



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome back to all our DE families – What a very strange start to the year!! I hope you all feel settled and have established some sort of routine. As of Monday March 7th we are now no longer required to wear masks at Primary schools. Visitors are also now allowed on site and schools can invite parents and families onto school sites regardless of their vaccination status. We can have greater engagement with our school community as carnivals and other activities are now able to be run, however still under COVID safe guidelines.

Rapid antigen testing has moved to symptomatic testing only – So we seem to be back to normal at present!

With all these things in the past, I feel like it's only Week 3, not Week 6!!

We have many new enrolments and I would like to welcome the following families to DE: Thomson, Djulic and (Wells) Tuckey families.

With the increased enrolments at the Bourke Centre, we now have another teaching position. Mr. Craig Dunbar has arrived and begun his role as classroom teacher till staffing can permanently appoint a teacher. Craig had the good fortune to arrive the day before the Bourke Integration Day and was able to meet the students and parents, which he thoroughly enjoyed. Thanks to everyone who made Craig feel so welcome.

Moving forward, staff will now be looking to do some Home Visits this term, however the majority will be planned for Term 2. Please be patient with these, as we prioritise our new enrolments and play catch up with our

visits!

We have a great Mini-School planned for Week 10, which is being held as a whole school event in Walgett. Areas covered will include Mosaics, Music and Geography, with the highlight being a workshop on using green screen for films.

Students will also be able to complete work for both the Bourke and Walgett Shows which are timetable for early Term 2. We look forward to seeing all students there for this school activity.

Information about this event will be sent to parents via SWAY in Week 8.

Congratulations to Walgett students Rafa and Gabe Siemer who represented the Barwon Zone at the Nth West Regional Swimming Carnival. Both boys did themselves and their school proud, especially under some difficult circumstances.

Thank you and well done!!

We also have a new addition to the DE family – Jemma and Ian Hartog welcomed their third child Edward Watson Hartog on March 3rd. Mum and bub are both well and we have two very excited siblings!!

Packing and programming will begin soon, so please let your child's teacher know if you have any changes to routine for Term 2 so alteration to your program can be accommodated if needed.

It's so exciting to see our area looking green and sparkling, with the promise of another great year for those involved with the land. We do feel for all in the east of NSW who have suffered devastating losses due to flooding and extend them our heartfelt sympathy at the devastation they have endured.

Established organization such as GIVIT who were so generous to our school and families during the last drought, are working within these communities to manage assistance.

If you wish to donate, visit GIVIT www.givit.org.au

Finally, once again welcome back. We have lots planned for this year so keep your fingers crossed everything will go to plan!!

Kind Regards

Wendy Hay | Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER

18th March – Walgett Integration Day

28th March - No Satellite for the rest of Term

29th – April 1st – Mini School in Walgett

8 April – Last day Term 1

CENTRE NEWS



The Bourke Walgett School of Distance Education welcomes experienced teacher Mr Craig Dunbar to the Bourke Centre for Term 1. We hope he enjoys his time with us.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

IT Help Desk

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

T4L Kids Magazine

The **T4L Kids Magazine** contains information for students including stories about influential people, technology that they can learn about, and interesting engaging activities.

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

Kip McGrath

Kip McGrath has partnered with the NSW Government on a Schools Tutoring Program

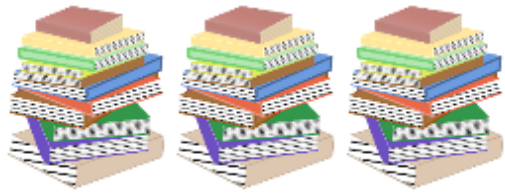
Kip McGrath were selected as one of only four providers, to partner with the NSW Government to help deliver a newly funded state-wide school tutoring program.

The program is designed to support students who fell behind due to COVID disruptions. Under this program, lessons from the Kip McGrath's purpose-built tutoring platform are available to students at school, in a Kip McGrath Centre or online.

The flexible modes of delivery enable students to build a consistent relationship with the same tutor every week and make it easier for students to commit to their enhanced learning support programme.

The program is run in partnership with the classroom teacher and can deliver individualised one on one support. Kip McGrath was awarded the tender as one of Australia's largest providers of professional tutoring for primary school students and for its higher proportion of qualified teachers employed as professional tutors.

For more information, please go to the Department of Education website: education.nsw.gov.au



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>

School Travel



School student travel information for parents and students

School Travel Passes

Students who need a School Oyster card or travel pass but have not yet applied need to [apply](#) or [update](#) their details as soon as possible.

In the Opal network, students should travel with a Child/Youth Opal card until they receive their valid School Oyster card. If outside Greater Sydney, parents should contact their local [bus operator](#) to discuss their travel needs.

New Student Oyster cards (including new Term One Passes) will be sent to the student's nominated postal address within two weeks of their application being approved.

Students living in rural and regional (RRR) areas will receive their travel pass from their nominated transport operator. It may be issued via their school or bus company directly to them at home. **Note:** some RRR operators do not issue travel passes. Students/parents should confirm with their nominated operator if they do not receive a pass.

Terms of Use

Students using Opal cards must [tap on and tap off](#) in line with the [Opal terms of use](#).

All students are required to comply with the [Student code of conduct](#). The code of conduct aims to ensure the safety and well-being of school children and other passengers. It is important that parents ensure the child is aware of this, as failure to comply with the code of conduct can result in suspension from travel.

PARENTING IDEAS

(Article adapted from a paper by Michael Gross)

A Parenting Style for our Times

I spoke to a mother recently who was struggling to find the right balance in her parenting approach. She was frustrated

that she always had to nag her children to get cooperation. More disturbingly, she felt a lack of connection to her children, which concerned her given the challenges we are now experiencing. I suggested that she should “guide like a cat and nurture like a dog”.

What does that mean?

[Find your inner cat to guide and manage](#)

The cat is the credible side we all have, but it is difficult accessing. It's expressed through your non-verbals – your tone of voice, your posture and your head position.

A cat speaks with flat, clipped voice. Your head is very still and body upright and confident. The quickest way to access your inner cat is to speak with your palms facing the ground. You'll find you'll naturally speak with a clipped voice, still head and body and a serious expression on your face. This is your credible (and calm) side.

When you speak from your cat side, people will usually believe what you have to say. The cat side gives you authority.

Australia's former foreign minister Julie Bishop was a good example of using cat behaviour as she oozed authority when she spoke. That's because she accessed the cat side of her nature in public.

Guide like a cat by speaking calmly, quietly and staying still when you speak. 'Cats' will also withdraw eye contact rather than stand and argue, so look away or respectfully move away rather than become involved in a pointless argument with a child.

'Cats' also look for ways to manage visually (with such things as rosters or charts) or by moving close and whispering, rather than repeating themselves. If 'cats' repeat themselves, they are more likely to lower their voice than raise it to get attention. These cat behaviours work well when guiding and managing children and teenagers.

Use your inner dog to nurture and build relationships

We also have a dog side to our nature. This is the approachable, conversational, relationship-building side. When you access this side, you'll speak with lots of inflection in your voice. Your head will bob up and down. You'll probably lean forward as you speak and you'll smile a lot. The quickest way to access your dog nature is to speak with your palms up. You can try it now. Stand up, put your hands out with your palms up and start speaking. You should notice a big difference in how you deliver your message from when you spoke with palms facing down. If not, alternate speaking with palms up and down until you see a difference.

The dog side of our nature is what many of us feel more comfortable with. If you are in a management position at work, you probably spend more time accessing your cat than your dog. Although effective managers will move seamlessly between the two, accessing their dog when networking and relationship-building, then finding their cat for negotiations or when making decisions.

Actor Hugh Jackman is an example of a public figure who is dog-like as he usually speaks with lots of up and down pitch in his voice, a big smile and open body language. However, he can switch to cat mode in interviews when talking about something serious. He will speak quietly, calmly and his head will stay very still. We believe him when he speaks. He's no lightweight. It's his ability to switch from cat to dog and back again that makes him so charismatic.

Bring your cat and dog to your parenting

Effective parents can make subtle adjustments to their communication. That is, they alter their style to suit the situation rather than let their moods dictate their communication styles. This

is not necessarily conscious. Do it often and you'll find switching from cat to dog and back again becomes an ingrained parenting pattern.

Get your cat and dog wrong and you'll be ineffective. Guide like a dog and you'll do one of three things – whine to get cooperation, become angry if they ignore you, or do nothing because you don't want to offend your children.

Build relationships like a cat and you'll be seen as distant, stiff and unapproachable.

Get the mix right and you'll be able to give your children exactly what they need.

That is, the leadership and safety that cats provide and the nurturance and encouragement that comes naturally to dogs.



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

Welcome to the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge 2022.

The 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 open to all NSW students in Kindergarten to Year 9, in government, independent, Catholic and home schools.

Challenge opens on Monday the 28th February, and closes on August 22nd Please let Mrs Robinson know if you are joining the 2022 Premier's reading Challenge

Mrs Robinson

loretta.robinson@det.nsw.edu.au

MERIT AWARDS



Walgett Students

Claudia A fantastic start to the 2022 school year

Hilda Great work on Insects

Lilli Wonderful improvement in Handwriting

Darcy Through work on Insects

Spencer A fantastic start to Kindergarten / Terrific application to all learning areas

Monty A sensational start to the 2022 school year / Excellent work in Mathematics

Gabe Fantastic work in all Key Learning Areas

Alex Outstanding effort researching information on Venice / A fantastic start to the 2022 school year / Great effort during Assembly

Jandre Great explanation of strategies in problem solving

Scarlett Outstanding effort completing Reading Mastery B / Great

effort in reading / Fantastic application to all learning tasks / Clever thinking in Mathematics

William

Outstanding work to identify natural and built environments / A fantastic start to the 2022 school year

Annabelle

Terrific reading with good pace and expression / A fantastic start to Distance Education

Rachel

Outstanding work investigating microorganisms / Always completing her schoolwork to a very high standard / Excellent start to Distance Education learning

Tallis

Excellent start to Distance Education learning

Thomas

A fantastic start to Distance Education

Bradley

A fantastic start to distance Education



Bourke Students

Nick

For working hard in addition and subtraction

Callie

An excellent first week back / For an OUTSTANDING picture book 'Sniffy and Callie Catch a Plane'

KC

A great start to 2022 / Excellent picture book

- Ruby 'The Willy Wagtail's Unexpected Guest'
For working hard in Mathematics
- Maisie For a sensational start to 2022
- Matthew For working hard in Science
- Walmer A great start to Kindergarten
- Annabella For a great start to Term 1
- Franco An excellent start to 2022
- Declan A great start to Distance Education
- Lachlan A 'stella' start to 2022
- Dominic Excellent work in Whole Numbers
- Dominique A sensational start to the 2022 school year



Ms Hay with Rafa and Gabe, victorious at the Barwon District Swimming Carnival



Some nice sportsmanship in the pool

SPORT

Barwon District Swimming Carnival

The Carnival was held on Friday Feb 18th. Rafa and Gabe were the only students from the Walgett Centre able to attend and we congratulate them on a great day and their fantastic results. Both boys have qualified for the NW PSSA Swimming carnival in Armidale on Feb 28th.



NW Swimming Carnival Barwon Zone

Following their results at the District Swimming Carnival at Lightning Ridge on Feb 18th, Gabe and Rafa qualified into the NW BARWON Zone Swimming Carnival held at Armidale on Monday Feb 28th.



Congratulations to Rafa and Gabe who represented BWSODE at this competitive representative Swimming Carnival.

Despite some unfortunate and unexpected circumstances, they still achieved PBs in several events and represented our school and themselves with enthusiasm and sportsmanship. Well done boys.

INTEGRATION DAYS

Bourke Centre

Bourke Centre held their first Integration Day for 2022 on Wednesday and Thursday March 2nd and 3rd.

Mr Dunbar, on just his second day at Distance Ed, along with Ms Hay and Mrs Robinson, facilitated the Integration Days.

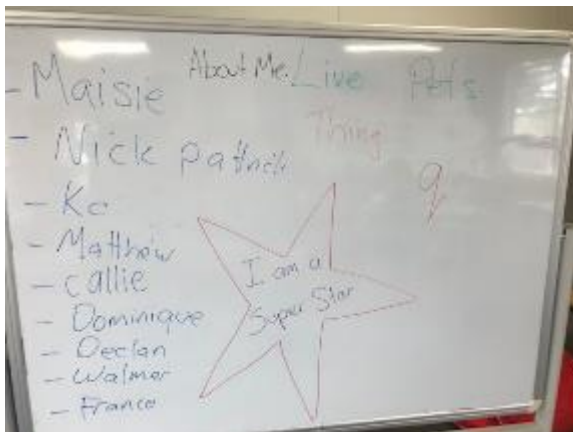
Below is his recap of the day with some accompanying photos.

Hello everyone,

It was lovely to meet all the students, parents, and carers from Distance Education on our Integration Days. We had lots of activities, from reading, spelling to hand eye coordination ball/frisbee games that we all had fun and a laugh with. We painted and blinged up our stars for "I am a Star" and they all looked amazing, we drew our faces and coloured them in. Everybody each wrote a story of why they are a star, especially what we

do to help around the house. We met a character called "The Messy Magpie" in an eBook we read together. We learnt about what recycling is, and why it is important to our planet. Thank you very much for coming along everybody and looking forward to working with you this year. A thank you to Mrs Lorberg who prepared all the activities for us to do over the two days. Thank you to Mrs Robinson and Ms Hay for coming to help and have fun with us.





BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Very best birthday wishes to the following students **FRANCO** Feb 17th (belated wishes!!) **DARCY** March 10th, **ANNABELE** March 11th and **DECLAN** March 22nd.

