Welcome back to Narooma PS
As mentioned in my note home last Friday, I would like to welcome back all the families and children and I hope everyone had an excellent break over the Christmas holiday period. I would also like to welcome all of the new families to our school and hope that everyone settles in well.

Welcome Kindergarten!
It is wonderful to witness 48 new Kindergarten students start school today with all dressed in their school uniform and looking fantastic. They went into the K-Possums with Mrs Murphy, K-Billies with Mrs Constable & Miss Symons or K/1 Whales with Mr Roberts.

From all reports, they have settled in well, with all children getting stuck into the tasks set by the teachers.

Classes and Teachers for 2016
Firstly, I would like to thank the Narooma community for its understanding and acceptance of the position our school took by forming last year’s groups for the first week. We are currently on 416 students, which is only 2-3 children away from forming another class.

After applying the Department of Education and Communities (DEC) formula, we have been instructed to form 16 classes based on enrolments. These classes are:
K Possums - Mrs Murphy (AP)
K Billies – Mrs Constable/Miss Symons
K/1 Whales – Mr Roberts
1 Kookaburras – Mrs Osgood
1/2 Wallabies – Mrs Kenna
2 – Kingfishers - Mrs Jacky Murtugh (AP)
2 Pelicans - Mrs Millar
2/3 Stingrays – Miss Sarah Harding
3 Platypus - Mrs Barry
4 Turtles – Ms Thurtell
4 - Koalas – Mrs Hextell
4/5 Seahorses – Mrs Manning
5 Sharks – Mr Russack
5 Echidnas – Mrs Cross

6 Penguins – Mrs Hodge (Rel. AP)
6 Eagles – Mr George
RFF Science/Computers – Mr Millar
Support Teacher Learning – Mrs Phelps
Reading Recovery – Mrs Russack
Teacher Librarian – Mrs Constable
Curriculum Co-ordinator – Mr Stebbing (AP)
Gifted & Talented/Maths STLA – Miss Symons

Miss Russell has taken 12 months leave commencing at the beginning of the year; Mrs Jackson & Mrs Giblett have extended their leave another 12 months; Mrs Short has left the school seeking other opportunities; and Mr Thackray and Miss Rees have commenced their retirement. We wish all of them the best of luck for whatever lies ahead.

Some Changes to the Way We Do Things
Late last year the school reviewed some of our structures as a result of the improvement surveys and looking for ways to improve learning times at the school. A couple of changes to be aware of are as follows:
* A re-structure of the school day. School will continue to start and finish at the same time each day however we will be implementing our big break or lunch time first & and our small break or afternoon tea second. Research has shown that when children have had a nutritious lunch earlier in the day, this helps feed the body and brain with vitamins, minerals and allows children to stay attentive in during the important learning sessions of the day. Coupled with the fact that our Literacy and Numeracy sessions occur in the first two sessions will result in children being better engaged in essential learning tasks. Here is what our school day will look like:
Session 1 – 9:10 – 11:10 (2 hours - Literacy Block)
Eating Time 11:10-11:20 (10 minutes in class)
Lunch 11:20 - 12:00 (40 minutes)

Session 2 – 12:00-1:30 (1½ Hours - Numeracy Block)
Afternoon Tea – 1:30-1:50 (20 minutes)
Session Three – 1:50-2:55 (1 hour 5)

* Library sessions will now be during class allocated time and not considered as teacher release from face to face (RFF) teaching. This means that Mrs Constable will work with the class teacher during their allocated time slot to implement a mutually agreed program for each class.
* Music will now be offered as RFF teaching with Miss Garcia. The benefit to this system is that every child will receive one hour per week for the entire year of music instruction. This is a local decision made by our school utilising the ‘Gonski’ or RAM funds after consultation with the community.
* Gifted & Talented (G&T) programs – Also after consultation with the community as well as indicated on the improvement surveys, our school will look to offer G&T classes to children who qualify for this structure. Miss Symons has been employed also by ‘Gonski’ or RAM funds to implement this program to children working above grade expectations.
* Continue to increase in ICT – more laptops are on the way for more children to gain access to this learning tool. The school has also invested in the Reading Eggs program K-6, which will provide a wonderful resource for the children learning literacy via the avenue of technology.

School Leaders Induction Assembly.
On Thursday February 11 at 2:00pm, we will be holding our School Leader’s Induction Assembly where the School Captains and the Sports Captains and Vice Captains will be presented with their badges and make a pledge to the school.

This assembly will take place in our school hall and it will be wonderful to witness all the children’s parents/carers pinning the badge on their respective child. This will certainly
make the assembly that little bit more memorable for the children.

The School Captains are already performing their duties, for example raising the flags etc.

The Sports Captains and Vice Captains will perform their first role by leading their respective house group at this week’s swimming carnival with children participating on Tuesday and Wednesday at Narooma Pool.

Our School Leaders are:
School Captains: Sienna Anderson, Erica De Haume, Kurtis Carlson & Oscar Newton.
Corunna Sports Captains – Kanoie Holland and Jacob Sultana.
Corunna Sports Vice Captains – Shanaya Tunks and Oscar Carr.
Mummaga Sports Captains – Bayley Hordpenko & Ruben Colom-Davis.
Mummaga Sports Vice Captains – Milaina Café & Jack McNaughtrie
Nangudga Sports Captains – Sami Dawson and Will Dawson.
Nangudga Sports Vice Captains Minnie Lloyd-Bolt and Liam Mahony.
Wagonga Sports Captains – Teagan Nicholson and Byron Lonsdale-Patten.
Wagonga Sport Vice Captains Kailey Jorgensen and Joshua English.

**Our new Honour Boards**
In our school hall, the Honour Boards have been updated & are on display with the names of the students who have received these awards last year. This year’s captains are also on display.
These boards have been modified with a white background and they look fantastic! They are much clearer and easier to read. I must acknowledge and thank Mr Ross Griffiths from Warren Newton signs for having them ready for the school year’s commencement.

Paul Sweeney
Principal

**Canteen News**
Children are asked to take their lunch orders to the Canteen when they arrive at school in the morning.

**Recycled Bottle Greenhouse**
During Term 1, two students from the University of Canberra (Master of Occupational Therapy) are working with our school and the Narooma Community Garden group to construct a plastic bottle greenhouse which will be used by us for growing seedlings for our gardens. We are seeking donations of the following materials to help build the greenhouse -

* 4” x 4” - 8ft long
* 2” x 2” timber for frames
* garden canes
* hinges for door
* 4” and 3” screws for fixing posts
* fencing staples (300 approx)
* postcrete - 4 bags
* 1.25L plastic bottles - 1500 approx

We would be grateful for any contributions towards this project.

**P&C NEWS**
Successful start to the fundraising year!
Thanks to the families who donated their time to travel to Bunnings in Batemans Bay to run the fundraising BBQ for our school P&C. This is the second Bunnings BBQ we have run and I would like to acknowledge the following parents for their travel, time and effort - Jen and Anthony Sultana, Deana and Dan Efraemson, Vonni and Steve Hutcheson, Jess Loudoun, Kate and Ben Woolnough, Therese Craner, Jo Druhan, Ann Nicholson, Leanne Ovington and Gerar Niemoeller.

For those new to our school, the P&C raises funds each year to help the school to provide equipment and programs for our children. One of our main contributions is to the school’s music program. Our music program was recently publically praised by Richard Gill OAM, one of Australia’s most pre-eminent conductors, composers and music educators.

The P&C also acts as a link between the community and the school, helping our children get the best out of their primary school years.

If you would like to join us on the P&C, or as a fundraising helper, please sign up at the school office, come to a meeting (first meeting of the year is February 23), or contact me on 0404 065 028.

Even small contributions of time assist in sharing the load and we would love to hear from you. Rachael Niemoeller (Fundraising Coordinator)

**P&C Uniform Shop**
This is open Tuesdays to Fridays 9 - 9.30am and from 8.45 - 9.30am on Mondays. Please note that all orders must be paid for in advance. We accept cheques payable to Narooma P.S. P&C or you can use the school’s online payment system (Google Narooma Public School home, click on online payment, under payment options select Other, under payment option 1 enter P&C Uniform Shop).

**Online Payments**
Find us by Googling Narooma Public School home. If you wish to make an online payment for any activity, click on Our school in top banner, then Online Payments (bottom item of lefthand menu) and follow the instructions from there.

**Narooma High School Robotics Workshop**
In conjunction with Robotics in the Outback (Macquarie University and FIRST), NHS is hosting an EV3 Robotics workshop this Saturday, Feb 6 from 9am to 12pm at Narooma High School SC3. There are 20 places available for primary students in Years 4–6. Cost is $25.00 with all funds raised going to the robotics program at Narooma High School. Please contact Gayle Allison at NHS for further information – 44 764377, ext 121.

**Narooma Redbacks Soccer**
Registrations for the 2016 are now open! Register online at www.myfootballclub.com.au or come along to our club registration morning, Saturday, February 20, 10am-12pm under the dome at Narooma Plaza.

For more information contact Nicky on 44 764180 (9am-4.30pm Mon, Wed, Fri) or email nicky@naroomaplaza.com.au

Register by February 29 for a free pair of club socks!

**ESC Chess Club**
Community Centre, Batemans Bay Weekly – 2/2 to 22/3.
Games for all ages and abilities. Free.

Bookings essential – Ph 44 747442

**Bodalla Soccer Registrations Open**
Please register online at myfootballclub.com.au ASAP.