



# Naracoorte South Primary School

31st March, 2022

## Principal's Report



### Working Bee

Thank you to all the families and staff that volunteered their time at our working bee on Sunday morning. We were overwhelmed with the amount of support we had, our grounds are now looking amazing for sports day. A big thank you to our Special Projects committee who organised this working bee, especially James Heffernan for organising the mulch and Damien Crossling for bringing up his JCB Loadall to move it. Our Special

Projects committee looks forward to providing our students with more spaces that entice them to

be curious, explore, play, learn and connect. We have some exciting things happening around our grounds this year, stay tuned!



### New Students

This week we welcomed the Frost family. A big warm welcome to Hugo in Room 7 and Oli in Room 12. We hope you enjoy your time here at NSPS.

### Michelle DeGaris Kindergarten News

As you may or may not be aware, Geraldine Mathieson at Michelle DeGaris Kindergarten has announced her retirement earlier this week. Her last day as director will be the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022, after 40 years with the department. We wish Gerry all the best for her new and well-earned chapter. Gerry has had such a positive impact on a number of our students over those years, including some of our teachers who she taught. We will always remember Gerry's enthusiasm, passion and dedication for every child. She went above and beyond for each and every family and treated them as if they were her own.

I asked some students in our school from Reception – Year 6 to describe Gerry in one word and this is what they said:

Levi Westcott - fun, Lulu Burns - watchful, Eli Williams - amazing, Pippa Angel - helpful, Ethan Cother - caring, Angus Jones - good teacher, Hilary Schinckel - thoughtful, Eliza Norcock - kind, Silas Osborne - grateful, Patrick Clark - respectful, Charlotte Davis - kind, Lucia Marcus - loud, Mahli Donaldson - beautiful, Will Maney - happy, Harry Ham - nice, Jacinta Williams - generous, Alexander Renshaw - Nice, Elias Muhammadi - Fun, Liam Doyle - Warm hearted, Azmat Ali - Considerate



**Resilience**  
**Opportunity**  
**Responsibility**  
**Pride**

### Important Diary Dates

Friday 1st April - Sports Day

4th - 6th April - Parent - Student - Teacher Conferences

Wednesday 13th April - Year 3 Excursion

As you can see these children all vividly remember Gerry and the impact she had during their time at Kindy. Gerry will always be a part of our community, and we look forward to lots of visits in the future.

Congratulations Gerry!

**Room 5 Staffing Update**

As we congratulate Gerry on her retirement, we sadly say goodbye to one of our own teachers who will be taking on the full time teacher role at Michelle DeGaris. At the end of the Term we farewell Tracy Ebert, our Year 1/2 teacher in Room 5 until the rest of the year. It has been a career dream for Tracy to take on a Kindergarten role and we wish her all the best in her new adventure – our loss is definitely the Kindergartens’ gain! Next term we will welcome Ash Anderson to our staff, who will be working in room 5 on Monday and Tuesdays and Chelsea Galpin will continue Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Ash has just moved to Naracoorte from QLD, with a background in Special Education. She has been undertaking relief work this term at our site and has already built strong relationships with our students. Ash comes with a wealth of knowledge and a range of skills and we are excited for her to join our team.

**Sports Day**

I would like to wish all of our students the best of luck for sports day tomorrow. Sadly due to COVID, I will be unable to attend. Sports Day is not about winning or losing, it’s about trying your best and giving everything a go, whilst encouraging everyone around you. Remember even if you don’t win, if you have attempted an event you will still get a house point for your team. That 1 point could be the overall winning point that your house colour needs to win the shield. The most important thing to remember is have fun and keep on smiling.

Jess



**SCHOOL FEES**

Just a reminder to those families who are paying your school fees by instalment.

Your next payment of \$100/child is due by the end of term 1.

Payments can be made by cash, cheque, EFTPOS or direct credit to the school’s bank account.

NSPS account is:

BSB: 105-043

ACCOUNT NO: 185337240

Please do not hesitate to contact the school at any time if you have any problems with payments, as we are willing to negotiate and help wherever we can.

Cheryl Kramm  
Business Manager

**Crossing Roster**

*Week 10*

Ashlan Bell  
Trisha Alvarez  
Steph Martens

*Week 11*

Stella Morros  
Alexis Flint  
Vea Peciller

**PCW Forms**

A reminder if you have not returned the Pastoral Care Worker's Permission Slip, could you please do so ASAP. If you have miss placed it you can get a replacement from the school office.



**Harmony Day**



It is Sports Day Week! How exciting! Sports Day is always one of my favourite days of the year © It is a day that we all come together as a school community and celebrate the efforts and successes of all. The forecast is amazing and I am so pleased we are able to hold this wonderful day! Just a few housekeeping notes to ensure we can run a fabulous day safely for all:

- You will need a mask when indoors (entering toilets/office)
- Please keep socially distanced when outdoors
- Students/families are unable to attend if they have any COVID symptoms
- Please use good hygiene practices (wash hands/sanitise)

Thanks to all the people who have volunteered to help us out tomorrow. I really appreciate you giving up some of your time to assist us. We are fortunate enough to be able to have a BBQ, drinks and cakes van and a canteen service running on the day – none of these are possible without volunteers. So as you are purchasing goodies tomorrow, please thank our wonderful helpers!

I am looking forward to seeing you all there! For those of you unable to come along, please make sure you keep an eye on SeeSaw and Facebook for many action photos!

We still have spots in the novelty relay if anyone is interested!

### Conferences

Next week we are holding Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences. You should have received a letter/proforma home with each of your children. If you did not receive one, please call the school and we will book you in for a conference. If you are isolating or have any COVID symptoms, please contact your children's teacher/s and discuss an alternative arrangement. We are able to arrange online TEAMS meetings or phone calls in this instance.

### KIC

Our KIC exec group would like to share with you the positives that came out of our first R-6 KIC meeting. This is from our Whole School Agenda item "What have been your favourite things for this term" which was discussed in all classes and then shared at our meeting:

- ◆ Being with our friends,
- ◆ PE/Indo, Sizzling starts,
- ◆ The playground,
- ◆ maths,
- ◆ spelling,
- ◆ playing in the gym,
- ◆ having our class back together

### NAPLAN Online

Last week we held the National Coordinated Practice Test (CPT). This test is designed to test how well the system runs nationally, as opposed to collecting results. This gives us the added bonus of being able to allow our students to experience what a NAPLAN online test would look like.

Teachers will be showing year 3 and 5 students the NAPLAN Public Demonstration Site to assist them to feel more familiar with the platform.

If you or your children would like to access this at home, you can go to:

[www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site](http://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site). Some-

times children experience a little anxiety or unease about NAPLAN and the

ability to familiarise themselves with the platform before the testing dates can help alleviate some of their concerns. Talking to your children about their feelings and helping them to understand that NAPLAN is a snapshot of their learning, as opposed to a "test score" will also help. The way teachers speak about NAPLAN at school is being an opportunity to find out where a student is at and what they need to learn next. If you have any questions, please feel welcome to contact me at the school.

NAPLAN begins on the 10<sup>th</sup> May in Term 2.

### Loose Parts Play

We like to give students at NSPS lots of different learning opportunities and experiences. On Monday and Wednesday lunchtimes, we get out our "Loose Parts" for children to design and build with. Last week Owen and Cooper built these very intricate thrones! Check out some of their efforts ☺



I hope you have a wonderful fortnight – stay safe!

☺ Kym

### RRHAN training for Volunteers

If you are planning to volunteer to help at School in any regular capacity, but you were not able to join us for the mandatory RRHAN-EC training which I ran last week, don't despair! Simply contact me at the School and I will be in touch to organise a time to assist you. The "Fundamentals" course takes up to two hours and equips participants with the knowledge and tools to deal with and identify situations where they believe a child or young person to be unsafe.

### Brekky Club volunteers set to return next term

It is time to ask for more kind volunteers to help us to run Brekky Club each morning. Whilst we have a couple of parents who are keen to continue this important role next term, others have needed to hang up their angel-wings due to other commitments.



What does it involve? I hear you ask.

Well, each day a volunteer comes to the School Hall just before 8:00am to get the cereals, spreads, fruit and the all-important Milo out on the servery, and then starts making toast for the hungry students who begin arriving between 8:00-8:30am. There is some cheery chat and lots of eating, after which the students pop their dishes into the dishwasher and head off to get themselves organised for the day ahead. The volunteer then packs away and wipes down the surfaces. All food is kindly provided by our friends at the Mount Gambier Foodbank.

Some of our volunteers come in one day a week, or once a fortnight. Alternatively, those who are interested in helping but cannot commit to a regular timeslot will be put on our "standby" list. Our volunteers report that they enjoy helping in such a practical way to set students up for a successful day of learning. Also, there is something warm and comforting about the smell of toast and the sound of chat in the morning! I would love to hear from you if you would like further information about Brekky Club.

### Harmony Day

I was so proud of our 4 Youth Mental Health Ambassadors who capably planned, organised and ran our first Whole School assembly (outside, of course!) for our Harmony Day celebrations last Friday. There will be more



photos and information in the next newsletter, but in the meantime I congratulate Dannielle, Izzy, Nayab and Sydney for a top effort. Liz from the Naracoorte Herald was also in attendance, so keep an eye out for the next edition!

Also, the Naracoorte Community Wish Festival is set to go ahead next Friday April 1<sup>st</sup> (after Sports Day!) from 5:30pm at the Swimming Lake. There will be the usual food tastings, lanterns and music. In addition there will be a very special performance by renowned acrobatic troupe "Gravity and Other Myths". Keep an eye out for our Hand-shaped Harmony Day posters which will be adorning the lake fence. See the poster in this newsletter or the Naracoorte Lucindale Council Facebook page for further information about this fun event.

### Wellbeing and Engagement Collection Survey

Yes, it is that time of the year when students from Years 3-6 participate in an online survey which measures wellbeing levels within our year level cohorts, within the school across the state. The data generated can help to highlight trends at these different levels, enabling us to understand and address any areas which could be improved. Individual students are not identifiable through this data collection but they are invited to flag any concerns at the end of the survey for follow up. More information can be found on the enclosed letter.

### Sports Day

Excitement is at fever-pitch in anticipation of tomorrow's Sports Day, after all of the practices and the running of the 800m today! I look forward to seeing our families and friends joining us for a day of fun, effort and team spirit.



*Cathie Biggins*  
Wellbeing Leader

### De-Stressing Children

Life is becoming more and more stressful, and children are increasingly suffering the effects of our stressful society. Here are some tips to help your child de-stress.

- Try not to pressurise your child into taking on too many extra activities.
- Make sure they don't feel the pressure of having to achieve well in school.
- Give your child plenty of praise so allowing their confidence to develop.
- Allow your child to have some time to chill out in between activities.
- If the family is going through a crisis, make sure you explain to your child what is happening so giving some reassurance.
- Exercise in the open air is a great de-stresser for children. No matter what the weather, try and get out for a few moments of fun.
- Slow down as much as you can ... children are deeply affected by the stresses and strains of adults around them.
- Try not to yell at your child. Children will follow your example.
- Find some time to practise some breathing and relaxation techniques with your child. (Adapted from [www.netmums.com/child/de-stress-your-kids](http://www.netmums.com/child/de-stress-your-kids)).

*John Stayte*

*Pastoral Care Worker*



### Easter Raffle

The office is certainly looking amazing with all the Easter eggs. If you have donated, thank you very much. If you have not, there is still plenty of time. Raffle tickets need to be returned by Monday 11th April, even if you have not sold them. If you would like another book please see the office staff.

Ginny Harvie  
Fundraising Committee

### Happy Birthday to ....

Bailey Holly who was 5, Zara Secker who was 6 & Chi Tang who was 10 on 20th March  
Raphy Sopha who was 11 on 22nd March  
Tyler Polkinghorne who was 6 & Austin Rishworth who was 7 on 23rd March  
Ethan Cother who was 7 on 24th March  
Ruby Riley-Puddick who was 11 on 26th March  
Roley Mark who was 5 on 27th March  
Evie Cherington who was 5 on 28th March



# Basketball with Matho

Winnie - I like playing basketball



Elias - Basketball is exciting

Jun - Like to shoot goals

Earlier this term Room 13 had 4 basketball sessions with Matho. We were very lucky to have someone so experienced who was recently awarded Life Membership with SA Country Basketball to teach us some new skills. The students enjoyed each session and learnt a lot!



Basty - It was fun



Eddie - I liked playing number basketball



Claire - We did a basketball obstacle course



Nate - I liked the team shooting games

Patrick - I liked how we practised shooting at the start of the lessons

Daniel - I liked when we had to tap balls out of each other's hands

Asha - I liked playing the games

Lincoln - Mini matches were fun

Spencer F - I practised dribbling the ball



Jona - I liked how basketball is a team sport



Charlie - I learnt more basketball skills



Aria - I love how we did different games



## Life Matters School Ministry Group What If?

This week Life Matters presented the Easter Story, to rooms 2,4,5,7 and 8.

Using games, video clips, they told the story of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. - the Son of God.

They challenged the students with the question What If? For example:

- What If, when you think you can't do something, you kept trying?
- What if someone is sad, you tried to help them? What if someone is alone at recess or lunch, what would you do?

If you asked students what they learnt, I think that they would say, they learnt about Jesus, and keep trying, and help each other.

**John Stayte**  
Pastoral Care Worker



## Community News

### MATHOONCOURT P/L

Matho's Basketball

4/5 to 7 year olds basketball training/games

Starts **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May**

Runs for all of term 2

Cost \$5.00 per night per player

From 4.15pm to 5.15pm

At the Naracoorte Basketball Stadium

All welcome

Just a lot of fun and learning along the way.

Please email [mathooncourt@bigpond.com](mailto:mathooncourt@bigpond.com)

Ph. 0417-855-247 or turn up on the night and see

Helen Garrigan at the desk.

**This program will run in School Term 3 as well depending on numbers.**

**HARMONY DAY**

2022 WISH FESTIVAL  
Naracoorte  
Swimming Lake  
Friday 1st April  
from 5.30pm

- Multicultural food offerings
- Teys BBQ
- Performance by Gravity & Other Myths
- Float your wish candle on the lake

## Taste Unplugged

Saturday, April 2nd, 2022 in the Naracoorte Soundshell

### PROGRAMME

**12:00pm – 12:45pm George the Farmer**

Kicking off the festival is George the Farmer who have been educating kids about where food comes from with music and fun for many years.

**12:45pm – 2:00pm Jason and Christie Wallace**

Jason and Christie are a very professional duet from Mt Gambier with a strong following all over the SE and beyond. They are very experienced musicians with a wide range in their repertoire.

**2:05pm – 2:25pm Mosquito Plains Strummers**

A local group of enthusiastic ukulele players who play a fun mix of classic songs.

**2:30pm – 3:00pm Poppy Moyle Read**

Poppy is a talented young local singer and songwriter who has played several events in Naracoorte recently.

**3:05pm – 3:35pm Willowism**

Michael "Willowism" Wilson has been playing solo and in bands in Naracoorte and Mt Gambier for over 25 years. He brings a unique style to his performances.

**3:40pm – 4:20pm Candy Watts**

Candy is a very talented acoustic solo artist based in Naracoorte with a captivating voice and range of covers/original compositions.

**4:30pm – 6:00pm Unruly Mob**

Lead singer Brett Roach has been an active performer in the South East for more than 30 years. Unruly Mob is a tight, very professional, hard rock, rock and blues act that are unplugging for the first time to bring an acoustic set to the Soundshell to headline the festival.

**FREE COMMUNITY EVENT**



Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and sign up for Seesaw app to get all the up-to-date information.



# Term 1, 2022

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
31/1 <b>Wk 1</b>	1/2	2/2 Rec-Yr 2 Commence school Yr 3-6 Online learning	3/2	4/2
7/2 <b>Wk 2</b>	8/2	9/2	10/2	11/2
14/2 <b>Wk 3</b> Yr 3-6 return to school	15/2 Canteen Opens	16/2 Rms 12, 13, 14 16 & 19 Basketball with Matho	17/2 Newsletter	18/2
21/2 <b>Wk 4</b> 7.00pm Governing Council meeting	22/2	23/2 Rms 12, 13, 14 16 & 9 Basketball with Matho	24/2	25/2
28/2 <b>Wk 5</b>	1/3	2/3 Rms 12, 13, 14 16 & 19 Basketball with Matho	3/3 Newsletter	4/3 Schools Clean up Day
7/3 <b>Wk 6</b> 6.30pm Governing Council AGM - <b>All Welcome</b>	8/3 YELP @ Caves Meet the Teachers	9/3 Rms 12, 13, 14 16 & 19 Basketball with Matho Meet the Teachers	10/3	11/3 Student Free Day
14/3 <b>Wk 7</b> Adelaide Cup Public Holiday	15/3	16/3 Rms 2, 4, 5, 7, 8 Basketball with Matho	17/3 Newsletter	18/3 School Closure for Lucindale Field Day Fundraising @ Field Days National day of Action against Bullying
21/3 <b>Wk 8</b> 11.30am RRHAN training SAPSASA Swimming trials	22/3 National Ride 2 School Day	23/3 Rms 2, 4, 5, 7, 8 Basketball with Matho	24/3 11.00am NAPLAN practice 5.30pm RRHAN training	25/3 Harmony Day
28/3 <b>Wk 9</b>	29/3 BMX Bike Show	30/3 Rms 2, 4, 5, 7, 8 Basketball with Matho 2pm Easter Presentation SAPSASA 5/6 AFL Trials	31/3 Newsletter	1/4 Sports Day 3/4/22 Daylight Savings finish
4/4 <b>Wk 10</b>	5/4	6/4 Rms 2, 4, 5, 7, 8 Basketball with Matho SAPSASA 5/6 AFL Trials	7/4	8/4 Sports Day Backup
11/4 <b>Wk 11</b> 9.15am Awards Assembly	12/4	13/4 Year 3 Excursion	14/4 Newsletter 2.15pm Dismissal	15/4 Good Friday