



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

My thanks to all those families that attended our Term 4 Mini-School. Despite the cool change that hit, we had a great time! I hope all the students benefitted from the swimming lessons and are keen to keep practicing what they have learned. We were so lucky to have Maggie, Miss Marvell and Marg who did an excellent job with all the lessons.

During the next few weeks, end of year reporting and packing and programming for 2020 will commence – please try your best to keep the work coming in so programs are completed and this aspect of school runs smoothly. Also if you know of anything that you have scheduled early next year that may impact on your time in the schoolroom, please make sure your child's teacher is aware of this. Planning for presentation day is underway and students will be made aware of anything additional they may need. This information will be sent out to you so keep an eye on your emails and Morning Messages.

Staff Updates

Mrs Smith - Returned to work for 2 days a week in Term 4 and will increase this to 3 days in 2020.

Mrs Keir - Will return part-time in Term 2 2020

Mrs. Hartog - Will return for 2 days in 2020 and continue to work in Wellbeing and Learning Support.

Mrs Lorberg - Returning in 2020 and in addition to this we have secured a Rural and Remote Initiative teacher to work in Bourke in 2020.

This initiative is a DoE project to place experienced teachers in rural areas to encourage them to think about rural positions in the future. This is an above establishment position so our students should really benefit from having an extra teacher to assist their learning.

While on staffing, I would like to welcome *Rachael Neilson* to the Bourke Centre. Rachael is working as a casual staff member in Term 4. Staffing positions in Walgett have not been confirmed at present.

The drought continues to impact our towns, communities and school with enrolment numbers at an all-time low. Due to the Department of Education's commitment to not enforce transfers of staff due to falling numbers in drought effected communities, we are fortunate not to be losing teaching positions. Survey feedback on the weekly Morning Messages we have trialed this term indicate that families are more than happy to continue with this process. Morning Messages will continue as a weekly submission and this will be re-evaluated at the end of Term 1 2020. My thanks to those families who completed these surveys.

We have submitted another application to fund our language program for 2020, as yet we have not heard if we have been successful or not. I will keep you posted on this later in Term 4. As well as our language program, Hay School of the Air, Southern Cross School of distance Education and BWSODE have also applied for an IT program grant. At present no firm details will be available until we know the outcome. BWSODE have also placed an application for student, staff and supervisor's professional learning and training in the use of applying filmmaking and green screening as a literacy skill across the curriculum. If successful, we will be able to host training and a student incursion on the fundamentals of filmmaking next year. The purchase of studio equipment is also include in this application. Exciting times ahead!!

As the end of the year rapidly comes to a conclusion, I hope your last four weeks of term are productive and happy and I look forward to seeing you all soon at either Integration or Presentation Days.

Kind Regards

Wendy Hay
Principal



DATES TO REMEMBER

21st Nov – Integration Day Bourke
29th Nov – Integration day Walgett
11-12th Dec – Bourke Integration Day and Presentation Day
13th Dec – Walgett Centre Presentation Day
18th Dec - School concludes for 2019

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Morning Messages

The Term 3 trial regarding weekly Morning Messages continues with one MM at the start of the week and emails for any relevant information that develops sent during the week. This will be reassessed based on feedback from families and staff later in the Term.

Parent's Guide to Online Safety

Many parents and caregivers feel out of their depth when it comes to understanding their children's use of devices and the internet. **The Office of the eSafety Commissioner** has published new resources aimed specifically to help parents, with tips and advice on ensuring safe and enjoyable experiences online. The resource is available for access via a browser and downloads are available in multiple languages. In addition, for parents unfamiliar with using computers, a free hardcopy can be ordered. The resource is highly recommended.

Parents/Supervisors

If you would like your own guest email address, please let the school know ASAP. This email will allow access to department sites as well as other sites

New Uniform Hoodies



New hoodies for the students are available for purchase and we thank Walgett Centre's P&C for their action on this. They are \$25 each and range from a size 4-16.

School Bags for Sale

6 Mighty Tuff BWSODE logoed Back Packs are available from the Walgett Office @ **\$10.00**. They are navy with the BWSODE school logo, have an ergonomic design and look quite smart and handy. Please contact the P&C or the Walgett Centre if you are interested.

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/>

BWSODE Website



The School website is another platform we use to showcase our school and where you can locate important information such as photos, newsletters, useful educational links and some valuable resources supervisors can utilise in their school rooms. <http://www.bwsode.schools.nsw.gov.au>

PARENTING IDEAS

The Digital World

Surveys have consistently shown that children are being exposed to increasing amounts of screen time each year. Parents often concerned about the connections children and young people are making and the subsequent impact on their wellbeing. The time they spend online, scrolling, searching and swiping which could be spent doing outdoor activities is also concerning. Digital devices are here to stay, so it's imperative to look at how kids can remain in control of their screen use, and ensure the time they're investing online is adding something helpful, positive and meaningful to our lives. Here are four tips to help kids develop healthy digital habits. Being mindful of how time is spent on devices, is certainly not just reserved for young people.

1. Encourage creation not just consumption.

Is your child more of a consumer or creator when they're online? Check to see if they spend time online in creative mode such as making things, creating own videos, editing photos, writing posts, coding a video game or composing a song. Encourage them to be creative rather than mere consumers of digital content.

2. Discuss who they are following

The digital world encourages leaders and followers. It places people and individuals from all walks of life in close contact with your kids. They can follow companies, musical icons, sports stars as well as friends. Encourage your child to follow people and companies that can fuel their passions.

For instance, if they love space, search for NASA and related accounts. If they love photography, help them find great photographers sharing their work online. When they're following people that teach, inspire and ignite their passions, they're less likely to spend valuable time with energy zappers.

3. Digitally de-clutter regularly

Many kids collect apps on their devices in the same way that former generations collected football cards or swap cards. Encourage them to delete the apps they no longer use or apps that offer no benefits to their lives. Could there be better games to play? Are there better videos for them to watch than the ones that the YouTube algorithm believes they want to see?

4. Show kids good practises

Most kids learn much more from what they see and experience, rather than from what they are told. As a parent be intentional with your screen time. Do you: Follow people that support you, challenge you in helpful ways or inspire and lift you up? Interact in positive ways?

Remember to give people your attention rather than scroll whilst others are talking to you?

Put your digital devices away in order to fit all the other important things into your day?

Setting your kids up with healthy digital habits will help make these practises the norm. If you don't want your children falling prey to the harmful and unhelpful experiences online, you need to be sure that they are focusing on positive and helpful screen time pursuits.

(An extract from Michael Gross)



Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's the author of 10 books for parents including *Thriving and the best-selling Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change It*. His latest release is *Spoonfed Generation: How to Raise Independent Children*.

LIBRARY REPORT

Reading aloud is one of the most powerful things we can do to encourage learning, compassion and understanding. When children have stories read to them, it greatly improves their language and literacy skills, especially in the early years of a child's development, evoking a magic that can only be obtained from story.

Reading aloud to kids of all ages at home, in a classroom or at the library can enhance cognitive development, increase a child's ability to regulate their behaviour and, through successful vocabulary development, better vocational, academic and health outcomes.

Oh, so true! I ask the question then – When was the last time you read aloud? Be it for your own clarification and enjoyment or to your child. Reading to a child or in fact to a class is one of the most enjoyable things you can do.

I remember in my Kindergarten classes reading lots of Mem Fox's books and always being asked "Read some more please?" I read the Pup series by John Heffernan to a Yr 6 class and was asked "Read some more please?"

Mrs Robinson
Teacher Librarian



CENTRE NEWS

Walgett

Rafa and Gabe recently competed at the Gymnastics State Championships.

Both boys achieved amazing results receiving Bronze banding medals, and Rafa placed 10th in NSW on the Rings.

BWSODE congratulate these students on their amazing results and recognises the training and commitment it takes to get to that level of achievement. Well done.



Gabe



Rafa

Rafa also entered the 2019 Write4Fun Short Story Competition and is a finalist with this story entitled:

Captain Shaw

The winter wind whips my face as I look at my rain soaked watch. 5:30pm exactly. I'm never going to make it to the train in this weather. A big gust of wind hits my umbrella and blows it away into the dark, rainy streets. The rain turns to sleet and it gets even colder.

I see an antique shop across the street. In the window is a lit up orange sign that says "Come in! We're open." I immediately decide to go in for shelter. Wishing I was on a cruise ship, so warm and snug, I find myself thinking about the sea as I push through the door. The sea in my mind is a deep liberty blue or "azure" I say out loud.

"At the back on the left on the rack". I turn to face the cashier who has looked up from his book. He has capturing dark green-blue eyes. I find myself in an accidental staring contest with the man with viridian eyes so I squeeze my eyes in a deliberate blink. "What did you say?" I ask. "What you are looking for is at the back of the shop on the left" he says authoritatively as he looks back down at his book. The back of the shop looks dark and dusty. I turn and march off

assuming he means umbrellas. I guess I do need one.

At the back of the shop I turn and see a tall wooden hat rack filled with all different types of hats. A feathered pink wedding hat, a black and orange pirate hat, a gold marching band hat, top hats, fedoras, berets, caps, costumes, hats of every kind. I'm about to turn away when suddenly, I see it. A bright vermilion peaked cap with a black brim, anchor on the front and gold cord over the front like miniature aiguillettes. I can't help but take it off the rack. It looks waterproof. That could be handy. I turn it over in my hands and I see a worn material name tag with bold black stitching which says James S. Shaw. I feel confused, that's MY name!

A strange voice comes over to me, "buy the hat" it says. I turn around expecting to see the cashier but I don't. I start to shiver. I definitely don't want to be here anymore, but I do want the hat. I walk to the front, buy the hat and walk to the exit. As I reach for the door, without warning, in a loud voice I hear "Captain Shaw!!" I turn slowly with my eyes first. The cashier is holding a five dollar note. "You forgot your change." "Keep it," I say as I quickly open the door, step out into the cold rain and put on my new hat, confident it will get me through many stormy nights to come.

By Rafa Yr 3

War On Waste

Throughout Semester 2, our Stage 2 and 3 BWSODE students have become very interested and familiar with Australia's War on Waste. Some of our students have taken the opportunity to engage in an Action Research Project investigating and educating themselves about waste, reusing and renewing in their home and community.

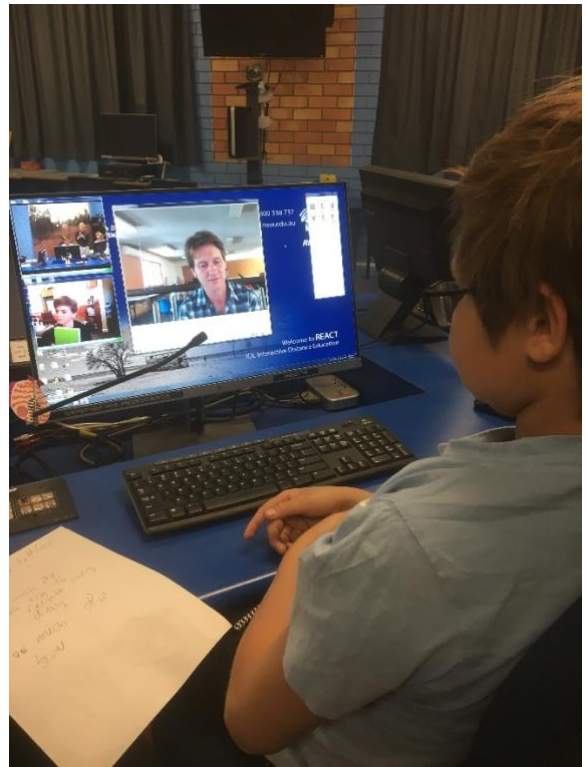
Throughout our Mini-School here in Walgett, all Stage 2 and 3 students proved to already be experts in the field of recycling and reusing, as well as doing their bit to fight our War on Waste in Australia.

We looked at Craig Reucassel's ABC program 'War on Waste' which focused on plastic, clothing and food waste in Australia, its environmental impacts and what can be done to help reduce waste. As a result of all of this, we invited Craig to join us on Satellite to give his perspective on how our country is tackling waste issues and we asked lots of questions about what we can be doing better and what else needs to be done.

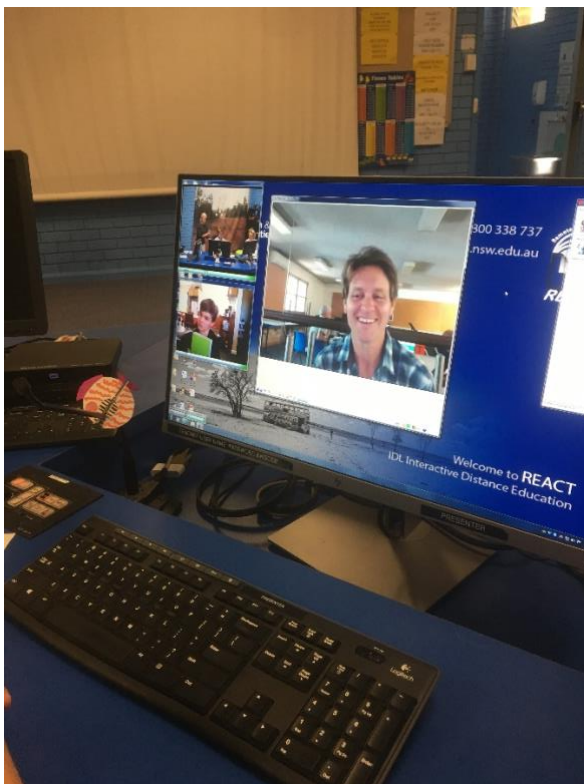
The BWSODE thank Craig very much for this amazing and informative satellite presentation to our students, to David Foley for coordinating the IT side of the presentation and to our casual teacher Samantha Davies, for her organisation and planning that enabled it to take place.



David and Craig at the studio in Sydney



Ricky watching and listening



The students view of the Presentation



Craig's view of the students

INTEGRATION DAYS

Bourke Centre

On 17th October we had our first Integration Day of the term. Although our numbers were a little lower than expected, we made the most of the opportunity and used it to focus on some of the more tricky aspects of Literacy and Numeracy. We had the great privilege of welcoming Kc to his first Integration Day as he begins his transition into Kindergarten for next year. A wonderfully productive day was had by all, and we rounded out our day by practicing our Presentation Day dance item.

MERIT AWARDS



Kc enjoying his Kinda Orientaiton



Vanessa hard at work



Willem



Nick



Walgett Students

- Rafael** - For his exceptionally positive attitude towards all areas of school
- Gabriel** - For his effort and improvement in self editing his writing
- Monty** - For being organised and punctual to his first STS and Satellite lesson for Term 4
- Darcy** - For his outstanding reading at Home Visit
- Jandre** - Working hard to complete units of work / His awesome attitude and swimming skills at Mini-School
- Denzel** - For independent revision work to consolidate his understand of Whole Numbers



Bourke Students

- Vanessa** - Excellent creativity and completion of a self-portrait
- Kc** - An excellent start to transition
- Nick** - For working hard to understand the patterns of the sun / Completing 'Look Up and Around' Science Unit
- Maisie** - Excellent start to Term 4
- Oliver** - Working hard on fractions and rounding
- Charlotte** - Striving to improve literacy skills



WHOLE SCHOOL MINI SCHOOL

Tem 4 Whole School Mini School was held in Walgett from the 5-7th Nov.

The program included a variety of activities from community visits, classroom work and Remembrance Day Art, the main focus was on swimming lessons. Many thanks to Maggie Yeomans for her professional and engaging lessons and to Miss Marvel and Margaret for their expertise as well in running the sessions.



Visits to the Police Station, the Court House and Post Office were made, as well as time for Melbourne Cup activities and some school work. So it was an action packed three days. Thank you to the parents and carers who were able to attend this important part of the Distance Education calendar and the learning experiences offered.



HOME VISITS

Nick and Kc

On 23rd of October 2019 I travelled the dusty road out to Wilganea to visit Nick and welcome Kc to the classroom and work with him on the transition from preschool to primary school. Before the day began we were able to spend a little time checking out the new spring babies and I was delighted to see both baby goats and some very cute baby chickens. I was able to watch Nick feed a baby goat which seemed like second nature to him, but was something that I had never seen.

When we made it over to the classroom, it was time for a literacy session with Nick and Kc. Nick focused on spelling, sight words, reading and sounds while Kc completed some work on listening skills, following directions and identifying meaning in print. After morning tea Nick, CC and I worked on problem solving using addition and then focused on fractions. We looked at dividing counters equally in to groups of two to create halves and equal groups of four to create quarters. After a hard morning of working we settled in for a lovely lunch before the family headed off to feed their cute baby goats and I made the trip back to the office. Another wonderfully productive day.
Mrs. Lorberg



BIRTHDAYS



Birthday greetings go out to **Nick** who celebrated his 6th birthday on Oct the 16th and to **Olivia** who turned 12 on Oct 24th. **Denzel** also celebrated his birthday in October with his 12th birthday on the 30th. Happy Birthday to each of you and hope you had a great day. **Maise** celebrates her 6th birthday on the 15th Nov and **Kate** her 10th on Nov 20th so we wish you both a very Happy Birthday too.

