



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Woosh! Suddenly its Week 6!!

Welcome back to all our families and students and a big hello to all our new families.

Walgett Centre – Gus and parents Ashley and Peter, Oscar and Hudson and parents Julie and Raoul, Kate and Wally and parents Nicholas Edwina, Beau and parents Rhys and Julie and Darcy and parents Ian and Jemma.

Bourke Centre – Willem and parents Ryan and Meredith and Kyieackar and parents Michael and Remika. It's great to have you all at our school!

We also welcome Miss Lydia Hall



and Miss Emma Marvell to our staff this year, relieving in positions while regular staff are on leave.

Lydia has been working at the Lincoln School in Dubbo for the past 5 years and Emma has been teaching in Narrabri for the past 4. How lucky we are to be able to find such experience.

Our students have once again been busy with swimming and showed great effort, tenacity and a willingness to have a go. Congratulations to Charlotte and Denzel who were both awarded Senior Champions at their respective carnivals. Vanessa and Charlotte both competed at their District Carnival and congratulations to Rafa, Denzel, Gus, Mac and Matari who all achieved success at their District Carnival in Lightning Ridge on the 21st of February.

The Small Schools Relay of Mac, Matari, Denzel and Gus went on to qualify for the regional swimming Carnival in Armidale on Monday March 4th as well as Denzel in individual events. This is a tremendous effort and we congratulate them all for their achievements and for representing our school at this level.

The relay came 3rd in the final which qualified them to compete at the PSSA State Carnival at Homebush in April. Fantastic effort and congratulations to 'Team BWSODE'!

Home visits are well under way for Term 1 and we thank the families for their assistance in timetabling these visits during such a busy time. The staff have had a brilliant time and have enjoyed seeing the student's learning environments.

Year 6 are gearing up for the Young Leaders Conference in Sydney in Week 7. The line-up of speakers looks wonderful and I know they will represent our school with pride.

As Principal, I will be attending the ICPSA Supervisor's Conference in Wentworth next week and also the State Conference which begins the day after. As always I will be contactable on my mobile during break times, so if you need to speak to me, please call and leave a message.

As Nyngan Super Camp nears, we understand that many families are torn between supporting this camp and the pressure of the drought at home. We understand if you can only commit for a few days or have to give this a miss as it's just too hard. We are also able to support with travel if needed. Please contact your centre if you need help with this.

Crazy as it sounds happy hump week!!

I hope you have all found your groove and are enjoying Term 1!!

Kind Regards

Wendy Hay
Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER

11th – 13th March – Young Leaders Conference

15th March – Mrs Keir's LAST DAY!!

15th March – Western Region Swimming Carnival Dubbo

20th March – Integration Day Bourke

22nd March – Integration day Walgett

1st – 5th April – Nyngan Super Camp

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

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.

Ian McNamara from Australia All Over

Ian McNamara from ABC Radio's **Australia All Over** will be in Walgett on Tuesday 12th March. He will be in the RSL Hall in Fox Street at 11am where he will sing some songs and conduct interviews as part of his show.

All members of the community are invited and welcome to attend. Macca is always interested in people and rural life, and wants people to share their stories and experiences of life in a remote community such as ours, be it living, working or schooling, particularly in such challenging times as we now face.

A small morning tea will be provided and people are also invited to bring along examples of their own cooking to share. Macca has been known to rave about people's cooking on the radio!



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/>

Write4Fun

The Write4Fun 2019 schools writing competition is now open! The competition is designed to

encourage creativity with literacy and this year there is NO THEME - entries can be on any topic and in any style.

Students may enter either a poem of 16 lines or less OR a short story of 500 words or less.

Further information can be found:

<https://www.write4fun.net/competitions/>

If your child/ren would like to enter this comp, you can do so online:

<https://www.write4fun.net/competitions/64/enter>

They have our school listed as **'Walgett Primary Distance Education Centre (Walgett Primary School)'**

Students can win \$500 cash and \$500 for the school as well as other prizes including iPads, Xbox, Rebel Sport Gift Vouchers or Play Stations!!

World Poetry Day

World Poetry Day is celebrated on 21st March every year, and recognises *the unique ability of poetry to capture what it means to be human* as in every culture, there are poets who feed the soul of their nation and advocate for the arts. This year we are featuring the diversity and brilliance of our Australian poets both contemporary and classic."

For more information go to:

readingaustralia.com.au

In commemoration of World Poetry Day, Reading Australia is running a poetry competition for primary students with two awesome books to win - Pearl Verses the World by Sally Rippin and The ABC of Australian Poetry compiled by Libby Hathorn (plus another copy of these for the school).

To enter, write a poem between five and eight lines long about any topic.

Send the poem to Mrs Robinson

loretta.robinson@det.nsw.edu.au by March 25th and she will send the entries to:

readingaustralia@copyright.com.au

Sydney Red Shield Camp

The Salvation Army are conducting a camp at Sydney's Collaroy for the first week of the upcoming school holidays. The camp is open to students in Years 3-6 and is completely free of charge if any of our students wanted to attend. They organise to pick students up and to transport them there. Activities include a visit

the Zoo, Wet and Wild, Laser Tag and the beach.

The only requirement would be that students are expected to attend 1 hour of scripture time each day - fun singing, art and games with a Christian message.

If you are interested or would like any further information please contact Lyndel Taylor, Camp organiser and leader on 0243558008 or 0428713127

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

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>

MOORAMBILLA



The 2019 Moorambilla auditions were held at the Walgett Centre on Thursday 28th. Tori was our only singing representative this year.

Well done to you for having a go.



PARENTING IDEAS

Below is a very interesting and relevant extract from an article by Michael Grose. Well worth reading.

The Language of Independence

Families always develop shared language around the values that have strong meaning for them. If independence and self-sufficiency are important, then it will be reflected in your family's proprietary language.

In fact, it's through shared language that culture exists. If you are looking to building a culture of independence in your family, or in your classroom, then creating your proprietary language around independence is a great way to start.

The following are twelve examples of independence-building language and principles behind them, that will help you create your own family's language.

1. "Never regularly do for a child the things a child can do for him or herself" Goal: Independence

This is perhaps the original parenting-for-independence manifesto, and it's a philosophy that guides many teachers and parents today. In effect, this sentence means that wherever possible, we give children the skills and competencies to look after themselves physically and emotionally. It requires a great deal of patience, time and courage from parents and teachers as the sentence is easier to say than put to put into practice. But it's a worthy guiding principle that leads to self-sufficiency in children, and ultimately redundancy as parents.

2. "Is this something you can do?" Goal: Self-help

Independence takes many forms but perhaps the most common is the development of self-help skills. The confidence, pride and, for most, sheer pleasure that kids get doing the simple things for themselves such a toddler tying his shoelaces or a child making his own lunch, is immeasurable. Yet it is so easily denied by well-meaning parents and adults who see it as their job to do everything for children. Independence begins at home with the development of self-help skills.

3. "Have you checked the help roster today?" Goal: Contribution

A great way to develop a sense of independence is to give kids opportunities to

help out at home. There is no need to overburden children with jobs, but a sensible allocation of chores according to their age and study requirements is not only a great help to you, but fantastic training for them. It also builds accountability and a work ethic, both highly valued characteristics for continuing success at school and later in life.

4. *“Which of these two would you prefer?”*

Goal: Decision-making

Parents as wise leaders, need to call the shots on how the family life is conducted and health and welfare issues such as appropriate bed and bath times. Some things are not up for negotiation. But there are areas where parents can rightfully hand autonomy to children and say - ‘It’s your call!’ Choice of clothes, how they keep their bedroom and who they play with, are the types of decisions they can make. Naturally, this is age-related and you do need to have some influence on their choices.

5. *“How can you make this happen?”* **Goal: Problem-solving**

Kids get used to bringing their problems to parents to solve. If you keep solving them, they’ll keep bringing them. A problem-solving approach relies on asking good questions, which can be challenging if you are used to solving your child’s problems. The first question when a child brings you a problem should be: ‘Can you handle this on your own?’ Next could be ‘What do you want me to do to help you solve the problem?’ These questions are not meant to deter children from coming to you; rather, to encourage and teach them to start working through their own concerns themselves.

6. *“We rely on you to do this?”* **Goal: Reliability**

Reliability is closely connected to responsibility and other aspects of independence. Every child over the age of five, at the eldest, should do something that someone else relies on whether it’s looking after a pet, clearing the meal table or emptying the garbage on a regular basis. Having others rely on you has its challenges and is a learning curve. They’ll inevitably forget to do the rubbish bins, meaning your bin will be overflowing. They’ll need to be reminded about feeding the pet or clearing the table. Kids inevitably won’t get things right, but that doesn’t mean we should stop giving them responsibilities.

7. *“What can you learn for next time?”* **Goal: Self-sufficiency**

Learning from mistakes is part of the independence-building process for children. Often adult impatience or unwillingness to put up with errors prevents us from giving kids the chance to do things for themselves or take real responsibilities. If independence is to be a major part of your family’s culture, then it’s imperative that we help kids learn from their mistakes be it social, behavioural or just messing up while helping out at home.

8. *“How do you feel about this?”* **Goal: Emotional intelligence**

An often over-looked aspect of independence is the ability to self-manage your emotional state. Emotional self-management starts with the recognition of how you feel about a particular event or action and then labelling that feeling. If possible, prompt to identify their emotions before they act on them. You can also revisit events and ask children about the feelings that may have led up to a certain behaviour such as hurting or yelling at a sibling.

9. *“When you muck up, you make up?”* **Goal: Accountability**

Kids of all ages will make mistakes. In fact, mucking up is part of the learning process. But kids will just repeat their mistakes unless they experience the consequences of their decisions. The use of behavioural consequences is a way of teaching children to take greater responsibility for their lives and to learn to make smarter choices.

10. *“How will you fix this?”* **Goal: Restoring relationships**

Independent kids are usually socially-smart kids who don’t operate in a bubble. They know that their behaviour impacts on others and they are mindful of the thoughts, feelings and behaviours of others. They also make amends or restore relationships when their behaviour impacts negatively on others. Relationship restoration is a lifelong skill and involves the following: swallowing your pride, making up, giving something back, not holding a grudge and moving on.

11. *“You need to do what’s right, not what’s easy.”* **Goal: Integrity**

A sense of integrity is important for a child’s independence because it’s the basis of reasoned and socially focused self-control and self-management. The job of parents is to move their children from ‘Me’ to ‘We’. Integrity is the great socialising agent for a child. They may get by without courage, endurance and grit, but they won’t get far socially without integrity.

12. "Let's find a way to make this happen."

Goal: positive risk-taking

One of the ways to develop independence is to work with them to build their skills and abilities to safely navigate an ever-broadening environment outside of the relative safe confines of their home. Ideas include adults and kids doing things together such as catching public transport until they are ready to go it alone or with friends; and giving kids smaller freedoms that lead to bigger liberties such as allowing a young child to walk part of the way to school on their own and then extending the distance as they get more experience and feel more confident.

Independence-building is vitally important for parents. It's the pathway to children's competency, confidence and creativity and the short cut to resilience and real learning. We've gradually retreated from this approach over recent generations much to our children's detriment. It's time to help kids reclaim their independence.



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 *Spooned Generation: How to Raise Independent Children*.

LIBRARY REPORT



The PRC aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely.

The Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) is available for all NSW students in Kindergarten to Year 9.

CHALLENGE OPENS: Monday March 4, 2019

CLOSES FOR STUDENTS: Friday August 30, 2018

If you wish to enter this great challenge please let Mrs Robinson know at

loretta.robinson@det.nsw.edu.au and she will enter you and provide more information.

More information can also be found on the PRC website

www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au

Mrs Robinson
Teacher Librarian



HOME VISITS

Alex

Two excited teachers, Mrs Hartog and Mrs Robinson headed out to new student Alex, for a Home Visit on Monday 25th February. As both teachers had not been west of Bourke before, they were looking forward to seeing this part of our western district. As they slowed to go through Louth they decided it would be a good idea to have a quick trip around the village on their return trip as it looked interesting.

Alex was waiting with a big smile on his face when they arrived after following Sam's excellent directions.

Straight away Mrs Hartog had Alex doing some assessments and Mrs Robinson was taking Sam through Alex's program. Before anyone knew, it was 2pm and time to head back.

Photos were taken and goodbyes said and Mrs Hartog and Mrs Robinson were back in the car heading to Louth.

First a quick stop at the Inn where they were given a brief history of Louth from a lovely local, then a trip around the village. Acting like tourist they sighted the well-kept Louth Public school, crossed the bridge to see the little puddles of water left in the Darling River and then on to see the magnificent Celtic cross in the cemetery.

This cross stands some 10 or 15 metres high. The Celtic cross was erected by the founder of Louth when his first Irish wife died. At certain times when the cross is hit by the sun its reflection is an awesome sight.

Thank you to Alex and Sam.

Mrs Robinson

Nick

On the 8th of February I journeyed out to Wilganea to meet with Nick, Beck, and their new Governess CC. I was pleased to see the spots of green on the way and amazed at the number of happy animals that I saw during my travels. Upon arriving at Wilganea, Nick was excited at completing a day of school, and was able to recall a lot of the information that he absorbed

last year. We completed some English, Maths and History before working on an amazing woollen snail artwork.

Nick introduced me to the goat and explained how it has been bothering the chickens in their coup. In the afternoon Nick showed me the new skills he had learnt during the holidays and allowed me to watch him ride his new motorbike. He was very proud of what he could do, and so he should be.

We had a lovely day full of learning and I got a chance to introduce CC to the world of Distance Education. I would like to officially welcome her to our school and we hope that her and Nick have a wonderful learning journey together in 2019.

I look forward to seeing them again at Wilganea later in the year.

Mrs Lorberg



MERIT AWARDS

Walgett Students

Gabriel A sensational start to the term with super spelling!

Darcy For his outstanding swimming and confidence in his FIRST Swimming Carnival / Beginning to write some words independently in sentences, with little assistance.

Sienna Working towards her goals and being super physically active / A Graffiti Artist in the making

Monty For awesome joint editing of your Holiday Recount!

Jandr  For his hard work in Phonics with Miss Marvell!

Beau For writing an awesome letter to Miss Marvell all about Star Wars!

Denzel Your excellent cursive writing

skills / Outstanding results at the Barwon District Swimming Carnival

Gus For your hard work and independence in Maths / Your excellent participation and outstanding team effort at the Barwon District Swimming Carnival

Ricky Your hard work and beautiful behaviour on Wednesday.

Mac For outstanding results in the x 12 speed tests / Your excellent participation and outstanding team effort at the Barwon District Swimming Carnival

Matari For your excellent participation and outstanding team effort at the Barwon District Swimming Carnival

Rafa Excellent start to the year
Tori Being a little Math's Wizard

Bourke Students

Nick An excellent start to 2019 / Outstanding Graffiti Artwork

Vanessa An excellent start to 2019 / Excellent participation in Small Schools Swimming Carnival / Fantastic effort at the District Swimming Carnival

Charlotte Outstanding Sportsmanship at the Small Schools Swimming Carnival

Joey Participation in Small Schools Swimming Carnival / Excellent effort in his Creative writing

Olivia Excellent piece of creative writing / Working hard on angles



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Lots of birthday wishes go out to our students who have celebrated their birthdays over the holidays and in the last few weeks. Birthday Greetings to **Olivia** 18th Dec, **Oscar** 20th Dec, **Willem** 4th

Jan, **Monty** 11th Jan, **Jankye** 14th Jan and **Caleb** 17th Jan.

Happy Birthday wishes also go out to **Darcy** 10th March, his first with DE, **Mac** 15th March, **Gus** 21st March, also his first with DE, **Ricky** 23rd March and **Matari** 27th March.



SPORT

Walgett Small School Swimming

Congratulations to all our students who competed and participated in the Small Schools Swimming Carnival in Collarenebri on Friday Feb 15th.

Congratulations to Denzel Senior Boy Champion and Gabe who was R/U Sub-Junior Boys Champion.

All of our students gave the races their best shot and had a great day



Barwon Swimming Carnival

Barwon District Swimming Carnival was held at Lightning ridge on 21st of Feb.

It was another successful DE day at swimming and congratulations to all who participated.

Denzel won Senior Boy Champion so special congratulations to him and well done to all the other students won ribbons.

Denzel, Mac, Rafa, Gus and Matari qualified to swim at the North West Carnival in Armidale on Monday the 4th March which is a fantastic effort.



Relay Team Gus, Matari, Mac and Denzel

North West Swimming Carnival

Monday March 4th March, saw our team of boys heading to the pool at Armidale to compete at the NW Swimming Carnival.

Rafa, Gus, Denzel, Mac and Matari all competed in individual events as well as the older boys Denzel, Gus, Mac and Matari in the Earl MacGee Small Schools Relay.

A 3rd placing in the final saw them qualify for the PSSA State Swimming Carnival at Homebush in April – A tremendous effort and congratulations from the whole BWSODE school community.

Bourke Small Schools Swimming Carnival



Nick at the Carnival



Charlotte Senior R/U at the Small Schools Swimming



Maisie



Bourke District Swimming Carnival

The Bourke District Swimming Carnival was held on Thursday Feb 28th. Well done to all those students who participated.

Vanessa won the 13yrs 50m Freestyle event and qualified on to the Western Region Swimming Carnival in Dubbo on March 15th. Congratulations Vanessa.



Vanessa and Miss Hay

Double Integration Day at Walgett



Feb 28th and March 1st saw Walgett Centre conduct a double Integration Day with renowned artists Leonie and Reuben. They worked with the students on various art works, culminating in a 'graffiti style' mindfulness mural decorating our Sports Container. It was a fantastic and successful couple of days with the students learning new Visual Arts skills and creating many pieces of art on canvas and paper using spray paint and paint pens.



Jandre in Yr 1

Other activities over the two days included swimming with Miss Marvell and Marg, STEM activities using the Spheros with Mrs Keir and Literacy games with Miss Marvell.



One Hundred Years From Now...
One hundred years from now
It won't matter
What kind of car you drove
What kind of house you lived in
How much money you had in the bank
Nor what clothes you wore
But the world may be a little better
Because you were important in the life
of a child



Kinda student Darcy

