It’s important that Narrabri Public School is a school where the views of parents and carers are eagerly sought and valued. In this digital age of instant communication, it is fair to say that any school which ignores the views of parents and students is in danger of being out of touch with the people who matter most. Accordingly, we need your feedback.

Last week we posted an on-line parent survey. This was mentioned in our school newsletter. The survey asks important questions about how effectively we teach children, the way we communicate with parents and about how we can improve our school.

It’s interesting to note that there had only been four on-line responses to this survey last week until I sent it out directly to all parents who have the NPS mobile phone app. Within an hour, a further fifteen surveys had already been completed! This amazing response tells me something about the way people today communicate and has some important implications for how the school ought to disseminate information in future.

Likewise, an important change to our school behaviour system is being implemented next year. It is called Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL). A committee has been formed and they are seeking your input. A PBL survey has gone out and an on-line survey will be sent out to all our NPS mobile phone app users this afternoon. It is a short, five minute survey, but important. So please help us and complete it if you can.

The link for our survey is https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NPS_Parents

Year 5 student Shona McFarland has earned the right to be our Star of the Week. She’s a diligent, hard-working and well-behaved young person who is an excellent role-model.

Shona is always busy doing something. She’s a regular at the local swimming club and trains three times a week, but she’s also learning to play tennis and apparently has a deadly forehand drive! Shona also enjoys guitar lessons and plays tenor drum in her mum’s Scottish pipe band as well. In fact, it’s a real family affair with her twin brother Ewan playing the bagpipes.

Now, you probably think this routine would exhaust anybody, but not Shona McFarland. She still finds the time for completing plenty of homework, reading books and watching movies. “I just love the Hunger Games,” she said. “It has such good actors in it!” She also finds time to listen to boy bands like One Direction and The Vamps.

According to her teacher Miss Butler, Shona also works very hard in class. “Miss Butler is fun,” Shona says. “You can have a good laugh with her, but you always get your work done!” Her best friends at school are Rachel Caton, Brianna Walton and Danielle Sunderland.
Yarrie Lake Excursion
Last Thursday 30th October saw our Year 6 students attended the annual Yarrie Lake transition day. Narrabri Public is indeed fortunate to share such close ties with the local high school. The transition to high school program is a testament to this special relationship.

Despite the warm weather they were all eager to get going. Year 6 hopped off the bus at the lake to a delicious spread of fresh fruit and then broke into groups that were a mixture of all the local primary schools and began the first of their three activities.

All activities were designed to build team spirit and encourage 2015’s Year 7 to get to know one another. The day’s events included a range of orienteering tracks through the bush (WATCH OUT FOR THE SNAKES!!), a complex obstacle course that bent both the body and the mind, and setting up tents.

We all enjoyed the scrumptious sausage sandwiches cooked by Mr Magner and Mr Symonds and would like to thank the amazing NHS staff and students for all their time and effort to set up and run such an amazing day.

Mrs Claire Allen
Change to 1A Class Routine
For the remainder of this term, Mrs Justine Aitken will work three days per week. This means that she will now share the class with another teacher, Mrs Kathleen Fenton.

Mrs Aitken will be working on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays with Mrs Fenton working Thursdays and Fridays.

We are fortunate in having an outstanding teacher like Mrs Fenton being available. She has worked successfully as a Stage 1 teacher across the local district in recent years. Mrs Fenton comes with a wealth of experience as well as infectious enthusiasm.

Mrs Fenton looks forward to teaching here at Narrabri Public School and getting to know the students and parents of her new class.

By the way, the class name will remain as 1A.

School Disco
Last Thursday infants and primary classes had their discos. The infants disco was held on Thursday afternoon and primary on Thursday night. The children dressed casually and everybody had a ball up there in the hall!

There was plenty of fun and excitement at the primary disco on the dance floor as DJ Tony Woodham pumped out hit after hit on his huge PA system. Perhaps the highlight of the evening was a dance-off hosted by Mr McIntosh. After much boogying and special hip hop moves, Stage 3 boys emerged as our dancing winners according to our guest judge for the night the fabulous, one and only Barbie!

As you can see from these great photos, both discos were hugely successful. Thanks of course to the SRC who sold glow sticks, Mrs McLeish who organised the event and to Mrs Hancock, Mrs Quirk and Miss Butler who operated the canteen in the evening. And of course, a huge thanks to the music man. Take a bow, DJ Tony!

Integrity ♦ Excellence ♦ Respect ♦ Responsibility ♦ Cooperation ♦ Care ♦ Fairness ♦ Democracy ♦ Participation
Swimming Scheme Changes
We just wanted to inform our parents and carers that NPS recently reviewed the NSW Department of Education and Communities School Swimming & Water Safety Program. There are significant reasons (teacher to student ratio being one) why public schools are not allowed to include young children in these government funded programs.

Accordingly, this year’s school swimming will specifically target Years 2 to 6. It is compulsory for non-swimmers in Years 2, 3 and 4 to participate in this school-based program. Likewise, Year 5 and 6 students are also encouraged to participate if they are unable to swim 25m in deep water, unaided, with confidence and correct style.

Of course, it goes without saying that we strongly recommend parents of Kindergarten and Year One students to consider enrolling their child in swimming lessons outside of school hours.

Remembrance Day
Tuesday 11th November 2014 is Remembrance Day. Accordingly, Narrabri RSL Sub-Branch has invited our school leaders to take part in their memorial Service. SRC representatives have also been invited to attend. Students will be accompanied there by Narrabri Public Principal, Mr Michael Clare.

The service will take place at the memorial in front of Narrabri RSL Club. School leaders from the four Narrabri Schools will take their places on the podium and lay wreaths on behalf of their respective schools.

Narrabri Public will be represented by Lara Ciesiolka and Jacob Sunderland.

Meanwhile back here at school, Narrabri Public students will discuss the importance of Remembrance Day in class with their teachers, a special bell will ring and a special assembly will take place at 10.45 under the primary COLA.

New Executive Staff
The 2015 school year will see two new Assistant Principals positions here at Narrabri Public School. These two jobs were recently advertised on the JobsNSW website.

Applications close this Wednesday. The selection panel will meet on Friday to consider all applications (both local and otherwise) and interviews will take place early in Week 8.

Likewise, Mr Clare’s replacement for 2015 has not yet been determined, but this is likely to go to merit selection either later in the term or early next year. Barwon Director, Mrs Rebecca Langdon, will make this important decision on the school’s behalf in the near future.

Pete the Sheep
Last Friday Kindergarten visited the Crossing Theatre to see the children’s musical, “Pete the Sheep.” “Pete the Sheep” is based on Jackie French and Bruce Whatley’s quirky Australian picture book.

In the show children meet a sheepdog with a difference, in that he is – err … a sheep. This just doesn’t sit right with the regular shearers at the shed, things are done a certain way you see – and they can’t go having things out of the ordinary, and Pete is definitely out of the ordinary, right down to his jaunty hat.

Shaun is the new sheep shearer in Shaggy Gully. Since shearing is such hard work, all the other shearers have sheep dogs to help them, but not Shaun. His partner is Pete, a sheep- sheep! Shaun insists Pete is just as good as any old sheepdog – if not better. While dogs go ‘arf arf’, Pete simply goes ‘baa baaaa’, and the other shearers don’t like it one little bit.

As you might imagine, Kindergarten had a great day watching “Pete the Sheep.” And as you can see from the photos, it was a BIG day of entertainment and walking for our little people!
INFANTS ASSEMBLY AWARDS

ENGLISH:
Aiden Gillen, Ellen Alford, Sam McIntosh, Jack Parkes, Ayrlea Arnold, Emily Emmerson, Lucinda Coffey, Maeve Harris

MATHS:
Amarni Shields, Brielle Bourke, Jobe O’Regan, Isaak Kinchela, Deegan Garden-Thorn, Braedon Mason, Mietta Smith, Thomas Webster

SPORTS:
Lillie Harvey, Kaaden Sharpyley, Dustin Cuell, Stephanie Rose, Emilio Almagro, Payten Barnes, Caleb Dawson, Elisha Soper

CITIZENSHIP:
Lachlan Watson, Seth Van Bommel, Ella Draheim, Isabella Hackett, Annabel McLean, Mark Dennis, Mathew McGrath, Angus Ciesiolka

ACHIEVEMENT:
Elijiana Welsh, Alicia Morgan-Ferguson, Ceanna Toomey, Taylor Hanslow, Ethan Foster, Aniesha Krishna, Kelly Wu, Eva Simpson

BRONZE AWARDS
Beau Parker, Teleisha Dick, Jacob Barwick

SILVER AWARDS

Last week’s Silver Award recipients

STAND UP
DON’T STAND BY

1. Help others who are being bullied. Be a friend, even to students who are not yet your friends. Let them know how you think they are feeling. Help them talk to an adult about what has happened.

2. Stop untrue or harmful messages from spreading. If someone tells you a rumour that you know is untrue or sends you a message that is hurtful to someone else, stand up and let the person know this is wrong. Don’t laugh, send the message on to friends, or add to the story. Make it clear that you do not think that kind of behaviour is cool or funny.

3. Get friends involved. Encourage them to stand up too.

4. Make friends outside your usual circle. Eat lunch with someone who is alone. Show support for others.

5. Find out about the bullying policy here at your school and keep it in mind when you witness bullying.

6. Welcome new people at your school. Introduce them and help them feel comfortable.

7. Refuse to stand by. If you see friends or classmates laughing along with the bully, tell them that they are contributing to the problem. Let them know that by laughing they are also bullying the victim.

8. Respect others’ differences and help others to respect differences. It’s cool for people to be different – that’s what makes all of us unique.

9. Educate yourself about bullying. Why do kids bully? Where does bullying take place most often? Who can you tell? What are the effects of bullying? Why are people afraid to get involved? Understanding this information will help you if you are bullied and will help you to stand up to bullies.

Acknowledgement: From BullyBust: Creating a Community of Upstanders from the National School Climate Centre (NSCC).
Canteen Roster

Tuesday, 11th November
HELP!!!!!!!
Wednesday, 12th November
HELP!!!!!!!
Thursday, 13th November
HELP!!!
Friday, 14th November
Cathy Coleman
Monday, 17th November
HELP!!!!

Who could this be at “Pete the Sheep”

HURLSTONE AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL
The only selective, co-educational day and boarding high school in New South Wales.
Are you seeking information about the process of enrolling your son or daughter at Hurlstone for Year 7 2016?
Are you looking for an exceptional boarding school for approximately $10,000.00 per year?
On-line applications have now opened and can be accessed at:
www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement
or forms can be obtained from the school office.
Applications close on the 17th November 2014
For any further information visit the website www.hurlstone.com.au

Narrabri RSL Sub Branch
Memorial Mini Market Day
Where:
Narrabri RSL Club Grounds
When:
Saturday, 15th November, 2014
Time:
9.00am to 2pm
Bric a brac at great prices
Jumping Castle for kids
Cake Stall
White Elephant Stall

Sausage sizzle and something for everyone

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