

Friday 16 February 2024

Namadgi School Newsletter MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Term 1, 2024 and to what has been a positive start across the school. Our Year 1 and 2 cohorts made some late adjustments with families, students and staff all helping to get the year going. Teachers have been planning against the Australian Curriculum since Term 4, 2023 in preparation for 2024 with staff embarking on version 9 of the Australian Curriculum. Version 9 has a few changes and tweaks to the previous iteration, but staff have made adjustments to curriculum planning and assessment items to accommodate the new additions.

NAPLAN testing is upon us a little sooner than normal this year with the testing window open to schools between the 13th of March and the 25th of March. Our NAPLAN coordinators across the Primary and High School site will communicate to families involved in relation to participation or exemption by parent choice to withdraw.

The ACT Education Directorate mobile phone ban has taken effect and it has been refreshing to see students sitting and talking in groups at break times as well as taking up lunchtime sports on offer through the gym. Most students have complied with the changes and the school has been following a period of adjustment taking positive measures to remind students of the need to keep phones at home. Students who continue to breach the policy without an agreed and signed exemption certificate will soon need to address these behaviours with student services and surrender their phone for the day. Feedback from staff has also been positive with anecdotal observations reflecting positive change.

Thank you to Rhodina and the P&C for putting on refreshments and snacks at Wednesday's Welcome Afternoon Tea. This was a great opportunity for staff and the community to come together and meet new faces as we start 2024. Thank you to families and staff who could make the afternoon and spend some time catching up.

In 2024 The Kitchen Garden turns 10! This asset to the school was established in the second year of opening and has flourished into the program it is today under the watchful eye of Julie White and a number of key staff over the years including Peter Curtis, Kathryn Glanville, Lydia Desmet and Craig Lambert. Watch out for some exciting opportunities to help celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Kitchen Garden throughout 2024.

The Swimming Carnival will be our first large event for the year and planning is underway. The carnival will be held at the Stromlo Leisure Centre as it was a wonderful venue in 2023. The date is set for Monday 4 March and students are encouraged to attend on the day and participate as best they can.



In 2024 we welcome a few new staff to Namadgi School, and these include:

High School

- Michael Thomas (Arts/Media)
- Hayley Borg (Arts/Technology)
- Jade Payne (Science/PE)
- Amy McFarlane (Maths)

Primary School

- Aly Cleaver (Community Coordinator)
- Cintha Thompson (yr 4)
- Belinda Rathborne (LSU)
- Jordan Glavinic (yr 2)
- Jaiya Gu (yr 3)
- Erin Comley (yr 5/6)

Indigenous Education Officer

- Tahnia Garbutt Primary School
- Joe Chapman-Freeman High School (continuing from previous years)

Deputy Principal

Shannon Birch (P-10)

Jenny retiring from the canteen

As many of you would know Jenny Ingle has operated our school canteen for the last 10 years. During this time Jen has been involved in the school P&C, helped prepare special lunches, cooked BBQ's for Open Days, sports carnivals, fetes, Year 10 events, election days and the list goes on.

Jenny and her family have been involved with Namadgi School since its first year of opening and whilst the family still attends our school Jen is looking at other opportunities in life.

I would like to formally recognise Jenny, her family and late husband Geoff for their contributions to our school community and feeding many hungry bellies over the last 10 years. Operating such a service requires a lot of time and careful planning and I thank Jenny for her continued support to our school through the canteen and volunteer positions.

The school will now work with the Directorate (procurement team) to start a new tender process for any interested parties who might be able to continue our canteen service at Namadgi School. Unfortunately, this means going without a canteen in the interim for an undetermined period of time. We will keep you updated and hopefully have a new venture to announce before too long.

In the meantime, Namadgi will continue to offer Breakfast Club from the Kitchen Garden 5 days a week, our usual lunch supports of a sandwich or fruit from Kitchen Garden or the Hub in the High School and have the occasional special offers through the Café. Thank you to our staff who support these programs and keep our students fed.

Outside of these supports I have urged parents to prepare a healthy lunch and snack for their children daily until a viable solution is reached with a new canteen provider.

I wish Jenny every success moving forward and know she will be around our community pitching in when she can.

Welcome back again to 2024. The staff at Namadgi School look forward to working with your children and seeing you at school assemblies, events or even at drop-off or pick-up times. Please continue to take care in our school carpark, particularly at 9am and 3pm when we experience our busiest traffic periods.

Kind Regards,

Gareth Richards Principal



Assembly Dates

Friday – 9.10am to 10am

Term 1	Term 2
Week 4: Whole School- Secondary	Week 1: Anzac Assembly
Week 5: Primary Hosted by 5/6	Week 2: Secondary
Week 6: Secondary	Week 3: Primary Hosted by Year 3
Week 8: Whole School- Primary-Arts	Week 6: Secondary
Week 9: GOOD FRIDAY	Week 7: Primary Hosted 5/6
Week 10: Primary Hosted by Year 4	Week 8: Whole School- Primary- SAKG
	Week 10: NAIDOC WEEK Assembly
Term 3	Term 4
Week 2: Secondary	Week 2: Secondary
Week 3: Primary Hosted by Year 1/2	Week 3: Primary Hosted Year 1/2
Week 4: Secondary	Week 5: Whole School- Secondary
Week 5: Whole School- Secondary &	Week 6: Secondary
Book week Parade/Assembly-Library	Week 8: Whole School- Primary
Week 6: Secondary	Week 9: Graduations
Week 7: Primary Hosted by Kindy	Week 10: Graduations
Week 8: Whole School- Primary-LSU classes	
Date	Event
Friday 23 February	Whole School Assembly
Tuesday 27 Feb	Preschool Photos
Wednesday 28 Feb	Primary Photos
Thursday 29 Feb	High School and Preschool Photos
Friday 1 March Monday 4 March	Year 5/6 Assembly Swimming Carnival
Wednesday 6 March	Youth Indigenous Forum
Friday 8 March	Secondary Assembly
Monday 11 March	Canberra Day Holiday
Tuesday 12 – Friday 15 March	Book Fair
Tuesday 13 to 22 March	NAPLAN
Thursday 14 March	Board meeting 5-6pm, P&C 6 to 7pm
Monday 18 March	Year 7 immunisation
Friday 22 March	Whole School Assembly – Primary - Arts
Monday 25 – Wed 27 March	Outdoor Ed camp

Namadgi School House Colours are –

Fire – Red

Water – Blue

Yellow – Air

Green- Earth



This term, the **SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE** is offering two free workshops to parents of students in years 4 to 12 who are presenting with strong and/or anxious emotions.

These sessions are two hours each and will take place on Tuesday 5th March, 12:30-2:30pm and Tuesday 19th March, 9:30 - 11:30am at the Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning on Fremantle Drive in Stirling.

Addressing Your Child's Anxious Avoidance is a 2-hour workshop facilitated by the School Psychology Service aimed at helping parents/carers increase their child's ability to cope with anxiety and decrease anxious avoidance. During the workshop parents/carers have the opportunity to develop a clear plan to address their child's anxious behaviours.

Each workshop will have approximately 12 participating families (one or both parents/carers) and is facilitated by two school psychologists. Activities are based on the Non-Violent Resistance evidence-based therapeutic approach. Your child does not attend the workshop with you.

Please contact the front office for flyers, including more details and information on how to make a booking.

The Future of Education Equity Fund 2024 to open on 17 January 2024.

From 17 January 2024 families can apply for the Future of Education Equity Fund for the 2024 school year. Eligible low-income ACT families can receive one-off payments for financial assistance to help cover the costs of their children's educational expenses such as sport equipment and activities, music lessons, school uniforms and excursions.

The Fund is open to eligible students enrolled in preschools (attached to a school) through to Year 12 in the ACT. The 2024 application form will be available from 17 January 2024 and for further information visit https://www.education.act.gov.au/support-for-our-students/financial-and-resource-assistance-for-families

Bus travel

If parents hold any form of concession card, free bus travel can be arranged for their children. All they need to do is call Access Canberra on 13 17 10 and complete a form - this will then provide free bus travel for 12 months.



Care continues to facilitate the ACT Government's Rent Relief program for those who rent privately in the ACT. Eligible renters can apply for the one off grant of 4 weeks rent up to a maximum of \$2,500.

Please note: The current turn around for applications is 2-3 weeks but could increase depending on the volume of applications received.

For more information, eligibility criteria and application form head to our website – www.carefcs.org/rent-relief-scheme



Preschool

Yuma!

What a fabulous start to the preschool year!

We have settled in beautifully and are starting to learn the routines and expectations. We are enjoying exploring all the different areas at preschool and the teachers are already seeing our confidence and skills improving!







We have been focusing on developing friendships, building relationships, and linking our home and school lives, creating a sense of belonging to our preschool community.

Seesaw is now all set up as our main source of communicating with families. If you have not yet connected or are having trouble, please talk to your child's teacher.

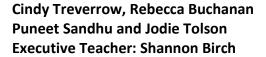






We are looking forward to a fantastic year of wonder and learning with you all and welcome your input, questions and suggestions.









Kindergarten

Kindergarten students have done an outstanding job of settling into full time school. We have begun counting the days of school and examining a 'number of the day', can you believe we are up to 14 already?!

Kindy have begun learning about letter names and sounds by looking at how many letters in student's name and their friend's names and the similarities and differences. We are developing our early reading behaviours as we build our knowledge and skills for readers workshops. Kindy students have been especially enjoying

reading the lyrics of Happy Birthday in their newly created song books.







We would like to remind families that bringing personal toys/items to school can be distracting for students in the classroom. Other students also can become distracted by the items and understandably children can feel possessive over their own things. If your child needs a specific item for emotional regulation, we are happy to create specific rules and boundaries to support this. Please discuss with your child's teacher.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the getting to know you interviews next week. If you don't already have a time, please contact your child's teacher.







Kindergarten Team: Dannielle Smith, Ali Ringland, Danielle Couzens and Kimberly Circosta Kindergarten Executive Teacher: Kristy Grady



Year 1 and 2

Our Year 1/2 students have been working diligently for the last 3 weeks. They have been working collaboratively on a class acknowledgement and created it into an art display within the classroom. It was made by brainstorming the behaviours and attitudes students would like to see within the classroom and what

they thought would make a productive learning environment.

Students have been identifying goals for 2024 and have created a rocket display. Goals include getting better at writing, being a safe and respectful learner and

getting better at football!



We have been building our reading stamina to become better readers and are revising previously taught reading strategies.

Marvelous Mathematicians. Year 1 and 2 have been engaging in a range of Maths games. We are focusing on teamwork, turn taking and positive talk. Year 1 have

been revising number recognition, adding numbers to 20, one-to-one correspondence and subitising. Year 2 have been revising bridging to ten, addition automaticity and switching between addition and subtraction.





Reminders:

- Please ensure students pack a hat and water bottle each day.
- Please label students belongings, especially those that get taken off and put down (hats and jumpers)
- School commences at 9am, please sign in at the front office if you arrive after 9.10am.

 Please pack a serve of fruit or vegetables for students to eat during Fruit Break as well as food for lunch and recess.

Year 1/2 Teaching Team: Jessica Laing, Trista Ellison,

Jordan Glavinic and Lucy Adams

Year 1/2 Executive Teacher: Kristy Grady

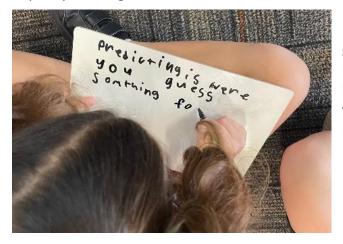




Year 3

Welcome to Year 3 in 2024!

The teachers in Year 3 this year are Caitlin Walker, Jiayi Gu and Brielle Riley. We have been thoroughly enjoying getting to know our classes in the first 3 weeks of the school year. Year 3 have settled in wonderfully and are working hard to establish classroom routines. Our classroom walls are quickly becoming covered with all types of quality learning.

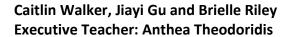


In literacy, we are consolidating our knowledge on reading strategies and creating definitions as a class. Students have already set up their Book Boxes and are participating in our daily Reader's Workshop lessons. We are so excited to see the growth our students will make with their reading throughout the year!

In Numeracy, we really enjoy using hands on materials and playing maths games as we continue to understand place value.



Our students are excited for the Swimming Carnival in a few short weeks. Thank you to our families who have returned the notes so far. If you need another note, please let us know and we can send another one home.







Year 4

Hello Year 4 Families!

The school year is off to an exciting start, and there's plenty to look forward to in the weeks ahead. Even though we're only a couple of weeks into the first term, our students have already shown great enthusiasm and dedication to their learning goals.

In Mathematics, students are learning about adding, subtracting and multiplying odd and even numbers, as well as exploring the concept of symmetry. Students will continue building their knowledge of mapping and grid coordinates, through exploring maps of local places. Year 4 students will continue to build their skills when solving multiplication, division, addition and subtraction problems.

During our reading sessions, they have been working on building their reading stamina and exploring various reading strategies. They have been visiting the Library each week to borrow 'Good Fit Books' for their book boxes. We're diving into Narrative Texts in our Writing lessons. Year 4 are learning about how stories are put together, and they'll get to write their own creative tales in the coming weeks.

On Wednesday we began our Science unit with Paula from Academy of Future Skills, where our students embarked on an exciting journey into the realm of chemical science! Check out some of our Prototypes that were made from various materials.









Finally, a friendly reminder that our Swimming Carnival is coming up on Monday 4 March, please return your permission notes. This is always a fun and exciting event, and we encourage all students to participate and show their support for their classmates. Please feel free to dress up in your house colours and show off your house spirit.





A few reminders: School Photos - Week 5 Swimming Carnival - Week 6 School Book Fair - Week 7 Hats on weather

As always, please reach if you have any questions. We're looking forward to a fantastic year ahead, filled with learning, growth and plenty of fun.

Krystal Coker, Cintha Thompson and Shannon Kumar Executive Teacher: Anthea Theodoridis



Primary LSU's

Welcome to 2024 and to a new school year.

We are looking forward to an exciting year of learning and developing in the K-6 LSU's.

The wonderful staff this year:



Belinda Rathborne K-2 LSU In Villa 2A



Narelle O'Callaghan 3-6 LSU In Villa 2D



Merrilyn Sparks 3-6 LSU In Villa 2D



Shannon Birch SLC In Admin Office

We also have many LSA's who come and assist our students. Riley, Lorraine, Bethany, Sara, Nicole, Chloe, Poppy, Connor and Foxy.

Congratulations to all students who have come back eager and ready to learn.



In 3-6MS it has been exciting to hear about the students' Christmas holiday adventures and for the students to be having a go with their writing. We are currently working on a "Who done it" type story and the students are being creative in their reasons for something going missing.





In 3-6NO the students have been learning about vowel and consonant patterns and learning to write using descriptive words. In Mathematics they have been learning odd and even numbers as well as participating in multiplication ninja's. The students have settled in well and enjoy using our outdoor space to work cooperatively to create games.





In K-2BR we have been learning that everyone is welcome at school and in our classroom. We have been practising sharing our equipment and helping each other play maths games. Our favourite books to read so far have been from the Bluey series and Thomas the Tank Engine



From the K-6 LSU team

Belinda Rathborne, Narelle O'Callaghan, Merrilyn Sparks

Executive Teacher: Shannon Birch



Year 5/6

The 5/6 classes have had a great start to 2024. We have been busy getting back into learning and setting up some positive routines in the classroom which will assist students in achieving learning goals throughout the

year.

All classes have completed a range of getting to know you activities including drafting, editing and publishing a letter for their future self to read at the end of the year. This was great to help them identify some strengths, goals and challenges that they may face this year.

In English and Literacy, the 5/6 cohort has been exploring a range of reading strategies to support their comprehension and understanding of different text types. Students now have a range of text types in their Book Boxes and it's great to see them actively engaged in their reading. We have been busy exploring the structure of persuasive texts. Students will soon begin drafting their own persuasive argument about a topic that they are passionate about.



In Mathematics, students have been reinforcing number sense and strategies for solving a range of number problems. It's been great to see people working cooperatively to solve problems and learning some great, hands-on maths games and activities. This week, students have also been exploring 3D shapes and shape nets, helping to develop their geometric understanding and spatial awareness.

We have also started our Inquiry unit examining the colonisation of Australia where we will begin to explore the perspectives of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander people and the European colonists. We have already had some engaging and thought provoking discussions and we will continue to explore these perspectives throughout the term.

This week, we had our Meet and Greet Afternoon Tea. It was great to connect with families and give people a glimpse in the classrooms. If you missed the opportunity to book an interview with your child's teacher for next week, please get in touch with your teacher to arrange a time for a brief 15 minute meeting.

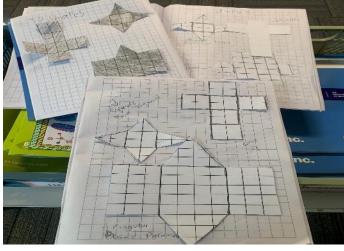
Please remind your child to pack a sun smart hat and a drink bottle as we are still getting some warm weather and at this time of the year.

Emma McLeod, Shannen Talbot, Erin Comley and David Lindsay

Executive Teacher: Craig Lambert









KITCHEN GARDEN NEWS



Celebrating 10 Kitchen Garden years

We hope you all had a wonderful summer break. We are thrilled to announce that 2024 marks a very special milestone for the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program—it's our 10 Year Kitchen Garden Anniversary! What began as a modest garden plot tucked away at the back of the school has blossomed into something truly extraordinary—a flourishing, award-winning sanctuary boasting an olive grove, orchard, bush tucker garden, composting and worm farms, numerous expansive garden beds, wicking





beds, a chicken coop, and so much more. This journey has been made possible by the dedication and vision of Peter Curtis and Julie White, who tirelessly established and nurtured the garden, transforming it into the vibrant and fruitful oasis it is today. Their unwavering commitment to promoting healthy eating and environmental stewardship has not only enriched our students lives but has also fostered a thriving community. Over recent years, we have welcomed Kathryn Glanville, Sue Taylor, Lydia Desmet and Tamzin McGrath to the team, each strengthening educational outcomes including sustainability, STEM, and community engagement

We owe our gratitude to our school BSOs for their ongoing support behind the scenes maintaining and keeping it alive. We thank our P&C who continue to fundraise and donate plants and equipment, as well as many other organisations,

families and individuals who volunteer, donate goods, and assist during working bees. Thank you to all our wonderful past and present students for being a part of our program. To celebrate this significant milestone, we will be hosting numerous events and activities throughout the year.

In the kitchen

The students' tastebuds enjoyed getting right back into cooking. Students in kindergarten, year's 1 and 2 turned our abundance of tomatoes and basil into Bruschetta. Whilst students in years 3 to 6 used an array of garden produce including squash, beans, cucumber, tomatoes, and mint to create a Lebanese Fattoush salad.



In the garden

Because our garden truly keeps growing, we were grateful to have many hands return to the garden and assist with harvesting our summer crops, aerate the worm farms (speeding up the decomposing process), using the wheelbarrow to transport garden soil, and weeding over the last few weeks. Students have enjoyed tasting the produce including peaches, apples, beans and many tomato varieties.

Volunteer

in the Kitchen or Garden

We would love to have volunteers to help during your child's kitchen or garden class or do gardening at a time that suits you.

To arrange a time to volunteer or for more information please contact Lydia Desmet lydia.desmet@ed.act.edu.au or call (02) 6142 0934.

SunSmart and hydration Reminder:

Kindly ensure your child brings a hat and water bottle daily. These items are essential for their protection and safety during the school day and during their Kitchen Garden sessions.

Years K – 2 Specialist Teacher Kathryn Glanville Years 3 – 6 Specialist Teacher Lydia Desmet Kitchen Garden Assistant Julie White





Book Fair

Week 7 Term 1 (12th – 15th March) **Community Room**

Opening Hours

Tuesday – Friday 8.30 -8.55am & 3.10 - 3.30pm

Book Club

All orders for Book Club issue 1 are due by Monday 19th February. Please take any cash orders to the front office.

Last year we received a \$100 voucher for being one of the winning schools in the Chief Minister's Reading Challenge. Below are the books we have acquired for the Library with this voucher.



Our 2023 yearbook is available from the front office for \$35.

Shannon Black and Darrell Hancox



Senior School

Small Group Learning

Yuma! Hello and welcome to our Small Group Learning for 2024. Our Team is rested from a well-deserved break, and have loved seeing students return over the last 3 weeks and settle into their new timetables. At the end of 2023 we farewelled Mrs Stone from our team, and hope she is having a fantastic start to her retirement. This year Amelia Macafee, Rosie Allen, Sue Burn and Prue Fabian are teaching across our Year 7 and 8 program, with the help of the lovely Sam and Marni as our Learning Support Assistants. As our program expands, we have introduced a second Year 9/10 Class into the program this year. Annie McLoughlin and James Hamilton are in charge of Year 9 and 10, with Gai and Josh as the support team.



7/8's has had a very busy start to the new term participating in multitude of learning activities. Last week we were in Kitchen Garden cooking up delicious toasties in the fry pan, whilst practicing valuable life skills.

Students have been enthralled with our ancient civilisations unit in History while we dig deep into Ancient Egypt, exploring life in this ancient society.

Over the next few weeks, we will be accessing the Science lab to conduct experiments relevant to Physical and Chemical changes, whilst learning the safety and terminology used when conducting these experiments.





Teachers: Amelia Mcafee, Rosie Allen, James Hamilton, Annie McLoughlin, Prue Fabian LSAs Samantha Merryfull, Gai Masters, Josh Billing and Manni. SGP Executive Teacher Jo Mckenzie,



Maths and Science

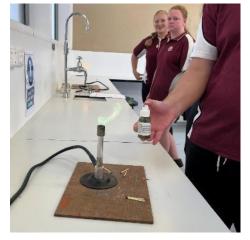
Welcome back to another exciting year from the Maths and Science Faculty at Namadgi School! As we embark on this journey together, we are thrilled to witness the growth and learning that will unfold with our dedicated students throughout the year.

Firstly, we extend a warm welcome to our newest additions to the team, Amy McFarlane and Jade Payne, both enthusiastic science teachers eager to share their passion for science with our students. They join Daniel Marriott, who is now full-time, and Emily Corke, who continues to work part-time.

In the realm of science, our Year 10 students have delved into the fascinating world of chemistry. Exploring concepts such as electron configuration and excitation, they recently engaged in a practical science class where they witnessed firsthand how different chemicals produce various colours when introduced to the heat of a bunsen burner flame. This demonstration mirrors the mechanisms behind the captivating displays of

fireworks.







Meanwhile, our Year 7 Science students are also immersed in chemistry studies, focusing on mixtures and separation techniques. Throughout the unit, they will learn how to purify a contaminated water sample using different separation methods. Stay tuned for updates in our next newsletter as we track the progress of their journey towards cleaning their water samples. Additionally, Year 7s will soon obtain their bunsen burner licenses, further enriching their scientific experience



Shifting gears to mathematics, our Year 7 students have already demonstrated their knowledge and skills by completing their first maths quiz on prime factorization with astounding results. Congratulations to all Year 7s for their outstanding efforts!

As for our Year 8, 9 and 10 students, they are currently undergoing assessments of their learning of the measurement material covered thus far. Rest assured, our dedicated maths teachers are committed to providing support to ensure that every student achieves an 'at level' (C grade) or above. For those who may need additional assistance, we offer revision sessions and the opportunity to retake tests to help them reach their academic goals.

We are off to a fantastic start to the year, and we extend our gratitude to everyone involved for their dedication and enthusiasm. Here's to a year filled with exploration, discovery, and academic success!

Emily Corke, Daniel Marriott, Amy McFarlane, Jade Payne & Dhanashree Vedanti Executive Teacher: Stacey Freedman



HPE, Arts & Technology

Please help your child be organised for HPE, by remembering to:

- Bring a grey shirt to change into
- a drink bottle
- a hat
- appropriate shorts/pants
- appropriate shoes

A key date to remember is the Namadgi School Swimming Carnival. It will be held on Monday 4 of March at Stromlo pool. Permission notes have been sent home.

Namadgi School House Colours are -,

Fire - Red

Water - Blue

Yellow - Air

Green - Earth

