



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Welcome to the end of term!! I can hear the collective sigh from here. Well done everyone, you all survived and only 3 terms till the end of year!!

As I write this newsletter, the BWSODE P6 relay team are swimming their hearts out in Sydney. They have made the final so that's great news! We have been able to book CPR training and updates for staff and parents for FRIDAY 4 MAY @ Bourke Centre. This will also be the Staff Development day for teachers, so they will be unavailable to contact that day.

If you cannot make that day and need to update your CPR, we will be having a day in Walgett on the 18 May – TBC. Monday 30 April will be a normal school day for staff.

Term 2 will be very busy with training for our teachers with staff attending:

- Vocabulary K-6 at Orange – 30th April and 2nd May
- Learning Progressions at Moree – 24th May
- STEM – TBC

Please keep an eye on Morning Messages for the in's and out's!

Please enjoy your break, you have all worked hard and need to recharge and rest. Stay safe and happy.

See you all in Term 2!!

Kind Regards

*Wendy Hay
Principal*

NEWS FLASH

THE RELAY TEAM WON by one 7th of a second! Fantastic effort, very well done.



DATES TO REMEMBER

13th April - Last Day Term 1
30th April – Staff Development Day
1st May - First day of Term 2 for students
4th May - Staff Development Day - CPR Training
11th May Barwon X-Country at Goodooga
15th - 18th May – NAPLAN
18th May – Walgett Integration Day
31st May – Bourke X-Country at Brewarrina
1st June – Bourke Integration Day
5th June – School Spelling Bee
6th June – Walgett Integration Day + Warrumbungles workshop
11th June – Monday Queens Birthday holiday
14th June – Outback Challenge at Bourke
22th June – 6 Ways Athletics at Rowena
24th – 29th June – Whole School Excursion to Jindabyne
6th July – Last day term 2

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Governess - Information about Assistance

This interesting and informative web site [http:// www.governessaustralia.com/](http://www.governessaustralia.com/) provides great information about employing someone to help you deliver the Distance Education program to your children. You can also search 'Governess Australia' on Face Book for extra information and groups to join.

'In Home Child Care' is another organisation that may have some information and assistance available. They also have a Cobar office.

<http://nswfdc.org.au/>

New Supervisors

If you would like your own Department of Education email address, please let the school know ASAP. Your own email will allow access to all department sites as well as sites that are blocked by the department security firewall to students.

Professional Development

Professional Development in the STEM area this term will see the writing of a unit for students to complete in Term 3. Mrs. Keir and Mrs. Lorberg are both involved in this project and have recently spent two days in Dubbo being briefed on this project. We are very excited to see how this turns out!!

Important Change to VISE

The organisation formally known as VISE - Volunteers for Isolated Students Education has ceased to exist. However, it has been added to the organisation Aussie Helpers. If you are looking for Educational Support in your home, it is now known as AHVISE – Aussie Helpers Volunteers for Isolated Student Education.

“**AHVISE** is an educational volunteer organisation comprising of a dedicated team of volunteers from all around Australia, who enjoy giving to others. We support rural and remote outback families who are looking for help in their remote school rooms. These include families, mothers and fathers, who teach their own children at home due to their **geographic isolation**.”

For more information or to register please go to www.ahvise.org.au

P&C Bursary

I would like to remind all families of the P&C bursary that is available for families who have additional school commitments, eg travel to sport, Moorambilla, Spelling Bee etc.

If you would like to apply for this please email Wendy Hay for more information.

wendy.hay@det.nsw.edu.au

P&C Membership

An invitation is extended to all parents and friends of the BWSODE, to join the P&C Committee. This is a great way to become more involved in our school, to meet other parents and an opportunity to contribute to how fundraising efforts can benefit the school and students.

Attached is the 2018 P&C Membership Form. A reminder that you do need to be a member for insurance purposes, if you help at a movie night or other fundraising activities.

PARENTING IDEAS

FIVE WAYS TO RAISE A BALANCED TECHNOLOGY USER

The little devices that connect us, entertain us, provide us with information, show us where to go, keep us organised and allow us to indulge in retail therapy from almost anywhere, have become an integral part of our daily lives.

Many of us wouldn't leave home without a digital device. Yet when it comes to children and their screen-time habits, we often lament the role the devices play.

These little screens that offer so much and answer so many of our needs, also leave us wondering *how much is too much for our kids*, and *how do we keep their use under control?*

Following are five ways we can ensure that our children become safe, savvy and balanced technology users.

1. Look for the purpose of technology use

We need to look at how each individual child is coping with their screen time:

- Are they still doing the things they always enjoyed before they had access to a screen?
- Are they able to put the screen away without a fight?
- What sorts of things are they doing on the screen?
- Is it a positive experience?
- Are they learning something?
- Are they interacting with it or merely consuming media?

These are questions we need to be constantly revisiting throughout their adolescent years.

2. Consider the future habits they are forming

We need to make sure they are learning good habits from the beginning and gaining the skills and behaviours they need to stay in control of their screen time.

3. Role model balanced screen-time behaviours

We know our kids learn much more from watching what we do, as opposed to listening to what we say. So how is your technology use affecting you?

- Are you ignoring others because you are scrolling?
- Are you falling asleep with a phone or tablet landing on your forehead?

- Are you able to give yourself over to certain tasks and focus without being distracted by beeps and notifications?
- Are you giving yourself some time without a device to enjoy family, friends and activities that keep you healthy and balanced?

These are good questions to ask ourselves.

4. Establish 'no brainer' rules with your family

When it comes to technology, the rules often change as our children develop and mature. But we can also make some universal rules for the whole family based on our individual family values and what is important to us:

- It may be that there are no phones in the bedroom at night.
- It may be that there is no technology after a certain time of the day.
- It should certainly be that devices never ever come to the table at dinner time.

Aiming for at least a few meals where the family is eating together is crucial. Your kids need this time to talk, connect with family and have a break from being 'switched on' to a device. They need to get into the habit of not eating and scrolling. So make your rules early and stick to them.

5. Build a culture of balanced play in your home

Unlike a book or a game, there is often no end to what happens with a device. There is always something more to see or do, another level to reach, another city to build or another army to destroy. So we need to get better at providing lots of other ways for our kids to be entertained, informed and connected to others:

- This may mean we have to physically go outside and play with them rather than simply tell them to go out.
- It may mean we have to insist on visits to places where devices don't come out.
- Kids still want to run and jump and play – they just need to be reminded and encouraged to do so even more today.

By building other ways to learn, play and interact into our kids' lives from an early age, we are helping these things become part of their daily lives – habits that in turn become behaviours.

While we often feel like the devices are taking over, all of these strategies rely on us – the parents. **We need to be the ones to get in**

early and help show them the way. We need to take a look at what we are modelling to them in terms of our own device use and our own lifestyle. We need to be helping them form the right behaviours.

There are many wonderful benefits that come with these devices, so ensuring we are using them in positive ways, and are in control, will go a long way to ensuring we are all reaping those benefits.

(Adapted from an article by Martine Oglethorpe)
M. Grose

LIBRARY REPORT



The Premier's Reading Challenge is under way, but it is not too late to enter.

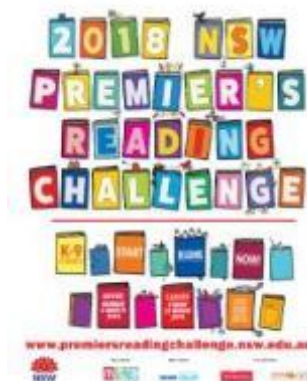
Let your mind have many exciting adventures as you read your way to a certificate from the NSW Premier.

Our Libraries have many books that are on the PRC lists.

Challenge	Number of books you must read	Minimum number of PRC books	Maximum number of Personal Choice books	PRC booklists you can read from
K-2	30	25	5	K-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-9
3-4	20	15	5	3-4, 5-6, 7-9
5-6	20	15	5	5-6, 7-9
7-9	20	15	5	5-6, 7-9

Check out the website for the rules.

Let Mrs Robinson know you are doing the challenge and she will send you a participation certificate. Enjoy your reading.



Reading is Dreaming with your eyes open.

**Mrs Robinson
Librarian**

loretta.robinson@det.nsw.edu.au

MINI SCHOOLS

MINI SCHOOL - ENNGONIA

In Week 8 some students from the Bourke Campus attended a Mini School at Enngonia. It was a marvelous experience with many activities, including music, sport and drama.

The students also enjoyed a visit from the wonderful girls from Pymble Ladies College in Sydney.

During the Enngonia camp, these young ladies worked tirelessly to ensure that all of the students had a fantastic time during their allocated class time, as well as during their free time



Maisie enjoying the music

Students also spent time with *Heaps Decent Music*, where they worked together with the other Small Schools to create some amazing songs. They created the music, wrote the lyrics, sang the song, designed the backdrops, and recorded the film clip.

We are looking forward to seeing these when they are complete.



Mrs Lorberg
A/Assistant Principal

MINI SCHOOL – WALGETT

What fun was had last week in Walgett!

Students were very busy with drama workshops,

poetry writing, Aboriginal art, fitness, games, critical thinking activities and STEM challenges (check out our awesome balloon powered cars!).



Matilda and Gabe



Rafa working on his balloon powered car



Ricky with his balloon powered car





Thank you to our parents and students who came to Walgett for our Mini-School, I know teachers certainly enjoyed the Camp and I hope that everyone enjoyed the wide variety of activities provided. We squeezed a lot into our two days and now have some beautiful Aboriginal art, handwriting and poetry to enter into the Walgett Show along with our Balloon Powered Cars!



Alison was very impressed with your ideas for our play and she will put together an outline that we can add to and make our own. It is nice to see our students working, communicating and playing together so well. If your child also has a fantastic piece of writing that we can enter into the show, please let your teacher know and they can help you organise this.



We can't wait for our next Mini-School in Term 3.

Mrs Keir
Assistant Principal

MERIT AWARDS

Walgett Students

Olivia McM - For her sensational story 'The Magic Biscuits' / Great effort in reading

Monty - Incredible work with whole Numbers / A great effort in all areas of work

Hugh - Unbelievable handwriting with excellent letter formation / Entertaining and creative 'Sizzling Starts' / Working hard to improve his times tables this term on satellite

Matilda - Awesome ideas in story writing / Impressive counting past 100.

Gabe - Lots of journal writing / Fantastic effort in all areas.

Alice - For regular and commendably completed work returns.

Gilbert - Commendable completion of his History unit / Entertaining and creative 'Sizzling Starts'.

Charlie - Entertaining and creative 'Sizzling Starts' / Amazing artistic skills.

Rafa - Awesome effort in all areas / entertaining and creative 'Sizzling Starts' / Fab efforts with his four times table this term on satellite.

Bourke Students

Kaleb - Brilliant work in Geography /

Participation at Camp.

Calvin - Impeccable behavior and leadership at the Enngonia Mini School camp.

Nick - Fantastic behavior and participation at Camp.

Hallie - Participation at Camp.

Joey - Participation at Camp.

Olivia D - Fantastic work on 3D space.

Congratulations

HOME VISITS

ALICE, MAC AND MONTY

On the 23 March Mrs Keir, Miss Hunt and I ventured to our most Eastern family, Alice, Mac and Monty, who live between Glen Innes and Guyra. We were greeted by our gate opener Mac first and then a very excited Monty and Alice soon after.

The landscape surrounding the homestead and the weather, was a lot different to what we are usually used to out west (very green, lots of trees, rolling hills and RAIN) and was a refreshing change for the day.

The kids were keen to get into their schoolroom where we all knuckled down and had a very productive morning.



Afterwards, we had a tour outside and attempted to play/learn an on-foot version of polo cross, which I excelled in (such a lie). The weather unfortunately stopped us from going for a ride with the kids, so we may have to venture back to the Celtic country soon, so Miss Hunt can jump on a pony.



Alice Mac and Monty



Miss hunt, Mac, Mrs Keir, Alice, Mrs Smith and Monty

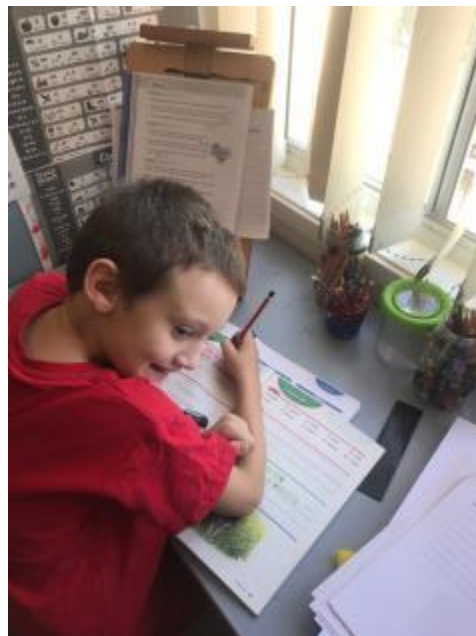
Thank you to Sal and Graeme for your generous hospitality. This is our favourite part of the job and the experience definitely did not disappoint. If we don't get out there again during the school year we were extended an invitation to come for Christmas by Monty, so it might not only be

Santa who shows up on your doorstep.
Prue Smith | Assistant Principal

RAFA AND GABE

This is the third time I've been out to visit Rafa and Gabe, and the first where I could work with Gabe as a student! The first thing I noticed is all of the stunning artwork that is stuck on the walls and doors that both the boys' had completed (I think they will have to build another room as an 'art gallery' soon!).

It was fantastic to be able to spend some time working with Gabe and Rafa, doing some assessments and being shown how much effort they put in to all aspects of their learning! We had a yummy lunch with homemade bread before the boys showed me their dirt bike skills on their track (with a jump) out the back. They must have been practising a lot and I was very impressed!



Spelling MASTERY



Mental maths strategy games



Gabe working independently on Reading Eggs

After that, we went to their gymnastics shed and hoops and they showed me some great jumps and flips. There's certainly no shortage of physical activity at their place! I wonder if you'll get me for a 4th year of visits???



Gymnasts

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Mrs Keir
Assistant Principal



Denzel, Alice, Mac and Ava

ATTACHMENTS

- P&C 2018 Membership Form
- Term 2 Planner



BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday wishes to **Matilda** who turned 6 on the 9th April, celebrating

her first birthday with DE! Happy Birthday to you. Best wishes also go out to **Jacob** who's birthday is tomorrow April 13th, and to **Vanessa** who will celebrate her birthday in the holidays on April 20th.



SPORT

NSW PSSA State Carnival

The PSSA Swimming Carnival was held Homebush the 11th and 12th April.

BWSODE was represented by siblings **Ava** and **Denzel** and **Alice** and **Mac** from the Walgett Centre, who all competed in the P5 Small Schools Relay.

A huge congratulations to these swimmers, BWSODE are very proud of your efforts and fantastic achievement winning the event.