Welcome to Term 4. It still amazes me how quickly the year disappears. I hope all families had a relaxing time over the holiday break.

The last week of term was action packed with the majority of students attending the whole school excursion in Dubbo. Staff and students had a great time with the highlight for most the Wellington Caves, Western Plains Zoo and the Ten Pin Bowling.

My thanks to the parents who attended for their assistance and to the staff for helping make this such a fun time for the students. A big thank you to the students who once again displayed wonderful manners and great friendship to each other.

I am sure the Ritter, Tonkin and Robinson families were very glad to see Sunday as they all travelled from the excursion on to Moorambilla – from all accounts another extremely successful experience for all involved.

This week our thoughts are with Katie McGrath as she competes in Sydney at the State PSSA Athletics Carnival. From all at the DE – best of luck Katie. We will let you know how she went in the next Newsletter.

The Fisher family are also in for a busy term with Millie and Jerry competing in the Premier’s Spelling Bee State final in Sydney on the 5th November. I know both students are studying hard and preparing as best they can for this big event – good luck to you both!

Staff will be attending a Professional Development activity in Sydney during week 3. The focus will be on Literacy and help assist the development of quality units for students based on the new English Syllabus.

Staff are looking forward to catching up on all the holiday fun when both Centres run their Term 4 Integration Days – these are always such fun and an excellent opportunity for staff to observe the students while they work in a school situation. Thanks to all the families who attend and support this valuable program. The weather has been glorious over the break but now it really is time to see
some much needed rain – as they say everyday is one day closer to rain! Here’s to an enjoyable and wet Term 4!

Kind Regards
Wendy Hay
Principal

MOORAMBILLA

This year five students participated in this wonderful experience – Grace, Calum, John, Emily and Tully. Once again an amazing concert - Congratulations to you all.

The beautiful backdrop for this year’s performance.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Nov 5th: State Spelling Bee
Dec 2nd – 5th: Walgett Mini School
Dec 4th: Walgett Presentation Night
Dec 5th: Bourke Presentation Night
Dec 17th: Last day of term

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Selective Schools 2015

Selective Schools Placement for 2016 are online and can be made between 14th October 2014 and 17th November 2014. Applications can only be obtained online and will not be accepted after 17th November 2014. Placement tests will be held on Thursday 17th March 2015. Information about applying for selective High Schools is available from the school – If you are interested please call/email the Centre and we can forward the information on to you.

The Computer School

This service is available to all families via the school website – it is a website that has numerous ‘How to’ and ‘Trouble shooting’ tutorials for all things technical. Click on the technology training directory for information on apple/computer basics/android/cyber safety/Microsoft etc. If you need to learn ‘how to’, this is a great place to start.

Motivating “laid-back” children

Why do some children prefer to lead a lazybones life, while others love to tear around the sports field? Is it a hereditary trait? And what can parents do to encourage those children to get up off the sofa, or switch off the computer, and get a little physical? Find out more: http://bit.ly/1s5TN5Z

Lunch box ideas

School A to Z’s Lunchbox section has some fresh ideas to help busy parents add some healthy, fresh variety to school lunches. http://bit.ly/gsfDOE
Despite what you may think, the fundamental job of the parent has not changed since the dawn of time - Love them, bond with them, teach them and spend time with them. The end game or goal for parents is redundancy. Your job is to make yourself redundant as a parent from your child's earliest possible age. It always has been and always should be.

When redundancy is your aim most of your time, effort and energy will go into promoting independence. You'll stop doing things for kids and start giving them opportunities to do things themselves. You'll spend most of your active parenting time teaching, explaining and prodding your child toward independence.

Independence leads to the 4 Cs

When independence becomes your priority, suddenly it will reveal a pathway to the development of other positive qualities and traits in your children. These include the key four factors: confidence, competence, creativity and character.

Here's how:

- **Confidence** comes from facing your fears and doing things for yourself.
- **Competence** comes from the opportunity to develop self-mastery that independence offers.
- **Creativity** is developed when kids solve problems themselves as opposed to someone solving them on their behalf or, worse, sheltering them from any risk of harm. It's amazing how resourceful kids can be when they are given the chance to resolve their own problems.
- **Character**, which is essential for success, is forged under hardship and is needed if kids are to live a sturdy life. Kids need to be exposed to disappointment, failure and conflict if character strengths such as grit and perseverance are to be forged.

Independence takes many forms

Independence has many guises and can be developed in many ways, though in the end it is adults who are the gatekeepers for their children's independence.

On a basic level, developing independence is about developing children's autonomy. Without realising it, many parents make choices on their children's behalf. Kids build self-confidence when they do things for themselves, and make their own decisions.

Independence is built when children spend time in unpredictable circumstances and environments such as the bush, and also have the opportunity to navigate their neighbourhoods on their own. There may be some risk involved but that is where the learning lies. Eliminate the risk and you eliminate the learning. Allowing kids to follow their own impulses even if they are different to your own is the key to gaining independence. This may mean that your children choose healthy interests and pursuits that you are unfamiliar with, or even swim against the tide of your wishes.

Allowing kids to take responsibility and own their own problems builds confidence and competence. Start by expecting kids to help at home. Look for ways to develop self-help skills and don't take their problems on as your problems.

1. **Manage visually**

When your end game is redundancy and your priority is independence building, then managing your kids in a visual way becomes your most obvious strategy. Management by mouth, in contrast, is a dependency strategy. So talk less, use signs, lists and rosters backed up by consequences to develop independence and responsibility in your children.

2. **Create junior versions of independence**

It can be scary and also difficult developing independence in one big step. So smart parents intuitively develop junior versions of independence by breaking up
big activities into digestible bits. Want your three-year-old to make the bed? Then start by arranging the teddies and the pillows (a junior version of making the bed) and let them work their way up from there. Similarly, if you want your five-year-old to walk to school on his own but it's currently beyond him, then accompany him most of the way and let him walk the last 200 metres on his own. That's a junior version of walking to school.

In all the noise and commotion about raising kids today, it's easy to forget that the job description for parents hasn't changed since the dawn of time: Love them, bond with them, teach them and spend time with them. But also work like mad to develop their real independence so they become capable of handling what life will throw their way. Then you'll know your job as a parent is done! It doesn't mean you won't stop worrying about them, but it does mean you've finished the main task of parenting, that is, to make yourself redundant at the earliest possible age.

MICHAEL GROSSE

MERIT AWARDS

Walgett Students

Kelly - For a grand attempt with saying verbs.
William - Absolutely beautiful handwriting.
Zedi - A really sound attempt at writing.
Felix - For a grand effort in story writing.
Emily - For her phenomenal poster advertisement for 'The Dead Rooster' / Exceptional handwriting.

Oscar - Excellent all-round efforts in 'Read & Achieve' with the All blacks unit / Excellent efforts and contributions in the bullying unit on satellite.
Harriet - Lots of super maths.
Percy - A solid effort in maths tasks / for his keen contributions in the bullying unit / Amazing work completed in the Living Things unit.
Teddy - His exceptional work in all areas / Brilliant work in 3D objects.
Tully - Well completed unit on bullying / Unreal Mini Beast artwork / Impressive efforts in the 'Living Things' unit.
Max - His terrific contributions in the bullying unit covered on satellite.
Campbell - For his effort to 'soldier on' when sick / His fabulous narrative 'Being a Giant for the Day'.

Bourke Students

Mulloka - Excellent effort with Grid work and handwriting.
John - Great detail and presentation in Grid work.
Jon - Fantastic presentation in Grid.
Emmett - Amazing work in his Grid activities.
Millie - Great research in her Grid unit.
Kate - Beautiful presentation of her Grid tasks.
Aaron - Creative presentation in his Grid tasks.
Brandon - Fantastic work in the bullying unit.
Vanessa - Great effort in all of her work.

Congratulations!
LIBRARY NEWS

Welcome back to Term 4. I hope everyone had a good holiday and did lots of reading!
Loretta Robinson
Library
loretta.robinson@det.nsw.edu.au

SPELLING BEE

GOOD LUCK TO MILLIE AND JERRY AS THEY PREPARE FOR THE SPELLING BEE ON NOV 5TH

Term 3 Whole School Excursion

The last week of Term 3 saw the BWSODE Whole School Excursion head to Dubbo for an artistic, cultural, naturalistic, camping and caving experience. The snap shot following captures the essence of the week.

BWSODE Whole School Excursion!

Students enjoying some art work at the Dubbo Cultural Centre
Art creations at the Cultural Centre

And going deeper into the caves!!

An information session at the beautiful Dubbo Zoo

Going down into the Wellington caves
Dubbo Excursion
In the last week of Term 3, BWSODE students and teachers went on a school excursion to Dubbo. Before going on the excursion to Dubbo I didn’t think it would be the most ‘exciting’ place to visit as most of us have been there before. However, after participating in the amazing things you can do in Dubbo and the surrounding area over the week, my judgement couldn’t have been further from the truth! Yes we go there to shop, visit family and pick people up off the bus, train or plane but very rarely do we get to participate in the tourist activities and the cultural/school programs Dubbo provides. On the Monday students and teachers set off for Dubbo from their respective centres and met at the Dubbo Gaol for our first activity. We had an awesome tour guide who told us lots of information about the goal and also escape attempts that happened over the years. It was a really interesting tour, which I think everyone enjoyed.

By the time our tour finished it was late afternoon and we were ready to check in and get settled at our accommodation at the Big4 caravan park, where we would be staying for the next couple of days. At the park there was a huge jumping pillow that we enjoyed mucking around on every afternoon.

We were up early on Tuesday and ready for our day at the Cultural Centre and the live performance of the ‘Gruffalo’ at the Civic Centre. The Cultural Centre is an amazing place to visit. Once we arrived we did a walk through the Art Gallery and special exhibitions they had running at the centre. After that we settled in one of the art rooms to participate in a pastels art session. Some amazing pastel portraits were completed over the class and we all had lots of fun doing them. After lunch we headed over to the Civic Centre to watch the Gruffalo. This was hilarious! The whole performance had us in stitches and we were so lucky to get to experience a live show, which most of us have never done before. Once the performance finished we headed back to the Cultural Centre for another art session with paint and then got to look in the Museum. They have preserved a room in the building to show people what an ‘old school’ classroom looked like. This was pretty cool to see what kids used to put up with back then - I must say; I think we are pretty lucky today!

After our amazing cultural experience of Dubbo we headed back to our
accommodation for dinner and started getting excited about our night activity. Ten pin bowling! This was soooooo much fun and again not many of us had done it before. We all got put in teams with our fellow peers and had a blast. Again we woke up bright and early on Wednesday ready and waiting for our day at the Wellington Caves. This was an unbelievable experience. The caves and rock and crystal structures that have taken millions and millions of years to develop underground were extraordinary. We were so lucky to also have another fabulous guide to show us around. Rocks and crystals weren’t the only things we saw that day. In some of the caves there are actual preserved fossils of animals that lived hundreds, thousands or possibly millions of years ago. They also had some replicas of the large reptiles that used to walk the earth millions of years ago – I’m glad I wasn’t around when they were because they were pretty frightening!

After our big day at the caves we headed back to Dubbo and settled in for a movie night with popcorn at the accommodation. Thursday we had to pack up and relocate ourselves and luggage to the Western Plains Zoo. We had a jam-packed day planned and were also looking forward to sleeping on site at the zoo in their ‘Zoo Snooze’ facility. Throughout the day we got to see lots of different animals and listen to the zookeepers talk about the animals they work with. Favourites mentioned by a lot of the students were the meerkats, otters and those crazy monkeys/apes that made those really loud weird noises to try and tell us to go away.

Later in the afternoon we got to move around to the ‘Zoo Snooze’ facility where we would be camping the night. It was an amazing set up and great to sit around the campfire and eat damper and cook marshmallows. That evening, one of our guides took us for a night walk around part of the zoo where we got to see lots of animals native to Australia. When we finally settled in our tents for the night we kept an ear open to listen for the different animal sounds. Besides the road trains on the Newel, we did hear lots of birds and some of us were lucky enough to hear the tigers early in the morning. When morning broke everyone was up early again for another private walk around the zoo where we got to see the crazy monkeys/apes again and get up close and personal with one of the Sumatran tigers. After the brief walk around the zoo it was time to pack up and go home.

We all had such an amazing week together. It’s always so good to catch up with friends and teachers across both the Walgett and Bourke sites and everyone had a great time! It was such a great way to end the term and start the Term 3 holidays! I wonder where our next fabulous excursion will be next year!?

**BIRTHDAY WISHES**

Happy belated birthday to Western who turned 10 on Sept 24th. Hope you had a great birthday Western.

Other belated birthday wishes go out to Grace and Calum who celebrated their birthdays last week on Oct 4th. Grace and Calum turned 11 and we hope it was a great day. Brother John had his 9th birthday on Sept 30th so happy birthday to you too John.
Kate had her 7\textsuperscript{th} birthday on the 21\textsuperscript{st} of Sept and we wish you a belated Happy Birthday Kate.

Happy birthday to Felix who celebrated his 6\textsuperscript{th} birthday on Oct 14\textsuperscript{th}. Hope you had a tremendous day Felix.

\section*{SPORT}

\textbf{Horse Sports}

\subsection*{1. Coonabarabran Horse Sports}

The Coonabarabran Horse Sports are on the 7\textsuperscript{th} Nov. This is a one day only event and open to all riders from K – Yr 12. Cost per rider $20.00. Coonabarabran is well known for running excellent events and have wonderful facilities.

Sherrin Whale 68422229 or Narelle Andrews 68424028 are the Horse Sports contacts, however anyone interested in attending, needs to please contact the Centre for information about nomination and payment.

Entries close on Oct 27\textsuperscript{th}

\subsection*{2. Bourke Horse Sports}

The Bourke Horse Sports were held last Term and four riders competed for the BWSODE

\begin{center}
\includegraphics[width=0.8\textwidth]{bwsode.jpg}
\end{center}

"Team BWSODE" - Katie, Jerry, Millie, Team Leader Mrs Sandy McGrath and Harriet all enjoying the day

\begin{center}
\includegraphics[width=0.8\textwidth]{bwsode_parade.jpg}
\end{center}

BWSODE students with the School Flag riding in the parade.
BOURKE INTEGRATION DAY

Thank you to all our families who attended the Bourke Integration Day yesterday. It was wonderful to have so many of our students working hard, having fun catching up with their peers and smiling for the school photos. The teachers were impressed with the enthusiasm and maturity in the classroom with most of the students racking their brains to remember topics they were taught in Term 1. The topics revisited allow teachers to reflect on the year as well as consolidate any particular aspects prior to next year. Having our students together meant we could start preparing for the Christmas Concert and I’m sure everyone will do a brilliant job learning the songs and their lines. We hope everyone enjoyed getting together at school and we’re looking forward to seeing you in Week 9!

Miss Slack-Smith

ATTACHMENTS

- Term 4 Planner
- Term 4 Satellite Timetable
- Term 4 Assembly Roster