Principal’s Report

A modern school is a complex organisation with the challenging yet rewarding task of educating and equipping students to take their place as 21st century citizens and life-long learners.

Looking back on when I began teaching back in 1984, there is no doubt that the last thirty years has seen educational standards rising almost year by year. The ever-growing expectations of state and federal governments, parents and society roll on.

Now while this may be a good thing for students in general, it’s fair to say that it has made the local school’s job more difficult and complex than ever before. These growing pressures also come at a time when many families see both parents working.

The past few years has seen a decline in the number of volunteers at Narrabri Public. As you know, our school’s P&C works tirelessly raising funds, but it appears this time-consuming work has become the task of a relatively small group of people. Likewise, our school canteen struggles every week to find volunteers willing to serve and prepare food for children’s lunches.

Now this is not a criticism of anybody – parents are busy people, but it does worry me seeing the same faces every month at our P&C meetings. I often wonder what will happen when the children of this dedicated band of helpers move on to high school.

Please consider if you might be able to help. Let’s make some positive changes for 2015. We need your help to provide the services that your child needs. Please ring me if you require any further information or if you wish to discuss any of these issues.

Star of the Week

Jessica Stanford

Seven-year-old Jessica Stanford is a softly-spoken student with impeccable manners. Her teacher Miss Morrissey says that Jessica is a great role model. That’s why she’s our Student of the Week.

Jessica likes reading lessons and you can tell she’s being taught by Miss Morrissey to use Focus on Reading strategies because she knows the right terminology. It was great hearing her say, “We do lots of predicting of texts in class!” She looks forward to dictation every Friday morning, but her favourite activity is handwriting. “I look at my friends’ work to see how neatly they write,” she said.

Jessica also enjoys outdoor activities, especially throwing and catching balls with Mrs Shan during sport. Jessica has many friends including Emily Emmerson, Kate Weekes, Mia Williams, Eva Simpson and Briana Coleman.

Jessica lives at Edgeroi and loves playing with her brother and sister and jumping on the trampoline. She’s also got four pets at home - two dogs named Jet and Boss and two birds named Lou and Pinchy.

Jessica helps out in the kitchen too. “Mum lets me help her do the cooking sometimes,” she said.
The Week Ahead

Week 4
Monday 27th October
Last day of Norta Norta
School Satisfaction Survey goes on-line
K-6 Assembly – Primary COLA @ 3.00

Tuesday 28th October
P&C Uniform Shop open 2.30–3.45pm
Boys’ PSSA Softball at Camden
Personal Development Evening (Yr 6)

Wednesday 29th October
Kindergarten Orientation Morning
School Banking
5Q Assembly @ 2.40

Thursday 30th October
Yr 6 Yarrie Lake Excursion
Silver Award Ceremony – school hall @ 11.20
P&C Uniform Shop open 2.30 –3.45pm

Friday 31st October
PSSA Cricket v Ben Venue

Week 5
Monday 3rd November
K-6 Assembly – Primary COLA @ 3.00

Tuesday 4th November
Administration Building Committee meets @ 11.30
P&C Uniform Shop open 2.30–3.45pm

Wednesday 5th November
Proposed P&C Fruit Day
School Banking
1R Assembly @ 2.40

Thursday 6th November
Infants Disco – 2.00-3.20
SRC Disco Yrs 3-6 6.00-8.00

Friday 7th November
Pete the Sheep @ Crossing Theatre

On-line Parent Survey

Our on-line school feedback survey is completed and a link to survey will be published next week in our school newsletter. The survey itself will go “live” on November 3rd via Survey Monkey. You are encouraged to complete this survey if you possibly can to help us with future school planning.

From next week you will also be able to pick up a printed survey form. Mrs Johnston in the front office will be setting up a box where completed surveys can be returned.

These printed surveys are preferably for parents who don’t have internet access.

The link for parents for the school newsletter is: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NPS_Parents

Parking Danger

It was disturbing to find out last week that the driveway near the school canteen is being used as a parking spot. To make matters worse, one parent who transfers her son from his wheelchair into the family car has had to wait around helplessly until the illegally parked car moves.

Please be aware that Narrabri Shire Council has been informed and the local traffic ranger will be patrolling this area over the coming weeks ready to book anybody parking illegally in this area. Don’t say you haven’t been warned!!
Federation Farm Update

Last Thursday night, I attended a meeting of the Narrabri Community Educational Trust. This group involves not only Narrabri Public, but also Narrabri High School, Narrabri West and St Francis Xavier. Representatives from these schools meet regularly to discuss and plan the future developments for Federation Farm.

For those who don’t know, Narrabri Shire Council set up Federation Farm about eight years ago. It was designed to transfer the town’s human waste and biosolids and use it to help grow cotton and other farm crops. The good news for our school is that part of the profits from Federation Farm is donated back to the four local schools each year.

This year’s cotton and wheat crops have been good. For the second year in a row, Federation Farm generated a profit and the sum of $26,000 will be distributed between the four schools on a per-capita basis. Last year, this money was used to help pay for the coloured softfall under our Special Ed play equipment.

Jump Start

Last week saw our NPS Jump Start program move into full swing with the participation of our Year 3-6 students. Jump Start is designed to provide all students with the opportunity to have smoother transition from their current grade to the grade they will enter at the beginning of Term 1 next year.

Yes, we realise that changing classes for a session or two can sometimes cause a few hiccups, but overall, Jump Start is an interesting and exciting program with some real benefits for students.

Thinking of applying for a government selective high school for Year 7 entry in 2016?

You must apply online at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shspla

Selective High School Placements 2016

Applications for students seeking selective high school placement in Year 7 in 2015 will be available from 14 October 2014. This applies to Year 5 students.

All students seeking placement in a selective high school will be required to sit the Selective High School Placement Test on Thursday 12 March 2015. Parents who wish their child to sit the test will need to apply by Monday 17 November 2013.

Students wishing to attend Farrer – this applies to you! To register go to the Farrer website: www.farrer.nsw.edu.au and follow the Selective Schools link.
Primary Boys Touch Report

Monday the 20th of October was a warm, sunny day and the day the Narrabri Boys Touch team were due to play round 5 in the Knockout competition. Tamworth’s Hillvue Primary School travelled to Narrabri for a 9.30am start. The Narrabri boys touch team consisted of ten year 6’s and four year 5 students. The team included: Tom Eather, Adam Wright, Connor Finn, Felix Johnson, Jakeb Nipperess, Angus Browning, Patrick Simpson, Sam Cain, Tom Woodham, Jacob Sunderland, Angus Gourley, Alistair Gourley, Campbell Hancock and Ethan Irvine.

A few quiet nerves were displayed before the game but these soon vanished as the Narrabri boys scored two quick tries in the first five minutes. Hillvue started to realise how good we actually were playing. After the shock of the first 5 minutes they then settled and scored two fast tries. Throughout the game the teams took turns scoring alternative tries. With about 5 mins to go, Narrabri was one try a head. We then scored another try which put us two tries in the lead, and would give us the game.

However, Hillvue with some zippy running scored another try. Narrabri was one try ahead with one minute to go. There were certainly some tense moments and finger nail bitting in this long, one minute. Hillvue had the ball down their attacking end and had a two person overlap. Unfortunately for them their winger dropped the ball and the Narrabri boys became victorious, winning 6 tries to 5.

The winner of the above game then had to play a second game against Moree East Primary School, who had also travelled to Narrabri. The game was organised for a 12.30pm start. Once again the Narrabri boys scored in the first few minutes with a controversial try. There were an abundant amount of tries scored from both Narrabri and Moree teams.

After the first half the score was 10-6 Moree’s way. Both Narrabri’s attack and defence were outstanding. However, in the second half the combination of the heat, having played two games and Moree boys having excellent ball skills and set moves, the final score finished at 16-7.

Mrs Hancock and Mrs Young were very impressed with the team. Everyone gave 100% and played to the best of their ability. It was a pleasure to be involved with the Narrabri team as they demonstrated pride, enthusiasm and sportsman-like behaviour throughout the day.

Thank you to the parents that have assisted with the travel throughout the year to both home and away games. A special mention to Gabby Woodham and Nikki Finn who organised water icypoles and ice between each touch game. These were greatly appreciated by players, coaches, referees and parents. Also thank you to Lauren and Wayne Nott for their exceptional refereeing skills.

Angela Young

P.S. The NPS boys play softball against Mt Annan on Tuesday in Camden. Wish us luck!
PICSE Awards

At last Monday’s assembly, CSIRO Education Officer, Trudi Staines, presented awards to winning classes from the annual PICSE Science Competition held at the Crossing Theatre Thursday in Term 3.

Our students and staff support this event with great enthusiasm every year, and it was wonderful to see Narrabri Public students receiving some well-deserved recognition for their efforts. We have some photos of a few winning classes, but KL and 1R shared an award and 5B (5W) received a “Highly Commended” too!

SRC representatives from 2M collect their award

Indigenous Achievers Awards

Wednesday 22nd October saw the Indigenous Achievement Awards held at the Crossing Theatre. These awards are aimed to acknowledge and celebrate the commitment of Aboriginal young people who are “making a difference” in the local community.

Accordingly, schools were asked to nominate a student to receive this award. Narrabri Public’s nominee was Jinali Trindall from class 3Y. Congratulations Jinali!

A quote from the nomination form will explain why Jinali was recommended for this award.

“Jinali is a high achieving indigenous student at Narrabri public School. He is very proud of his cultural heritage. He is also a dedicated and conscientious student who is always willing to take on new challenges. Jinali is an exemplary role-model for all students at our school. He wears his uniform with pride and strives for perfection in all he undertakes. He shines academically and on the sporting field displays good sportsmanship at all times. Jinali’s positive attitude, behaviour and abilities are well-documented here at Narrabri Public School.”

To celebrate this achievement, Jinali will be next week’s Star of the Week.

Finally, our NPS Gamilaraay Choir was invited to perform at this prestigious event. They led the National Anthem and entertained the audience in style. A big thanks to AEO, Pattie Lettice, for organising our choir and students’ transport on the day.

3/4W were also deserving winners

Integrity ◆ Excellence ◆ Respect ◆ Responsibility ◆ Cooperation ◆ Care ◆ Fairness ◆ Democracy ◆ Participation
Merit Awards

1ST WHITE CARD
Tayjarn Baker

BRONZE AWARDS
Angus McLean, Rique-Lee Hackett

SILVER AWARDS
Krista Zarka, Noah Teer, Angus Ciesiolka, Lucinda Coffey, Ian Berney, Charlie White, Jack McCahon, Cruz Parsons, Ethan Foster, Chloe Winsley, Emilio Almagro, Savanna Orman, Isaac Hynch, Klaryssa Briggs, Ethan Condran, Madeleine Shields, Kishaya Gibbs-Eulo, Veronica Weekes, Callum Lawler, Cassandra Merritt, Connor McLean, Ewan McFarland, Cooper Lawrence, Molly Michell-Smith, Te Wiki Mason

AELEC
It was a great weekend at AELEC in Tamworth last weekend for the 2014 Interschool Horse Extravaganza. Four students represented Narrabri Public School - Georgie Baker, Sahvannah Hunt-Faulkner, Molly Michell-Smith, Georgia Kirkby with Toby Michell-Smith as support crew with a broken arm.

The facilities were amazing and it was a great experience for the students to ride in the indoor arena for their riding classes and show jumping. Everyone camped at AELEC and did a fantastic job representing the school and looking after their horses.

Saturday began with the Working Horse Challenge where the riders complete a hack workout, working hack workout and a time trial and the points from each are added together for a final score. Georgie and Molly both rode well against some stiff competition in the 10-12yrs and the afternoon was sporting. Sunday had everyone competing in their riding and hack classes and then sporting in the afternoon and Monday was dressage and show Jumping.

Results:

Georgie Baker – 11 yrs
8th Working Horse Challenge 10-12yrs
2nd + 4th Rider
3rd Diamond Flag
3rd Pony Twist
4th Bonfield Bounce
4th Bottle race
4th Flags
2nd + 5th Show Jumping 10-12 yrs

Sahvannah Hunt Faulkner - 11yrs
2nd Show jumping 10-12yrs
5th Pleasure Hack
Mikayla Beddow & Stephanie Stuart at the PSSA State Athletics - Well done girls!!!

INFANTS ASSEMBLY AWARDS

ENGLISH:
Leo Palmer, Olive Almagro, Isabella Monticone, Tiarna Gibbs-McDonald, Ben Allison, Koby Gray, Mia Williams, Thomas Ryan

MATHEMATICS:
Eiliza McLean, Jessie Parker, Shakira Parker, Noah Pearce, Caitlyn Taylor, Jye Norris, Koster Murphy, Lillian Constable

SPORTS:
Paul Doherty, Ethan Condran, Jayda Hannaford, Taylah Bell, Kyan McKenzie, Ethan Leech, Amelia McCauley, Briana Coleman

CITIZENSHIP:
Catriona Ridley, Wilby Bussell, Blake Ford, Kane Sharpley-Dennis, Rique-Lee Hackett, Declan Rooney, Lachlan Eather, Lara Sunderland

ACHIEVEMENT:
Alistair Atkins, Rhianna Burke, Tylan Fladrick, Olivia Parker, Cruz Parsons, Elijah McIntosh, Taylah Martin, Brayden Cotten

CANTEEN NEWS

Friday is Halloween and the canteen will have some freaky fun treats available. ALL treats need to be ordered by Wednesday with money enclosed to allow us preparation time. Lunches can be ordered as usual.

RECESS TREATS

Monster Muffins – Muffin with vegemite or ham with a monster face cheese slice melted on top
- Vegemite $1.60, Ham $1.90

Bones and Guts in a Bag - $1.30 (Dixie Drumstick biscuits with a tub of corn relish dip)

LUNCH TIME

Creatures from the Deep Lagoon Slushie (snake or witchety grub lollies)
$1.80 with creatures, $1.50 without

Slime Time with a Ghost $1.60 or no Ghost $1.20 (Jelly cup with a chocolate filled spoon or not)

Banana Ghosts - 1/4 banana frozen on a stick with a ghostly face of choc drops $1.00

This will also be our Red Day for Term 4, so (also by pre order) we have
- Ghost Drops 5c each (limit 10)
- Zombie Chews 90c each (limit 2)
- Witches Wands 80c each – coloured wands with yoghurt filling – Yum!

Thanks to our enthusiastic helper Lisa Hartog for these fun ideas.

Also, attached to this newsletter is a new menu with some price changes.

If you can help at any time this term, please let us know to put you on the roster. Everyone is welcome at the canteen.

CANTEEN ROSTER

Tuesday, 28th October
HELP!!!!!!!

Wednesday, 29th October
Louise Penberthy

Thursday, 30th October
HELP!!!!

Friday, 31st October
HELP!!!!

Monday, 3rd October
Cathy Coleman

Thank you
Kim Owens – Supervisor
Nikki Finn – Assistant
Christian Endeavour
Christian Endeavour (CE) has started up again for Term 4. All kids from Kindy to Year 6 are welcome to come along. We have games, afternoon tea, Bible story time, and crafts all provided free. It's on Tuesday afternoons 3.30pm to 5.00pm at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Balonne St, Narrabri. For more info phone Julie Leven 6792 2402 ah.

Harmony Inc.
Narrabri’s Award Winning Choir
Invite you to…
“Best of Broadway”
- Songs from the Musicals
Saturday 7th November, 7pm
Betty Berriman Hall, NHS
$20 Adult, $15 Concession,
Children under 12 Free
(Supporting “One Of a Kind” – Community Support)

P&C BBQ & Trivia Night
WHEN: Friday, 21st November, 2014
WHERE: Narrabri Public School Hall
COST: $10 per person
(8 adults per table)
THEME: LOUD & PROUD
(Prizes for the most colourful players)
B.Y.O. Nibblies & drinks.
BBQ starts at 6.00pm
TRIVIA STARTS at 7.15pm
Lots of fun, silent auctions, games & prizes
All welcome, please book your table through Rox in the front office – payment collected on the night