



Narracan P.S. 2295
Est. 1893

Narracan Primary School Newsletter

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Principal's Report

Welcome Back!

Welcome to the start of our 2017 school year! We hope that everyone enjoyed a much needed break and had some quality family time together. All of our students have settled in really well. A very warm welcome to our new students: Sebastian, Sienna, Laedy, Locksley, Bailey and Chantelle and their families. We wish all our students another fantastic school year in 2017.

We also welcome back Marie Harris, a 4th year Pre Service teacher who will be working mainly in the Big Room. Marie will be doing a five day teaching placement later this term, as well as volunteering her time on lots of other days. I say welcome back because Marie has been a parent at our school many years ago.

I would personally like to thank everyone who has made me feel so welcome, especially Xandy and Kevin for all of the information they have given to support me settling in to the Acting Principal role. I am excited to be here and am looking forward to being part of a busy term at Narracan.

Elizabeth Acreman

Term 1 SunSmart Reminder

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

Students' hats need to be a wide brimmed or bucket hat that covers their ears and the back of their neck.



School Hours

9.15 a.m. Start

9.15 - 11.15 a.m. 1st session

Playtime 11.15 - 11.45 a.m.

2nd session

11.45 a.m. - 1.15 p.m.

Lunch 1.15 - 2.00 p.m.

3rd session 2.00 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

Finish 3.30 p.m.

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.

School Forms

Please sign and return the following attached forms:

- ◆ School Bus Users 2017
- ◆ Local Excursion 2017
- ◆ Head lice inspection form
- ◆ Media Form
- ◆ Maths and English assessment times form

Individual Student Assessments

Narracan Primary is part of the Moe Small Schools Cluster and has made a commitment to participate in Maths and English

assessments to gather information about what your child/ren know/s. All schools in the cluster are doing the same assessments. This will allow teachers to plan to best support your child's learning. The information will also be used by the cluster to allow teachers to learn from each other and to improve their teaching. **Please return the form back to school with your time preferences ASAP. We will then return the form to you with the allocated time for your child/ren. Times will be allocated on a first in basis!**

STUDENT FREE DAY

There will be a student free day this Friday 10th February as all our teaching staff will be at a Maths PD.

Bushfire Preparedness

In consideration of the upcoming 2016-17 bushfire season, Narracan Primary has been identified as being at high risk of bushfire for this season and as such is listed on the 2016-17 BARR.

Our inclusion on the 2016-17 BARR means **we will be required to close as a precautionary measure on days determined to be Code Red** by the Emergency Management Commissioner in the Bureau of Meteorology district in which we are located.

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REMINDERS

2017 TERM 1

MARC van here—Wed 8th FEB

Pupil Free Day—Fri 10th FEB
Maths P D day for teachers.

Student assessment days—Thurs
16th & Fri 17th FEB
No formal lessons.

SCHOOL PHOTOS—Mon 20th
FEB

MARC van here—Wed 22nd FEB

Whole School Athletics—Thurs
9th MARCH

Thorpdale Potato Festival—Sun
12th MARCH

Athletic Day for 9 to 12year olds—
Thurs 16th MARCH

Princess and the Pea.
Art Centre Performance— Thurs
23rd MAR

Last Day of Term 1—Fri Mar
31st

Term 2

Term 2 commences—
Tuesday 18th April

Quantum Science Excursion
Grade 4,5 & 6 ONLY—
Mon 22nd May

Art Centre Performance—Thurs
29th June

NARRACAN.P.S NEWSLETTER DATES

FRIDAY 24TH
FEBRUARY

FRIDAY 10TH
MARCH

Bus Business



Bus Monitor:
Allana & Laedy
Best on Bus:

Summer & Jack

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.

Thankyou, thankyou, thankyou

- A very big thankyou to the Fundraising committee for their outstanding effort of \$5000 raised last year.
- Thankyou to Josh, who volunteered to maintain our grounds last year. He has let us he is unable to continue in this role. His hard work will be missed.
- Thankyou to Trent and Liz Mair, Liz's dad, Kevin B and Greg (my husband) who put in the new goal posts.
- Thankyou to Jenny and Rohen for weeding the sandpit prior to the new sand arriving.
- Thankyou to our 'chook sitters'. They are all settled back in and are receiving lots of attention from the students who have missed them over the holidays.

Bushfire preparedness cont>

This will enable us to inform staff and parents with certainty about what will happen at our school on determined Code Red days.

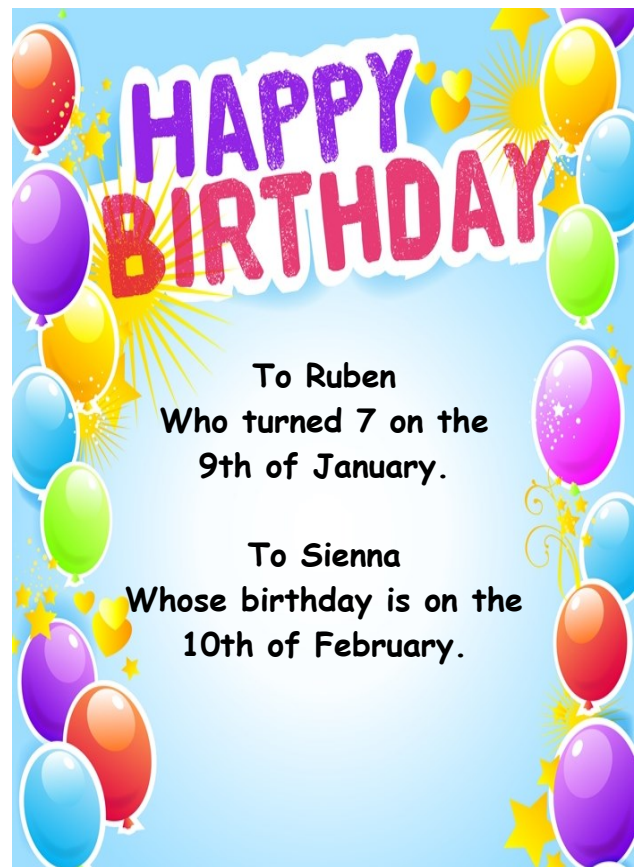
Gumnuts Playgroup

Our playgroup will resume in February 2017.
Thank-you to Hazlina who ran Gumnuts playgroup in 2016.

Family Account

Families accounts will be sent home this term. Please make regular payments to help keep up to date with your fees.
Payment can be made by direct deposit into the school account 063521 1006 2842

Birthday Corner



To Ruben
Who turned 7 on the
9th of January.

To Sienna
Whose birthday is on the
10th of February.

2017 Staffing

In 2017, Kevin and Xandy will work full time. Angela is here three days a week. Diane will be working Fridays. Norm Cottrell will take Music on Tuesdays and Brad Childs will continue with MARC on a Wednesday. Ken Grant will drive our school bus. Heather will be working in the office on Wednesdays. In Term One Kevin will be taking some well deserved Long Service Leave and Mrs. Elizabeth Acreman will be Acting Principal.

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.

Family accounts

Accounts owing will be sent home with your child/dren. We need families to keep their accounts up to date.

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.***

Newsletters

The newsletter will generally be sent home with children on Friday 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.

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.

Parent Helpers / Working with Children Checks

There is a Government requirement, for parents to work with a small group 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. 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

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.

SHADE SAILS INSTALLED

During the school holidays we have had the shade sails installed over the sandpit, pizza oven area and the playground. They look fabulous and the colour matches in with the school colours and the environment. They are a wonderful addition to keeping our students Sunsmart this term.



'EGGSCELLENT' Activity.

Our first day in the Big Room saw some 'eggscellent' team work and creativity as we worked in pairs, or group of three, to plan a safety capsule for an egg so that it could survive intact after being dropped from the highest platform in the playground! Congratulations to Allana and Laedy who came in under budget with their design; and to Eli, Odin and Kurt who successfully protected their egg 'Facetastic', whilst 'Houdini' was the lucky egg who had Shannon, Sebastian and Jack build him a very safe capsule (including a roll cage).