



### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Well that's a wrap!!  
I would like to say a BIG  
thankyou to all students,

families, supervisors and staff for "getting on" with all our commitments in a such a fuss free way and enabling us to have the best year we could under a very different lens!!  
Congratulations to all students for their wonderful performances at the school plays – they were outstanding and totally entertaining. My gratitude to all the staff for working together to promote the education of our students and for your endless support.

At present "business as usual" is looking likely for 2021, but things can and do change, however, its fingers crossed for now that they won't.

On behalf of all the staff at BWSODE I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Enjoy your break, stay healthy and safe, see you in 2021!!

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



### STAFF NEWS



Mr Fisher has been at the Bourke-Walgett School of Distance Education Bourke Centre as part of the *Rural Experience Program* for 2020. While he is leaving Distance Ed, Mr Fisher will remain in north-western NSW to take up a position at Lightning Ridge Central School teaching a Year 1/2 class.

Staff, parents and students of the BWSODE community thank you for your time with us and hope it has been an enriching and enjoyable experience.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

*2<sup>nd</sup> Feb – Staff return*

*5<sup>th</sup> Feb – Students return*

*5<sup>th</sup> Feb – Small Schools Swimming Carnival in Collarenebri*

*10<sup>th</sup> Feb – Barwon District Swimming Carnival Lightning Ridge*

*15<sup>th</sup> Feb – Satellite lessons begin*

*19<sup>th</sup> Feb – Walgett Integration Day / Bourke Centre date TBC*

### CENTRE NEWS



When Integration Days don't quite 'pan out' like they're meant to!!

### INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

#### **Everyday Maths Hub**

*"It's easier for children to understand maths when they relate it to something real and see it as a part of their everyday life. The Everyday Maths Hub is designed to support parents and carers to bring mathematics into their home, the outdoors and anywhere else their children learn and play."*

The DoE is helping parents and carers engage their children in mathematics through fun, relatable activities. This new 'Hub' is an engaging and dynamic online platform for parents and carers of children in Kindy to Year 10 and it aims to support and encourage family conversations about the relevance and usefulness of mathematics in everyday life. It is part of the NSW Mathematics Strategy to achieve the Premier's vision for all NSW students to develop the mathematical skills they need to succeed in life'

For more info regarding this resource, go to: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/everyday-maths>

### 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

### 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

### Walgett Quilters Group

The Walgett Quilters very kindly, each year make Book Bags and donate them to our school for the Kindergarten students.

We are very grateful for this and the bags are loved and appreciated by the students.

Pictured below is BWSODE Principal Ms Hay with the 2020 Kinda students from the Walgett Centre with the new Book Bags



### 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>

## STUDENT NEWS



The NSW Minister's Annual Christmas Card Competition has recently been judged and **Darcy** was awarded a **Highly Commended** for his Christmas card 'Tree-Rex'. Congratulations Darcy on a clever and amusing entry.



A fiercely contested catapult competition!!



And won by one of the youngest students **Ned** with a catapult of over 2 m!!!



Gabe and Rafa immersed in the Christmas Craft activities



## **PARENTING IDEAS**

**Caring or successful? Which would you choose for your child?**

Fortunately, the two aims aren't mutually exclusive, but it's an interesting question as your answer will demonstrate your values.

Are you more likely to encourage kindness or effort in your child? Are you more likely to

recognise a child's words of encouragement to a sibling or their clever turn of phrase?

I suspect most parents rank a sense of caring for others as a high priority. Few parents want to raise a mean-spirited, self-centred child with little empathy or care for the welfare of others. But looking out for others doesn't come easily to all children, particularly when families are small and child-centric.

Caring is important for community wellbeing. If the basic task of parents is to socialise children, then a focus on caring for others should be a higher priority than individual success. The wellbeing of our community depends on the first rather than the latter. Author Anthony D'Angelo wrote, "Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community." Families and schools are better places when care takes priority over attainment. They are both toxic when caring for others is not valued or encouraged.

Caring for others sits with community development and individual competency as essential leadership qualities to develop in children and young people.

Leaders should above all else, serve others and enrich the communities that they represent. Caring for others is also a quality that you can encourage at home.

These strategies will help you get the ball rolling.

### **1. Put caring into words**

Families have their own proprietary language. That is, they develop meaningful words and phrases that reflect their values and activities. In my family, the term 'non-negotiable' has specific meaning, referencing a ritual such as mealtime that everyone is expected to attend. Its 'non-negotiable' nature reinforces our core value of family connectedness. Similarly, regular use of caring language such as encouragement, words of kindness and phrases of appreciation can become an integral part of your family's vernacular.

### **2. Making kindness normal**

Kindness is caring in action. It's impossible to be kind to another person and be selfish at the same time. A smile, a small gift, an offer of assistance are simple acts of kindness that display caring and connection to others. You can promote kindness in your child through encouragement, modelling and recognition.

### **3. Practise concern for others**

Three-year-old Grace fell heavily from a table, giving herself a shock. Five-year-old Ruby

immediately reached for her sister, hugging her until she calmed down. Ruby's immediate concern was for her sister's wellbeing, which was acknowledged by her grateful parents.

#### 4. Help at home, without being paid

Children in families that place a high value on caring for others generally perform household chores without the lure of money. They do so because they've been taught that helping is a caring activity. "We help each other because we care for each other" is the unspoken code here. Kids who care for others think "what's in it for we" rather than "what's in it for me". The latter is a self-centred approach to life.

Caring is a higher-level quality that needs nurturing. It doesn't always occur naturally. Studies have shown that caring is kick started earlier in children who belong to large families presumably because children are put in a position to care for and look out for siblings in quasi parenting roles. Being raised in small families doesn't deny altruism development in kids. It does mean that you may need to work a little harder to awaken caring in your child.

(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 *Spoonfed Generation: How to Raise Independent Children*.



### LIBRARY REPORT

In Iceland, books are exchanged on Christmas Eve as part of Jólábókafloð (Icelandic for "Yule book flood"), and people spend the evening curled up, reading and eating chocolate. Anybody else checking out flights to Iceland?? I believe there is no greater gift at Christmas than the gift of reading, so I have picked some

great Christmas stories for kids that you won't want to miss!

### *Happy Holidays and Happy Reading!*



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



### MERIT AWARDS



### PRINCIPL'S AWARDS

To: **KC** for enthusiastic participation at School events

**Aiden** for fantastic effort and application to his studies this Term

**Well done - SUPER STARS!!**



## Walgett Students

<b>Isla</b>	Brilliant correct use of Chance terminology / Exceptional work writing her Procedure on 'How to make Isla's Marvellous Medicine' / Wonderful work in STEM - Little Red Riding Hood catapult		An amazing effort to finish all of his maths for the year including extension activities / Excellent coding skills and for creating his own bugged algorithm
<b>Rafael</b>	Working hard in all areas of mathematics / Outstanding work in his Book Review - 'Timmy Failure: Mistakes are Made' / Excellent design and produce task / Wonderful work finding the lowest common denominator to add and subtract fractions	<b>Lelanie</b>	A terrific Narrative and Feelings book on 'The Swap' / Excellent work in all areas of literacy
<b>Harley</b>	Huge improvement in his explanation of working mathematical answers / Reading fluently with expression / For his excellent application of spelling rules in Spelling Mastery / Beautiful water colour art work / Wonderful work in the 'Big Red Unit'	<b>Jandre</b>	Excellent work in Maths / A terrific Acrostic Poem about a Praying Mantis / Fantastic work in all areas of his learning
<b>Frank</b>	For his positive attitude and willingness to participate in all learning opportunities at Integration days / Creating awesome independent work habits / Excellent revision work to consolidate skills / Precision work with procedures / Cool work with catapults / For blitzing his Coding Unit / For maintaining solid work ethics throughout all his time at BWSODE	<b>Darcy</b>	Awesome work with coding / Exceptional work with Banjo and Ruby Red - Impressive Information Report
<b>Byron Ned</b>	A fabulous start to DE An Outstanding Information Report and excellent sounding out in writing / A stellar improvement in reading / Beautiful water colour artwork /	<b>Kate</b>	Brilliant work matching numbers to groups of objects
		<b>Holly Phoenix</b>	Wonderful work in English Excellent work in handwriting / A terrific Information Report on 'The Goliath Bird Eating Spider'
		<b>Leah Aiden</b>	Amazing work with her sounds Wonderful work on his imaginative story during satellite lessons / wonderful work in "Life in a Rotten Log"
		<b>Mac</b>	Terrific time management skills / Wonderful attitude towards his learning / Excellent knowledge of capitalized and lower case letters in titles / Exceptional all round work in 'How To Bee' / For phenomenal research on the history of catapults / For maintaining solid work ethics throughout all his time at BWSODE
		<b>Monty</b>	Always trying his personal best in school / Excellent work in handwriting / Outstanding work in his Book Review - The Dog Sat On The Tuckerbox' / For getting his Pen Licence / Outstanding

information poster and poem in the Big Red Unit/ Blitzing the Coding Unit

6<sup>th</sup>. Swimming was also back on the agenda and despite chilly water temperatures, was enjoyed by all.



### Bourke Students

**Maisie**

A fantastic Power Point Presentation on Grasshoppers / Working hard to make progress in her reading fluency

**Nick**

Impeccable work in Reading Mastery / Outstanding work in grouping, sharing and ordinal numbers / Reading award for fantastic progression through reading levels / Outstanding work in Literacy and Numeracy in Term 4

**Oli**

Fantastic research on Olympus Mons

**Jace**

Excellent work on 'Let's Read; units

**Willem**

Creating an excellent scale model of the Solar System / Excellent work on measurement conversion / The importance of Bees

**KC**

Significant improvements in the written element of Reading Mastery / Awesome work in volume and capacity



Happy Birthday to Harley who celebrated his 10<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of Nov



Budding artist Leah



Harley hard at work



### INTEGRATION DAYS

#### Walgett Centre

A small but highly successful Integration Day was held at the Walgett Centre on Friday Nov



Some lovely art work by Isla



Students hard at work on Integration Day



Frank taking the 'plunge'!



Mrs Hartog with Leah at the pool



### Bourke Centre

Halloween was the theme of the day at the Bourke Centre Integration Day in week 4.



Everyone getting right in to the spirit of the day



Kc



Mr Fisher enjoying the activities



Maisie and Willem



Maisie, Kc, Nick Willem and new Kinda student in 2021  
Callie

### Walgett and Bourke Integration Days on Nov 20<sup>th</sup>

Both Centers hosted successful Integration Days on Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> November. At Walgett all the students enjoyed participating in the activities, especially playing musical instruments. The afternoon was spent at the



pool, a welcome relief from the hot weather we have been experiencing lately.



Jandre, Darcy, George, Frank, Leah, Lily, Isla, Ned, Caroline, Harley and Hilda



The 'boys' – George, Ned Darcy and Jandre

And the 'girls' – Leah, Hilda and Caroline



Bourke Centre also had a great day on the 20<sup>th</sup> with the students having a lot of fun sorting out props and doing some drama workshops. They are doing a fantastic job with their play practice.

## PRESENTATION DAYS

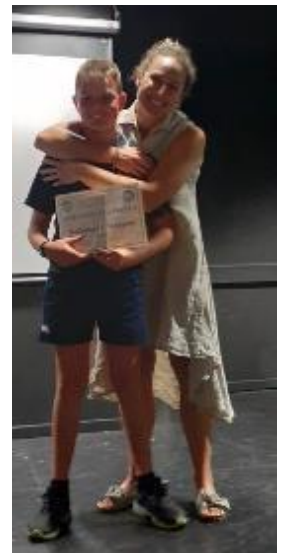
Bourke Centre held there Presentation Day on Dec 9<sup>th</sup>. A great day and wonderful way to celebrate and finish a challenging year. Thank you to the students and families who made this day so special. Below is a photo 'snapshot' of the proceedings.

Ms Hay with the Bourke Centre students





Darcy with his framed Highly Commended Christmas Card



**WALGETT CENTRE** held their Presentation Day on Friday Dec 11<sup>th</sup>. Again, a wonderful way to complete a challenging year. We extend our thanks to the families and students for all their hard work throughout the year and for coming together on this special day to celebrate your achievements. Below is a photo 'snap shot' from the Walgett Centre's Presentation Day



A musical rendition from Gabe and Rafa



P & C Art & Cultural Award 2020 recipients Leah and Monty



## BIRTHDAYS

Happy (and last) Birthday wishes from the BWSODE community to **Ollie** who turns 12 on Dec 18<sup>th</sup>. We wish you well in your step up into High School in 2021



**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**

