Principal’s Message
I recently read a speech by Professor Stephen Dinham OAM, Director of Teaching at the University of Melbourne. He was addressing the Australian College of Educators and spoke about what he referred to as the many “myths” currently driving educational change across Australia.

The myths, ‘facts’ or beliefs underpinning the so-called ‘crisis’ in education in the US, the UK, Australia are typified in the following:

1. Public education is failing
2. International testing is a true barometer of the decline in public schooling
3. Private schools are better than public schools
4. Greater autonomy for public schools will lift performance
5. Greater accountability will lift public school performance
6. Money is not the answer - increased spending on public education has not resulted in improvement in student achievement
7. The teacher is the biggest influence on and is therefore responsible for student achievement
8. Merit pay/payment by results is the solution to improving teacher quality
9. Removing tenure and dismissing poor teachers will lead to greater student achievement
10. Schools should be resourced on the basis of results
11. The curriculum is a captive of the ‘left’
12. Schools are not producing the skills and capabilities required by industry
13. 21st century skills are not being taught in 21st century schools
14. Technology changes everything
15. Teacher education is ineffective and the value of a teaching credential is questionable
16. The effects of poverty are too difficult to overcome
17. Educational research offers no solutions
18. Non-educators should lead (public) schools
19. Choice, competition, privatisation and the free market are the answers to questions about education.

Whether you happen agree with him or not, I would encourage you to consider his opinions. My end of year report will focus further on this important topic.

Star of the Week
EmmJay Baker

According to her class teacher, nine-year-old EmmJay Baker is a most deserving Star of the Week.

EmmJay enjoys being here at Narrabri Public School and she has made many good friends such as Layne Parker, Maddison Leech and Georgia Stewart since enrolling. Her favourite subjects are maths, science and art. “Mrs Young’s a nice teacher,” she said. “She tells us some really funny jokes!”

EmmJay comes from a big family. She has three brothers and two sisters. Her youngest sister, Menzie is in Kinder Irvine. They like playing together at home with a loveable big black dog named Bruiser. When asked about this she said, “Menzie likes sitting on Bruiser’s back while she takes her around the yard.”

EmmJay is very talented musician who is learning to play the guitar at school on Friday afternoons. “Guitar lessons are great because we get to learn chords and play songs. Our group is really excited about performing at the Crossing Theatre on presentation night.”

Like many guitar pickers, EmmJay enjoys her country music, especially great artists like Keith Urban and Alan Jackson. She is also a keen Manly Sea Eagles supporter and says that Wee Waa’s Jamie Lyon is her favourite player. Go Manly!
The Week Ahead

Week 8

Monday 24th November
Yr 2-6 Leadership Speeches in school hall @ 1.50
Swim School begins

Tuesday 25th November
Trudi Staines – Enviro Readers Assembly @ 9.30
*K-6 Assembly – Primary COLA @ 3.00
P&C Uniform Shop open 2.45–3.30pm

Wednesday 26th November
Royal Far West Out of Uniform Day
School Banking
No 4M Assembly – special K-6 Drama Club matinee performance @ 2.00 in hall
No Zumba tonight
Drama Club 6.30pm Night Performance

Thursday 27th November
Silver Ceremony in hall @ 11.20
P&C Uniform Shop open 2.45–3.30pm

Friday 28th November
Last day for merit awards
Zumba class in hall 6.00-7.00

*Please note change of date - our K-6 assembly will take place Tuesday 25th Nov at 3.00 under primary COLA

Enviro Reader Assembly
On Tuesday, 25th November a special Stage 3 assembly (Yrs 5&6) is going to be held in the school hall at 9.30. Local science educator, Trudi Staines, is coming to present Enviro-Readers to our winning students. These are prestigious awards as the children will become published authors with their book and accompanying illustrations being professionally printed. All parents and carers are cordially invited to attend.

Breakfast Club
Paul Foster the local minister from St Cyprian’s Anglican Church is hoping to get a small breakfast club program up and running early Term 1 2015. This is a pleasing development for our school.

On-line School Surveys
Many thanks to those parents who took time to complete our recent school survey. This is the first time we’ve gone on-line and the feedback has been invaluable for school planning purposes.

By the way, our SRC has also worked with classes to get children to complete the student surveys. The SRC will help our survey moderator Jo Petrovic collate the data on 12th December.

Some interesting results:

a) 89% of parents surveyed would recommend NPS to other prospective parents
b) 90% of parents use the mobile app and newsletter to keep informed about our school
c) 65% of respondents would like to be emailed about important decisions affecting the school
d) 80% of parents surveyed believe we teach reading, writing and mathematics well or extremely well
e) Over 87% of parents believe we employ good teachers.
f) 92% of people believe we employ friendly and helpful staff
Administration Building Latest News

As you are probably aware, rumours have been going around for quite some time about the main administration building. Unfortunately, I have been unable to make any official statements regarding its future up until now.

All this changed last week when the administration building committee met. A decision was finally made to tear down the existing administration building and replace it with a new one to be constructed next year. Sydney architect, Mr David Burdon, took us through the basic concepts and possible location he has for a new building.

I am sure this may come as sad news for some and welcome news for others, but a decision was made by Public Works and the necessary arrangements will now be put in place.

An eight module demountable is being installed in early December in front of C Block. Some trees were cut down last week and a cracked concrete path pulled up. The current telephone system will also be relocated. A demountable administration building located on the on Doyle Street side may test the patience of parents, students and staff, but when the new building is completed next year it will undoubtedly be a wonderful resource for the school.

Michael Clare

Budding Naturalist & Author

You may have read in last week’s newsletter that Patrick Coleman, our Wk 7 Star of the Week, was currently busy writing and illustrating a book about the birds of Narrabri. Well, Patrick was kind enough to remember to bring in his book last week to show us his outstanding work.

Out of Uniform Day

Narrabri Public is a partner school for Royal Far West. Royal Far West specialises in improving the health outcomes for NSW’s rural and remote children through access to specialist health services. Our special partnership agreement means we have a priority on their services. In return, our school simply promises to hold one small fundraiser each year.

Our school believes in Royal Far West’s vision of caring for our country kids and it is these friendships that keep the organisation strong and able to assist us when required.

Wednesday 26th November is our school’s annual fundraising day for Royal Far West. We are a having an out of uniform day. You can help. Your child needs to bring along a gold coin donation and come along in dressed in casual clothes. Our school’s SRC will collect the money on behalf of this wonderful organisation. Please be generous if you can.
Combined Kindergarten Assembly
We’ve seen some great assemblies in recent weeks and last Wednesday’s combined Kindergarten effort was yet another example. I think our students with the magnifying glasses and teddy are keeping their eyes open for some well-behaved students. Congratulations to all involved in this great presentation.

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WHITE CARDS - 1ST
Rhianna Burke, Koster Murphy

BRONZE AWARDS
Leyton Smith, Kaaden Sharpley, Jaylen Sharpley

SILVER AWARDS
Thomas Hand, Dakoda Bower, Kaden Harvey, Thomas Wheeler, Stephanie Rose, Annabell McLean, Kiana Mason, Caitlyn Taylor, Taylah Bell, Takeesha Williams, Clayton Johannesen, Patrick Simpson, Boston Kirkby, Campbell Gourley, Thomas Ryan, Tom Webster

INFANTS ASSEMBLY AWARDS

ENGLISH:
Amarni Shields, Kiana Mason, Rhianna Burke, Sebastian Myers, Justin Harriman, Jayde Arnold, Zoe Druce, Clarence Morgan

MATHEMATICS:
Nakari Morgan, Isaac Hynch, Jacob Barwick, Travis Gibbs-Eulo, Boston Kirkby, Harley Petrovic, Darcy Gleeson, William Watson

SPORTS:
Charley Woodham, Caitlyn Taylor, Lawrence Mills, Johnathon Charles, Clint Baker, Angus McLean, Kaden Harvey, Kate Weekes

CITIZENSHIP:
Tekaya Dennis, Kyan McKenzie, Kaaden Sharpley, Jye Norris, Veronica Weekes, Gypsy Williams, Charlie Baker, Halle Rooney

ACHIEVEMENT:
Klaryssa Briggs, Oliver Stait, Oliver Morris, Chloe Large, Callum Lawler, Ian Berney, Kiarnah Eames, Ashlee Anderson

School Chaplaincy Program
From 2015 the New South Wales Government will administer the National School Chaplaincy Programme on behalf of the Commonwealth. Accordingly, our school responded to their email saying that we may be interested.

Under this new program the Commonwealth has stipulated that funding will only be available for school chaplains. Secular student welfare workers will not be funded.

A chaplain funded under this program is an individual who is recognised by the school community and the appropriate governing authority for the school as having the skills and experience to deliver school chaplaincy to the school community.

Schools are eligible for assistance up to ten hours per week. Their role would be provision of pastoral care services to students and promotion of strategies that support the emotional wellbeing of students and the broader school community.

We’ll keep you informed.

Core Values & PBL
As you may know, our school’s PBL team is currently looking at the core values our school is going to teach our students. A survey was sent out via the mobile phone app. Thanks to all those who took the time to respond. Below is a table showing your votes.

Here are the PBL Responses

Could you indicate the three Core Values from the list above, that you think will suit our school best by writing them in the spaces provided.

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**Canteen News**

As we move closer to the end of the year the canteen is becoming an even busier place.

The canteen will be providing a special lunch on the SRC Fun Day which will include a Zing drink and a bag of lollies. To help us be ready for this we will be bagging the lollies we have so far to ensure that if we need more we have time to order them in.

**Lolly bagging is taking place this Thursday, 27th November at 12 noon. Meet at the canteen if you can help.**

Thankyou

We will have a small get together with our volunteers on the Fun Day as well but more about that closer to the day.

As you can imagine, as the days are getting hotter the icy poles are becoming more popular. We have a couple of new ones to try – Zing Fruits (the children call them Fruit Bombs) for 40c and chocolate and strawberry moosies for $1.00. (I am told these are just like frozen mooves – YUM).

Other choices include
- Jelly Joys .20c
- Quelch Fruit Sticks .50c or .25c ½
- Zings .80c
- T.N.T’s .90c
- Calippos 1.00
- Icecream cups $11.30
- Paddle Pops $1.90

*Keep an eye on the newsletter as we head towards the end of the year and we'll let you know what foods we are out of and not restocking.*

**Late Orders**

Last week we had 4 late lunch orders on Monday, 6 on Tuesday, 11 on Wednesday, 8 on Thursday and 9 on Friday. **Please please** remind your children that their orders need to be in before they start school for the day. We have a routine in canteen and late orders throw this out but not only that we can’t always give the children what they want depending on when they bring the order to us. Again if your children need to buy fruit for fruit break this should be done before school. Fruit break clashes with our making sandwiches time and it ruins the rhythm when you have to stop and start. We are getting tired too but we need your help to keep on track until the end of the year.

Thank you

Kim Owens – Supervisor
Nikki Finn - Assistant

**Canteen Roster**

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<th>Tuesday, 25th November</th>
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Last week’s Silver Badge Awardees
OOSH
Vacation Care Bookings for December, January & February are now open. We currently have vacancies for Before School Care. For further information please phone Nurruby Childcare Centre on 67926566.

Online intensive intervention programs for primary and secondary students
MultiLit, a research initiative of Macquarie University, offers proven programs tailored to your child’s needs to improve reading accuracy, fluency, comprehension and spelling.

MultiLit Literacy Centre, Macquarie Park
1300 55 99 19
www.multilit.com
literacy.centre@multilit.com

Narrabri Tennis Holiday Tennis Clinic
When: 2 clinics available
Clinic 1: Mon 5th Jan through to & including Thursday 8th Jan 2015
Clinic 2: Mon 19th Jan through to and including Thursday 22nd Jan 2015
(When booking in please mention clinic number).
Where: Narrabri Tennis Centre
Cost: 9am to 12 noon - $80 for 4 days or $25 per day, 9am to 3pm - $120 for 4 days or $35 per day (Family discounts 3 or more children)
Program Includes: learning through play coaching, group lesson format using timed rotations and multiple coaches, instruction on all tennis strokes and round robin singles/doubles matchplay. Plenty of fun and games!!
Extra Information: Suits everyone aged from 4-16 years, beginners right through to the advanced even if you have never played tennis before. Free racquet hire and party and presentation on the final morning. Drinks breaks including recess and lunch. Wet weather program in place.

For further information or to enrol your children contact Shane Murphy 0405151935 or drop into the Narrabri Tennis Centre.

More proud Silver Badge recipients