



# Nathalia Primary School

*'Learning for Life'*

*Holders of Nathalia's educational history since 1878*

[www.nathaliaps.vic.edu.au](http://www.nathaliaps.vic.edu.au)

Telephone: 03 58662677

Principal: Vicki McManus

December 4th, 2014

## REMINDERS

### 2015 Foundation Transition -

Thursday, December 4th- 9.15am - 2.20pm

Tuesday, December 9th - 8.50am - 3.20pm

### Grade 2 Sleepover - Thursday, December 5th

### Grade Prep - 3 - Environment Day -

Friday, December 6th

### Tucker Day - Paddle Pops - Monday, December 8th

### P/1/2/3 - Water Safety -

Thursday, December 11th, 2.00 -

3.00pm

Friday, December 12th, 2.00 - 3.00pm

### Grade 6 Graduation - Monday, December 15th, 7.00pm

### Last Canteen Day - Tuesday, December 16th

### Whole School Pool Day - Thursday, December 18th

Term Four 2014 concludes - Friday, December 19th  
at 2.30pm

### Term 1, 2015 - Teachers commence -

Wednesday , January 28th

### Students commence -

Thursday, January 29th



## STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Week Ending  
28.11.2014

P/W	River
BUT	Maddison
HIL	Tash
ING	Emily
JOH	Jason
RIN	Brock
Congratulations	

## STUDENT OF THE MONTH NOVEMBER, 2014



SENIOR  
Archie  
MIDDLE  
Georgia  
JUNIOR  
Ethan

## Principal's Report

### Water Safety Program

I am just back from the second day of the grade 4/5/6 water safety program. Apart from the great weather the students all were very engaged with learning the various skills.

Thank you to the parent helpers: Mr Johnson, Ms Brown and Mrs Zammit.

### Choir Performance

On Friday I attended the Nathalia Strawberry Fete at the Community Centre and was most impressed by the school choir. They sang an array of xmas songs with confidence and enthusiasm. They engaged the crowd with their introduction to each songs. Thanks to Ms Brown and Mr Lancaster.

### Relaxation/Yoga Sessions

On Tuesday I popped into some of the yoga classes with the Prep and 1/2 /3 Grades. This was their second session and they were finding the routines much easier. These exercises are a great way to assist students to relax and stay calm. Teachers will be using some techniques in classes.

The grade 4/5/6's will have their second session next Wednesday.

### R.A.C.V. Presentation for Sponsors

On Monday the RACV team gave a presentation to the student body and the sponsors. Again we see this team working confidently together to support each other with their speaking presentation. After the presentation they organised morning tea for the guests.

### Tucker Days

Monday also saw Julie Lindsay in for the parents club organising another tucker day. The students really enjoy these treats. The school greatly appreciates the efforts of the parents to support our children.

There will be another two tucker days - the next one will be a Paddle Pop Day on Monday, December 8th.

### Grade 2 Sleepover

On Thursday we have the Grade 2 sleepover. The students are all very excited about this. Thanks to Mrs Hill, Mrs Butler and Ms Brown who will be attending this event.

### **STAR OF THE WEEK**

**Week ending  
28.11.2014**



**Abbey**

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

*"Remembering and displaying the school value of teamwork in PE games outside."*

### Prep/1/2/3 Environment Activity Day

On Friday, December 5th, students from these grades will take part in environmental activities at the Nathalia Recreation Reserve organised by the Nathalia Landcare Group.

### 2015 School Planning

Last Friday a number of staff and Jane Hando from School Council joined our Regional Network Leader, Marian Lawless, for a morning meeting where the foundations for improvements and change were discussed for 2015.

What struck me most about this meeting was the passion our staff have to ensure the child is at the centre of all decisions and that they care and want to improve all outcomes for our students

We have a **facebook** page! Visit [www.facebook.com/nathaliaprimarystschool](http://www.facebook.com/nathaliaprimarystschool)

or search for Nathalia Primary School while logged in to facebook and Like our page.

Keep up to date and see some of the work your children are working on and learning throughout the week.

## **Grade Structures & Staffing 2015**

At the moment we are finalising grades, staffing, responsibilities and staff action plans. Next week I hope to give a more detailed plan as to what 2015 will look like.

The 8th of December is transition day and our hope is that students will be advised of their new grades and teachers then.

We do not anticipate running a full transition day. If parents wish to discuss this please contact me on 58662677.

## **Grade 6 and 2015 Foundation Transition Day**

On the 8th of December Grade 6 students will have a “Transition to Secondary School Day” and we will have our last kinder student transition day.

## **Responsible Students**

As part of the school review, we believe we need to address the behaviours that some of our students present with in the yard/ Many children find it difficult to take personal responsibility for their actions which often result in conflict.

I would hope that the school can form positive home - school partnerships to assist with changing student behaviours/culture within the school.

## **Improving Literacy Standards**

On Thursday and Friday Ms Inglis and Ms White will be joining with staff from our cluster (Nathalia SC, St Francis and St Mary's) in Melbourne at the Bastow Institute to complete a course organised by CEP that will look at strategies for making improvement in literacy across all four schools.

**Helen Ginnivan,  
Acting Principal.**

# **Mathletics Awards**



Silver: Jairus, Jayda, Dakoda, Siahra

Gold: Rachael, Maddison

Nathalia Primary School has some very talented writing students, who recently entered in the Dungala Kaiela Writing Awards.

These were inaugurated in 2012 to provide an opportunity for writing and self Expression in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Markiah & Jakara Wise and Ally & Gavin McDonald undertook a writing workshop with Lyn Loger and our KESO Naomi Amos. Once completed the short stories and poems were sent off for judging.

Markiah Wise received a Highly Commended in the Junior Story Section, while Ally McDonald received a Highly Commended in the Junior Poetry Section.

Congratulations to all the participants!



## **Parents' Club**

### **Tucker Day, Monday, December 8th Paddle Pop @ \$1.00**

Orders have been sent home with students this week and need to be returned by Friday, December 5th

A Gluten Free product is also available. Please advise the school.

## 2014 SCHOOL CALENDAR

### DECEMBER

- 4th - 2015 Foundation Transition  
(9.15am - 2.20pm)  
- Grade 2 Sleepover
- 5th - Environment Activity Day ,  
Grades P - 3
- 9th - 2015 Foundation Transition  
(8.50am - 3.20pm)
- 8th - Tucker Day
- 11th - Swimming - P/1/2/3  
2.00pm - 3.00pm
- 12th - Swimming - P/1/2/3  
2.00pm - 3.00pm  
- Carols By Candlelight - 6pm
- 15th - Grade 6 Graduation, 7.00pm
- 16th - School Council Meeting  
- Parents' Club Meeting
- 18th - Pool Day
- 19th- Term Four concludes
- January 2015 -**  
**Term One commences -**  
**January 28th - Staff**  
**January 29th - All Students**



### Nathalia Community Carols by Candlelight

will be held at St Mary of the Angels'  
Outdoor Theatre on the College Oval  
**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 6.00pm**

Carols by Candlelight is a  
community event and will include  
performances from our local schools,  
and church groups.



Santa will be making an appearance!

Refreshments available for purchase.

Please BYO Picnic blanket or Chair.

*For further information please contact Vanessa Byrnes at  
the St Mary of the Angels on 03 58662222.*

# Encouraging your child's strengths and interests



I've always found fossils very interesting. I also had newts and grass snakes and frogs which I kept when I was a boy. I spent a lot of time in the garden exploring. Sir David Attenborough (naturalist, author, broadcaster)

What is your child good at? Some children are fantastic at throwing and catching balls. Some are wonderful at relating to babies, adults and other children.

What is your child interested in right now? And what might that lead to?

Does your child talk endlessly about trains or the Wiggles? They may have developed a fascination with brushes of all types (brooms, toothbrushes, hairbrushes – even street sweepers). Your baby might be fascinated by her reflection in the mirror. A five year old might want to talk about death after a family pet dies.

These interests might last days or months. Sometimes they'll seem obvious to you (perhaps you share an interest in football or dance). Sometimes you'll find the interest unusual (why brushes?).

These strengths and interests are an important way for your child to express their identity. It's their way of saying 'this is who I am' and 'this is what I can do!' In some cases your child's interest might lead to a life-long passion

I know all children are different – but I'm concerned about my child's specific interests.

Many young children develop specific or intense interests; this is both natural and normal.

Some intense interests are due to your child wanting to use a new skill just because they can (Look at me – I can somersault at home and in the park and in the supermarket!)

But if you are concerned about a long-lasting very intense interest, trust your instincts and speak to your child's educator, doctor or maternal child health nurse.

## What does this mean?

You can play an important role by encouraging your child's strengths and interests. But remember not to take over! David Attenborough's parents bought him aquariums for his snakes and frogs. But they also gave him 'a lot of time' to explore.

- \* Unstructured time is hugely important for children – they need to spend time exploring and experimenting.
- \* Listen carefully to your child and watch them play. Follow your child's lead. If your child wants to dress up, you might encourage the interest by searching for old clothes in the cupboard or visiting an op shop together.
- \* Keep your child's educators, family and carers informed of your child's strengths and interests so they can support them, too.
- \* Talk with your child about their strengths and interests and explore them together.
- \* Share your own interests with your child.
- \* There's no need for intensive instruction or formal lessons to build on your child's strengths or interests. If you do choose formal lessons, check that they are suited to how your child likes to learn, are age-appropriate and that they don't pressure your child. If the lessons are for babies or toddlers, they should involve you.
- \* You can't force a child to have an interest. But you can expose them to a range of experiences, activities, objects and relationships. Children who are exposed to varied activities are more likely to develop a wider range of interests. Visiting and exploring your local library, museum, park, art gallery or zoo offers great opportunities to develop curiosity and interests.

## You may also like to read other titles in this series:

- \* Helping your child become and active and involved learner.

