



### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

My goodness the end of Term One already – This term flew past!! How wonderful the area looks at the moment – Such a turnaround, beautiful green grass and full dams, truly a wonderful sight.

I know many will now be bracing for the water that is moving down over river systems at present and I hope this won't be damaging for anyone, stay safe! Thankyou to all those who were able to attend our end of term Mini-Schools, what a hoot!

Everyone had so much fun and it was great to see all the smiling faces and the excitement about Easter and holidays – And that was just the teachers!!

A few families were flood bound already but hopefully it will have all past by Week 5 Term 2 and we can catch up with them then.

A huge congratulations to all our students on an amazing term. The standard of work coming into school is brilliant. Keep it up guys, you are all achieving and making wonderful progress with your learning. Well done!

From all at BWSODE, we wish you a happy, safe and relaxing holiday and a Happy Easter!!

*Kind Regards*

*Wendy Hay*

*Principal*

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**19<sup>th</sup> April** – Teachers Resume for Term

**2** – Staff Development Day @ Walgett

**20<sup>th</sup> April** – Students resume Term 2

**23<sup>rd</sup> April** - Bourke Integration day

**30<sup>th</sup> April** – Walgett Centre X-Country at Goodooga

**1<sup>st</sup> May** – Bourke Show

**8-9<sup>th</sup> May** – Walgett School

**9<sup>th</sup> May** – Mother's Day

**17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> May** - NAPLAN

### 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 - 1800 338 737 or their 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** 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

### *CWA Public Speaking Competition in Bourke*

The CWA Public Speaking Competition will take place in Bourke on 25<sup>th</sup> of May.

Students in Yrs 3-6 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>

## **PARENTING IDEAS**

“Share your things with your brother. Don't be so selfish!”

If this message is echoing around your household at times, then you'll know how much kid's selfishness is frowned upon by parents. It sits alongside negative terms such as spoilt, bratty and mean-spirited.

The praises of parents who promote a sense of generosity and giving in their kids have long been sung and the firm belief that one of the central tasks for parents, is to socialise children so that the next generation has a strong sense of civic-mindedness.

However there is a place for developing selfishness in children, but not the mean-spirited variety. There are *some* aspects of selfishness that help ensure kids become happy, successful and contributing community members.

### **Self-awareness**

Young children have few social filters. They'll blurt out comments at the worst possible moment that are guaranteed to embarrass you, your neighbour or relative. Embarrassing comments may be cute in toddlers but they lose their shine when children reach the school years.

Parents can encourage self-awareness by drawing children's attention to the requirements of different social situations, varying their social experiences and keeping behavioural expectations high.

The socialisation process means that kids need to be aware of how their words and actions impact on others, and modify their behaviours accordingly.

### **Self-regulation**

A child's awareness of their emotional world is a wonderful gift. A rarer gift is the ability to regulate emotions such as anxiety, sadness and anger. Being able to identify their feelings, or at least, have the sense of awareness that something doesn't feel right is central to emotional intelligence and is a requirement if they are to develop empathy.

Parents can encourage self-regulation in children by drawing attention to feelings, creating moments of stillness and giving them tools to calm themselves down when they're upset.

### Self-knowledge

An example is a child who came back from a six-month student exchange in Denmark as a sixteen year old with a remarkable sense of maturity. The challenge of living away from home for so long had given her what so many teenagers lack – self-knowledge. The experience taught her a great deal about herself, her strengths and vulnerabilities. She arrived home with a sense of 'this is who I am', which is one of the central tasks of adolescence.

Parents can promote kids' self-knowledge by helping them identify their strengths, encouraging a wide range of interests and providing challenge opportunities during the last years of primary school and throughout the secondary school.

### Self-discipline

Could your child sit at the meal table with food in front of them and wait until everyone has been seated before eating? I hope so, because little acts of denial such as this encourage the self-discipline required for later success. The ability to delay immediate gratification whether 'to do the right thing' or to ensure greater and later success is needed in every aspect of life. Self-discipline, like a muscle, needs to be exercised. Parents can develop self-discipline in their children by encouraging small acts of delayed gratification such as saving pocket money. Help them understand that some desirable outcomes such as achieving good academic marks, gaining sporting awards and helping others generally require them to give up something in return.

### Self-leadership

Leadership is a hot topic at the moment, particularly in the political sphere. The seeds of great leadership are sown in childhood by parents who teach kids solid values such as respect, accountability, kindness and empathy.

They encourage skills such as emotional smarts, clear articulation and developing independence. In many ways self-leadership is the sum of these traits combined. Importantly, it comes before successful leadership in a public sense such as leading a school group, a sporting team, a workplace group or a family.

Kid's abilities and attitudes vary, and they shift at different stages of development. It's generally not until adulthood that we see the lasting impact of our parenting efforts and it's the big ideas such as developing positive selfishness traits, that have the most lasting impact on kids.

(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

Not sure if I have put this one in before but it certainly rings true for me.

*The library card is a passport to wonders and miracles, glimpses into other lives, religions, experiences, the hopes and dreams and strivings of ALL human beings, and it is this passport that opens our eyes and hearts to the world beyond our front doors, that is one of our best hopes against tyranny, xenophobia, hopelessness, despair, anarchy, and ignorance. - Libby Bray*

Now is the time to visit your local library and stock up on some books to read, just encase the flood waters come knocking on your door!!!! Stay safe and have a great Easter break.

**PS** I have already visited my local Library and got my stack of books!!!!

*Mrs Robinson*

*loretta.robinson@det.nsw.edu.au*

# MERIT AWARDS

## PRINCIPALS AWARD



**Nick** for persistence and dedication to his work in reading

**Rafa** for an amazing

animated film

**Jace** for increased

application of his school work in 2021

**Jandre** for an outstanding

effort in the Food & Fibre Unit with a Flow Chart of the Cotton Process



## Walgett Students

**Kate** Excellent work in rhyming words / Fantastic improvement in pattern repetition

**Lilli** Sensational work in Whole Numbers and Addition and Subtraction / Phenomenal work in the Food & Fibre unit / Cool creative writing piece 'Lilli and Buddy'

**Darcy** Excellent start to 2021 / For 'nailing' his fluency exercises / Awesome work with 3 digit numerals / SENSATIONAL work in the Food & Fibre unit

**Rafael** Maths Super Star / Always completing his schoolwork to a very high standard / Amazing poster on a Sheep Farming Career

**Caroline** Excellent reading / Beautiful handwriting and colouring in / Terrific sight word work

**Harley** Excellent fluency reading - 'What Now' / Fantastic work completing the 'Food and Fibre' activities / Sensational work recognising simple, compound,

complex and quoted sentences / Fantastic effort completing all his picture book titled 'Positive V's Negative / Fantastic finish to the term

**Scarlett** A great start to Kindergarten in 2021 / Sensational work with her sight words

**Gabe** Magnificent work with multiples of 2, 3, 5 & 10 / For his WICKED WORK in the Windy Farm Unit / Precision work with Patterns and Algebra

**Jandre** Excellent classifying in 'Diggers' / For developing independent work habits / For his EXCEPTIONAL Flow Chart 'Cotton - From Seed to Gin' / Wonderful work with whole Numbers and Fractions

**Harriet** Terrific journal writing / Excellent reading and spelling returns / Excellent sight word work

**Monty** Fantastic work with his 4 x Tables / Super results in spelling / Fabulous work in the 'Food and Fibre' unit / Exceptional work in his narrative and Just a Dog Unit / Great research in his Geography Unit / Unreal first Term of Yr 4

**Byron** Exceptional all round completion in schoolwork

**Charlotte** Great start to Distance Education

**Hilda** Beautiful handwriting / Wonderful story writing / Excellent work in the families unit / Amazing daily writing

**Kate** Awesome Number Bork

**Holly** Excellent work in determining the subject and action / Fabulous recall of spelling rules / Fantastic listener



## *Bourke Students*

**Nick** For outstanding creativity in the creation of a new kitchen gadget / For FANTASTIC work completing his Design and Technology unit

**Thorin** For a wonderful poem about Coconut Sugar

**Jace** For excellent work on Place Value / For increased application to his work in Term 1

**Callie** Excellent work in History

**Paige** For an excellent effort completing your first week of Distance Education

**Aiden** Fantastic editing skills and story in 'Just A dog'

**KC** For an outstanding poem on Cotton

**Seth** For an excellent effort with your first weeks work

**Matthew** A fantastic start to Kindergarten in 2021 / FOR WORKING HARD IN HISTORY

**Maisie** For fantastic work in reading comprehension / For creating an excellent story about Foxy and a beautiful China bird in Violet Mackerels

## *SPORT*

### **PSSA Swimming Carnival**

The North West PSSA Swimming Carnival was held in Armidale on Monday March 1<sup>st</sup>. Rafa and Gabe were the only representatives for the Walgett Centre and we congratulate them on a fantastic effort.

The PSSA Carnival is a qualifying competition for State representation so the standard is high and the heats are fast.

Both Gabe and Rafa both 'stepped up to the plate' with Rafa swimming three personal best times in freestyle, butterfly (where he placed 4<sup>th</sup>)

and back stroke. He also placed 9<sup>th</sup> in the breast stroke.

Gabe swam two personal best times, taking 3 seconds of his freestyle (placing 11<sup>th</sup>) and 1 second off his backstroke.

A fantastic effort and we congratulate them on doing so well.



## INTEGRATION DAYS

### *Walgett Centre*

Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> March saw Walgett Centre's second Integration Day for the Term.

It was a great day and is such an important part of Distance Education. It not only provides an opportunity for students to experience learning in a classroom situation, but to also participate in activities not possible at home, like sports and creative arts, and is an important time for the students to catch up and play with their classmates.

We realise it is a huge commitment to come, some families travelling a long way, and it is simply not always possible. However the School appreciates and values the efforts you make to support your children's education.



Cosmic Yoga was the order of the day, ably led by Mrs Fanning.



A new initiative was started with the students given Integration Day Work Books. They will use these books throughout the year, showcasing their work and will be taken home to share with family and friends at the end of the year.

The students also completed some Visual Art work based on spider webs and the magnificent result is on display in the classroom

## MINI SCHOOLS

### *Bourke Centre*

Bourke Centre's Mini school went ahead as planned though the numbers were also down due to local conditions.

Lots of activities were carried out over the three days including an excursion to the local Bakery which was most interesting.



Science experiments looking at the effects of different substances on egg shells, where composition is very similar to our teeth were carried out with great interest.



Plus plenty of play, art and craft along with

## Easter activities.



Thank you to the parents for bringing your children to important events like Mini Schools and thus providing them with the opportunities to interact with their peers, teachers and partake in activities not possible at home, and to the staff who make these occasions so successful.

### *Walgett Centre*

A rain delayed Mini School was held at the Walgett Centre from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup>.

Despite smaller numbers with some families away and others affected by local rain and rising rivers, it was a most enjoyable three days. Lots of Art and Craft activities / Easter cooking, activities and Craft / Fabric Dying / Walgett Show work preparation and of course an Easter Hat Parade Assembly and Easter Egg hunt were all held

Thank you to Terri-Lee Robinson for sharing her artistic expertise with the students and to Kristy

and Stefie for your invaluable help with books and sight words. Greatly appreciated. Thank you to the parents for making a huge effort to come in and participate in this very important part of DE education, and to the staff for all the preparation that goes into conducting these events.



Mrs Fanning and the students doing art activities



Hilda and Caroline



Jandre, Harley, Holly, Darcy, Caroline, Lili, Hilda and Kate in their beautiful T Shirts created as a culmination of the Food and Fibre Unit to be entered in the Walgett Show



Mrs Hartog guiding some Easter cooking activities with Lili, Kate and Caroline







Mrs Fanning with Harley receiving his Pen License

Happy Birthday to **Phoenix** who celebrated his birthday on Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> and to **Darcy** who had his birthday the 10<sup>th</sup> of March. We hope both you boys had a great day



## STUDENT NEWS

No guesses where the Rafa and Gabe have spent much of Term 1 !!



Multi Skilled Principal Ms Hay



Kate her

Easter craft

with



Working hard with their school work but also enjoying many of the sights and activities of Sydney while they spend time with their father on the film set.

## BIRTHDAYS



*Farewell until Term 2*