



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dec 19th marked the last day for staff for 2023 – What a wonderful year and an amazing group of Staff,

Supervisors and students that I have been lucky enough to spend the year with!!

It been a bit of a blur this year but still brilliant, capped off by two wonderful days of celebration at our Presentation Days in Bourke and Walgett.

In breaking news:

Mr Reid will not be with us next year. He is moving closer to his family near West Wylong.

Thanks for coming to our rescue and all you have done.

Tempe is this year's winner of the Premiers Christmas Card competition – CONGRATULATIONS!!

On behalf of all the staff, I hope you have had a wonderful Christmas, best wishes for the New Year and hope everyone has a well-deserved holiday!! See you all in 2024 - that's a wrap. MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

Kind Regards

Wendy Hay

Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER

6th Feb - Staff Resume Duty - Staff Development Day

7th Feb - Staff Development Day

8th Feb - Students resume school for 2024

15th Feb - Small Schools Swimming Carnival - Bourke Centre at Bourke

16th Feb - Small Schools Swimming Carnival - Walgett Centre at Collarenebri

19th Feb - Barwon District Swimming at Lightning Ridge

20th Feb - Online lessons begin

1st Mar - Bourke Integration Day

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



Just a reminder that the Walgett Showground is temporarily closed for the remainder of 2023. This is to allow for major upgrades to the Bar area, the Sheep Pavilion and the Wool Pavilion.

It is wonderful to see the amazing investment and attention given to this great facility by the Walgett shire.

**IT Help Desk - 1800 338 737 or
their new landline number is
58526230**

(Please note this is a new number
18/05/2022)

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>

Christmas

STUDENT NEWS



Gabe and Rafa at the Gold Coast Gymnastics 2023 Presentation Dinner

Congratulations to **Gabe** (pictured above with his mother and older brother (and past BWSODE student) Rafa who received the Highest Achievement Award for his Level, at the recent Gold Coast Gymnastics Presentation Dinner.



Darcy and Hilda

Beautiful Christmas craft from Darcy and Hilda in the lead up to the holidays.

PARENTING IDEAS COMMUNICATION

Communication is fundamental to relationships, and lies at the heart of human relationships, no less between parents and their children.

But the core of communication, is listening. A deceptively simple, everyday activity but one which is harder than it might seem.

Communication between parents and kids serves many purposes. These include giving instructions, teaching new skills, giving feedback and encouragement, and exchanging ideas and information.

Another critical purpose of communication is to understand and connect – This is where listening is so vital.

Genuine listening gives us a sense of being cared about but not judged, building trust through the space shared and empathy shown.

The power of listening

When parents really listen to their children and teenagers, they feel heard and understood, not alone. It sends a message of unconditional love and regard, that builds security and attachment in the relationship. At times of challenge, sitting with a child or adolescent to listen, may be the most powerful tool we have in building connections.

- Listening says to a child that we care about what they have to say, what they have experienced and what they feel. This does not mean parents cannot set boundaries or maintain expectations, rather that listening gives each child a voice, empowering them to express their needs through language, rather than behaviour.
- Listening is also the foundation of teaching the vital life skill of emotion regulation. When we listen to our kids, we give them the opportunity to recognise feelings and develop a vocabulary to name even the most uncomfortable of emotions.

What blocks effective listening?

1. **Being distracted** – We can't listen to another person if our mind is elsewhere and focused on something else. If we are distracted, and not 'present', we can miss important cues and send a message that the issue and child's wellbeing is not our priority.
2. **Being busy** – Similarly, effective listening takes time and

can't be rushed. It is not something to get out of the way in a hurry.

3. Being upset or emotional – Our own emotional reactions can block us from hearing what is going on for our children, preventing us from tuning into their emotions or needs.

4. Putting our own perspective – Empathy is an essential ingredient in effective listening, but we are not listening effectively if we make assumptions that our experience or viewpoint is what the other person is experiencing or needs.

5. Trying to solve the problem too quickly – Until we have the story and understand what is being felt, solution-finding can feel dismissive. Sometimes, being heard is all that is needed, but if not, solutions will be more appropriate if they are based on a true understanding, gained through listening.

What enables effective listening?

1. Being open – To whatever the child or teenager's experience is. While children and teenagers may benefit from suggestions about what is going on, it is important that they have a chance to correct them if they are not quite right.

2. Managing our own emotions – Especially if hearing 'difficult' things. Young people can become afraid of sharing their feelings or experiences if their parents readily become upset, anxious or angry. Staying calm and focusing on your child's needs as best you can, will give them the confidence to share their troubles and approach if they need help.

3. Having the time and space to listen – Making sure that you are available to listen, not in a hurry and that privacy is protected if necessary.

4. Using openers and encouragers –

These are many and varied, according to the age of the child and what language is natural for both of you. Some of the classics below are tried and true, but they need to feel authentic:

- *I've noticed you look a little sad, is there something worrying you?*
- *How are you travelling, is everything OK?*
- *That sounds hard, tell me more.*
- *I can understand you feeling angry when that happened.*

How to listen if kids won't talk?

Some children are naturally reticent and adolescents can be notoriously difficult to get to open up. Parents may be 'all ears' but teenagers can be stubbornly non-communicative.

Here are a few tips:

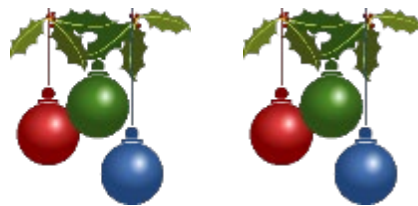
- Try not to take it personally, it is very common.
- Remember **listen** is an anagram of **silent!** Listen more than talk, especially with teenagers.
- Checking in while doing another activity – Such as driving or cooking dinner
- Be curious: Ask 'is there anything else?' or 'what do I need to know to understand?'
- Resist advice giving unless they are open to it and avoid all comparisons to siblings (or yourself at their age).
- Remember they can't talk to you if you are not around, so try to hang out in different ways. Read the paper while they are doing homework, ask to hear the music they like, or offer to drive them and their friends to an activity.

(This article is written by Deborah Trengove, past School Psychologist, who regularly publishes Parenting articles with Michael Grose)



Michael Grose, 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 bestselling *Why First Borns Rule the World* and *Last Borns Want to Change It*, and his latest release *Spoonfed Generation: How to raise independent children.*



MERIT AWARDS

Principal's Awards

Domínique - For putting together a fantastic multi-media autobiography presentation

Aiden - For putting together a fantastic multi-media autobiography presentation

Maddy - For outstanding work completing Literacy activities at a high standard

Hugh - For his continued dedication to refining his knowledge and understanding of multiplicative relations



Walgett Students

Monty

- Overall thoroughly well completed work in all areas
- Exceptional work and research in Science units

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magnificent completion of 'My Octopus Teacher' • Excellent work with extreme weather and measuring disasters in Science • Brilliant work with budgeting • Interesting and informative report on the common octopus • Outstanding overall efforts in Maths • For smashing his Term 4 Learning program - LAST ONE EVER11 	Elena	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For thoroughly completed and well presented Maths Units
		Darcy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fantastic fluency • Super work with 3D Space
		Tallis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent reading fluency • Great Grammar knowledge • Fantastic maths assessment results • Outstanding work in Grammar • Soldi work in maths • Reading award
Spencer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outstanding job in ordinal numbers • Marvelous Maths Mentals 	Scarlett	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confidence in comprehension • Awesome work measuring area
Annabelle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent reading fluency • Great understanding of angles • Great use of conjunctions • Reading award • Great returns in Term 4 	Cooper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent results in InitilLit
		Major	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amazing Science work
		Emma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wonderful attitude towards her Maths work
		Danilo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unbelievable accuracy across Maths tasks • Impressive work presentation
Ruby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent work returns • Outstanding work in Maths 	Rachel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neat presentation of her work • Understanding equivalent fractions

Dean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent grammar knowledge • Excellent understanding with fractions, decimals and percentages • Reading award • Consistent work returns • Notable work with natural disasters • Excellent efforts in constructing 2-way Times Tables ad side by side column graphs in Data 	Phoebe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For working hard to complete InitilLit 2 Grammar • FANTASTIC work with estimating and rounding • Pleasing steady progress in Fluency reads • For fantastic work in completing InitilLit 2 Grammar • Grand work with graphs • Excellent knowledge of the environment around her • Excellent work with Mental Strategies in Addition and Subtraction • Brilliant work with Tricky Words
Archer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For accurate, rhythmic playing with excellent sense of beat • 'Off the Chart' Information Report on Wedge Tailed Eagles • Awesome work in 'Fly Me to The Moon' 	Oliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent Sydney postcard • Accurate answers in the Whole Number Unit • THRIVING in all arears of his Literacy and Numeracy program • Wicked work with Word Webs • For being a SUPER SPELLER
Hamish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent effort in Handwriting • Brilliant work in Kinda Grammar • Great sustained reading 		
Faith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent work with Digital Time 		
Isla	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fantastic work with fractions • Exceptional expression when reading 		

Maddy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensational efforts in Science • Magnificent overall efforts in More to Explore • Incredible inferencing • Astonishing results in Literacy assessments • For outstanding work completing InitilLit 2 Grammar • Displaying excellent rhythm • Exceptional work determining the main idea and drawing inferences • FANTASTIC work in Maths Mentals 	Bradley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making great sound videos on Google workspace • Understanding the concept of mass in maths • Improved letter formation in handwriting • Pleasing writing • Excellent letter formation • Great work understanding time
Hugh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awesome efforts with angles • For his overall hard work and effort in Maths • Outstanding efforts in his Visual Literacy unit 'Mulan' • Spectacular work in Science 	Tempe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For outstanding achievements in InitilLit 2 Grammar • EXCEPTIONAL work in Busy Beaks • Brilliant work in 'Fly Me to the Moon'
Katie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensational, accurate work in Mentals • Brilliant work in Grammar 	Miles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magnificent results in Maths Online activities • Marvelous work with money • Brilliant problem solving skills • Awesome comprehension knowledge • Fantastic Problem Solving • Great work in Comprehension
Gabe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playing melodies with excellent timing and pitch 	Thomas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMAZING handwriting
		Hilda	

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|----------|---|---------|---|
| Alistair | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An excellent attitude when working on her InitilLit activities • Excellent presentation of all work • Excellent work returns • Accurate spelling results • A good Design and Technology Project | Caprhys | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For working hard on her Literacy revision • For doing a fantastic job on her Fox Unit • Having thoughtful contributions in music groups |
| Lylah | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent knowledge in Comprehension • Outstanding work in Comprehension • Great work returns in Term 4 | Nick | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For working hard on editing • For excellent work in spelling Mastery |
| | | Maisie | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fantastic expression in singing • For drawing an excellent 'how we see' diagram in her Seeing the Light Unit |



Bourke Students

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|-----------|--|-----------|--|
| Thorin | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For excellent work completing InitilLit 2 Grammar | Matthew | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For a fabulous piece of persuasive writing • For excellent work in his Mote-Igami Unit |
| Annabella | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For exceptional work in Year 2 Position Unit 1 • For the successful completion of the InitilLit 1 Program • Terrific singing in Music • Exceptional work on forces in Science • Outstanding work in chance | Kc | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For working hard on learning to tell the time on a analogue clock • For excellent work in English Skills • For fantastic work in Heat, Light and Electricity |
| | | Dominique | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For putting together a fantastic multi media |

- Declan
- autobiography presentation
 - Writing 2 terrific book reviews
 - For working hard to learn new concepts in Mathematics
 - For working hard to improve his Persuasive Writing
 - For fantastic work in Time
 - Working hard to improve his comprehension skills

- Aiden
- For putting together a fantastic multi media autobiography presentation

- Billy
- For a fabulous story - 'Blake's Big Lunch'
 - For working hard to complete all set tasks
 - For successfully completing the InitilLit Foundation Program
 - For a fabulous effort making his Pig Monster Truck
 - For outstanding work in volume
 - Writing a fantastic book called 'In My Bucket'

- Callie
- For excellent work telling time to the hour
 - For excellent work completing InitilLit 2 Grammar
 - For successful completion of the InitilLit 2 Program
 - Scoring 100% accuracy on her Spelling Test

PRESENTATION DAYS

Bourke Centre on the 6th Dec, and Walgett Centre on Dec 8th marked the ending of 2023, with two marvellous Presentation Days.

A culmination of a year of hard work, of a team effort from students, parents, govies and staff saw celebrations and recognition of achievements across all aspect of school life. In the Classroom with Academic Achievements, Consistency and Most Improved awards, but also on the sporting fields, in the Arts and in Music.

A wonderful dance routine entertained everyone and a special thanks, not just to the students but to all who helped produce such a great performance.



Walgett



Bourke

Below a 'snapshot' of many awards being given out at the Bourke Presentation Day



A snapshot of photos from the Walgett Presentation Day will be published next Term.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Lots of birthdays to celebrate in Nov and Dec as the year draws to a close.

Billy on the 20th Nov, **Dominic** on the 21st of Nov and **Zoe** on the 30th -

Happy Birthday to each of you and we hope you had a great day.

December birthday wishes go out to **Tempe** on the 10th, **Katie** on the 12th,

Miles on the 14th and **Caprhys** on the 16th. We wish you all a Happy

Birthday too and hope you had a great day.

