I received some wonderful news last week. A letter arrived on my desk from the Executive Director of Schools in our region, Mr Frank Potter, informing us that Narrabri Public School is the winner of the 2013 Excellence in Education Awards in the category: Excellence in Sport Education.

To quote Mr Potter’s letter: “This is a significant achievement which reflects the outstanding quality of service provided to your students. Congratulations on your school’s achievement.” Accordingly, Mrs Tame, Mr McIntosh and myself have been officially invited to attend the awards function at Gunnedah High School on Thursday 12th September.

We are delighted to receive this award. Narrabri Public School has a proud sporting tradition, and this year’s wonderful sporting achievements at district, regional and state level can be directly attributed to our school’s ongoing sports education and specific skills programs. And of course, you need some talented young athletes to work with!

I would like to publicly thank the hardworking teachers, staff, parents and community members who put in hours of unpaid work before and after school coaching our children in sports such as softball, soccer, touch, swimming and athletics. Your wonderful efforts have certainly yielded results and are being acknowledged this week at regional level.

I’d also like to acknowledge a very special boy and the two special ladies who teach him down at our Special Education class.

The boy’s name is Jayden Rose. And the two ladies who work with him are his teacher, Mrs Alison Trudgeon and her trusty off-sider and SLSO, Mrs Karen Croaker. For those who don’t know him, Jayden is ten years old and in Year 4. He was born with autism and is a proud member of class K-6T. Until recently, he has never spoken a word. He has lived in a world of virtual silence, mainly communicating with gestures and a few simple sounds.

As educators, Alison and Karen faced a serious dilemma. Speech therapists told them that a ten-year-old who has never spoken is possibly unlikely to talk. Undeterred by this thought, however, Alison and Karen persisted with their daily education program. They kept reading to him each day, used activities such as sign language, alphabet puzzles and Mr Tongue’s Speech House program. They refused to give up.

A few weeks ago now, to the delight of all, Jayden suddenly began talking. He is also using his iPad to ask for things he wants and then verbalises it. He has started to count. He has even started asking for what he wants without using his iPad!

Mrs Trudgeon has been in touch with a speech therapist, and shared this wonderful story of Jayden’s breakthrough. It is even anticipated that he might become a “pin-up boy” for speech therapists to show what wonderful results can happen when dedicated teachers and staff don’t give up.

Congratulations Jayden, and well done, Mrs Trudgeon and Mrs Croaker. All three of you are special people.

Michael Clare
**Week 9 cont.**
**Tues 10th Sept:**
P&C Uniform Shop – 8.30-9.30 am  
Mrs Young returns  
Dr Ken Nunn –workshops for Yrs 5&6 in hall (2.00-3.00)  
Cricket Clinic for Yrs 3 & 4 (2.00-3.00)

**Wednesday 11th Sept:**
P&C Day Branch meet @ 9.30  
Silver Ceremony (Infants)  
Primary Assembly @ 12.10 – 4L  
Infants Disco in hall (2.00-3.00)  
P&C Night Branch meet @ 7.00

**Thurs 12th Sept:**
High School Gala Day from 12PM @ Collins Park  
Regional Excellence in Education Awards @ Gunnedah  
MAX FM  
P&C Uniform Shop open 2.30-3.45 pm  
Primary Disco in hall (6.00-7.30)

**Friday 13th Sept:**
Silver Ceremony (Primary)

**Week 10**
**Monday 16th Sept:**
Mrs Lindsay Long Service Leave until end of term  
Awards Assembly @ 3.00

**Tues 17th Sept:**
P&C Uniform Shop – 8.30-9.30 am  
Silver Ceremony (Primary)

**Wednesday 18th Sept:**
Silver Ceremony (Infants)  
Stage 2 Dubbo Excursion  
Stage 3 Gulgong Excursion  
Infants Assembly 1M @ 2.40 in hall

**Thurs 19th Sept:**
P&C Uniform Shop open 2.30-3.45 pm  
Stage 2 Dubbo Excursion  
Stage 3 Gulgong Excursion

**Friday 20th Sept:**
Emily Quirk’s last day  
Stage 2 Dubbo Excursion  
Stage 3 Gulgong Excursion

**Sporting Success for Softballers**

Last week we spoke about Laura Gourley, Kim Bange and Emma Young, who represented North-West recently in Sydney for softball. However, three of our primary boys (Dylan Gordon, Aaronn Baker and Jock Tomlinson) not to be outdone by their female counterparts, are also representing the region and going to state softball in Sydney next week.

This is a tremendous effort and we wish them every success. It is exciting to have so many top quality softball players, boys and girls, who have reached representative level. Play hard in Sydney boys and enjoy your opportunity at state. We know that you’ll represent both yourself and your school with pride.

**Telescope Competition Success**

On Sunday September 1st my family and I visited our world leading radio telescope, the Australia Telescope Compact Array, to celebrate its 25th Anniversary. As part of these open day celebrations, a colouring competition was sent out to schools.

When I walked into the science tent after the tour, I was delighted to see hundreds of colourful competition entries hung up on display from the students of Narrabri Public School. Our students’ entries dominated a whole corner of the tent and it looked wonderful. Yet again, our reputation as the local “Science School” was evident for all to see. Not only that, but our students “scooped the pool” with some wonderful educational prizes for their efforts. Competition entry winners received a bag full of goodies which included prizes such as a science book of experiments, a pair of binoculars, “Mars Mud” and a levitation toy which uses laws of physics to float and spin in perpetual motion!

The lucky winners are:

**Year 5/6** – 1st Eliza Bostock, 2nd Eleisha Campbell, 3rd Mitchell Joyce

**Year 3/4** - 1st Shona McFarland

**Year 1/2** - 1st Cilla Hamblin, 2nd Georgia Kirkby, 3rd Millie Goulden

**Kindergarten** – 1st Chloe Winsley, 2nd Chloe Large, 3rd Aniesha Krishna

Integrity ◆ Excellence ◆ Respect ◆ Responsibility ◆ Cooperation ◆ Care ◆ Fairness ◆ Democracy ◆ Participation
**Boys’ Toys**
Our school’s General Assistant, Troy Nipperess, has been working extremely hard to design a special area for infants children to play with toy cars. This is a special SRC project for Semester 2 and Troy has already laid a metal frame for it between E Block and F Block near the fixed equipment. To add a bit more interest for the children, Troy has obtained old sticks and steering wheels to attach to the structure. No-one is quite sure what it’s going to look like when it’s finished (it’s a secret), but everybody is certainly excited about this project.

**Silver Ceremonies**
With Bronzie Parties gradually coming to an end, this week we move onto the next stage of our awards program by recognising those children who have earned Silver Awards. There is going to be a ceremony held on Wednesday 11th September (infants) and another for primary students on Friday 13th September. These are held during recess starting at 11.20. Parents of these students have received their invitation letter to come and join us in celebrating what is a significant educational achievement.

**Bronzie Blues**
Even though our Bronzie parties are coming to an end, I just wanted to reassure students and their parents that they are still an important part of our school’s achievement overall award scheme. As you can see from the photo, last week’s partygoers had a wonderful time.

Please don’t be sad thinking that your party is somehow less important than previous parties we’ve held. It is not!

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**BRONZE AWARDS**
Peta White, Thomas Hand, Joshua Taylor, Samual McLean

**SILVER AWARDS** (these students will receive their Silver Badges next week)

**ASSEMBLY AWARDS**

**K - 2**

**ENGLISH:**
Keira Bennett, Ryan Dalton, Tiarna Gibbs-McDonald, Eva Simpson, Lilliam Constable, Destiny Lewis, Olivia Brooks, Patrick Merritt

**MATHEMATICS:**
Campbell Bulmer, Caitlyn Taylor, Ethan Foster, Tynan Williams, Jayde Arnold, Claudia Penberthy, Sean McLean, Debbie Haywood

**SPORTS:**
Jack McCahon, Olivia Parker, Shakira Parker, Kyle Stove, Lachlan Eather, Mac Goulden, Nicholas Hand, Lily-Rose Baker

**CITIZENSHIP:**
Isaiah O’Brien, Taylah Bell, Isabella Suckling, Eric Weribone, Lyneah Mason, Cooper Hall, Makayla Cook, Bianca Wilson

**ACHIEVEMENT:**
Georgie McDougall, Sebastian Myers, Cruz Parsons, Emily Emmerson, Maeve Harris, Chelsea Joyce, Kaleb Barnes, Jarmanl Zarka
Regional Athletics in Tamworth

Our representative athletes travelled to Tamworth Friday 6th September to compete at the regional carnival. The competition, as always, was very strong from all the other local schools in the region, but we achieved some excellent results.

A more comprehensive report will be placed in Thursday’s Courier when all students have returned to school, but a few noteworthy results are listed below. These students have qualified for the state carnival. Well done.

Joc Ford 1st place in 9 Yrs 100m final
Sam Soper 3rd place in 800m final
Felix Johnson 1st place in timed 800m final
Anabelle Read 3rd place in 11 Yrs 100m (fastest qualifier for final)
Laura Gourley 3rd in 11Yrs discus and 3rd in 200m final
Makayla Beddow 3rd in 800m final and 2nd in high jump
Stephanie Stuart 1st 11Yrs long jump and 2nd in discus
Junior and Senior Boys’ Relay teams both finished 3rd in their respective finals

Alistair Gourley Kyle Suckling, Joc Ford, Riley Lamb, Nathan Sucking, Felix Johnson, Jock Tomlinson, Joe Baker

Regional Soccer Final

As this newsletter is printed, our boys PSSA soccer team are getting ready to play Thornton Public down in the Hunter. Mr McIntosh rang the school early this morning to say that he’d emailed me a photo of the boys to include in this week’s newsletter. He mentioned the whole team (including parents who travelled down) are very excited about this game.

Coach Mr McIntosh, has already shown great fighting spirit to attend the match at Thornton. He is on crutches, having broken a bone in his foot over the weekend. He said, “I hope the boys go well and we play our best. I’d just like to thank the wonderful parents who drove down last night and, got breakfast for us all. It’s really appreciated.”

If the boys show half as much determination as their coach, they will certainly play well today.

A full match report will be included in next week’s newsletter.

DATE TO REMEMBER!

NARRABRI PUBLIC SCHOOL P&C NIGHT BRANCH

BARE FOOT BOWLS DAY

WHEN: Sunday 27th October, 2013.

Start getting your friends together and form a team of three for a fun day out. (More information to follow in the coming weeks.)
CANTEEN NEWS

Just a reminder that Wednesday is RED Day at canteen.

Treats include:
- Troposaurus Slime Paddle Pop $2.00 / Limit 1
- LOL Aerated Juices – Blackcurrent, Razzbri and Tropkl $2.00 / Limit 1
- Caramel Bunnies $1.50 / Limit 2
- Zombie Chews .90c / Limit 2
- Chocolate/Popping Candy Eggs .60c / Limit 3
- Wicked Fizz .20c / Limit 5
- Sour Straps .20c / Limit 5
- Yoghurt Filled Bars .15c / Limit 6
- Ghost Drops .10c / Limit 10

Treats except paddle pops can be ordered to be sent down in the lunch tubs. Paddle pops can be ordered but need to be collected at Canteen. As Wednesday is RED Day some extra volunteers at lunch time would be greatly appreciated. Please HELP!!!!

CANTEEN ROSTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday, 10th September</th>
<th>HELP NEEDED!!</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 11th September</td>
<td>Cassie Webster, Katina Johns (LUNCH)</td>
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<td>Thursday, 12th September</td>
<td>HELP FOR LUNCH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, 13th September</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED!!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 16th September</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED!!</td>
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Don’t forget your specials order.

BIRTHDAY CAKE SPECIALS
If you would like a birthday cake for your child to have with their class, we can do; a full Sara Lee Cake Choc/ or Banana for $40.00 - a ½ Sara Lee Cake for $20.00 or $20.00 for a homemade cake (you can choose the icing colour on these)

The canteen needs 48 hours (2 days) notice for a Sara Lee cake and 1 week’s notice for a homemade cake.

We have a cake box in the canteen which was left on the kindergarten café table a week or so ago if anyone is missing one.

Thank you Kim Owens Supervisor
Nikki Finn Assistant

Visit from Noted Child Psychiatrist

The annual educational Roadshow with Dr Ken Nunn from the Westmead Children’s Hospital is on Tuesday 10th September the week of RUOK Day.

Dr Nunn is a senior child, adolescent and family psychiatrist who provides specialised consultations to young people in our region via teleconference links from his base at Westmead. He is also a highly engaging educator and a major contributor to the joint DEC/Westmead Children’s Hospital website: physicalasanything.com which you may be familiar with.

Tuesday afternoon he’s running mental health workshops in the hall for our Year 5 and 6 students. These workshops will be run by members of our CAMHS team. He’s looking at things like how your body feels when you’re getting anxious and practical ways to deal with that. The topic is entitled, “Sad, Mad and Feeling Bad.”

He is looking at subject like anxiety and depression in a practical way – also how to ask if your friend’s RUOK and what happens if they say “no, I’m not OK.”

To see the kind of specific content Dr Nunn will cover see his on-line article at www.physicalasanything.com.au/lo/mentalhealth_034/

For more information on RUOK Day, resources, lessons etc go to: www.ruokday.com

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“Jump Start” Program

Children starting Kindergarten in 2014 are invited to come and join us between 9.45am and 11.15am on the following days:

Wednesday, 16th October & Thursday 17th October
Wednesday, 23rd October and Thursday, 24th October

Where: Narrabri Public School Kindergarten rooms

What: An opportunity for all children starting school in 2014 to have a “taste” of school life. Children can join in with Kindergarten activities and meet their teachers in a classroom environment.

School Council Reps Wanted

We are looking for two parent representatives on Narrabri Public’s School Council for 2014. After years of faithful service to our school, Mr Michael Bange and Mr Greg Nash are retiring from active duty at the end of this year.

School Council meetings are an important forum where education issues directly affecting your child are discussed. The School Council is an important advisory body that helps our school provide a quality education for all children. School Council also helps shape the direction of our school because it has direct input into our annual school improvement plan. In addition, parents with any concerns about educational issues are able to speak to School Council representatives who will raise these issues on their behalf.

School Council meets here two or three times a term. Meetings are held in the staffroom on Wednesday nights at 7.00pm. If interested, please fill in the slip below and return it to our school office.

…………………………………………………………………………………………
School Council Representative
Yes, I would like to be a part of Narrabri Public School Council in 2014.
Signed: ________________________________
Date: _____________________

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