



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Welcome back to our new school year – I am so happy to report many of the Walgett families have had rain!! I hope with this next change on the way we will be able to add our Bourke families!!

A special welcome to our new families for 2020, Terri- Lee, Wade and Leah, Henry, Kristy and George , Amanda and Phoenix, Jo and Morgan.

We look forward to supporting your child and your family on your educational journey.

We have had many families travel to our swimming carnivals over the past few weeks and it has been wonderful to catch up with the students and parents. It was a big challenge for our new kinder students, but they put their nerves behind them and really enjoyed themselves. Our older students performed very well, scoring lots of ribbons – well done!!

Two students participated at Regional level this week and we congratulate them on their results. Bourke students are venturing to Dubbo this week for their Mini-School and are lucky enough to be attending the live production of the *91 Story Treehouse*, as well as undertaking many other activities in Dubbo. We hope you have an amazing time!!

This week staff will be involved in Professional Learning on Questioning Skills and Reading Fluency with Gail Brown PHD. We are looking forward to developing our skills in this direct instruction program, which aims to ensure students develop deep thinking in reading and reading comprehension and improved fluency when reading.

NSW State ICPA conference will be held in Moree this month. I will be attending to keep up to date on issues in rural education.

I am also attending the Distance Education Leaders meeting in Sydney later in early April – reports on these will follow.

Packing and programming will be starting soon, so please keep your teacher updated about anything that may impact your child's program. Enjoy the next half of Term 1!!

Please don't hesitate to call if you need assistance in any way.

Kind Regards

Kind Regards

Wendy Hay

Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER

2nd March – Bourke Student Excursion to Dubbo

2nd March – NW PSSA Swimming Carnival Armidale

7th March – Moorambilla Voices Workshop Walgett Centre

13th March - Walgett Integration Day

19- 20 March - State ICPA Conference @ Moree

1-3 April – Distance Education Leaders Meeting @ Sydney

9 April – Last Day Term 1

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

2020 Staffing Numbers

The drought continues to impact our towns, communities and schools with enrolment numbers at an all-time low. Due to the Department of Education's commitment to not enforce transfers of teaching staff due to falling numbers in drought effected communities, we are fortunate not to be losing teaching positions.

Staff Updates

Mrs Smith - Returns 3 days a week as classroom teacher and AP in 2020.

Mrs Keir – Returning part-time in Term 1 2020

Mrs. Hartog - 2 days a week in 2020 as AP and continues to work in Wellbeing and Learning Support.

Miss Hall – Classroom teacher at Walgett Centre

Mrs Lorberg - Returning in 2020

Mr Fisher - Full time as a Rural and Remote Initiative teacher to work in Bourke for 2020.

Mrs Nielsen - Casual teacher in 2020 at the

Bourke Centre

Mrs Robinson, Mrs Colwell and Mrs Harris -

Casual teachers at the Walgett Centre

Miss Marvell - Sadly we are losing the expertise of Miss Marvell as she leaves to further her teaching career and returns to the classroom environment.

Miss Currey - Leaves to fulfil other business and career commitments

Mrs Davis – 2 days a week at the Bourke Centre in 2020.

NEWS FLASH



Miss Hall and Angus Remond have announced their engagement!!



Warmest congratulations to them both, from all of the BWSODE community. We are very fortunate that such a valuable and experienced teacher, as well as a delightful member of staff, is making Walgett her future home. Angus is an ex – DE student, so we have lots of stories to pass on!

Morning Messages

Weekly Morning Messages will continue as a weekly submission with emails sent for any relevant information that develops. This will be re-evaluated at the end of Term 1 2020.

Parent's Guide to Online Safety

Many parents and caregivers can 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. This email will allow access to department sites as well as other sites

Leap Year

Leap Years only happen every 1461 days! They occur every 4 years when the length of a year grows by one day, from 365 days in an ordinary year to 366 days in a leap year. This is why we have February 29 this year.

Leap years are necessary because it doesn't take precisely 365 days for the Earth to orbit the Sun – It actually takes 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 46 seconds! This is roughly 365.25 days.

Those hours gradually add up, so that after four years the calendar is basically out of step for a day. By adding the extra day ever four years, the calendar roughly matches up with the solar year again.

However, adding an extra day every leap year means the calendar is still out of step by 11 minutes and 14 seconds each year. To solve this problem, once in every four century years (a century year is 1600, 1700, 1800, etc) the leap day would not be observed. This will next occur in the year 2100. That means that people born on the 29th of February will miss out on their birthday for 7 years in a row!

This is all true for the Gregorian Calendar, the calendar by which we live by. However, Chinese calendar is adjusted by a whole month every three years, and in the Islamic calendar a day is added 11 times during a 30 year cycle.

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/>

'Storyathon'

BWSODE is registered for a new online event called STORYATHON.

This challenge is **available** for **students** in **Years 3 - 6** where they are challenged to write a story that is EXACTLY 100 words.

Writing "microstories" is fun and provides students with an opportunity to celebrate writing.

The tiny narratives challenges students to tighten their language, experiment with words and focus their message. Fewer characters, fewer events, a better eye for detail!"

7 Steps to Writing Success lessons on satellite will be a perfect fit for this competition.

Students who are eligible to participate will be sent their usernames and passwords

More information about Storyathon is available on their website: www.storyathon.com

Smith Flight Commemoration Group

On Saturday 14th March, the Smith Flight Commemoration Group will fly into Bourke. This flight is will include a group of light, ultra-light and historic aircraft following the 1919-1920 path followed by the Smith Flight. During the flight they will pass through Darwin / Katherine

/Daly Waters / Anthony Lagoon / Brunette Downs / Avon Downs / Cloncurry / Longreach / Charleville / Caboolture / Bourke / Narromine / Albion Park (Sydney) then on to Adelaide.

The flight is being led by **Michael Smith**, who was **Australian Geographic Adventurer of the Year in 2014**, and he would be happy to talk to children en route either live or by Skype or similar.

Michael is flying a state-of-the-art amphibian in which he flew from England to Darwin late last year to celebrate the first such flight made by the Smiths in 1919, taking 29 days.

If you are interested in attending this event or would like some more information, please contact the School.

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

Future Leaders

Developing leadership mindsets can be the missing ingredient in some student leadership programs.

There are four key habits of the mind to reinforce, that maximises student leadership effectiveness and helps them develop into responsible, well-spoken students, and to get them *thinking like leaders*.

Before you can develop habits of the mind, students need to develop the necessary vocabulary to anchor their learning and to encourage them to 'think like a leader'.

This cues them into leadership thinking as opposed to viewing a situation from an individual's perspective.

1. Presentation skills

"*Speak out*" becomes the habit of the mind that triggers behaviours such as speaking clearly, standing strong & making eye contact when they speak.

2. Responsibility

"*Be accountable*" is the habit of the mind that reminds students to become accountable for themselves, their group and their belongings.

3. Organisation

"*Plan ahead*" is the habit to remind students to think ahead, plan ahead and make time for plans to happen.

4. Teamwork

"*Work together*" is the trigger to remind students to think about cooperating with others, encouraging those who struggle and accepting the contribution of all team members.

(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

The NSW Premier's Reading Challenge 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, in government, independent, Catholic and home schools.

Mrs Robinson is the coordinator of this Challenge and has compiled some info about this program for your interest (please see attached flyer)

If your child 'children would like to participate in the PRC, please contact Mrs Robinson on 68281374 or Loretta.robinson@det.nsw.edu.au

CENTRE NEWS

Walgett Young Leaders

The Brisbane Young Leaders Conference was held on Monday Feb 24th. It exists to inspire and influence a generation of young people to lead themselves and others well.

Mac Finlayson was the only BWSODE student able to attend this year and we look forward to hearing his feedback and comments on this fantastic opportunity for young aspiring leaders of the future.

The 2020 influential speakers included:

- Jade Slater (Host) - Projection Manager COTTON ON Foundation
- Erin Molan - Channel 9 Sports Presenter
- John Coutis - Inspirational Speaker
- Bianca Chatfield - Former Australian Netball Captain and a popular contestant on The Block
- Jackie French - Award winning Author of over 200 books!
- Solli Raphael - Youngest ever Australia Poetry Slam Champion

Bourke

Some of the Bourke Centre students are participating in an excursion to Dubbo on Monday the 2nd March.

Activities include a visit to the Western Plains Cultural Centre, the Royal Flying Doctor Service, The Old Dubbo Goal and to a 91-Storey Treehouse presentation by well-known children's author Andy Griffiths



MERIT AWARDS

PRINCIAPLS AWARD

To Rafa for a great start to 2020



Walgett Students

- Rafael** An excellent start to Year 4
- Gabriel** For meticulously completed Maths Units / Wonderful Self Portrait
- George** A wonderful start to school / Excellent story writing



Bourke Students

- Maisie** Outstanding work on related number sentences
- KC** For working hard in his maths unit on Mass
- Nick** For working hard to develop an understanding of his friends of 10



BIRTHDAYS



Birthday greetings to **Willem** who celebrated his birthday in the holidays on Jan 4th, **Monty** on Jan 11th, **Jakhye** on Jan 14th

and to our new Kindergarten student **George** who also had his birthday in the holidays on Jan 20th. Hope you all had great days. Another Kindergarten Student **Lelanie** celebrated her first DE birthday on Feb 9th. We hope you also had a lovely day

SPORT REPORTS



Bourke Small Schools Swimming Carnival

On a cold and unusually wet day on Thursday Feb 6th, the Bourke Small Schools Swimming Carnival was conducted at the Bourke pool. Only two dedicated swimmers represented BWSODE on the day, Maisie and Willem. Congratulations on your efforts and achievement.



Maisie and Willem



Walgett Small Schools Swimming Carnival

The postponed carnival was finally held on Monday Feb 17th at Collarenebri. It was a great day, and thank you to the students Rafa, Gabe, Mac, Monty and Darcy who represented our school. They all had lots of success in the pool and special congratulations to Mac who was the Senior Boy Champion and Rafa Junior Boy Champ.



Mac – Senior Boy Champion with Ms Hay



Mac, Gabe, Rafa Monty and Darcy pool side



Relay Team of Gabe, Monty, Mac and Rafa with 'chief cheer leader' Darcy

Barwon District Carnival

The Barwon District Swimming Carnival was held at Lightning Ridge on Wednesday Feb 19th. A small BWSODE representation, with only Gabe and Rafa able to 'fly the flag' for our school but they did us proud with some great results in the pool.

Congratulations on your success, particularly Rafa who was the Junior Boy Champion.

We wish you the best of luck with your training in preparation for your next Carnival, the PSSA NW Swimming Carnival in Armidale on March 2nd.



The beautiful Armidale pool on a picture perfect day



Rafa, Miss Hall and Gabe at the Lightning Ridge pool

NW PSSA Swimming Carnival

Monday March 2nd saw the conducting of the North West PSSA Swimming Carnival in Armidale. Competitors qualify for this Carnival from their District Carnivals and we were fortunate to have two students from the Walgett Centre, Rafa and Gabe who did this.

Congratulations to you both. It is challenging to swim at a big carnival with stiff competition but both students did very well particularly with PDs in their 50m Freestyle.



Rafa and Gabe

INTEGRATION DAY

Walgett Centre held their first Integration Day for 2020 on Friday Feb 28th.

We welcomed two new students to our School, Leah and George and also a new family member Lelanie, all into Kindergarten.

