



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

What a terrific week we just had celebrating the end of Term 1 with an action packed Mini-School!

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend.

We had a brilliant time catching up with everyone and working with the students for three days. I hope everyone has recovered from this adventure, it was certainly a busy time.

The students, as usual, were amazing. They created, performed, danced, sang, played, ate, slept and did this on repeat for three days!

The Mosaics ran by Heather Arjerakis, were spectacular and each family that attended even went home with a gift pack to continue this skill – Hide all your special pottery!!

Music led by Kate Whitworth, was exceptional, the children not only completed their drumming work from satellite but were able to use the Djembes to continue their work on call and responses perfume written musical passages.

Students also concluded their Term 1 work in Geography on 'Features of Place' and mapping skills.

Our Startime incursion was also another hit. Students acted, directed, filmed and edited their own movie using greenscreen technology – What stars we have in the making. They were extremely professional and collaborative in their approach to all the different aspects of this process.

Afternoon and night time activities were also a hit with a games night, poetry reading, a visit to the PCYC and a "P" themed disco – so much fun!!

Our special assembly on Friday gave us time to reflect on all the activities and fun we had during the past few days and students are to be congratulated on their stamina and behaviour during Mini-School.

The Walgett Centre farewells Kate Whitworth as she goes back to the South Coast to fulfill her commitments to the Flame Tree musical project she runs in that area. Kate will then assist Moorambilla Voices in Term 3. We do however have Kate continuing to run our music program in Term 2 via satellite – YEA!!

Taking over from Kate will be Michelle McAndrew, who joined us during Mini-School to meet the students. We welcome Michelle and know she will love working at DE.

To all our students, supervisors and families we cannot thank you enough for your hard work and support during Term 1, have a safe and happy holiday and bring on Term 2!!

Kind Regards

Wendy Hay | Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER

8th April – Last day Term 1

27th April – First day of Term 2

2nd May – Satellite Lessons resume

10th – 20th May – NAPLAN window

12th & 13th May - Bourke Integration days

13th May – Walgett Integration Day

CENTRE NEWS

Walgett Centre welcomes Michelle McAndrew to the staff for the remainder of 2022 commencing in Term 2.

Michelle is an experienced teacher who comes to us from Walgett Primary School. We hope she enjoys her time with the Distance Ed community and the unique teaching opportunity remote learning provides.



We also farewell Mrs Kate Whitworth at the end of Term 1. She has brought a wealth of experience, enthusiasm and music to our school and she will be greatly missed by staff, students and families. We thank her very much for the time and dedication she has given BWSODE.

Kate will be continuing to provide some satellite lessons from her home on the south coast in Term 2.



Thanks, are extended as well, to Mr Craig Dunbar who joined the Staff at the Bourke Centre just for Term 1.

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>

School Travel



School student travel information for parents and students

School Travel Passes

Students who need a School Oast 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 Oast card until they receive their valid School Oast card. If outside Greater Sydney, parents should contact their local [bus operator](#) to discuss their travel needs.

New Student Oast cards (including new Term Bus 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 (R&R) areas will receive their travel pass from their nominated transport operator. It may be issued via their school or bus stop directly in their local area. **Note:** some R&R 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 [Oast 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 their child is aware of this, as failure to comply with the code of conduct can result in a suspension from travel.

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

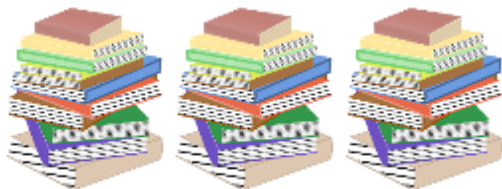
newly funded state-wide school tutoring program.

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 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>

Covid Vaccination Clinic in Bourke



PARENTING IDEAS

What causes sibling rivalry - Answer: Having more than one child!!

Sibling rivalry comes with the parenting territory.

Sibling rivalry is usually at its most intense when there are only two children in a family. There are many simple, straightforward strategies parents can use to decrease the likelihood of rivalry between two children. The following ideas will help parents reduce rather than eliminate rivalry between two or more siblings.

Accept children's individual differences

An acceptance and real tolerance of different children's interests and abilities is crucial for reducing the likelihood of sibling rivalry. The fact that parents

have their own hopes and dreams for their children and have their own notion of what constitutes acceptable behaviour means that it is difficult to be accepting of children's differences – particularly of those children whose ideas, values and behaviours are different from our own.

Recognise their role in the family

When I asked my children years ago to help make their grandmother feel welcome before one of her visits, my eldest two children responded in conventional ways. One child helped clean the house while another put some flowers in a vase. My youngest daughter went straight to her bedroom and started to read. Puzzled and a little annoyed that she wasn't pulling her weight I asked what she was doing. She said that she was memorising a story because Grandma loved stories. This little episode reminded me that children help in different ways and adopt their own roles according to what gains a positive reaction.

Use encouragement liberally and praise sparingly

Do you praise your children when they fulfil basic bodily functions? Do you praise your children for obeying the laws of gravity? Do you give praise for simple socialisation procedures that your children practise every day - No. Children gain their self-esteem from the messages that they receive and through their interactions with the world. The main developmental tasks for children under 10 are to work out what they can do and how they fit into the world. An encouraging parent gives children feedback about their performance, but they ensure the feedback is realistic and they work from positives rather than negatives.

Put them in the same boat when they misbehave

Many parents spend time hunting for the individual culprit when children misbehave, neglect their jobs, or create

a disturbance, when they would be better off putting them both or all in the same boat when any child is less than perfect. Making all children responsible for each other's behaviour increases teamwork and stops setting children up against each other. Next time a child is too noisy in the car, resist the temptation to seek out the culprit. Instead remind your children that everyone will miss the outing if the car trip continues to be noisy. You will then place responsibility to resolve the problem where it lies – with them.

Focus on solutions not the fight

There are two broad approaches that parents can adopt with sibling fighting - Become involved or remain neutral.

In his book *Becoming Better Parents*, Australian psychologist and parenting authority Dr Maurice Balson recommends that parents leave children to resolve their own disputes. This approach makes a great deal of sense, but as most parents know, some fights are impossible to ignore, particularly when they happen under your nose. If you do intervene, make sure that you get in early before a full-scale fight occurs.

Introduce family meetings at age five

The use of regular family meetings is one way to promote cohesiveness between children and reduce unnecessary conflict. They provide children with a forum to air their gripes in a controlled, safe atmosphere and give children a chance to impact on family decision-making. Family meetings work best when they are short, held on a weekly or fortnightly basis and end with a pleasant activity. Like any meeting, they require effective leadership, and they should follow an agenda.

The family that plays together stays together

Have you ever noticed that when you are having fun with children the fighting ceases or at least decreases? It is hard

to laugh and fight at the same time. Make sure you spend some time together as a family involved in enjoyable activities such as playing games, reading a story together and other ways that promote either interaction or closeness between children. When children believe and feel that they belong to the same tribe, they are more likely to stick together and look after each other when difficulties arise.



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



If you wish to find out which books have made the short list for 2022 go to:

<https://cbca.org.au/shortlist-2022>

Each year BWSODE purchases the shortlisted books for the following categories:

Young Readers - Entries in this category may be fiction, drama or poetry and be appropriate in style and content for readers from the middle to upper primary years. 7-12 years

Early Childhood - Entries in this category may be fiction, drama or poetry and be appropriate in style and content for children who are at pre-

reading or early stages of reading. Ages 0-6 years.

The Picture Book of the Year - Entries in this category should be outstanding books of the Picture Book genre in which the author and illustrator achieve artistic and literary unity or, in wordless picture books, where the story, theme or concept is unified through illustrations. Ages 0-18 years. (NB. Some of these books may be for mature readers).

Eve Pownall Award - Entries in this category should be books which have the prime intention of documenting factual material with consideration given to imaginative presentation, interpretation and variation of style. Ages 0-18 years.

New Illustrator - This Award aims to recognise and encourage new talent in the field of Australian children's book illustration. Ages 0-18 years.

As you can see from the description of each award, we purchase the books that the staff feel are appropriate to our students. Hence there may be some books listed that are not in our Libraries. We purchase a set for each Library.

Mrs Robinson

loretta.robinson@det.nsw.edu.au



MERIT AWARDS

Special Principal's Award

Jandre - For a fantastic Information Report on Seahorses

Lili - For a fantastic Information Report on the Praying Mantis

Principal's Award

Alex - Consistent approach to his learning

Walmer - A fantastic start to Distance Education



Walgett Students

Claudia Excellent work in grammar-Exclamations and Commas / Huge improvement in Handwriting / Fantastic 'Lost Dog' Poster for the 'Just a Dog' Unit

Hilda Excellent handwriting in all activities / Wonderful work with Sight Words and Story Writing / Awesome Maths Skills Tester at Integration Day

Lilli Huge improvement in Handwriting / Brilliant narrative in the unit My Uncle's Donkey / Fantastic Information Report on the Praying Mantis

Darcy Fantastic work in Poetry / Terrific work in all learning activities / An amazing book on the Ultimate Aussies Rumble

Spencer Fantastic observations and investigations into the weather / Terrific work in Writing

Bradley Working hard in Maths / A huge effort in Handwriting

Monty Excellent work conducting a scientific investigation - 'Opposable Thumb' / Quick recall speed of 7 Times Tables / Outstanding effort completing the Fox Unit / Excellent work in Mathematics / An amazing Information Report on Dogs

Gabe A fantastic effort in Spelling to complete Book D / Building great imagery in poetry using senses / WOW - Another impressive work pack!! / Consistent application to all learning tasks

Alex Always trying his best in Mathematics / Well researched biography on Matt Ottley / Outstanding work creating a picture book / Excellent results in spelling Mastery and end of Criterion Assessment

Jandre Terrific imaginative writing - 'The Lost Present' / Fantastic narrative writing in the unit The All New Must Have Orange 430 / An amazing Information Report on Seahorses

Scarlett Fantastic writing inspired by Noni the Pony / Terrific observation

and investigations into the weather

William Excellent work in Story Writing / Super cool park design / Outstanding story A Bike Ride to Find Treasure / Terrific work in Maths

Rafa Remarkable dedication towards his learning / Building great imagery in poetry using descriptive vocabulary / Outstanding effort completing Yr 6 Maths / Excellent analysis of language techniques used in Poetry

Rachel Great work in visual Grammar

Tallis Fantastic work in the 2D Space Unit

Excellent work in Fractions and Decimals

Aiden Excellent answers in PDHPE discussion

INTEGRATION DAYS

Walgett Centre

Walgett Integration Day on March 6th. Only a few students were able to attend however it was lovely day filled with lots of interesting activities.



Claudia, Hilda and Darcy



Bourke Students

Thorin Outstanding work in Term 1 Holiday Booklet

KC Fantastic effort with fundamental movement skills

Jace For excellent contributions in Poetry

Annabella Working hard in Area

Franco For working hard to improve his Reading and Writing

Declan For working hard to improve the quality of his returned work /





Darcy and Hilda with Mrs Fanning

MINI SCHOOL

A wonderful Whole School Mini School was held at the Walgett Show Grounds on March 29th to April 1st.

It was tremendous to welcome so many families back together after the restrictions of the past almost 2 years. Thank you to the families who were able to attend. We realise it is a big commitment but provides an invaluable opportunity for the children, not only to mix and play with their classmates, but also for the Staff to interact on a daily basis with their students.

A Mini School also provides an opportunity to invite guest presenters as was the case this year. Thank you to Lindsay from Star Time for an amazing workshop on film making and use of the Green Screen and also to Mrs Heather Argerakis, an experienced teacher who travelled from the South Coast, to provide a wonderful mosaic workshop. Thank you to all the staff who put so much time into the planning and preparation not only for the learning activities of Mini School, but the 'after hours' including a visit to the PCYC, poetry reading, music and a disco!! Special thanks also to the parents and governesses for your invaluable hard work in the kitchen keeping everyone fed!

Below is a pictorial 'snapshot with more photos being published in Sway later in the week.





BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

April is the month for birthdays!!!

Very best Birthday wishes to the following –



William on the 5th, **Walma** on the 8th, **Alex** on the

18th, **Tallis** on the 22nd, **Spencer** on the 24th, **Lachlan** on the 26th, and then **Kc** on May 1st

Happy Birthday to you all and hope you have great days.