FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We are almost at the end of another fabulous Term and year here at Narbethong. Each Term brings its own special events and Term 4 was no exception. The majority of staff and students attended the Rotary sponsored Wellington Point Picnic with students thoroughly enjoying the experience. We are very grateful to Townsend Bus Company and their staff for their continued support to transport us to these events at no cost to the school or families.

Some of our students also produced works of art which were displayed at the Buranda State School Soiree. Our students also lead an amazing dance with approximately 30 of the students from Buranda spontaneously joining with them. We have continued to enjoy a wonderful relationship with the Buranda school staff and community and look forward to many more enriching experiences we can share between the two schools.

A small number of our older students attended camp at the House of Happiness located on Bribie Island. We have previously used this facility and find that it is good value for cost and the students and staff can readily access the beach and surrounding bush for activities. Another group of students enjoyed a sleep-over and various activities here at school with staff and their peers. This is such a rewarding experience for the students and a great opportunity for staff to build strong relationships with the students. Although staff are very tired the next day, and there is an enormous amount of planning in the days leading up to the sleepover, it is an activity that has been consistently requested by staff each year because they truly value the opportunities to gain a better understanding of their students.

4 of our students have engaged with a local author, Michelle Worthington, and have produced a book titled ‘The Wheelchair Adventure’. A number of copies will be available for borrowing from both our library and the Alternative Format Library. We will also purchase a number of copies to present to professional visitors to our school during the course of the year. This achievement was acknowledged at a morning tea to launch the book. Interested families may order the book at a cost of $15, please contact the office.
**Graduation & End of Year celebrations**

Congratulations to Quentin Swan our Year 12 graduating student. Quentin and his family celebrated this milestone at a special morning tea and presentation with staff and students. We wish Quentin all the very best as he prepares to begin the next phase of his life.

The youngest students in the school and their families celebrated the end of the 2016 school year with a mini concert and morning tea on the 28th Nov. It was a wonderful opportunity for families to gather and reflect on the learning and experiences their children participated in during the year. Prep students staying on at Narbethong will be welcomed into Grade 1 next year. We also welcome one of our early programs children into Narbethong Prep in 2017.

Friday the 2nd of December was the date for our whole school end of year celebrations. After many weeks of practice our students were able to thrill and delight the audience of families and friends with singing, dancing and music. This was also the opportunity to recognise the students with a number of school awards.

Congratulations to the following students:

**The Principal’s Awards:**
- Lachlan Driver, Hamish Campbell, Grace Dwyer, Dylan Ryan, Eamonn Fourkiotis, Max Pelser and Ana-Mary Ferguson.

**Alex Milne Award:**
- Toby Gale, Asha Callaghan and Luca Hurley

**Terri Butler Awards:**
- Michael Pareezer and Isabella Wharepapa

**Allans Billy Hyde Music Award:**
- Jenna Swain, Jayden Dwyer

**Expanded Core Curriculum Awards:**
- **Technology**- Grace Dwyer, Sam Beirne and Willow Wilson
  - **Orientation & Mobility**- Quentin Swan, Max Pelser, Ethan Allen & Codey Ward

**SLP Communication Awards:**
- Jarrod Berg-Gleeson, Addison Milne, Emma Larter & Ethan Allen.

Congratulations to all Narbethong students for their achievements in 2016.

**Staff changes for 2017:**

We would like to congratulate Annett Wellard with her promotion to the role of Head of Special Education at Mt Cotton State School. We are extremely grateful for the work Annett has done at Narbethong as a classroom teacher and more recently as our Acting Head of Curriculum.

Thank you to Angela Hallam who will step into the role of Curriculum Coordinator Teacher for the school. Angela will bring to the role her knowledge and vast experience in VI, and more recently her professional experience of creating curriculum materials for students with disabilities for Queensland, and will build on and strengthen our curriculum and teaching practice. Kathryn Iliff will continue her classroom role but is also taking on the role of Active Learning Coordinator in the school. This role will ensure the opportunity for staff to strengthen their knowledge and practice around our methodology and assist new staff in professional development

Congratulations to both Diane Dennett and Edith Cieslar for their appointments as Advisory Visiting Teachers in the Metro Region. Both teachers have rich knowledge, experience and expertise in VI and will support teachers, students and families within our Region in the State, Independent and Catholic Education systems.

I am pleased to introduce our new teaching staff members for 2017. Joining us are Madeline Campbell, Jessie Middleton, Olivia Raffaele and Anita O’Brien as class teachers and welcome also to Kate Raiti and Kate Kearney who will complete some of our teacher non-contact time.
All staff are returning to school on Tuesday the 17th January to be involved in professional development. Staff will participate over the next four days to ensure they are current in both Education Queensland mandated professional requirements and school specific training. School will resume on Monday the 23rd January 2017.

I would also like to thank the members of our school P&C association for their hard work and ongoing commitment to not only their own child’s education but that of the entire student body. Their commitment and assistance does not go unnoticed and I would invite all of our families to involve themselves in the Narbethong community.

On behalf of the school staff I would like to wish all students and families a safe, happy and joyful Christmas holiday and a prospect start to 2017.

Anne

P & C NEWS

At the final P&C meeting of the year we were updated by Anne on work that has been happening around the school and on some of the fun events that students had been able to attend the previous term. We received a copy of the School Improvement Unit Report that P&C members and a number of parents had been interviewed for earlier in the year. It was great to see that the report reflected our comments on how well we thought the staff cared for our children.

The issue of Coochie-Mudlo Lodge was once again raised. In the past the accommodation on Coochie-Mudlo Island has been a great asset for the school and has been used by classes for school camps or by school families for holidays. However, it has proved impossible to maintain the buildings to current health and safety standards without having to invest significant amounts of money and so the Lodge has been unusable for about 4 years now. The P&C has made it our aim for 2017 to see the facility put to better use.

We discussed a number of fundraising options for 2017. We’ve been unable to do a Bunnings BBQ for a while, however we are booked in to run a BBQ at IGA Greenslopes on Saturday 25th March. We will be needing some volunteers for the day so please consider setting aside a few hours that day to help out.

We are also hoping to run a car-boot sale/garage sale type event one Saturday in August. We are still finalising a date and discussing if it should be held in the undercover bus area or at a more visible location. Please start storing up your unwanted clothes, furniture, household items etc. for sale.

One other thing we are hoping to do is sell raffle tickets for our Mother’s Day and Father’s Day raffle at Buranda Village Shopping Centre, opposite the PA Hospital. Community groups are allowed to set up a table in the shopping centre and so we are hoping we can raise some extra funds this way and raise awareness of the school.

We will continue to aim to hold P&C meetings on the third Tuesday of each term and would welcome any new parents/carers who would like to join us.

Naree Keighley
P&C President

Dates for 2017

- Tuesday 7th Feb: P&C meeting
- Saturday 25th March: BBQ at IGA Greenslopes
- Tuesday 2nd May: P&C meeting
- Tuesday 25th July: P&C meeting
- Saturday 5th OR 26th August: Car-boot sale
- Tuesday 17th October: P&C Meeting
Tuesday 18th of October was the annual Wellington Point Picnic. Most of the school attended. We were generously supported by Townsend buses who supplied most of the transport (free of charge).

The weather was picture perfect and the tide was right in.

Activities included:

- A swim
- A ride in a speed boat (wearing a life jacket)
- A ride on the big police launch
- Rides in police cars and fire engine
- Walk on the pier
- Face painting
- Playground

We had visitors to our day out, including Ruby’s grandparents who were part of the Rotary team, Macka’s carer and her mother who live nearby and many parent helpers. Our classes all enjoyed a happy busy day together in the fresh air and sunshine.
**Added to our collection**
Books, books and more books in braille, large print and audio have been added to our collection this term. We purchased some great new titles suitable for teenagers and these have been popular for take-home borrowing already! Other early reading sets and fun board books are always being added. Please ensure that you return your loans as soon as you’re finished reading, so that all children can have access to our titles – existing and new.

**Story-time**
On Friday 25th November, students from Prep to year 2 were invited to visit for a story-telling session. Some of these students were from local schools and were supported by their AVTs (Advisory visiting teachers for Vision Impairment). Our theme for the day was the story *The Cow Tripped Over the Moon*, by Tony Wilson. Loads of fun activities were enjoyed by all, especially Annie and William from Narbethong.

“It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas…”
We have been excited to put up our tactile Christmas tree a few weeks ago and asked the students to choose a decorated bauble to add to our tree. Thanks to Pauline and Sarah for making our baubles. Our Christmas Story Box has been well-used and most classes have experienced a selection of books about Australian Christmas experiences, traditional Christmas stories, counting books and humorous Christmas songs. One of the favourites was *Jingle Bells, Rudolph smells*…

**Book Launch – The Wheelchair Adventure**
It was so exciting to get our hands on a copy of the new book written by Narbethong students, Emma, Michael, Lachlan and Sam. We were able to transcribe their great book into braille and have added braille label to the pages so that students who are tactual readers can enjoy this book too. A big congratulations to the talented authors and staff who worked with them, and we add our thanks to Michelle Worthington and Giuseppe Poli.

**Staff changes**
We wait, with great anticipation, for the arrival of Sarah’s new baby boy, who is due in January. Sarah has been the administrator at the Library for over five years and will be greatly missed. We wish Sarah and David all the best as they become parents for the first time. Meanwhile, Pauline steps into Sarah’s role whilst she is on Maternity Leave. We’re confident that Pauline will do a great job of keeping us all in line. Her move has left us with a gap in our team of transcribers, so we are pleased to welcome Kylie to our team. Kylie is an experienced braille transcriber, but is new to our school here. If you meet Kylie somewhere around the school, please make her feel welcome.

**Thanks**
Lastly, a big thanks to all of the team here who work tirelessly to provide resources for all of the students across the state who use an alternative format. Each of our staff will go above and beyond to see that students don’t miss out and it’s a privilege to be part of such a great team.
We haven’t had an exciting tech expos this semester, but the usual variety of requests for support from schools and Advisory Visiting Teachers has continued to provide me with many opportunities for research, learning and provision of support and resources. These have encompassed such areas as:

- braille devices such as the BrailleNote and Braille Sense, including school network connectivity issues,
- braille embossers,
- Mountbatten brailler,
- typing programs,
- computer access and use of screen readers, and
- braille music notation and print music access and magnification.

Some direct input with several students in schools has also provided further welcome and stimulating opportunities to problem solve, teach new skills and contribute to the tech-related knowledge and abilities of the students and their support teachers.

This year saw the launch by HumanWare of their new generation BrailleNote Touch and Ed Qld has been fortunate in being provided with a brand new Touch for trial and demonstration purposes. It is anticipated that professional development opportunities will be offered early next year around the use and potentials of this Android tablet based device. Jeff Souter will also have opportunities to take it on regional visits when presenting his Assistive Technology workshops and training sessions. Questions and expressions of interest relating to the BrailleNote Touch are welcomed.

We look forward to viewing new and exciting technologies for students with vision impairments during our forthcoming South Pacific Educators Vision Impairment Conference and I also look forward to being able to continue to provide whatever support to teachers, schools and families that I am able to provide in 2017.

Tom Macmahon (Advisor – Assistive Technology, Narbethong)
It is hard to believe we have come to the end of another year! Each year seems to go faster and faster and we always seem to run out of time to complete all things we wanted to.

However, we have continued on our program and we have been able to make more individual books which teachers are modelling and using in the classrooms. This would not be possible without the Invest For Success Funds which Anne has used to pay for a full time aide two days a week to assist Lidia and I to make the communication books. Sally has been a fabulous addition to the communication team this year and the whole school, staff and students, have benefited from her technical skills.

We have already completed one parent information morning with more planned for next year. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me on kmcle79@eq.edu.au

This term we have been reviewing how our students are saying ‘yes/no’ and how we are observing their initiations for communication. This will help us develop programming for 2017.

During the September holidays we delivered the first of 3 presentations on the Narbethong Communication Project. It was very well received and we had some very positive and encouraging feedback. The highlight for most people was seeing how we were presenting communication books to our students in the Parent/Child Group and how effective the teaching of movements for communication can be in this very early age group. The audience which comprised mainly teachers, Speech Language Pathologists and some Advisory Visiting Teachers for Vision Impairment were also surprised to see how effective the same strategies had worked for the older students with significant vision impairment and physical impairment and that students are never too old to introduce something new.

We are hoping that our funding will continue next year so we can build on what has already been achieved. New classes and new teachers will provide new opportunities for our students to learn from and communicate about.

We will be saying goodbye to Lidia for a little while – she is leaving us to have a baby so sadly she will not be working with us next year but we are happy for her and her husband Phil. I am sure they will enjoy this next phase of their lives and we will look forward to her return.

I have enjoyed working with Lidia and we will miss her experience and professionalism.

We hope you all have a good break, a happy, healthy Christmas and we look forward to seeing everyone in 2017!

Lidia Culpio (SLP)-DET and Kerrie McLean (SLP)-DET and the Narby Team
Wow! Another year is coming to an end and what a fabulous year it has been. Once again teachers and students have been working hard engaging with the Australian Curriculum learning areas of English and Maths. Concurrently they have also been focussing on students’ individual learning expectations in Motor Development, Personal and Social Development and the Expanded Core Curriculum for Students with Vision Impairment. When we introduced the Australian Curriculum into our classrooms in 2013, we did so with the belief that Active Learning would still be our methodology and therefore our classrooms would still look and feel the same. Now three years into the journey, I am happy to report that we have stayed true to this. Students are being taught concepts and contexts from English and Maths that all students in QLD are taught, but through learning opportunities that match their interests and their ability. In this way, learning is real and purposeful and as such, greater success is achieved. Staff, students and families should be proud.

I wish to offer my congratulations to our year 12 graduating student of 2016, Quentin Swan. Quentin enrolled into year 8 at Narbethong in 2012. Quentin has been a welcome member of our community and we have enjoyed watching him grow and develop in all areas, but especially in his confidence in working with and accepting help from others and of course his love of the pool. We wish Quentin all the best for 2017 and beyond.

As a final note, it is with immense sadness that I announce I will be leaving Narbethong at the end of this year. I arrived at Narbethong in 2005 having never been in a special school before and with great trepidation of what lay ahead. Thankfully, I arrived at a school with a wonderful community feel and united focus. Every day I am amazed and excited by the commitment I see from the teachers and teacher aides in their desire to provide the very best educational experiences for the students. Also, I have treasured the opportunities to work with the students and to support the teachers in providing these learning opportunities. My first leadership role at Narbethong was Senior School Coordinator and this is where I was able to connect with families the most. I have been overwhelmed with the thanks families have given me when I have supported their child’s transition from school to post-school life and also with the families’ generosity to give back to Narby, by sharing their experiences with other families. I would like to thank the students, families, staff and administration of Narby for the numerous and various opportunities I have been lucky enough to partake in and for their willingness to join me in the mammoth journey in introducing the Australian Curriculum. I will be continuing my teaching career as the Head of Special Education Services at Mount Cotton State School and I hope my journey there is as wonderful and special as it has been here. Have a very lovely Christmas, fabulous New Year and I wish everyone all the best for 2017!

Annett Wellard (A/Head of Curriculum)
awell39@eq.edu.au
Wow! What an amazing year we have had in our little Pre-prep Kindy class. We have laughed, we have cried, we have spent time in quiet conversation. We have been noisy and loud and silly. We have enjoyed each other’s company and time spent in our own activity. Above all else, we have played and learnt new things.

Kathy, Barb and Jen have been so proud of the wonderful achievements that each and every one of the students in our class has made this year. We have watched Freya learn to move into a 4-point kneel and learn to pull herself into standing. We have seen Nathan work so hard to develop his head control and have loved chatting with him via his PODD. We have all enjoyed a quite cuddle with Elle and watching her beautiful play in the den and little room when she finds a toy to bang, shake or explore with her mouth. We have seen (and heard) Sarah change from a quiet little girl to a confident girl who most definitely has a lot to say. We have seen Georgina’s quiet determination to move and explore and we have watched her work to develop some fantastic sitting skills. Each and every one of these achievements has been absolutely amazing to witness and we are so proud of the efforts of our students.

Whilst we celebrate the achievements of our little class, we have also been saddened to farewell one of our classmates this term. Little Yena had only been with us for a short time at Narby and she had become a special part of our class. Yena lost her battle with illness in late October. She was farewelled at a beautiful ceremony attended by family and many, many friends.
The Pre-preps have had a fantastic term to finish off the year! Dylan, Esther, Hudson, James and Will have been learning all about Australian animals. We have been reading stories and doing lots of activities about them. Two of our favourite books were “Wombat stew” and “Sebastian lives in a hat”. We even had a wildlife show in the classroom when real Australian animals visited us. We got to meet a snake, turtle, possum, lizard, owl, squirrel glider, potoroo and wombat. We were able to touch most of the animals. It was very interesting and exciting!

The Wellington Point picnic was another highlight for us this term. We enjoyed riding in the police boat and car, climbing in the fire engine, paddling in the water and playing in the wet sand. In the classroom, we have been busy with cooking, craft, iPad, home corner, drawing, music, playdough, cars, blocks and pirate ships.

This term, we are sad to say goodbye to our friend, Will, who is leaving Narby to go to Prep next year. We will miss him but we know he is going to be amazing and will have lots of fun at his new school!

Merry Christmas and a happy holiday to everyone!
Here is our current class of 2016 doing great things:

**Amaziah (Prep)**

**Annie (Prep)**

**Conner (Year 1)**

**William (Year 1)**

Every day has brought new experiences, lessons and challenges as we participated in learning activities across our curriculum areas of English, Maths, Personal and Social Learning, Health and Physical Learning and the Expanded Core Curriculum. Each student has worked very hard to do their best to achieve their personal learning goals and I congratulate them and thank their families and our Narbethong staff (especially our wonderful teacher aides) for their support. Have a wonderful holiday everyone!

**Angela Hallam (Junior 1 Teacher)**
In Junior 2 and 3 we often start our day with Morning Circle. It is a way we come together as a group, greet and acknowledge our friends and helpers in class and learn about the days of the week and our timetable. We are working on our personal and social development through communication and being part of a group. Our Circle has a predictable structure and routine to help the students anticipate and understand what is going to happen.

We work in a multi-sensory way, using a total communication approach to make the Circle accessible to all our students. We use clear simple language supported by sign, touch, music, and rhythm. The students are encouraged to respond using their voices, gestures and or musical instruments. Everyone sits, lies, or stands in whichever position is best for them.

Circle time starts by saying who is in the group. Belsem gives us her lovely smile when she makes the chimes ring to let us know she’s at school. Bella counts to make sure everyone is there. We sing a greeting and then the students have opportunities to ask for their personal song. Willow uses her gentle voice or her right hand to bang her drum. Nicholas stills when he wants a turn and uses his ‘chin to chest’ movement to say ‘yes’. Anna-Mary feels the rhythms through a vibrating pillow and holds hands to sign. Noorjan sits beautifully in her box chair with her head up and her eyes wide vocalising to ask for her turn. Luca joins in by using his wide eyes his big voice and moving his arm to shake the bells on his wrist. Tyler uses his core muscles to sit up straight, shakes his maraca and dances to the days of the week song.

Our amazing students are not only showing increasing skill and confidence in their communication, but are developing their listening skills, waiting their turn and being quiet when one of their friends is talking.

Morning Circle is a fun way in which our students are developing their numeracy skills, number - who is in the circle, left and right orientation, where they are sitting, time, days of the week and what happens next; and their literacy skills, listening to familiar songs, turn taking, and listening and responding. We are so proud of all the wonderful progress everyone has made in Junior 2 and 3.
October 31st is Halloween. We had a special day in our class. Staff and students dressed up for the occasion. We even had our own royalty. Belsem was a princess – she looked gorgeous! - and we were so happy to have her back.

Anna-Mary was a stunning Queen of the Spiders in a beautiful dress with lots of different textures to feel– maybe she had been in school overnight as there were lots of little spiders and webs in class to feel too!

We had a spooky morning circle exploring different Halloween things, a bat, a skeleton, ghost, and a big round orange pumpkin.

Noorjan felt around the smooth hard skin of the pumpkin, using her hands and opening her eyes wide. She had a big smile on her face.

Tyler, the skeleton, loved the pumpkin, he sat up tall and held it firmly like a ball, We cut the top off the pumpkin – brave Bella, alias The Minion, put her hand in to find out what was inside it.

Trisha carved the pumpkin, put a light in it and made a Jack-o’-lantern. Tyler felt the seeds and flesh that came out of it. He clearly preferred the pumpkin whole!

One room became a Halloween sensory room. It was dark with UV light illuminating spooky skeletons and ghoulish ghosts to look at, streamers and spiders’ webs to feel, spicy gloop to touch and smell, and creepy music and scary sounds to listen to.

Luca can stand for a long time. He enjoyed being in the sensory room in his standing frame, smiling and vocalising along to ‘The Monster Mash’.

Willow has been working on lifting her head and turning towards the person speaking to her. Today she sat near a skull, she gazed right into its flashing eyes.

Nicky loved being in the dark room and exploring the spicy gloop in our Halloween sensory room!

The students in Junior 2 and 3 have worked very hard throughout this school year developing their skills in the Australian Curriculum English and Mathematics and in the expanded core curriculum in Motor Development, Personal and Social Development. They can use their skills to learn and play in all kinds of environments. We had great fun in our class on Halloween.

Students and staff have learned so much together this year. Thank you to our wonderful team Anna-Mary, Bella, Belsem, Luca, Nicholas, Noorjan, Tyler, Willow and your fantastic families, and the amazing, skilled, loving, and dedicated adults in our class, Elizabeth, Alice, Biz, Di, Alfreda and many others who have come in to join us at various times. It has been an honour and a pleasure to work with you all. Have a very happy Christmas and may 2017 be a great year for everyone!

Trish & Carolyn
What a year it has been for the class of Middle 1. Max, Asha and Jenna have had to adjust to many new faces throughout the year and we are all proud to say, have taken this in their stride. This term they have finished strong with the return of the hydrotherapy pool, class outings, workouts at the gym, class cooking, library, arts and crafts and many other enjoyable activities. Special thanks goes to Libby, Fran and Tess who have been a constant for the students and ensured that they are still smiling at the end of each day. As I look back through the photos of our students it is clear to see how much they have grown both physically and mentally throughout the year and it is fabulous to see the many wonderful memories that we have to look back on the year 2016. So on behalf of all the staff and students of Middle 1. Asha, Max, Jenna, Libby, Angelique, Jasmine, Fran and Tess, we wish you a safe and happy holidays during this festive season and look forward to another great year in 2017!

Jasmine and Libby
Term 4 as always has been a very busy time.

Our highlights this term were:

**Class outing to the old Botanical gardens**: Cierah, Natasja, Ruby, Macka, Dylan and Seb all enjoyed a big day out together (prior to the sleepover). A big thank you to Natasja’s dad, Michael who assisted us on the day. We took the train to Southbank, admired the big lizards sunning themselves in the garden and walked over the Goodwill Bridge into the garden. Each student had a turn on the wheelchair roundabout. We enjoyed making wonderful sounds with the hanging metal tubes.

**Sleepover at school**: Macka, Dylan and Natasja were all able to attend the sleepover along with students from Sue and Megan’s class. It is wonderful to spend the full 24 hours with the students, enjoying movies and fun times together.

**Wellington Point Picnic**: (Sponsored by the Rotary Club): Carl, Dylan, Seb, Macka, Ruby and Cierah all had a marvellous day out at Wellington Point enjoying the sunshine, sea breezes and the party atmosphere. Thank you to Macka’s carer who assisted us. The ride on the big police launch was perfect. Lots of vibrations and breezes as we made our way into the bay.

**Swimming**: The class were thrilled to be able to return to our swimming program this term and enjoyed our many visits to the pool.

**Buranda School Art Soiree**: Our class participated in the Art project by producing ‘Spin Art’. Our students operated a ‘Big Mac’ switch which started the paper spinning, paint (of their colour choice) was dropped onto the paper. This created diverse effects or individual patterns. This was used as an installation on the night and to create cards.
Gemma, Matthew, Hannah and Milli

During term 3 break all of Middle 03 attended Churchie and St. Margaret’s Sony Camp.

The Sony Foundation Children’s Holiday Camp Program has been supporting young Australian’s with disabilities and their families for a number of years. The camp provides an enriching experience for both students and the children they care for during the three days and two nights. The students from Churchie and St. Mary’s who participate in the Camp are able to experience the everyday challenges and demands involved in caring for a child with special needs.

Middle 03, stayed for 3 days, 2 nights and all had their own companions to accompany and look after them during their stay. They all loved the fun packed weekend of exciting activities and adventures. They went swimming, enjoyed lots of games, listened to music and sang songs. They danced on the disco nights, enjoyed a visit from the fire brigade, where they held the fire hose and met Blazer the fire safety koala.

Look at the photos of Gemma, Matthew, Hannah and Milli having a great time!!!!!
Art and craft of Middle 3

Throughout the semester we have been doing some craft activities to improve our fine motor skills and of course because it is so much fun! Here are some photos of what we made.

Milli using stencils, a toothbrush and a roller to make her t-shirt.

Matthew spray painting his teddy bear.

Hannah threading on some hair for her Teddy bear.

Gemma showing her lady bug she made with tiny mosaic foam tiles.
As we come to the end of another term (and another year) we look back at some of the highlights of our last 10 weeks at school, and we certainly have had a few!

This term saw some of our students participate, once again, in the biannual sleepover. Students arrived on Thursday of week 2 loaded with carry bags, sleeping bags and great big smiles. Our camp started with spending the day playing games, listening to stories and having a picnic in the playground before coming back up to our room to listen to the buses collect the other students and take them home. Woo-hoo, we got to stay. The fun continued with another class joining us for our sleepover, setting up our room camp style and having a chat with other students and adults. After doing the unexciting jobs of dinner and bath, our students relaxed in our “lounge room” perched up on pillows and beds and watched “Epic”, a movie about bugs, before heading off to bed. Friday saw some very tired students, having done the typical camp thing by chatting to each other in their beds when they were supposed to be asleep!

Students also were lucky enough to attend the annual Wellington Point Picnic held by the Rotary Club. What a beautiful day it was made even better by spotting two dolphins playing in the water, one of which was a baby. There were a lot of people and a lot of activities for students with our favourite being a ride on the Police Barge out into the bay. It truly was a great day, enjoyed by all.

It has been a fantastic term with lots of swimming, sailing and fun. We have continued our celebrations unit focussing on Christmas and playing maths games. Students have worked very hard but have also had lots of fun in the process. We also want to again thank Koula and Barb for all of their hard work and dedication to all of our students. Thanks guys, you are terrific.

The adults in our room have thoroughly enjoyed working with all of our students and wish them, and their families a fantastic holiday. See you all in 2017!

Sue and Megs
In this last term we have continue the unit theme of ‘celebration’ – and we dutifully celebrated anything we could. You name it, we celebrated it 😊

We tried to simulate EKKA in the classroom by having the classic Ekka strawberries and cream while we played sound effects from side show alley and lots of animal noises. It wasn’t exactly the same, but students and staff enjoyed the treat anyway.

At the end of each day we have a conversation about what we did and praise the efforts and achievements of the students. Usually we even have time for a dance – could be to the ‘Woo hoo’ song or ‘Twist and Shout’ or whatever takes our fancy.

On Fridays we like to go all out and have a treat at the end of the day if we can (a little chocolate or cake, maybe) and celebrate Friday with the Happy song where we clap along, because we believe happiness is a room without a roof.

Then there was Halloween where we dressed up and visited a Haunted House here at Narby, thanks to Carolyn and Trish next door. There were cobwebs, spooky sounds, gooey stuff, strange lights and it was eerily cold.

Also, at the end of the day, we have been secretly attending pirate classes. We sing the classic ‘A Pirate Went to Sea’ song and plan great feats of ‘daring do’. We have hats, a Jolly Roger flag and are planning a picnic with a treasure map and treasure. We have yet to commande a boat/ship/tinny.

We are very pleased with our pirates. Here is a brief rundown of this year’s crew:

**Addi** - has been a happy boy – great escapology skills.

**Cezanne** – much happier this semester and also fine-tuning escapology skills.

**Bella** – our artiste-in-residence producing colourful work on the whiteboard and lovely singing

**Reagen** – our resident drummer, essential to the afternoon Goodbye song, discovered enjoyment in spinning around in her walker while listening to music

**Codey** – great cane work, jumper, dancer, flies more than swings

**Sean** – (aka Quick Draw) will leave no stone unturned – amazing exploring skills

**Declan** – best chair spinner and lift operator. Come back soon.

**Aidan** – fastest Walker operator and daredevil on the slopes has rediscovered the pleasure of tasting.

**Tasha** – happy girl, drummer, dancer, trampoline freestyler.

As ever, we are very grateful for the extraordinary work the Teacher Aides provide. We simply could not operate without them.
TJ, Chaeyon, William, Wil and Jayden

The highlight of the term for the Composite 1 students and Bella with Tony, Angela, Barb and Kathryn was attending school camp. This was held in week three at The House of Happiness at Bribie Island. On Tuesday, we headed off in the school bus with a trailer as well. There were happy smiling faces all around and anticipation about the fun to be had away from school.

All students were involved in the planning of the trip so when we shopped at Aldi on Bribie Island for our food they were all active participants in recalling, reading or finding the items we needed for our planned meals.

The pool at the House of Happiness was a lot of fun and a way to burn up the excited energy of the first afternoon. William and Wil especially enjoyed the slide into the pool. Jayden was very brave and had one turn but once was enough for him. Sitting outside having a BBQ dinner finished off the day with some chapters in our class reading of *Stuart Little* before bed.

Following breakfast the next morning it was off to the beach. Bella, Wil and Jayden were happy sitting on the edge of the water as the waves rolled over them or knocked them over, while TJ and Chaeyon preferred to stay close to the adults and feel the sand and water around their feet. William braved the depths with Tony and must have burnt up a lot of energy with his jumping, and splashing as he threw himself at each wave as he heard it coming.

After lunch it was time for a slow Orientation & Mobility walk to the beachfront where we followed a walking track beside the beach. On returning to The House of Happiness it was decided that as it was so hot another swim in the pool was a good idea. So more sliding, splashing and laughter ensued.

While the students were waiting for dinner ‘someone’ came up behind TJ and hit him over the head with a pillow. This was the signal that it was PILLOW FIGHT time. Chayeon proved to be a champion pillow fighter.

That night bedtime was a lot earlier as the students were flagging after dinner and a movie.

Thursday was spent packing up before heading in the bus to the other side of the island where we enjoyed fish and chips at a picnic table before returning to Narbethong in time to catch the school buses home.
Quentin, Hamish, Toby, Grace, Sam, Emma, Lachlan and Michael

2016 has been an excellent year for our class. It has been exciting sharing a room with Transition 2 and we have enjoyed the many friendships we’ve developed over the year. Although a couple of our classmates have had some illness, we have all worked hard and achieved wonderful outcomes.

Communication has been a priority this year for our class and we were particularly proud of our ability to use our communication skills to write a book.

On Thursday 24th November we had a book launch for “The Wheelchair Adventure”. This is a beautiful picture book of magic for all children, catering for the vision impaired and it is AMAZING! Our class created this book by using auditory partner assisted scanning with their communication books during interactive lessons. This story is truly their own words. A big “Thank you” to author, Michelle Worthington for her dedication, vision and passion to make this book happen. And thank you to illustrator, Giuseppe Poli for his illustrations that capture everything in the words, plus more, and also for organising the surprise guest, Wally Lewis. Thank you also to publisher Julieann Wallace who made our dream a reality.

This year our class has participated in a number of exciting events, such as: community access outings, the “Sailability” program, pool program, community and school events.

We attended the St. Laurence’s Special Olympics, Darling Point Fun Run and the Wellington Point Picnic. The class enjoys the opportunities to be out and about and to participate in these special days.

I wish you all the peace and joy of the season! Here’s wishing you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a Joyful New Year!

Anita
TRANSITION CLASS 1 & 2 – DI H/ANITA

Quentin, Hamish, Toby, Grace

What a wonderful year! Hamish, Toby and Quentin started the year getting to know a new classmate, Grace and me as the new teacher. Everyone has worked very hard in their individual programs and enjoyed time spent in the Narby pool. Sailability and outings have been fun activities too. We participated in the Darling Point Fun Run and enjoyed a police barge ride at the Wellington Point Picnic. Our class has visited the library each Wednesday afternoon and enjoyed some of the teams our students chose. State of Origin was also very exciting with all our students supporting the maroons and lots of our boys wearing maroon in support. Our students have cooked, worked with paint, listened to a story read by an author and welcomed students from Loretto College and St Laurence’s College. They have enjoyed hand and foot massages, stories, music, friendship and fun together with our daily programs and attended outings and adventures together. Congratulations to Quentin our graduating student. We are all so very proud of Quentin and wish him well in his life after school. Thank you very much too all our parent and carer volunteers who have blessed our class with their help. We are all looking forward to our Christmas Concert and party! Wishing all our families a very Merry Christmas. Best wishes from Grace, Hamish, Quentin, Toby, Manon, Vicki, Anthea, Alice, Claire, Sarah, Purna, Tony, Ben, Anita & Di.
CONERENCE THEME AND BRISBANE VENUE ANNOUNCED!

Conference Theme: Shining the light on Vision Education

Our Conference theme will allow us and our presenters to shine the light on new ideas and technologies and discuss how we can best serve our students, parents and the community.

Conference Venue: Royal International Convention Centre Brisbane

Since opening in March 2013, Brisbane’s newest convention centre has fast gained a reputation for offering a boutique event experience with state-of-the-art facilities coupled with first class food and audiovisual technology.

When: Sunday 8th January to Thursday 12th January 2017

Where: Royal International Convention Centre Brisbane
600 Gregory Terrace
Bowen Hills Brisbane
Queensland Australia

Who should attend:
SPEVI Members, educators, parents, students, access technology experts, allied health professionals and researchers.

Call for Abstracts:
The SPEVI Conference committee is seeking abstract submissions if you would like to present at the 2017 conference please visit our website for details:

SPEVIconference.org.au

Next steps:
To find out more or register online:

SPEVIconference.org.au
How to support Narbethong at IGA Marketplace Greenslopes

IGA Marketplace Greenslopes, a loyal contributor to our trivia night, has included Narbethong State Special School as a beneficiary on their myIGA Card program.

To support our school:

1. Pick up a myIGA Card next time you are in store
2. Register your card online
3. Select Narbethong as the community group you wish to support
4. IGA Marketplace Greenslopes will donate 0.5% on any purchases to Narbethong.

Then, every time you shop in the store and swipe your card, not only do you receive great discounts, you are also helping to raise funds for us. It's as easy as that!

Get behind this great program and we can all benefit.

For more information, visit:  [http://www.myigacard.com.au](http://www.myigacard.com.au)