Dear Family and Friends of Niland
2015 has been a fantastic year with so much going on for students, teacher and behind the scene with our Community Room and our Work Training Program.
We have had many staff undertake training in Choice Theory Reality Therapy which is a very intensive four day course that looks at peoples perceptions as well intrinsic motivation. Our staff have been actively practicing “flipping and spiraling” conversations with our students which seems to be working very well.
We have also changed our class structure to focus on an interest based model. We have 10 classes that are based on students interests. The classes include 2 sports classes, a movies class, science, art, cooking, music and 2 mind craft classes. These classes are working extremely well and students have increased “on task” time as students are more motivated to learn.
We have made connections with various other schools throughout the state and have had several visitors to school to see the impact of the changes we are making and to give feedback. These partnerships are proving invaluable.
We have also implemented a whole school meal program once a week. On a Tuesday at lunch time the entire school sits together to eat a meal that has been prepared by our staff and students. Both staff and students are thoroughly enjoying the lunches and we look forward to continuing them in 2016.
At Niland we like to hear from our community and as such I would like to invite you to contact me if you have any suggestions for programs or general feedback on the programs we offer at Niland. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Mrs. Leeanne Newtown all the very best at her new school, Mrs. Newtown joined us in 2015 and has been an absolute delight to work with, we are all very sad to see her go.
Also Miss Piper has been offered a position in a new school which she has excepted. Miss Piper has been at Niland since 2010 and has been a valuable contributor to the community and we wish her all the very best with her new endeavor.
Finally thank you all for the support you have shown to Niland throughout 2015. I hope you all have a happy and safe Christmas break and get to spend valuable time with family and friends.

2016 SCHOOL CAPTAINS

BOYS Captain– Dylan

GIRLS Captain– Jessica

BOYS Vice Captain– Kasey

GIRLS Vice Captain– Destiny
From MRS SPEDDING'S DESK

Well, what a year 2015 has been. Between personnel changes, the steady stream of new students constantly arriving on our doorstep and then the mid term class shake up, it was hard to know if we were coming or going sometimes. But one thing is for sure... 2015 is a year I am unlikely to forget anytime soon. I'd like to think I taught the boys all about Uno, Headbandz, Go Fish and sea creatures and they taught me lots about Lego, dirt bikes and Matchbox cars.

And then came Week 6. New students, new SLSO and a whole new start. Lots of time spent getting to know each other, setting goals and a plan for the direction we want our new class to go. Minecraft Class 1, as we are officially known, has actually spent more time shopping, cooking, practicing our basic literacy and numeracy skills and playing a little Agario and Dragon City than we have with Minecraft, but I'm sure that will change. Although, with how delicious the mini pizzas and homemade hamburgers were, we may need to rename ourselves Cooking Class 2!!!

Term 4 has been super busy with swim school taking up most of our time in Weeks 9 and 10 and all the junior students are showing great improvement in all areas of their swimming. Rewards excursions on Fridays to Planet X and Don Bosco have been a highlight for many of our students, with Aaron making regular appearances on the list of top students. Dorian is always right up there as well but he prefers to spend his reward time at school. I'd just like to finish up by saying a BIG thank you to my amazing SLSO's Syed and especially to Lee! There is absolutely no way we would have achieved as much as we did this year without you!!

Congratulations to all artists involved.

We trialled interest groups on a weekly basis throughout the year and were impressed with the level of engagement of students. The second half of term 4 has been a smooth transition into Interest Classes, where students will remain for 2016. Students are happier learners in these new classrooms and we look forward to further growth and development next year.

Presentation Day was fantastic last week. We had a record breaking response from parents, carers and members of the community who joined us on the day. Jaid, Jessica and Blake were wonderful presenters and the dance group strutted their stuff as usual. A big congratulations to all students who received awards for their hard work and great attitude throughout the year.

We wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and New Year. Enjoy the break and we look forward to a successful 2016.

Ms Zorzo, Mr Finch, Mr Prasad
Room Two

Room 2 saw a lot of different personalities in one room. We focused a lot on Aboriginal education as we had a high percentage of boys in class that have Aboriginal heritage in their family.

These boys are all outgoing students so we did a lot of activities outside the school, such as Brewongle Environmental Education Centre. There we did canoeing, recording of the weather, searching for possums in possum boxes and catching various types of water bugs.

Another outing was Murru Mittigar Aboriginal Centre here we did different paintings, throwing boomerangs and looking at different hunting tools etc.

We also did a couple of trips up to the beautiful Colo River to observe the Flora and Fauna of the local area. Students had the opportunity to see one of the last prestigious water ways in the Sydney area.

We also had a mentor for the boys in the form of Jie Pittman. Jie taught us different dances, music and games that relate to the Durag people. Class 2 was also the inspiration of the Niland Hip Hop Song and Music video in which a few of the boys were in plus myself.

All being said, a tough year but fun never the less. The boys have made some memories that will last for ever. Thanks must go to Mr Earl for all his hard work helping the boys.

Mr Seddon

Room Three

The Place To Be!

Reflecting, Planning, Engaging.

The Magic of the Movies

REFLECTING AND PLANNING
Students reflected on all the things they have achieved this year and were given the opportunity to design their “ideal” classroom and learning activities. During term 4 students engaged in fun and meaningful activities learning greetings from different language backgrounds, how to care for injured wildlife and how to design their own experiments.

THE MAGIC OF THE MOVIES
Students have been learning all about special effects make up and prosthetics (including how to apply it) whilst investigating characters and themes from their favourite movies.
Room Four

Welcome back!! At the end of Term 3 Huntar and Dylan joined us with their own individual interests and talents. We added to our travel training program by catching the public bus and train to Blacktown. Students were rewarded for their efforts through a day out at St Francis Park. In term 4 we started a new unit of work on transport which involved researching different types of vehicles and their purposes. We also had a chance to play our favourite pieces of music and discuss the lyrics and musical instruments featured in each song. The class has engaged in some science activities based on natural disasters with a favourite of Jayden’s being the Tornado experiment. Wrapping up our class time together and to celebrate the end of our footy tipping competition we all had a well-deserved lunch at McDonalds. I congratulate you Class 4 for all your achievements this year academically and socially. A special mention to Aaron for attaining the “most outstanding” and Conradd for “most improved” student award for 2015. I have not only taught this year but also had opportunity to learn some new things from my students. An extra big thank you goes out to Ms Thelan who has been a VERY important part of Class 4’s educational development throughout the year.

Mr Dunn & Ms Thelan

Room Ten

Class 10

This term we saw classes change and split into groups based on individual interests. I welcome Tyler, Leon, Jaydan and Dylan to the mine craft class or Squids (a mine craft reference) in which we have chosen to rename ourselves. We have also changed rooms to move to a space with a few more computers. Students have engaged with computer programs promoting fundamental literacy and numeracy including study ladder, IXL and mine craft of course! Class members have also had a chance to develop their social and academic aptitude through playing a range of board games. Students this term have participated in the swim scheme and the V8 supercars excursion. I look forward to seeing you all back in 2016 and wish each of you a “Merry Christmas” and a “Happy New Year”.

Mr Dunn & Ms Kennedy
Room Five

For such a busy term the new class five has started well with all the students engaging in their new classroom routine with enthusiasm. The boys all have keen interests in sports, science and Design and Technology; as such this has been our focus over the past few weeks. The boys particularly enjoyed experimenting with Coke and Mentos to see how big of an eruption we could make; their faces were pure excitement when they managed to shoot coke above the roof or seeing if they could design and create a bridge from nothing except newspaper and sticky tape.

Swim school also took place this term in weeks 9 and 10. The room five juniors are having an awesome time at Emerton Leisure Centre during their daily swimming lessons. They have all learnt new water safety skills and their swimming is improving greatly. I secretly suspect there is a lot of excitement for the water slide on the last day.

Finally we have also recently welcomed a new member to our class lately with Manyang joining us in week nine.

The boys are all starting to get to know each other and form strong friendships.

The students and staff in room 5 wish everyone safe and happy holidays and we look forward to seeing you when school returns next year. I suspect we could be in for another fun filled, busy and exciting year.

Ms Higgs & Mr Earl

Room Six

Room 6 has had a wonderful year of varied experiences.

We have had the pleasure of sporting opportunities, camp adventures and work placements.

Work placement opportunities have allowed some of our senior boys the chance to focus on where they would like to move forward in their career choices. One in particular, Kane, has now left us and continued his part time work with Volvo Trucks. We wish him well on a long and successful partnership.

We are looking very forward to 2016, moving into our new interest group classes and building new friendships.

Wishing you all a happy and safe Christmas.

All the best
This term in Room 7 has been all about new beginnings and reflecting on the things that have been. Like the ever altering seasons themselves, we’ve been looking at the choices and changes we all make and the way these decisions impact both our lives and those around us. We examined the work of composer Vivaldi, who wrote four pieces of music specifically about each season and discussed the different features of each composition. We also watched one of the featured pieces of Disney’s Fantasia 2000, a beautiful short film (see above), looking at the powerful impact of spring in our lives as a symbol for positivity. We created our own artworks on these themes.

Coming to the end of the year, it is with much thankfulness for all that has been. Your children have worked hard, strived for their personal best and have been given many opportunities to learn more about the world around them. Special and heartfelt thanks to our in class support staff - Mrs Wilson, Mrs Brown, Ms Thelen, Mrs Brownjohn, Mrs Newton, Ms Daley, Mrs. Sonter, Ms Kennedy, Ms Wood, Mr Earl, Mr Syed, Miss Sally, Miss Finch and Mrs Kisane Wilson for holding us altogether at various, countless times throughout the year, you are all AMAZING!!!

Lyssa Davis for Room 7.
Room Eight

2015 was a big year in Room 8. There was success in the classroom, sporting field and the workplace.

Table tennis was the hit of the year and the Senior Boys had Mr Syed (who plays for Australia) as their personal coach. The Senior Boys practiced and practiced, showing discipline, perseverance and improvement as the year progressed. The performance from students within our room was outstanding and Mr Syed was able to build positive relationships with all students through sport and fair play.

School sport was popular with most of our Senior Boys, particularly touch football and cricket. Most of the students participated and enjoyed our physical education sessions each week, being active participants.

Ms Zorzo & Mr Syed

Room Nine

Class 9 has had a great year.
We have been working hard on our Literacy and Numeracy as well as all other subjects.
Students were very creative and built a woodwork project such as a motorbike and a dragon.
We have enjoyed our carnivals and excursions.
Our highlight was the trip to the V8 races in Olympic park. The pictures show some of our fun activities in and out of class.
Have a great festive season and I hope to see you all next year.

Paul Winkelmolen & Sue Sonter.
Counsellor Corner

50 Ways to Take a Break

- Take a Bath
- Listen to Music
- Go to a Nap
- Watch the clouds
- Light a candle
- REST your legs up on a wall
- Let out a sigh
- Pita Kite
- Read a Book
- Sit in NATURE
- More twice as Slowly
- Learn Something NEW
- Write a Letter
- Notice Your Body
- Buy some Flowers
- Find a relaxing scent
- Take Deep Belly Breaths
- Call a Friend
- Walk Outside
- Go for a run
- Go to a park
- Go to a bike ride
- Go to a Farmer's Market
- Drive somewhere NEW
- pet a furry creature
- Create your own coffee break
- View some ART
- Turn off all electronics
- Eat a meal SILENCE
- Examine an everyday object with fresh Eyes
- Make some MUSIC
- Climb a Tree
- Paint on a surface other than paper
- Paint a quick poem
- Read poetry
- Let go of something
- Put on some music and DANCE
- Take a walk
- Decode and color
- Give Thanks
- Do some gentle stretches
- Drive somewhere NEW
- Engage in small acts of KINDNESS
- Read or watch something FUNNY
2015 has been an amazing year of supporting our school community and helping our families on a daily basis. To date, this has been the most rewarding role, next to being a Mum, that I have ever had. Thank you all for allowing me to work closely within your families to ease the burden within your homes.

Every day I learn of a new service that is local and available to support our community and I get so excited. The local support is endless, so please, if you ever need any help, no matter how small you may think your problem is, just ask and if we can help you, we certainly will, it’s our job to help you!

Reflecting on 2015 and enjoying the memories

Disability Services Australia provided some of our Mums, Nan’s, carers and their friends with some much needed and deserved pampering. Manicure, pedicure, head and shoulder massages, tea coffee, cakes and fruit, all for FREE. What an awesome way to say thank you to all the hard work. If you missed out this year, maybe you could make it next time.

Local Pastor Steve from Plumpton Community Church has been spending some time with our school and showing his many talents. The boys have tired him out on the soccer field but pastor Steve refuses to give in. Finishing with a BBQ is a “win win” for all:

Joining 30 odd services in our Community Room– caring for local youth.

Mt Druitt Blacktown Youth Services Meeting

Monthly meeting to ensure the right services are in place to support each and every one of you.

FILL A BAG Day

Christmas came early to many Niland families. Our wonderful staff supported a Fill A Bag day and provided items of home wares, clothing, and jewellery, electrical products and more, all for the low cost of gold coin donation. Many xmas presents were provided which eased a lot of pressure at this time of year. Many thanks for those who came along and benefited.
Presentation Day 2015

Congratulations to all our Niland students for a wonderful 2015 schooling year.

Last Tuesday many students were acknowledged for their hard work and accolades went from class most improved, through to sporting champions and newly elected school captains.

Many proud parents joined us with their child being presented with their award, as you can see by the picture above and below it was a full house.

We may be a small school but our Niland School family and community could not be prouder.

Congratulations and well done to every student this year and a very special thank you to Mr Finch and Mrs Spedding for their hard work in preparing for our day.
FREE HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Youth off the Streets Outreach Program,
Positions limited
Book Now
PH: 9628 1265

Youth must be between the ages of 10-19 years old. Spaces are limited to groups of 10 for most activities and a group of 10 young people for the camp. ALL ACTIVITIES ARE FREE OF CHARGE AND REQUIRE A PERMISSION NOTE THAT CAN Be OBTAINED BY CONTACTING OUR OFFICE. NOTE: Attachments in Case are accepted outside of our usual locations.

Contact Blacktown Outreach on 9628 1265 or BlacktownOutreach@youthoffthestreets.com.au

FREE UNDER 18’s HOLIDAY PROGRAM

JANUARY 2016

Friday 15th January
Dawson Mall Mount Druitt

Free Sausage Sizzle!!

Jumping Castle    Badge Making
Face Painting    Entertainment

Information stalls

Enquiries/stall holders to: Kate or Jane
1300403373.

Call Leanne, Jade or Sarah-Lane on 4723 3277 to secure a place
Email: llyndal.morgan@penrithlunacy.org.au
Niland School Uniforms are available from School office

Shirts—All sizes $20                Jackets $30

See Mrs Spedding to purchase

CONTACT US:

Principal: Mr Renee Culgan
PH: 9628 6885
FAX: 9628 1550

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