found in Queensland, and walking through our parks.

Of course we again want to thank Koula and Susan for their constant support and dedication to our class.

SENIOR 1 & SENIOR 2 – MADDY & LILA

As the holidays approach it is nice to take the opportunity to reflect on what a fantastic term it has been. The weeks seem to fly by so quickly, it's hard to believe we are already half way through the year. Our class program continues to have a strong gross motor focus and students have really been enjoying the additional swimming opportunities. The highlight of our term, however, has been our weekly outings to Sailability at Manly. Although a new experience for a majority of our class, we only have to look at the happy faces to know how much all of our students really enjoy sailing. Next semester, our focus will concentrate on leisure/recreation and vocational and transition activities with visits to community locations for post school life. We are looking forward to an even better second semester and hope you all have a safe and relaxing break.

COMPOSITE 1 – KATHRYN & JESSIE

This term we have enjoyed continuing our swimming program at Colmslie Swimming Pool. We have been working on our orientation and mobility skills to make our way safely from the bus to the counter and from the counter to the lunch table independently. All students are now confidently giving their money to the lady at the counter and receiving change and a receipt. To continue the development of this skill, all students now have their own purse or wallet to keep their money in. They are all unzipping and zipping up their wallets appropriately. Some of the students are also preparing the appropriate change prior to going to the pool. In addition, we have also begun to learn and incorporate freestyle arms. All students have been working really hard to achieve this. Everyone's effort this term has been outstanding.

A highlight for all staff and students this term has been hip hop and music on Wednesday mornings. We have been learning a dance to 'Uptown Funk' all semester and finished the piece in Week 9 of this term. All students have been working hard to learn, remember and demonstrate all of the movements. It has been a great gross motor session that all students have been excited to participate in. All students have also thoroughly enjoyed music and have developed a strong understanding of orchestral instruments and orchestra families. We have all been working on listening for and identifying instruments and understanding how music can support and tell a story.

TRANSITION CLASS 1 & 2 – DI & JOHN

Staff: Ania, Ben, Di, Janice, John, Kim, Sonya and Sue

We have had an awesome term and were thrilled to be back in our refurbished classroom at the end of week one. Throughout the term our room has been taking shape with new furniture arriving last week. Our school week is a busy one with Swimming on Monday, outing on Tuesday, music with Lee and yoga on Wednesday, outing on Thursday and Music communication on Fridays.

Communication with the PODD plays a huge part in establishing a form of communication for our students and allows them to express themselves or request. Morning communication has been a favourite class group time to use the PODD to ask students if they have something to say or classroom staff to advise what is happening next. We are very proud of our students and their patience at learning PODD and the hard work they put in. Music has been a huge part in this process as all of our students LOVE music and have been able to express their like or dislike for songs. We have since created a music playlist of these preferred songs, and the students take turns being the “DJ” and pressing a switch to play the music for all students! Toby in particular loves this role!

Our students have also been very busy this term with outings every Tuesday to Brisbane City Hall for Music Concerts. Four or five students go each week by Brisbane City Council bus to King George Square. We walk to Stones Corner Busway, catch bus 222 or 61 to King George Square and have our lunch in the square before the concert begins. Our students have listened and been entertained by classical music, jazz, opera, cello, big bands, piano and wonderful artists. We are very thankful to have semi-retired teacher Jim McNeill with us each week helping us, but more importantly another of our students get to go out. The expressions on our student’s arm faces, their happy vocalisations and excited movements are all we need to know how much they love attending. Hamish has lots of smiles and waves his arms conducting the music, happily moving his head from side to side or lifting his face up. Emma sits quietly for most of the performances and will tell us she has liked it when asked. Toby giggles and laughs with a big smile and moves his arms. Carl is very quiet, sometimes glancing sideways at his outing partner when asked how he is enjoying the music. Lachlan beams while the music is being played and like to conduct with his arms. Michael gets very excited with vocalisations, a huge smile and conducting arms. Sam is a big band type of guy and loves the louder music. Sometimes he will tell us it will be boring using his PODD before we go but changes his mind after the concert. Grace prefers more gentle music. Her outing partner talks her through the concert when there are some louder sounds or voices.

Thursday outings have worked well with SET Plan goals. Our students on rotation have used a variety of public transport – bus, CityCat and train. They have explored Southbank and the Rainforest Gardens, Stones Corner and the walking track along Bulimba Creek.

Next term we are looking forward to attending Sailabilty Bayside again on Thursdays at Manly Harbour. Have a wonderful holiday from the gang in T1 and T2!