Show Day and Talent Quest

Show Day, once again, was fantastic despite the weather. A big thank you to the staff and students we have at Narre Warren North for all their organisation and work to make this year’s Show Day another great success. In particular thank you to the Show Day committee, led by Mr. Wight, for their organisation behind the scenes.

Thank you also to our talented Art teacher, Mrs. Requin and our teachers and students for once again creating the wonderful work for the Art Show that was on display in the Senior School.

Much of what happens at our school cannot occur without our wonderful parent community and the volunteers who always assist us. Thank you to all the parents who assisted in setting up, worked at the stalls, made donations and assisted with the clean up afterwards. An extra special thank you to the Parents’ and Friends’ Club, for your preparation, planning and assistance on the day to support this annual event.

Congratulations to our students who performed in the Talent Quest and to Mr. Brown for facilitation of this event.

Student Leadership

Yesterday our School Captains and Vice School Captains attended the special Remembrance Day Service at Ackland Park in Narre Warren North to celebrate 100 years. We were very proud of the captains when they confidently presented their speech.

Composite grades

Due to the number of students in particular cohorts, every year we have some composite grades in our school. A common topic of discussion every year among parents is whether composite grades, in which children from different year levels are taught by one teacher, are beneficial or detrimental to students’ education. In today’s newsletter I have written an article about composite grades for your interest. This article is based on research and experiences of current teachers at Narre Warren North who have taught composite grades.

Connie vanderVoort, Principal.

Homework

Homework can be a chore for many families, whilst for others children enjoy the opportunity to continue their learning at home. Recently there has been a large amount of media coverage arguing that in primary school there are no known proven academic benefits of homework.

At Narre Warren North Primary School we are very much interested in the development of the whole child. Giving students the time and opportunity to play at home, join sporting clubs and interact with their family are all crucial in the development of happy and content children.
As we continue to improve our practice as a school, and in including the values and beliefs of our community, we would like to gather some information about your opinion of homework and how it is structured at Narre Warren North Primary School.

Please take 2 minutes to complete the survey found at [https://goo.gl/jgtmRj](https://goo.gl/jgtmRj)

If you require a paper copy please contact the office.

Your opinions will be used to help form our approach to homework in the future.

Adam Wight, Assistant Principal

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**Our School’s Values**

This year we have conducted a review on our school’s values. Staff, students and parents were surveyed as to what values they saw as important and what behaviours they thought best represented the Narre North way.

All the data from the different groups was collated and the following values stood out as being the most important to the Narre Warren North community and will form our new value system.

- Resilience
- Honesty
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Persistence

Thank you very much to everyone for your contribution to the review and we look forward to exploring and promoting these values in the future.

Raina Rydberg, Student Wellbeing Coordinator.

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**Parents’ and Friends’ Club News**

**Show Day**

Thank you to everyone who helped out on Show Day with the barbecue, hot food, drinks, ice creams and icy poles. Your time and dedication is greatly appreciated.

**Icy Poles**

Icy Poles are for sale on Wednesdays for $1.00.

**Car Show**

Don’t forget about our Car Show on the Saturday, 21st November at Akoonah Park, Berwick. Car Show helpers are required, notice sent out earlier this week.

Also we need people to distribute flyers to advertise our Car Show. Maps and flyers are available from our school office.

Jackie Heib – President

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**Maths Trivia Night**

Thank you to the families that came along to our first ever Maths Trivia Night. It was great to see families working together and having fun with Maths, whilst learning at the same time! Families participated in maths games, answering questions, completing tangrams and making nets of 3D shapes.

Congratulations to the Requin family who took the honours on the night, followed closely by the Phillips family finishing in 2nd place and the Harry/Weinstein family finishing in 3rd place.

I would also like to thank Ms Vandervoort, Mr Wight, Miss Mutschler, Miss Connell, Miss Coon, Mr Macgraw and Miss Rydberg for their contribution and time to making it a successful and fun night!!

Jenny Davies, Maths Coordinator

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**Camp Australia raises $64,600 to support The Smith Family.**

Primary school children throughout Australia have combined to raise over $64,600 to support The Smith Family’s Learning for Life program.

Throughout Term 3, we held art and craft exhibitions, guessing games and ‘Minute to win it’ games. The Camp Australia Foundation, our not for profit organisation, coordinated this fundraiser and proudly matched every dollar raised.

During the next 10 years, the Camp Australia Foundation aims to positively impact the primary school education of 1 million children. We will do this by working with our charity partners to develop exclusive awareness raising programs and by providing direct support to disadvantaged children throughout Australia and internationally.

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**Narre Warren North Tennis Club**

**Car Boot Sale – Sunday, 29th November**

9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

$20 per site – to book a site please contact Anne Nunan on 0418 590 307 by 25th November.

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**Show Day – Thank You**

Special thank you to the following companies and organisations for providing free activities on Show Day:

- Ultimate Games
- Bunnings
- Masters
- Narre Warren Nth Scout Group
- & Camp Australia
Speech made by School Captains at the Narre Warren North Remembrance Day Service

Remembrance Day is a time when we take a minute on the 11th of November at 11am, the exact time and date when World War One ended. We commemorate all the people that died in war and a symbol we use for that is a red poppy.

Remembrance Day has been known under many different names such as Poppy day and Armistice. It was named this until the end of the Second World War when the British and Australian governments officially renamed it Remembrance Day. This year, 2015, marks the 97th Anniversary of Remembrance Day and we think that it’s amazing that we have been commemorating for so long.

Remembrance, commemoration, memory, reminiscence and recognition. There is one thing that all of these words have in common that is related to Remembrance Day - we should be doing all of them to help us respect the brave warriors who fought in the war.

Remembrance Day may be an essential time to remember all those who fought for their countries and died, but it is also a time to honour the people close to the soldiers who fought and all of the other people involved in the war who were dedicated to serving their countries and countries’ allies. It is a time to imagine how devastating all the tragedies involved with the war must have been and to be grateful that we are not part of a war at this moment in time. This day should be used to think about and consider if we are using the gifts of freedom and rights that were fought for so hard to be given to us. Our country is lucky to have all of these wonderful things and sometimes we need to contemplate whether or not we are being thankful enough for these privileges.

We hope that we can keep commemorating the amazing accomplishments of all the brave men that fought in all wars for our peace. They shall always be remembered and thought of on this special day.
Composite and straight grades

A common topic of discussion every year among parents is whether composite grades, in which children from different year levels are taught by one teacher, are beneficial or detrimental to students' education.

Research tells us that quality teaching and learning is the key to a successful learning environment in any classroom, regardless of the age or year level of the students involved. It suggests that:

- There is no evidence to support the assumption that student learning may be hindered in composite classes.
- Effective teachers concentrate more on what children can do, rather than what they can’t do, regardless of the composition of the class.

In schools, year levels only indicate the length of time that a student has spent at school. They do not indicate the level of skills, knowledge and understandings. Every child is an individual and, in their everyday lives, they interact with people of all ages, enriching their lives and developing relationships. Multi-age grouping through composite grades or teams working together is a natural extension of this into the classroom environment.

At Narre Warren North Primary School, in planning for any class, whether single year level or composite, teachers take into consideration the strengths, prior knowledge and needs of every student relative to the learning they are planning to introduce. They use this as a starting point to design the learning and work from where each child is currently at. In any class there will be learning happening as a whole class, in small groups and as individuals. At our school students also regularly work in teams – Prep Team, 1/2 Team, 3/4 Team and 5/6 Team and participate in streaming across their team.

We believe that every grade is a composite class as our students all work at a different level within their grade. The new Victorian Curriculum recognises that students’ progress at different rates and is now structured around ‘levels’ not ages or grades. That is, not all children in a single-age class are working at the same level and there isn't such a thing as a separate Grade 1 or Grade 2 curriculum any longer. For example, even in a typical Grade 1, you will have some children who are just beginning to read independently while others might be reading at a Grade 2 level or higher. Teachers teach to individual needs whether the children are in composites or in straight grades. Our school’s Inquiry program is based on a two year cycle, except for Preps. This means that if a student is in a Grade 1, Grade 2, or a Grade 1/2 composite, they will all learn the same concepts.

Teachers at Narre Warren North PS who have had a composite grade have stated that the students work across the level not at a specific grade level and that they work on individual goals.

Christine Ure, an associate professor in the faculty of education at Melbourne University, states ‘Any classroom is a composite of some form’. She says, ‘Even within a single-age class you typically have a minimum age difference of 16 months’. She also says that ‘Good teaching isn’t determined by whether a class is a composite or not. Good teaching is determined by the classroom dynamics and whether the individual needs are met.’

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