Narrabri Public School prides itself on providing the best possible education for your child. Teachers and staff work hard to ensure that individual students’ learning styles and needs are met.

This week sees the re-introduction of our successful QuickSmart numeracy program. We are targeting selected students in Stages 2 & 3. Students were selected via a criteria process which included their NAPLAN results. Once again we’re employing trained and experienced tutors. Results in previous years have been very encouraging and I’m confident this trend will continue in 2014.

Likewise, the Norta Norta tuition program starts today. This year our head tutor, Mrs Kath Hamilton, will be delivering this program with two Aboriginal co-tutors. For your information, we are specifically targeting indigenous students from Years 3, 4 & 5.

Of course, a well-rounded education ought to include the performing arts. The popular Drama Club after school program is returning in Week 8. A note about Drama Club is attached to this week’s newsletter. It includes full details and a return slip if your child wants to be considered, but places are strictly limited.

However, it’s not only drama that Narrabri Public is offering this year. We are dedicated to providing many students with additional musical opportunities well above curriculum expectations. For instance, our successful school band program is already up and running for 2014 and the new lunch-time guitar tuition program begins next week.

Finally, technology … NPS is committed to educating your child for the 21st century. We have already purchased a class set of 30 digital tablets and successfully installed a wireless connection for the library and AV area. Troy Nipperess is currently renovating the audio visual room for us. The goal is to have students using these devices in our library and AV room in the near future.

Michael Clare

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Star of the Week*
Jacob Sunderland

Jacob Sunderland is one of our student leaders for 2014. He was an SRC counsellor previously in Mrs Stow’s Year 4 class. He moved here mid-way through Year 2 and his first teacher was Miss Clarke.

Jacob is a keen sportsman with his favourite games being soccer and swimming. Jacob played centre-mid in last year’s highly successful PSSA Narrabri Boys’ side. He is currently in the 15 person training squad for our PSSA Cricket Knockout.

Jacob likes riding his scooter with his friends after school and on the weekends. He also enjoys playing his iPod 5. Jacob doesn’t have a favourite artist or kind of music. He likes “bits and pieces” and different kinds of music. Jacob is a keen reader too. His favourite books are mainly non-fiction. He loves reading autobiographies of famous sporting identities. One of his favourite books is, “Be Your Best” by Geoff Huegill.

Jacob has some sound advice for any aspiring future school leaders. “Be confident while you’re saying your speech. You’ve got to believe that your speech is good because you’ve written it. Believe in yourself!”
Norta Norta tutoring began today …

And so did QuickSmart!

Nosh On The Namoi
Once again our school will be involved in this major community event with Nosh On The Namoi: Saturday 29th March on the grounds around the Crossing Theatre. Kerrie Nipperess has kindly volunteered to co-ordinate this event and a note will be coming home shortly. In the meantime, think about a donation of a jar of goodies or an hour of help either the day before or on the day itself would be greatly appreciated.

The Week Ahead
Week 6
Monday 3rd March:
Norta Norta tutor training begins
QuickSmart begins.
School Assembly @ 3.00 pm
School Council meets @ 7.00 in library

Tuesday 4th March:
P&C Uniform Shop open 8.30-9.30 pm

Wednesday 5th March:
3/4 A Primary Assembly @ 2.40pm
School Banking

Thursday 6th March:
MAX FM
P&C Uniform Shop open 2.30—3.45pm

The Week Ahead
Week 7
Monday 10th March:
Regional Swimming Carnival in Armidale
Special School Assembly featuring NRL star Rabbitoh’s Matt King @ 2.30 pm

Tuesday 11th March:
P&C Uniform Shop open 8.30-9.30 pm

Wednesday 12th March:
Day Branch P&C AGM – 9.30 in library
Guitar Auditions in hall – 1.10-1.50
KL Infants Assembly @ 2.40pm
School Banking

Thursday 13th March:
PSSA Cricket Knockout 2nd Rd v Wee Waa
Selective High Schools Test
P&C Uniform Shop open 2.30—3.45pm

Friday 14th March:
Guitar Lessons in hall begin – 1.10-1.50

3-6 Wednesday Assembly
This Wednesday at 2.40 pm our 3-6 students will gather in the hall for their first combined assembly. Mrs Allison’s 3/4 class will be hosting this assembly and plenty of awards will be presented to deserving students. Parents are most welcome to come along and support their children.
School Council
The first School Council meeting of 2014 will be held tonight, Monday 3rd March. This meeting sees the arrival of many new faces and a change of direction for this important school organisation. We will be electing a new chairperson and secretary tonight.

PSSA Tennis Trials
Four budding tennis stars will be representing our school this Friday at the Narrabri Tennis Courts. They were trying out for the North West representative side. Our players are Lucy Gordon, Stephanie Stuart, Thomas Wieringa and Luke Wieringa.

Voluntary School Contributions
As this goes to press, thirty fantastic families have paid their one-off contribution fees for 2014. MANY THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!

Voluntary fees are currently $45 for one student enrolled at NPS or $60 per family and are still set at the same level as two or three years ago.

I know some people wonder why public schools ask for contributions. After all, doesn’t their child have a right to a “free” education?

Over the next few weeks, I’ll answer some of the questions that people often ask.

Question #1: Why do parents need to pay school fees? NPS is a big school with two active P&Cs.

Answer: Yes, the P&C certainly raises funds. A small and dedicated group of parents work very hard to raise money to pay for things the school cannot afford to pay for e.g. portable computer tablets, school excursions and sporting subsidies etc. Also, there is no school fete this year, so their contribution is likely to be much smaller in 2014.

For a variety of reasons, our “big” school is not entitled to extra funding sources that many other local and district schools receive. A “free” public education does not include outstanding educational programs like the school band and Quick Smart. It includes the “basics.” These programs are paid for directly by the school and only run if we have the money to maintain them. Hence, they are a year-to-year proposition.

Are you a P&C member? Have you paid your voluntary one-off contribution fees yet?

Starting this month of March there is a special incentive to pay your voluntary school contributions. The names of all families who have paid their fees this month will go into a draw and the lucky winner will receive a complimentary $25.00 WLT (why leave town) Gift Voucher. One winner will be drawn each month during semester 1. Good luck!

K-6 Performance
Our first major performance for 2014 features a CSIRO Science workshop called, ‘The Force and Movement Show’ which will be held on Tuesday 18th March. Details and permission slips are yet to go home, but cost will be $5.00 per student. These four workshops (four different stage groups) are interactive and are different for each stage group. It is an interactive, hands-on show and a lot of fun.

Grandparents Day
A highlight of our Term 1 calendar is the celebration of Senior Citizens Week.

We celebrate by hosting Grandparents Day and this year we are holding it on Friday, 21st March. We invite all grandparents and senior citizens in our community to come along and enjoy some entertainment from our students (and even a special performance from Mr Clare), have a lovely morning tea and lunch and visit some classrooms.

Festivities will kick off at 10:30 and finish at 1:50.

Ebonnie Whan

Guitar Lessons Coming Soon
We are establishing a group of students wishing to learn guitar. All interested students from Yrs 2-5 are invited to come along to an audition held on Wednesday 12th March at 1.10 in the hall.

Mr Aaron Johnson and Mr Clare will teach selected students in groups of 6-7. Lessons will take place on Friday during lunch for 50 minutes. Students will be given teaching notes and a guitar to take home for practice purposes. The combined cost for use of school guitar and a group lesson is $5.00 per week. These fees must be paid in advance.

Students will learn basic chords, riffs and strumming patterns. It is planned for the group (when ready) to perform at assemblies, official functions and special days.

This is subsidised by the school.

More information in next week’s newsletter.

Integrity ◆ Excellence ◆ Respect ◆ Responsibility ◆ Cooperation ◆ Care ◆ Fairness ◆ Democracy ◆ Participation
Mrs Roy with her beautiful embroidery

INFANTS ASSEMBLY

ENGLISH:
Tekaya Dennis Skye Manning, Boston Kirkby, Bella Nixon, Chloe Winsley, Lilly Prouting, Kelly Wu, Laura Richards

MATHS:
Nakari Morgan, Matilda Trindall, Isabella Monticone, Dakoda Bower, Amity Stow, Keira Bennett, Brigette Rose, Decklin Gold-Reis Kelly

SPORTS:
Sam Yu, Nicholas Coffey, Jason Dick, Helena McLean, Kaine Everson, Ethan Leech, Harley Petrovic, Campbell Gourley

CITIZENSHIP:
Kate Partridge, Ellen Alford, Ethan Reid, Brodie Fry, Cruiz Parsons, Patrick Lindsay, Lucinda Coffey, Kate Weekes

ACHIEVEMENT:
George Barton, Hamish Webster, Beth Lindsay, Darcy Gleeson, Jack McCahon, Mark Denis, Mathew McGrath, Jessica Stanford

Canteen Roster

Week 6
Tuesday, 4th March
HELP !!!!!!!!!!!!!

Wednesday, 5th March
HELP !!!!!!!!!!!!!

Thursday, 6th March
HELP !!!!!!!!!!!!!

Friday, 7th March
Collette Prouting
Monday, 10th March
HELP !!!!!!!!!!!!!

Some more Roster help would be GREAT!
Thank you
Kim Owens - Supervisor
Nikki Finn – Assistant

ICAS COMPETITIONS

The School is once again making these competitions available to students who wish to participate. Parents, however, need to be aware that these competitions do mainly cater for students who enjoy a challenge at the top end of the academic scale. Closing day for all ICAS competitions is Thursday 10th April, (Last Thursday of Term 1). Two entry forms have been sent home with the eldest child last week and extra forms may be obtained from Mrs Allen. This entry form must be used.

The competitions comprise Computer Skills, Science, Spelling, Writing, English and Mathematics. The entry fee is $8.00 for each competition, with the exception of Writing ($18.00) and Spelling ($12.00). These are more expensive as they are individually assessed by experienced teacher markers. There are separate competitions for each year, from Year 3 to Year 6. The entry forms provided must be used and a separate entry form must be used for each child. Entry forms must be returned to Mrs Allen. Please note that the front office cannot accept entry forms and payment.

Please direct any enquiries to Mrs Allen.

Sorry there were a couple of price errors on the menu – Chilli Tenders are $1.60 and Chicken Burgers w salad $4.60

Thank you to everyone for the offers of help. We really appreciate all help here at canteen.
And thank you last week for the donation of fresh tomatoes and this week for cucumbers.
Netball News

The netball season is approaching and we would like to encourage interested primary girls to attend netball training on Thursday afternoons from 3.30-4pm. Training will start on Thursday the 6th of March. Some very experienced High School girls will be helping at training.

Later in Term One Miss Morrissey and Mrs Trudgeon will select a team to participate in the PSSA knockout competition.

Narrabri Rugby League

7 a side competition

**WHEN:** Friday night @ number 3 oval

**TIME:** Starting at 6PM

Everyone welcome and registration is on-line.