Welcome to Week 4 of Term 4. Welcome back Virginia! Virginia teaches Gumbaynggirr Language across all grades at our school. She has been away for a few weeks and I am sure that the kids will be excited to have her back!

Lots of excited, if not somewhat nervous, Stage 2 students this week as we prepare to head off on our Brisbane expedition. All but a couple of students are taking on the challenge of spending 2 nights away from home and we are looking forward to an exciting and engaging experience. We will be rock climbing, visiting several museums, exploring South Bank and hopefully cruising the Brisbane River on a river cat. The goal of all of our excursions is to bring the curriculum to life and expose our students to life outside of Nambucca Heads. We leave from school at 7:00am on Wednesday morning and will return at about 3:00pm on Friday. Stage 2 teachers have been working overtime to organise this very special event and I am sure that we will all have some wonderful stories to share upon our return. Any students not attending will be placed in other classes for the 3 days.

Whilst I am away we have 3 executive on deck who will be able to help out with any issues that may arise. Mrs Leahy will handle any Stage 3 enquiries, Mrs Beauchamp will handle any Infants’ enquiries and Miss Baker will handle all special education enquiries. If you need my support with anything then please contact the school and leave a message. I will be in constant contact with the office.

After a great presentation by Mrs Parkins and Mrs Bekis, our school is embarking on a technology upgrade that will impact considerably in all classrooms. In line with our School Plan we are aiming to be at the cutting edge of technology in regards to the way in which the curriculum and learning experiences are presented to our students. Each teacher/classroom will be provided with an iPad that will be linked closely to all activities in the classroom. The variety of apps out there and the engaging and exciting nature of these devices will make them a great asset in the education of your child. We are also trialling devices that will allow all iPad activities to bluetooth directly to interactive white boards in the classroom. Later this term we will be taking delivery of a further 9 laptops and early next year we will be installing another 3 interactive boards into 3 more classrooms. We already have 3 of these devices in the school.

Technology develops at an incredible rate and it is our goal to have our students and staff up to date in all aspects of educational applications. Our wider school community can also use these technologies to bring the classroom into the home, make homework less of a chore and engage your children in teaching and learning activities that are fun and inspiring. Mathletics and Spellodrome are already up and running. Should you be interested in finding out how technology can be adapted to the home learning environment then please contact your classroom teacher, Mrs Parkins or myself.

Our School Plan clearly identifies 3 strategic directions; engagement, community and potential. The use of technology engages students, can closely link home and school and when used carefully can unlock the potential in each and every one of our students. Exciting times lay ahead! Mrs Parkins is always keen to run technology information sessions for parents and carers. Please feel free to give me a ring, pop in or send in a note in or email requesting any technology support or information that you feel will help you to help your child at home.
Our Library is not immune to the advancements in technology and will undergo the implementation of a new system over the coming weeks and into 2016. The new system is called “Oliver” and will revolutionise the way in which libraries operate. Mrs Coulter has been very busy learning about the new system and how it will improve student access to information in the library. We will be sure to keep you updated as the new system begins to take shape in our school.

I will be surveying our teachers next week on their homework and homereader return rates. This is a simple and effective way for parents and carers to make a huge difference in the learning of their child. Homework and homereaders are specifically targeted at the area of need for your child. They are at a practice level, not an instructional level and as such should be easy for your child to complete. We set both compulsory (about 20 minutes worth a week) and optional homework in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy. If your child completes this work on a weekly basis it WILL make a difference to their progress. Not only that, but it will show them that you as their parent or carer value education and the opportunities that it can bring for your child. This in itself is a massive influence on how your child will engage in learning opportunities which in turn decides their rate of progress. When you add in the options of Mathletics and Spelloidrome, then our homes have a real role to play in ensuring that each and every one of our students reaches their full potential in all areas of their development. I would be very interested in any feedback from parents and carers in regards to our homework/homereader programs. A written note, quick phone call, meeting or email would be very much appreciated. (todd.potter@det.nsw.edu.au)

Thank you so much to all of the parents and carers who took the time to complete our school’s ‘Tell Them From Me’ Survey, the results of which will drive our School Plan and strategic directions into 2016 and beyond.

I had the absolute pleasure of attending the “Back to the 80’s” performance by Nambucca Heads High School students on Friday. Our Stage 2 and Stage 3 students were entertained throughout the show and had an awesome time. The high school students were incredible and the talent on show astounding. The performance will be continuing throughout the week so if you have the time be sure to go along and check it out. It is absolutely wonderful!

We welcomed our Kindy 2016 students on Friday. We had about 13 students attend our first Kickstart session with Mrs Daley, Mrs Beauchamp and Mrs Lanesbury. Hopefully this number will increase next week as we need 26 students to run our 2 small kindergarten classes next year. The kids had a great time and the teachers reported that they are very excited for next year already.

Our infant’s teachers and our local preschool teachers have all had the opportunity to attend training by the Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation team and I am sure that will stand us in good stead for years to come. Preschools now have a much clearer idea of just what they can do to fully prepare your child for their first year of “Big School” and as we work together on developing a variety of skills in our preschool students I am sure that students will be even more prepared to learn and be their very best from the very first day of Kindergarten. Please be sure to let any other families know about our Kick Start transition program. All kindergarten 2016 students are welcome.

Due to wet weather we had to postpone our Bush Fire Drill on Thursday. It was held yesterday.

Today was our first Year 6 Mini Fete Garage Sale and students had the opportunity to purchase left over fete goodies. This is completely optional but should you wish for your child to participate in future sales then please send them in with some spending money. The mini fete was a resounding success and the garage sale will be a nice way to finish off this wonderful Year 6 fundraising initiative.

You know that the end of the year is fast approaching when we begin to work on Year 5 Captain/Prefect speeches for 2016. I spoke to our future leaders today on what makes a great school leader. We only have 3 positions and if this year is anything to go by our Year 6 is full of leaders without a badge. However, the formal leadership selection process is an important one as we allow our school seniors to really impact on the development of our school culture and expectations. Jonah, Zara, Jerrai and Jamison did a wonderful job this year and I am sure that 2016 will throw up another set of great role models and peer leaders.
All Year 5 students are expected to make a speech. Should your child be stressing about the activity in any way then please contact me immediately. We have lots of support structures in place for our students and we do realise that this is quite a confronting and intimidating exercise. However, the fact that something is hard and scary is not enough for us to choose to avoid it. There are many difficult events thrown at us throughout life and as we conquer our fears and take on challenges we begin to realise that with the support of those around us we can do ANYTHING! This activity is not about being elected. It is about striving to be your best and taking on new challenges no matter how daunting they may be. I would ask that you encourage your child to have a go, even if they are very nervous about the activity. Please let us know if they are struggling as we will spend all the time that they need to support them through the process.

Have a great week.

Todd.

Selective High Schools

Parents of students who will be going into high school in 2017 are invited to apply for enrolment in selective high schools throughout the state. The nearest to us are in Grafton or Armidale.

Please contact Dorothy Leahy should you have any questions.

Book Club

Please ensure your orders for Issue 7 are in to the Front Office by tomorrow (Wednesday).
**P&C Fundraiser Calendar**

It’s getting close to that time of year again for our calendars. Photos have been increasingly popular choices for the calendars, so start getting your ideas now. If you still wish for your child’s drawings on the calendar this year, then special paper will be available from the Front Office. All pictures must be drawn on the special paper. Come and see our display in the Front Office for great, cheap gift ideas. Order forms will be sent out in Term 4. For more info go to [www.crazycamel.com](http://www.crazycamel.com)

Artwork is due on Friday 13th November.

**Community News**

**Skate demos, competitions and learn to skate at Macksville Park Fun and Fitness Official Opening and Nambucca River Festival**

Everyone’s invited to join in the fun when Macksville Park Fun and Fitness is officially opened with special skate demos and competitions at Macksville Skate Park on Saturday 28 November.

The event begins at 9.30am at the skate park, with pro skaters showing off their moves. Bring your own skateboard or scooter to have a go in the competitions or get a free lesson throughout the morning. The events are suitable for kids of all ages.

Nambucca Shire Council and the NSW government have funded the skate park and other works in Macksville Park, including lighting for the touch football fields, a community recreation room at the Macksville Memorial Aquatic Centre and fitness trails throughout the park. For more information closer to the day, see Council’s website at [www.nambucca.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nambucca.nsw.gov.au)

In the late morning, the Nambucca River Festival kicks off with events on the Nambucca River and on the fore-shore. Music, food, and festivities will continue throughout the weekend. For more information on the Festival, go to [www.nambuccariverfestival.com.au](http://www.nambuccariverfestival.com.au)

**Its on again….The 33rd Annual Falcon GT Combined Car Club Cruise**

Saturday 31st October 2015
Cars on display from 9am – 12 pm at Nambucca Heads RSL