



### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Welcome to Week 4 – Nearly hump week for Term 4!!

With harvest well under way on the Eastern side of our communities, many families are juggling work and the demands of the outside happenings.

Please don't hesitate to contact the school if you feel under pressure in any way with your workload, adjustments can easily be made to assist you.

On the Western side, we hope the grass is growing well and you are all enjoying the change of season!

Your child's Christmas activities are ready to go, so if you haven't already received them, please contact your Centre if you are able to collect them. If not they will be posted next week. We hope students will enjoy these activities as a fun end to their schooling year, and teachers are happy to receive any photos of their finished products.

Our school successfully completed the External Validation process in Week 3. Many thanks to Kirsty Lorberg and Prue Smith for their work with me on this process. We can all get back to "normal" now with marking, programming and reports!

Within the next two weeks we hope to receive a further update on COVID restrictions at school. With the HSC concluding soon, I predict that restrictions will ease and hopefully schools will be able to move forward with end of year celebrations. We will let families know ASAP about Presentation Day arrangements once we have these updates.

Later in the Term 4, we will once again ask families, students and staff to undertake our End of Year Survey to assist the school with planning for 2021. We value your feedback on all aspects of your child's experience - Their academic workload, individual support, feedback on units, Integration Days, Home Visits, Mini-Schools and support for supervisors. This feedback is used to establish what we do well, what needs further work and what the

needs are of the families that attend our school at this point in time are and how we can work with them to benefit students.

NSW Schools begin a new planning cycle in 2021 and presentations about this process will be undertaken in Term 1, to inform families of our strategic directions and process and procedures to attain results.

Finally, on staffing updates, I would like to extend congratulations to Mrs Lorberg who has received permanency with the Department, Mr Warne who has now been officially transferred and Mrs Harris on the birth of her second child, Hugo.

With James no longer attached to our School, we will be advertising the Assistant Principals position in Bourke within the next 4 weeks.

To all our families and students, thanks for an awesome start to Term 4 and I hope to see you all soon!

**Kind Regards**  
**Wendy Hay**  
**Principal**

### STAFF NEWS



Warmest congratulations to Mrs Harris and her husband Jack, on the safe arrival of their second son Hugo Jack born on Monday Oct 26<sup>th</sup>.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**6<sup>th</sup> Nov** – *Integration Days in Walgett and Bourke*

**20<sup>th</sup> Nov** - *Integration Days in Walgett and Bourke*

**4<sup>th</sup> Dec** – *Last Satellite Lessons*

**8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Dec** – *Bourke Integration and Presentation Days*

**10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Dec** – *Walgett Integration and Presentation Days*



1 Our School Room

## CENTRE NEWS

The Rural and Distance Education team are pleased to announce that Bourke–Walgett School of Distance Education **placed 1st** in the 2020 'Looking Through Our Window' Photo Competition.

The school will receive \$2500 prize money for the Photo Story that captured and reflected the strengths of NSW rural and remote schools.

The judging panel, which included representatives from the NSW P&C Federation, Isolated Children's Parents' Association, Aboriginal Education Consultative Group and a Director of Education Leadership from the NSW Department of Education, felt our photo story truly captured the essence of rural and remote education.

A big thank you to all families who sent in submissions and in particular to Mrs Robinson and Mrs Keir for compiling the photos to enter for this competition.

These photos will be showcased on the [Student Voices website](#) for other schools and communities to see. Additionally, some of the winning work may also be used on the [Rural and Distance Education website](#) and in future publications to promote rural and remote education.

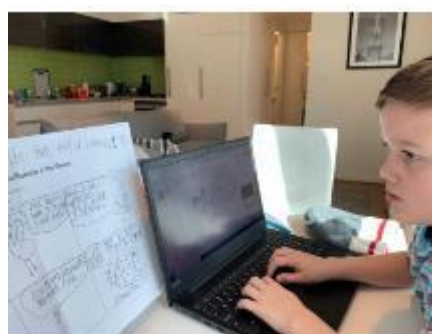


2 Assembly over Satellite Teacher in Bourke, students in Hungerford

3 Lessons in the Shearing Shed – while shearing takes place



4 Discovering our world



5 Story Writing anytime anywhere!



Bourke-Walgett School of  
Distance Education

"Looking through Our Window"



6

Art lessons



7 Science on the go



8 Work Packs are here

9 Integration Day – Time to catch up with schoolmates and teachers



## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

### COVID 19 Sign In

Directives from the Department still require schools to be extremely vigilant with families and visitors to the school, should contract tracing be necessary.

**All** parents/visitors are requested to please continue to sign in and out when you visit the Centres.

Should your visit be for a period greater than 15mins, there is another document you will be required to complete.

### T4 COVID UPDATE

Directives from the Department regarding COVID-19 are easing in regards to external visitors on site, as well as Kindy transition programs. This means that parents and supervisors are able to use the staffroom as a base when visiting the school for Integration Days and 2021 Kindy enrolments are welcome and encouraged to attend Integration Days. As stated above, on arrival at the Centre, you are still required to sign in, follow social distancing directives and make use of the hand sanitiser freely available at different points throughout the school

### IT Help Desk

The IT team are beginning their field operations again so Satellite installations, relocations and retrievals will recommence.

Their work load and service area is vast so there could still be some significant delays.

**IT Help Desk - 1800 338 737 or their new landline number is 58526215**



Geographically isolated distance education families are eligible for the *School Drive Subsidy* enabling them to claim 2 trips a term (or 4 a Semester)

The on line application is made by the family, on the **Transport for NSW Website**.

The School Drive subsidy is a cents/kilometre contribution towards the cost of travelling to your school. Your application is then linked to the school to 'validate' your attendance each semester and the money is paid directly to you

### T4L Kids



The new **T4L Kids Magazine** is a self-guided independent learning resource created by teachers for students

The magazine aims to provide students with purposeful challenges that engages them in creating content using technology.

The following features are included in every issue of T4L Kids:

- A main digital technology design challenge to guide student learning.
- Sample ideas to get students thinking.
- A step by step design process to guide student idea development.
- Demonstrations of key technology tools.
- Ways to share their completed design challenge with their teacher.

Publications released so far:

Issue 1 - Video Game Design Challenge

Issue 2 - The Science Fiction Edition

For more information, go to their website:

<https://t4l.schools.nsw.gov.au/resources/teaching-and-learning-resources/t4l-kids.html>

## Boarding Schools Expo

For those families considering boarding school for their children, attending one of the Boarding School Expos held yearly throughout the state, are a good way to gather information about specific schools and to directly meet staff associated with the school. The dates for 2021 are as follows with more information regarding which schools participating, and venues, to follow.

### Dubbo

14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> May

### Griffith

3rd June

### Wagga Wagga

4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> June

### Narrabri

23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> July

## BWSODE Website



supervisors can utilise in their school rooms.

<http://www.bwsode.schools.nsw.gov.au>

## PARENTING IDEAS

### Make way for 'Sparenting'

Raising children has always been best when it's a community affair. In previous generations, aunts, uncles, grandparents, God parents and family friends – spare parents, or sparents, all played a part in raising kids.

The last decade has seen the rise of parenting as an individual endeavour, which can place crushing pressure for parents to always be at their best.

The saying 'it takes a village to raise a child' needs to be updated to: 'It takes a town or suburb full of healthy adults to look out for kids at different stages of their lives.' A child can never have too many spare parents.

### Sparenting at different stages

When kids are very young, most parents want a break from the relentlessness of child-rearing. It's the time for other adults to step up to offer a smattering of advice, a touch of moral support and plenty of babysitting relief.

As kids move into primary school, they are primed for finding their place in the world. Spending time with other adults such as family, friends and parents of their friends, broadens their horizons, hastening this important socialisation process.

Developmentally, teenagers benefit enormously from relationships with men and women outside their immediate family.

Sparents make great confidantes and coaches for young people at a stage when they are seeking independence from their parents while undergoing significant emotional and physical changes.

### The benefits of sparents

#### 1. Filling a talent or interest gap

Kids usually appreciate having an adult to share their interests, but it's hard for parents to be across all their children's hobbies and activities. Relatives or family friends are well placed to fill the interest void that occurs in some families.

#### 2. Filling a gender gap

If you are raising a son in an all-female household then an uncle, grandfather or male family friend can be a great additional role model. Similarly, girls in all-male households can benefit from sparenting by a female friend or relative.

#### 3. Bringing a fresh voice

Ever noticed how kids will listen to other adults more than they listen to their parents, even

though the message is the same? It's frustrating, but that has always been the reality of raising children and young people.

4. Bringing some emotional detachment  
As strange as it may sound, being your child's parent can be an obstacle to parenting them rationally. When we are heavily invested, rightfully so, in all their hopes and dreams as well as our own wishes for them, it's inevitable that we won't always use logic and reason, especially in the heat of a challenging moment. The presence of another calming adult without the emotional investment that comes with parenting provides a different perspective, particularly when kids behave poorly or when academic results can disappoint.

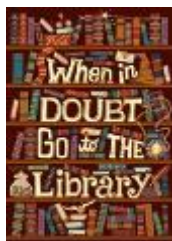
(Article adapted from a paper by Michael Gross)



**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 *Spooned Generation: How to Raise Independent Children*.

## LIBRARY REPORT



Thank you to everyone who bought from the virtual Book Fair. We were able to add a few books to each Library as a result. Hope you enjoy your books when they arrive.

The PRC for 2020 has now officially closed, HOWEVER for our keen readers out there, you can now start your 2021 logs! For students interested in participating in this challenge next year and who are not that familiar, Mrs. Robinson for more information.

READERS ARE LEADERS – Where there are readers there is hope.

**Mrs Robinson**

[loretta.robinson@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:loretta.robinson@det.nsw.edu.au)



## STUDENT NEWS



Congratulations to Jandre who recently took part in a Junior Biology program run by the Two Oceans Aquarium in South Africa. The course was aimed at students in Year 4 - 6, however Jandre (Yr 2) was adamant to give it a go and scored above the

90<sup>th</sup> percentile in the post-course test.

Well done Jandre, this is such a wonderful achievement and result.

## MERIT AWARDS

### PRINCIPL'S AWARDS



**To: Isla** - For entertaining writing "Don't Let the Pigeon Ride the Pony"

**Nick** - For making excellent progress in Reading

Well done - SUPER STARS!!



### Walgett Students

- Isla** Always taking pride in her work
- Rafael** Great start to Term 4 / Outstanding work in Coding Unit
- Harley** Huge improvement in his explanations of working mathematical answers
- Frank** Expert skills and writing of poetry / Excellent efforts in his Civics and Citizenship Unit / Hitting the ground running in Term 4
- Ned** A wonderful start to the term in reading!



- Lelanie** Improved presentation of all her work / Brilliant return book for 'EEK - Look at This'
- Jandre** Great start to Term 4
- Gabriel** Excellent Information Report on BMX Racing / Terrific independent work in Coding
- George** Excellent reading and independent work
- Frank** Excellent revision work to consolidate skills
- Leah** Excellent sounds knowledge / Wonderful work in STEM - Little Red Riding Hood Catapult / Wonderful work on 'The Swap' unit in English
- Aiden** Excellent start to Term 4
- Mac** Terrific time management skills / Wonderful attitude towards his learning



Gabe, Rafa, Harley, Jandre, Frank, Isla, Lilly, Ned, Darcy, George, Hilda & Caroline



### **Bourke Students**

- Maisie** Excellent work in maths
- Nick** Impeccable work in reading
- Willem** For superb research on the Kieper Belt
- KC** For excellent work in area

## **INTEGRATION DAYS**

### **Walgett Centre**

Tie Dye 'dress code' was the theme for Walgett Centre's first Term 4 Integration day on Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was a great day with many varied activities and particularly the valued opportunity to once again, be in the class room with fellow students and the teachers.

Thank you to all the families who could make it in, despite threatening weather.







Frank with Mrs Fanning



Darcy, George and Ned



## HOME VISIT REPORTS

### Monty and Mac



On the 26<sup>th</sup> October Mrs Fanning and I ventured north-east to the colder country between Glen Innes and Guyra to see Monty and Mac. We were enthusiastically greeted by the boys, "Rhonda the Honda" and their prized pooches Ange and Lotte at the front gate where they 'escorted' us back down the driveway.



We started the day with a few science experiments and then the boys knuckled down to do their work. We had a great day in the school room, followed by some exploring and dare devil stunts involving hay bales and scaling sheds. Monty and Mac also showed off their bow and arrow skills before lunch using milk bottles as targets and enjoyed scaring the living daylights out of Mrs. Fanning and I by perfectly placing rubber snakes around the place



A big thank you to Sal and Graeme for their hospitality and to the boys for a wonderful day! It is such a privilege to have the opportunity to go out and see our students within their home environments and to be welcomed with open arms.

Thanks again, we had a blast!

**Mrs Smith and Mrs Fanning**

### **Harley**

A home visit to Harley's new house on Thursday Oct 15<sup>th</sup> at Glengarry, was quite an adventure. I had a mud map drawn by Ms Hay which was pretty good but who forgot to mention the big sign to turn off to the Grawin (back road) was not there anymore!!

However, on a gut feeling I turned and thankfully didn't have to make the phone call 'I'm lost'.

I was greeted by Harley waiting at the front gate. I immediately saw his amazing gym set which had everything from swing, monkey bar and even some Ninja Warrior equipment. Harley introduced me to his pet sausage dog 'Slinky' and proceeded up into the Cubby House he had made.

One of his favourite things was the pea shooter which he is still fine tuning so all the golf balls come out very quickly and not get stuck.

Selina guided me through the amazing veggie patch they had grown. Everything from herbs through to potatoes and lots of baby spinach. I was fortunate enough to be given some to take home. Yummy!

Harley and I conducted an egg experiment to investigate 'What would happen if we placed an uncracked egg in a jar of vinegar?' Harley and his parents came up with some pretty good





predictions but they had to wait until the next day to see what happened.

After completing some school work I enjoyed a lovely lunch around the family table where I learnt how to play the card game Jim Rummy. Harley challenged me to a few games and then it was time to head back.

Thanks for a great day Harley, I can't wait to visit again!

**Mrs Fanning**

### **Aiden**

On Thursday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October, I drove the 'air conditioned' school car to visit Aiden in his home at Grawin. I must say the road was in much better condition than previous trips. Upon arrival I was met by Murray, who showed me around the home and gave me an insight into mining in the Grawin. I was greeted inside by Aiden and his mum Candy, where it was so much cooler.

After a lovely chat with Candy, Aiden and I had fun conducting a science experiment investigating the properties of milk by placing a few drops of food colouring in the milk and touching the drops with a cotton bud dipped in dishwashing liquid. Aiden thought it was awesome to see the colours disperse away from the cotton bud making some amazing patterns. Aiden and I worked together completing some school work as the afternoon passed by very quickly and before we knew it was time for me to head back to Walgett. But before I left, Aiden showed me his huge Lego collection. WOW! Very impressive. Thanks Aiden.

**Mrs Fanning**

### **Maisie**



On Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, I was lucky enough to be given Maisie's final home visit for 2020. With mud map in hand, a keen eye on the weather and my

Canadian snow driving skills, I headed out under uncertain skies. Canadian driving skills? I figure driving through deep snow is similar to hitting soft sand at high speed. No sudden movements. Let your momentum keep you

going the right direction. The rain seemed to be holding off, however a giant single raindrop splashed directly in my line of vision at around the halfway mark. I was told to turn around if it started raining. I bravely forged on.

Arriving at around 9, we had morning tea, caught up on all the gossip, then started in on our assessments. Maisie works amazingly hard; she puts



everything into her work. Reading tests, spelling tests...even a phonics test to read a bunch of nonsense words. She just rattled them all off. We decided that we might want to use these non-words to make up our own language. But that's for another time.

It was lunch and Michaela is famous for her quiche. It was a real treat for me as I don't get to eat a gourmet much. After a relaxing sit round the table having a yarn, it was back to work. For Maisie, that is.



The maths test I was asked to give her was huge. We had to keep taking little breaks to let her brain stop from overloading. We got there in the end and were finally able to move on to our arts and craft

activity.

We made these little animal pencil holders out of cardboard. But, before they were made, it was pretty hard to tell what kind of an animal it was. The instructions didn't tell us!

I thought mine was a monkey, she thought hers was a tiger. They turned out to be a hedgehog and a fox. Who'd a thought? Maisie had to intervene with mine at one point as I was trying to glue it all wrong. Thanks Maisie.

Before leaving, Maisie wanted to show me her toy horses. She has a beautiful collection of Schleich toy horses. You may not have heard of them, but you would probably have seen something like this in the shops. They are incredibly detailed little animals about 5cm long. One of the maths questions from her assessment had asked 'What you would measure in centimetres'. She wanted to write 'Schleichs,' but I thought she might be better off writing 'toy horse,' so that people would know what she was talking about. She also had a

giant barn made out of an old box, full of sand. “Your mother let’s you bring sand into the kitchen?” was my comment. Michaela just smiled.



After seeing some more cardboard barns and other toy horse paraphernalia, it was time to head back, but I had come in on the main drive and pretty nearly got stuck. It was those Canadian driving skills that saved me! This time, I would take the side-track

but didn’t know where to turn off. So, Maisie escorted me the half kilometre on her pee-wee motor bike. She and her dog led me to the turn off and away I went, arriving safe and sound, the car covered in mud, and me feeling like I’d had another great day at Distance Education.

**Mr Fisher**

## MINDSET MATTERS



## BIRTHDAYS

Belated birthday wishes go put to **Isla** who celebrated her 8<sup>th</sup> birthday on Oct the 8<sup>th</sup> and we hope you had a great day.

We also wish **Maisie** a very happy 8<sup>th</sup> birthday on Nov the 15<sup>th</sup> and **Harley** 3 November double digits - 10 hope you both enjoy your special day!

