

The ABC Breakfast Show at Narrogin Senior High School

A little bit of showbiz came to Narrogin last week when two journalists from the ABC Great Southern broadcast the Breakfast Show live from the school grounds.

The journalists, Tim and Katie, presented an informative and entertaining program. Our Principal, ever the consummate professional, was interviewed, as well as our Head Boy, Kynan Spencer and Head Girl, Eliza Coppock. Kynan and Eliza spoke about the opportunities offered at the school. They emphasised the school not only offered academic courses, but also VET and TAFE pathways. Eliza and Kynan engaged with Tim in a mature way and spoke very well.

Tim and Katie later interviewed Matilda Simpson for her views on the upcoming state election and she offered considered, insightful observations.

Tim and Katie then presented workshops to Year Ten and General English students on Fake News and Bias in the Media, followed by a writing workshop for the Heywire Writing Competition, which is only open to rural and regional students.

Last year a number of our students entered the competition and Grace van de Velde's narrative was awarded a Highly Commended certificate.

The English teachers are looking forward to reading the stories students write this year.

Linda Bishop
Head of English



Mrs Linda Bishop with Grace Vande Velde



Head Girl Eliza Coppock and Head Boy Kynan Spencer

Principal John Watters

The first few weeks have certainly passed quickly and the majority of our students have settled into the new year at Narrogin SHS. A special welcome to our new Year 7 students and their families, as well as those joining us in other year levels for the first time. Most have transitioned and settled into the formalities of a new school, rooms, teachers and friends and from what I have seen within the classroom, ready to learn. Certainly from the students I have met, I have been impressed with their candour and happiness.



The awards assembly last week provided a formal opportunity to acknowledge not only the recognised award winners, but also students who make small contributions in all aspects of school life through our values of Respect, Tolerance and Responsibility. My main message was that these efforts do not go unnoticed and they are very much appreciated within our community.

The school year has presented some challenges in managing certain behaviours which if I am honest, are developed outside of the school and bought in each day for resolution. At times these incidents can be distressing to both staff and students, but my assurance comes from the understanding that violent behaviour has no place at our school. The Minister for Education and Training has directed Principals to:

- Automatically suspend students who attack other students and/or instigate fights,
- Automatically suspend students who decide to film a fight rather than seek help,
- Remove privileges – such as school social activities or excursions for students who do not maintain their good standing.

What this does provide, is a level of clarity for school staff with the understanding that students who chose this type of behaviour, must also accept the consequences for their decision making. There is an equal onus on all parties, with the school role not to investigate to determine 'who started it' rather to oversee and manage the outcomes fairly. Whilst this addresses the behaviour, we also have a responsibility to assist students to improve and provide additional support and learning opportunities. I must be clear that our intention is to never give up on our students, rather continue to find ways to work with parents and the community for the betterment of all students in our care. We are educating adolescents and should expect mistakes along the way, it's decreasing the frequency that matters.

One area where parents can support is to ensure students are receiving the right amounts of sleep, exercise and breaks from bluescreen devices like mobile phones, iPad and computer games. The developing brain needs at least 10 hours of downtime to reset between school days and many of our students are not privileging this requirement. In turn some of our concentration challenges can be linked to a level of restlessness on when speaking with students, is related to the absence of the above boundaries. I am certainly not trying to advise how to parent but can assist with strategies if required.

Associate Principal Lower School- Karen Thomas

A warm welcome to the Year 7 students who commenced at Narrogin SHS this year. Starting high school is a significant milestone in a child's life and can take some adjustment. Students will meet new people, need to adapt to a new learning environment and teaching styles and become more responsible for their own learning. This is a period of adjustment and transition which some students take in their stride and others find more challenging. Some helpful tips to assist with this transition are:



- Get plenty of sleep, exercise and eat healthily
- Have a positive outlook
- Go to school with an open mind and be ready to try new things
- Get into a good routine that includes time for homework
- Reach out to new classmates

The Year 8 students have commenced the year with a new undercover area where they can leave their bags. This is a tremendous space and will be very welcome on wet wintry days. I was delighted to see the number of Year 8 students who received academic awards for 2020. This shows a great deal of dedication and commitment to learning. Students excel in many different ways and I encourage all Year 7 and 8 students to shine their inner light and use this year to build on their talents and skills.



Associate Principal Senior School - Sandii Stankovic

Well we have definitely settled into the 2021 school year and I am enjoying returning to Senior School.

There are a number of changes that we are embracing in regards to communicating with parents and students.

Connect is still our main communication platform and we encourage staff, students and parents to regularly check into the portal to keep informed with student attendance, progress and any other communication with various staff. Staff do place items in their Class Connect groups, and it is the expectation that work is available for students on Connect should they be absent from school. End of Semester Reports are also placed on Connect for parents and students to access. Connect is also an efficient means to communicate notices to parents and students as the need arises.

We also have a **Facebook** page <https://www.facebook.com/Narrogin-Senior-High-School-1589392427984075> that is a marketing tool to publicise events that take place at the school. This platform is also utilised for acknowledging students and/or staff on their achievements.

With all the above information we also have the addition of our school **website** which requires some updating of information. It is envisaged that the website contains policies, procedures, enrolment, subject selection, curriculum and general school information. This is currently being updated and hopefully will be complete by the end of the term.

Parents may also realise that **SMS** messages are being sent now twice a day in regards to attendance. If a student is absent from Advocacy in the morning the parents are notified at approximately 9:30am and if a student has missed a subsequent class a text message will be posted at approximately 3:30pm. We are constantly looking for ways to open the lines of communication to all stakeholders and welcome any feedback you may deem relevant. We are also utilising SMSs to send urgent, important short messages to parents such as reminders for parent consent notices, emergency evacuations. We appreciate your prompt replies if considered necessary, particularly with absences and consent notices.

Year 12s have definitely embraced their final year and there have been meetings held in regards to enrolling in the correct successful course. There are options now whereby a student may not feel that school is the right course to their successful pathway. Mrs Sexton and I have worked with students and parents to discuss the best course of action for students to engage in a course that they will be successful in. High Achievers had a morning tea with the Principal to acknowledge their achievement and look forward to having a variety of these events to celebrate various student achievements.

Year 11s will also be monitored throughout the year to ensure they are in the most relevant course that will challenge the student whilst allowing them to experience success towards their intended pathway. It is imperative that students succeed in Year 11 before embarking on their Year 12 course. Our goal in Year 11 is to achieve 8 C grades throughout the year which in turn will be reviewed at the end of first semester ensuring student have achieved at least 4 Cs to assess that the course of study is appropriate.

Senior School students should have now developed skills to ask questions to clarify understanding or to ask for help when finding the work too challenging. Staff are accessible via email, connect or phone. Staff offer tutoring after school and some even hold sessions during lunch and recess. Staff are keen to offer assistance when approached by students. We also have a parent/ teacher evening each semester.

This is our second year of using Compass and is an expedient way of emailing students, teachers and parents. It would be great for students to log into their emails regularly as information is sent to them from school staff and the like. As emails are the norm for various communication it would be ideal for students to get into the habit of using this.

Associate Principal Middle School- Ms Maxine Clark



Many of you would be aware that I have recently been appointed Associate Principal in charge of the Year 9 and 10 cohorts. I am very excited to be working with students who I have had the pleasure of recently teaching.

What a wonderful start to the year we have had! The school is buzzing with anticipation for the year to come and we have been working hard to ensure students are in pathways they enjoy. I am privileged to be working with two highly committed, enthusiastic Year leaders, Ms. Williams Year 9 and Mr. D'Cruz Year 10. Year Leaders have been having one on one check ins with student. The aim is to provide individualised support for our students and to encourage them to strive for excellence. To achieve this goal, we all need to work together, please feel free to contact Ms. Williams, Mr. D'Cruz or myself if you need to.

For students to achieve their potential we know they need to be at school 90% of the time. Please support us by remembering, 'Every Day Counts,' and encourage your child to be at school on time ready to learn. Check out the Attendance article for some useful tips in this area.

Year 9 and 10 students often find difficulty coping with the increased expectations and workload. Many students have said they find it difficult to complete homework. The role of homework is to practise skills learnt at school to consolidate learning. Unfortunately, the old adage that, 'If we do not use it, you lose it,' is particularly true for school skills. Below are some tips that may help your child improve their homework and study skills. Helping your child with homework is an opportunity to improve your child's chance of doing well in school and improving skills that will support them to be lifelong learners.

Show Them You Think Education is Important

- Help your child set a regular time every day for homework.
- Ensure your child has the papers, books, pencils and other things needed to do assessments
- Set up a space for your child that is well-lit and fairly quiet
- Stay in touch with your child's teacher.

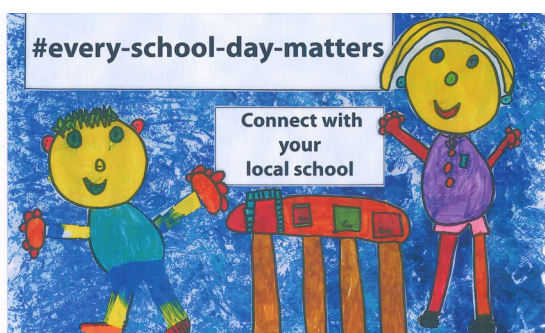
Monitor Assessments

- Ask your child what homework/ assessments they have - consult Connect for information
- Check your child assignment due dates
- Ask your child how they went once assessments are returned

Provide Guidance

- Help your child to be organised
- Help them develop a homework and study timetable.

It is also important to remember that children need time to relax, participate in sport and enjoy other activities after school, it is always a balancing act. If you are concerned about the amount of time your child is completing homework please let us know. We look forward to working with you to ensure your child has a successful 2021.



1 or 2 days a week may not seem like a lot but...

If your child misses...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling that's...	Which means the best your child might perform is...
1 day per fortnight	20 Days per year	4 Weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years!	Your Child  Other Children  Equivalent to finishing in Year 10
1 day per week	40 Days per year	8 Weeks per year	Over 2.5 years!	Your Child  Other Children  Equivalent to finishing in Year 9
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years!	Your Child  Other Children  Equivalent to finishing in Year 7
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years!	Your Child  Other Children  Equivalent to finishing in Year 6