



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

What a bustling start to the school year it has been. We hope you have all settled back into the classroom and are beginning to get back into the swing of things!!

We welcome all our new families (and those that are returning) – Harriet in Yr1, brothers Aiden Yr4 and Thorin Yr1, Matthew in Kinder, brothers Oscar Yr3 and Hudson Yr4, Scarlett in Kinder and Paige Yr1 and Seth Yr3.

We hope you all enjoy your time with Distance Education and have all settled in well.

It has been terrific to catch up with many families at both Small School Swimming Carnivals and our Integration Days. They have both been well attended and lots of fun!

Most staff have already started their Home Visits for this term and are excited these are again possible after the COVID restrictions in 2020. If you have not been contacted by your teacher they will be doing this early next week. Satellite lessons have also kicked off for the term with Mrs. Smith running our Smiling Mind Program. We are proud to be a 'Smiling Mind School'. We hope everyone takes away something from these lessons that they can use every day.

Student teacher lessons are also well underway and staff have loved catching up with their students over the past two weeks. Remember if you wish a specific activity or topic taught from your child's program, by your teacher please contact them to discuss this.

As COVID restrictions have been lifted on face to face meetings, I will be attending both the Western Plains Principals Meeting in Dubbo on the 25th and 26th February and the Distance Education Leaders Meeting in Ballina on the 24th – 26th March. I am looking forward to having contact with my Primary DE Principals and to discuss among many things, what we may be able to do as cross school projects in 2021.

What a short term – 8 weeks. It seems to be insanely busy trying to fit all our activities in and

we are already ½ way through the term! If you are finding things a bit hairy, don't panic, contact your teacher and they can easily adjust workloads to be more suitable for your situation. Don't forget if you have any questions or concerns please contact myself or the executive, we are available at any time and here to help.

Have a great Term 1!!

Kind Regards

Wendy Hay

Principal

STAFF NEWS

The BWSODE welcome teacher Angela Gordon to the Bourke Centre for 2021 on a more regular basis. She will be working one day a week at the Centre.

Breeanna Keir and her husband Ben celebrated the birth of their second daughter into the world in January. Indianna, a sister to Lilly. We wish them warmest congratulations and best wishes with their growing family.

DATES TO REMEMBER

19th Feb – Walgett & Bourke Integration Day

25th & 26th Feb – Western Plains Principals Meeting in Dubbo

1st March – PSSA NW Swimming Carnival Armidale

5th March – Integration Day in Walgett

12th March – Bourke Integration Day

17th -19th March – DE Leaders Meeting at Ballina



CENTRE NEWS

In 2011, at Presentation Day, one of our then DE families wrote and recited a poem about DE. Ten years on and at the start of a new year, it seemed an appropriate time to re publish this poem, for us all but particularly for those new to our school and to Distance Education.

DISTANCE EDUCATION

*The love of field and coppice
Of green and shaded lanes
Of ordered rooms and smartboard
Is running in your veins
Strong love of structured timetables
Concrete paths and air conditioning
I know but cannot share it
My love is a 22 and fishing*

*I love a Station Schoolhouse
A class of motley off-spring
Of ragged dreaded 'govies'
With track where the pushbike is king
I love her shimmering horizons
I love her Leaders Decree
Her beauty and her terror
It's Distance Ed for me*

*A stark old shearer's quarters
Transformed with paint and broom
The Satellite, it broadcasts
No!! We've missed Assembly – It's noon
Green tangle of the Wigas
Where brown snakes rest and coil
Galahs deck the tree tops
And Gal burr the parched red soil*

*Core of my heart my classroom
Her pitiless teachers cry
When low in spirit they surround us
We urge our babies – Just try
But then the learned ones visit
Do they sense our frustrations and pain
Let aromas of scones (no lemonade) and
biscuits
Precede the flow of champagne*

*Core of my heart, my classroom
Land of the creative and the bold
For reading, writing and 'rithmetic'
She pays us back three fold
And during a Mini School Camp
Watch after a day or 3
The fevour and comradere
That develops and sprouts like seed*

*An opal-hearted classroom
The cherished School of Air
All you who've not embraced her
You will not judge her fair
Though life holds many splendors
Wherever I may die
I know in what great arena
My schooling thoughts will fly*

It is with thanks to and permission from the author Dave Thwaites (with apologies to Dorothy McKellar!!) that we have published his poem

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

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 - new landline number is
58526215**

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 14th and 15th May
Griffith 3rd June
Wagga Wagga 4th and 5th June
Narrabri 23rd and 24th July

CWA Public Speaking Competition in Bourke

The CWA Public Speaking Competition will take place in Bourke on 25th of May. Students in Yrs3-6 are eligible to take part in this competition. Please contact the Bourke Centre if you would like further information regarding this competition.

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>

Write4Fun

The 2021 Poetry & Short Story Schools Writing Competition is now open.

Students from all around Australia are invited to enter their original poems or short stories.

Over \$3000 in CASH and PRIZES to be won - including \$500 for your school!

There will be 1st 2nd and 3rd place awards, and 13 finalists in each division - poetry and short story.

Your poem or short story could also be considered for publication in a Write4fun hardcover book!

In 2021 there is no theme!!

Entrants are encouraged to let their imaginations run wild and write an ANY TOPIC and in ANY STYLE.

Students from Kindergarten to Yr 12 can submit:

A POEM 16 lines or less

OR

A SHORT STORY 500 words or less

**Hint: Write something that YOU would love to read...*

Enter online: www.write4fun.net/competitions/

Email to: admin@write4fun.net

Mail to: Write4fun,
PO Box 2734,
Nerang DC, QLD 4211

Entry is free and closes on March 31st.

Puppetry Performance



PARENTING IDEAS

What's the job of a parent?

Perhaps the main task for parents is to help their children grow into the best version of themselves. This can be challenging for parents who want to raise their kids in their own image. Sure, parents want to share the best parts of themselves with their children but that doesn't mean they should raise them in our own image. If excellence is a strong value, then in all probability this is a value you may like your child to share. That makes sense. However, if sport is your strength and your child doesn't share that interest it's wise to assist your child to develop their own strengths and interests rather than push them down a path of your making. Helping kids grow into the best versions of themselves requires parents to focus on character development, capacity building and personal wellbeing. A broad focus with a solid understanding of what it takes to look after their mental health will help kids become productive and community-minded young people. The following ideas will guide you to help your child grow into the best version of themselves both socially and academically.

Encourage exploration

Young children are great explorers of territory, ideas and behaviour. Their curiosity shows no bounds and can lead them into trouble. The socialisation process that we undertake as parents is designed to keep kids social and safe but that shouldn't mean that we discourage the curious spirit that children possess. As kids move through primary school into the identity formation years of adolescence, stimulate their curiosity and exploratory activities and interests, discuss a variety of ideas and topics and form relationships with different children and diverse generations.

Require self-control

Does your child react or respond to a difficult situation? Can your child wait a few minutes with food in front of them until others join them or do they eat immediately because they are hungry? Does your child spend all their pocket-money on themselves or are they encouraged to save some of their allowance for later? Lack of emotional control and an inability to delay gratification until later will generally hold most kids back from reaching their full potential. Self-control is like a muscle that gets stronger with practice, so encourage your child or young person to take a breath when angry, be patient and wait, and look forward to receiving gifts at

special times of the year rather than getting them on demand.

Model empathy

The ability for children to empathise with others in difficult circumstances is an underestimated skill. Sensitive children generally have empathy in spades, while bullies lack the ability or willingness to put themselves in the shoes of others. Parents, grandparents and carers are well placed to model empathy. When a child comes to you with a problem or worry, validate their concerns with a response such as, "Ah, I see you're really worried by this. Such a response teaches a child the empathetic language they can use when siblings and peers experience difficulty.

Convey compassion

Compassion and caring are encouraged in education and parenting circles as prime values to instill in children and young people. Perhaps this comes as a result of greater community awareness as a response to COVID-19. By developing compassion and caring in kids we lay the foundation for not only a strong sense of community but also for individual happiness that comes from contributing to something bigger than the individual.

Embed wellbeing

If there is a lasting legacy that schools are making to the current generation, it's their recent focus on children's wellbeing practices and principles. As a community we are just coming to grips with the fact that good mental health and wellbeing is central to a person's long-term happiness, work and relationship success. You can assist by embedding wellbeing habits of healthy eating, exercise, sleep, relaxation techniques, regular time in nature, gratitude and mindfulness into family-life.

(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 Info](#)

We continually upgrade our Libraries in both centres to give our students a wide variety of material to read and enjoy.

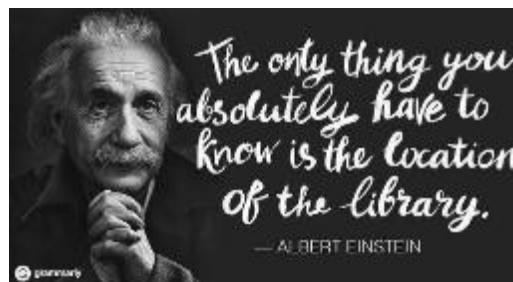
The library is a doorway to wonders and miracles, glimpses into other lives, religions, experiences, the hopes and dreams and strivings of ALL human beings, and it is this doorway that opens our eyes and hearts to the world beyond.

A library is a collection of sources of information and similar resources, made accessible for reference or borrowing. A library's collection can include books, periodicals, newspapers, manuscripts, films, maps, prints, documents, microform, CDs, cassettes, videotapes, DVDs, Blu-ray Discs, e-books, audiobooks, databases, and other formats. Libraries range in size from a few shelves of books to several million items. Sidney Sheldon perfectly describes: ***"Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life."***

The following quote is so true about our school Libraries

"A good Library will never be too neat, or too dusty. Because somebody will always be in it, taking books off the shelves and staying up late reading them."

I look at the school libraries and see that books are here, there and everywhere after integration days and I love seeing it. It tells me the students picked books and looked at them, read them and then picked another to do the same. It tells me it is a working Library where the students feel they can handle the books, love the books, read the books and not worry about putting it back in the correct spot – although this would be nice!!!! If your student wants more Library books at any time, please ring your Centre and it will be arranged to get them to you.



Mrs Robinson
loretta.robinson@det.nsw.edu.au

[MERIT AWARDS](#)



Walgett Students

- Kate** Doing her best work sounding out letters / Fantastic 'Bee' Story
- Rafael** Excellent work in Yr 6 Maths units / Top work creating an animated film
- Harley** Fantastic work in English practice skills / Setting out Maths problems correctly
- Gabe** For hitting the ground 'sprinting' in Term 1 / Amazing application Maths / For his mind blowing efforts in the Food and Fibre Unit
- Byron** Great start to the year / Excellent work in Maths units
- Holly** Fantastic transition into Distance Education
- Phoenix** Excellent work in cursive handwriting

BWSODE won the overall School Point Score Trophy at the Collarenebri Carnival - A big congratulations to all students who competed and in particular to the following who were Champions or Runners Up in their age groups:

- Sub-Junior Girl Runner Up - **Hilda**
 Sub-Junior Boy Champion - **Darcy**
 Junior Boy Champion - **Gabe**
 11-year Boy Champion - **Rafa**
 Senior Boy Champion - **Phoenix**



The Relay of Monty, Gabe, Phoenix and Rafa



Bourke Students

- Nick** For a sensational start to 2021
- Thorin** For an excellent start to spelling
- Callie** Sensational work in whole numbers
- Aiden** For fantastic work learning addition and subtraction strategies
- KC** Outstanding quality of work in Reading Mastery workbook



Phoenix, Monty, Rafa, Gabe, Darcy, Harriet and Hilda

SPORT

Small Schools Swimming

Friday Feb 5th and Thursday the 11th saw the running of the **Small Schools Swimming Carnivals** held in **Collarenebri** and **Brewarrina** respectively.

All the students who attended had a great day, with fun and success in the pool and great sportsmanship on the pool deck.



Gabe and Raffa



Hilda at her first Swimming Carnival with brother Darcy

Barwon Swimming Carnival

The Barwon Carnival was held in Lightning Ridge on Wednesday Feb 17th. Gabe and Rafa were the only students able to attend from the Walgett Centre but they did us proud and performed very well both in the water and as ambassadors for our school on the pool deck.



Gabe and Raffa pictured here with Principal Ms Hay

Both Gabe and Rafa won Champion Boy in their respective age categories and have qualified to

progress on to the North-West PSSA Regional Carnival to be held in Armidale on March 1st.
Rafa – 11yrs Division 1st OPEN 100m freestyle / 1st 50m freestyle / 1st 50m breaststroke / 1st 50m backstroke / 1st 50m breaststroke / 1st Senior Individual Medley

Gabe – Junior Division 1st 50m freestyle / 1st 50m backstroke / 1st 50m butterfly / 2nd 50m breaststroke / 1st Junior Individual Medley

INTEGRATION DAYS

Walgett Centre



Friday Feb 19th saw the first Integration Days for 2021 held at the Centres.

Lily, Jandr , Harriet, Harley, Caroline, Phoenix, Hilda and Darcy attended the Walgett Centre and all had a good day especially with some special birthday celebrations for Hilda.



Hilda with big brother Darcy, celebrating her first birthday with Distance Ed.

A Library Lesson from Mrs Fanning was also enjoyed and provided a guided opportunity to see the continual upgrade to our Library.



Callie and Paige learning together

Bourke Centre

Bourke saw Nick, Kc, Callie, Maisie, Matthew, Thorin, Aiden and new enrolments Paige and Seth all attend the day and participate in a variety of classroom activities.



BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to **Scarlett**, **Monty** and **Jack** who all celebrated their birthdays in the holidays. Hope you each had a great day. Birthday greetings also go out to **Lelanie** (9th) **Matty** (Feb 18th). **Holly** (24th) and **Hilda** (Feb 22nd) celebrating their birthdays at Distance Ed!!

