Welcome Back!
Welcome to the start of our 2016 school year! We hope that everyone enjoyed a much needed break and had some quality family time together. All our students have settled in really well. This year we welcome several new students and their families to our school family. They are Rhys (Gr. 6), Quyhn Anh (Gr. 4) and Aiden (Gr. Prep). A special congratulations to Aiden’s family on the birth of their son and brother Alexander on boxing day. We wish all our students another fantastic school year in 2016.

Term 1
SunSmart Reminder

During terms 1 & 4 students need to wear a sun smart hat when outside at all times.

School Hours
9.15 a.m. Start
9.15 - 11.15 a.m. 1st session
11.15 - 11.45 a.m. Morning Play
11.45 a.m.- 1.15 p.m. 2nd session
1.15 –2.00 p.m. Lunch
2.00 p.m. - 3.30 p.m. 3rd session
3.30 p.m. – Finish

Please be aware of the times staff will be teaching and the days the office is unattended. If you need to contact the school, please try and phone at morning play or lunchtime, or leave a message on the answering machine and we will return your call ASAP.

Woolies Earn & Learn
These are our items purchased from our Woolies Earn & Learn vouchers in 2015

Arts Centre Melbourne
Being a partner school of Arts Centre Melbourne we have booked into the following performances in 2016:-
- The 52 Storey Tree-House, Thurs 14th April,
- Circus Oz, Wed. 22nd June,
- Snugglepot and Cuddlepie, Thurs 15th September and
- Sonatina Thurs. 10th November.

Our partnership with the Arts Centre Melbourne provides our students with free tickets for each performance.

School Forms
Please sign and return the following attached forms:
♦ School Bus Users 2016
♦ Local Excursion 2016
♦ Head lice inspection form
♦ Media Form

Thankyou to Josh and Mark for volunteering their time to keep our school grounds looking great.

Regards, Kevin.
**Reminders Dates in 2016**

MarcVan = Thurs 11th Feb
School Council Meeting = Tuesday 16th February @ 3:45pm in Staff Room
MarcVan = Thurs 25th Feb
School Photos = Friday 26th February
School Athletics Day = Tuesday 1st March, 2016
Senior school Athletics = Friday 4th March, 2016
MarcVan = Thurs 10th March
Labour Day Public Holiday = Monday 14th March
MarcVan = Thurs 24th March
LAST DAY OF TERM 1 = Thursday 24th March
2:30pm early dismissal

**UPCOMING DATES**
Gr.5/6 Melbourne Camp = 4th-6th May (Term 2)
Gr.3/4 Waratah Bay Camp = 7th-9th Sept (Term 3)
Life Ed Program = 13/9/16 (Term 3)
Gr. Prep-2 Sleepover Term 4, date (YTD)

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**Birthday Corner & Student Awards**

Belated Birthday wished to
Ruby who turned 6 on 9th January
&
Taj who turned 8 on 9th January
&
Mrs Hulbert who celebrated her birthday on the 10th January

**Student Awards**

Congratulations
For
For

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**Bus Business**

**Bus Monitor:**
Allana & Grace

**Best on Bus:**
Please contact our bus driver, Ken Grant on his mobile 0400 563 334, from 7.00 a.m. if there is a change in your usual routine. Please advise Ken if your child/children will not be attending school or if you need to arrange a change of pickup. Don’t forget to include your family name in the text message. Please ensure your bus payments are kept up to date. $20 per week per child. A cash tin is on the bus daily to receive bus or any other payments to the school.

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**Family Accounts/Receipts**

Family accounts/receipts will come home attached to your child’s newsletter. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to phone or pop in to the office and speak with Heather on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. If you wish to make payments by direct debit, the school’s account details are:

Narracan Primary School
BSB 063521
Account 1006 2842.

Please put your child’s family name as a reference and if possible send an e-mail or phone to advise Heather of your payment. Thanks.

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**Narracan Primary School Newsletter**
32 School Road
Narracan, Vic, 3824
Phone: 03 5634 8215
2016 Staffing

In 2016, Kevin and Xandy will work full time. Diane will work as required, Norm Cottrell will take Music on Tuesdays and Ken Grant will drive our school bus. Heather will be working in the office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Our extra funding for Kevin to be our school's trained Maths/Science coach starts on Monday 29th February when I begin my two weeks training in Melbourne. This funding will allow us to employ another teacher two and a half days a week to release Kevin from the Big Room to work with all our teachers and students in Maths/Science.

Parking

When parking in front of the school, please leave enough space between the front of your car and the fence for children to walk along. Students are instructed not to walk behind vehicles as they are extremely difficult for drivers to see when backing out.

There is room to double park behind staff vehicles. Parents are also asked not to park in the "Bus Parking" area, bearing in mind that the bus needs a large turning circle.

School requisites

All children need to have:

- Sunhat with broad brim (no hat, shady play only, rule applies in terms 1 & 4.
- Pencil Case

Family accounts

Accounts owing will be sent home once a term. We need families to keep their accounts up to date.

School charges

All families are invited to come along to the School Council meeting at the end of each year where the charges for the next year are set.

Bus excursion charge

The bus excursion charge to cover the costs of the use of the school bus for all excursions, including swimming, has been set by the School Management group at $20.00 per term per child, paying for a maximum of 2 children in the family. Parents are required to pay this charge.

Camps and Excursions

As part of the learning program we also offer camps and excursions. The grades 3-6 children join with children from Thorpdale and Boolarra Primary Schools for combined Camps. The prep-2 children have an overnight camp at school in Term 4.

Note for Bus Travellers Parents

If your child/children will not be attending school, or you need to arrange a change of pick-up or drop-off point, please text our bus driver, Ken Grant on 0400 563334 from 7.00 a.m.

Please note that there is no mobile phone reception along much of the route the bus travels, so texting is preferred and please remember to include your family name in the text.

Permission and other slips

We will endeavour to print all permission forms and other slips that need to be returned to school on coloured paper, so please look at, fill out, and return any forms sent home promptly.

Newsletters

The newsletter will generally be sent home with children on Wednesdays on a fortnightly basis.

Sending money to school

When sending money to school, please enclose money and any forms in a sealed envelope with the child’s name, amount and activity clearly written on the outside.

(e.g. Sam Brown, Swimming 18/5/15, $6.00)

Envelopes need to be handed to your child’s classroom teacher/Heather in the office, or if your child travels on the bus, to be placed in the cash tin on the bus.

Specially printed envelopes are available from the office counter.

There is a cash tin on the bus for bus travellers to put their envelopes in.

Absences

The Department of Education requires records to be kept of all absences. If your child is absent from school, please contact the school and send along a note detailing the reason for your child's absence. This is a legal requirement.
Parent Helpers / Working with Children Checks
There is a Government requirement for parents to work with a small group of children or to transport them to have a current Working With Children Check for Voluntary Helpers.
This check is free if you are working in a voluntary capacity. Forms are available from the Post Office. It would be fantastic to have as many of our parents as possible with checks.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)
School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum. CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:
• $125 for primary school students
• $225 for secondary school students.

HOW TO APPLY
Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

MORE INFORMATION
For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Emergency Evacuation Procedures
In the event of an emergency we have several procedures depending on the type of emergency that will be put into action.
• For an on-site evacuation Procedure, our staff will evacuate students onto the school oval.
• In the unlikely event that we need to do an off-site evacuation due to Bush fire threats or other incidences our staff will evacuate all students and visitors by bus to Thorpdale Primary School.
• In a lock-down procedure all students, staff and visitors will be instructed to remain indoors with all external doors and windows locked and to remain there until safe.
• In the event of a bushfire or grass fire our students will remain indoors in our "Shelter-in-place" area of the Little room/Staffroom/Office area until further instruction is given by the authorities.

If an emergency evacuation is needed staff will endeavour to contact all students’ families as soon as it is safe to do so or a note will go home with the student to advise parents of the situation.

At the time of an emergency it is the staffs priority to ensure that all students are safe and well and that the phone lines are kept clear until advised by authorities that we are able to make phone calls.

Our full Emergency Management Plan is available to be viewed in the Office area.

Koalas
Today the children have each been given a toy koala thanks to the generosity of Darcy’s mum, Annamaria.
In the little room the children have been discussing interesting facts about Koalas. Parents are encouraged to ask your children about there findings.

Student & Family Information
Today
### Why Read 20 Minutes at Home?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student A Reads</th>
<th>Student B Reads</th>
<th>Student C Reads</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>❖ 20 minutes per day.</td>
<td>❖ 5 minutes per day.</td>
<td>❖ 8 minutes per day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>❖ 3,600 minutes per school year.</td>
<td>❖ 900 minutes per school year.</td>
<td>❖ 180 minutes per school year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>❖ 1,800,000 words per year.</td>
<td>❖ 282,000 words per year.</td>
<td>❖ 8,000 words per year.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

❖ Scores in the 90th percentile on standardized tests.
❖ Scores in the 50th percentile on standardized tests.
❖ Scores in the 10th percentile on standardized tests.

If they start reading for 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6th grade, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 school days, and Student C will have read for 3.

(Reese and Reese, 2002)

**Want to be a better reader? Simply read.**

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**Our New Students**