As we conclude Term 1 I would like to thank all families and staff for making new staff feel welcome and assisting them settle into their new “home”. Once again the students have produced some amazing pieces of work and are to be congratulated for their dedication to their learning. This of course can not happen without the continued support of their supervisors and family who continue to place a high value on education – thank you.

I would also like to thank the teaching staff for their continued effort to assist all students along their learning journey. It has been another highly successful term with activities in swimming, art, young leaders and culture as the highlight for students.

Thank you to those parents and students who returned the surveys your feedback will be very useful in developing the direction of our schools activities and learning programs.

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday and for those with boarding school children returning – enjoy having your family back together.

Happy Easter to all, and with luck all district will receive some follow up rain to maintain the break we have experienced this term. Green grass certainly makes a difference to life!

Kind Regards
Wendy Hay
Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER
April 28 – First day back next term
May 1 & 2 – Staff Development Day @ Walgett
May 9 – Integration Day @ Walgett
May 13-16 – NAPLAN for year 3 & 5
May 23 – Barwon Cross Country @ Goodooga
May 29 – Bourke Cross Country @ Enngonia
June 6 – Walgett Integration Day
June 9 – Queens Birthday Holiday
Parent Information

Managing Depression
One in four kids over 12 have symptoms of depression. Would you know what to look for and how to help?

What makes a good book for young kids?
Books with vivid imagery, exciting stories and strong characters will not only entertain your child but set them up to enjoy reading for the rest of their life. For more information go to: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/zh/homework-and-study/english/my-book-club/what-makes-a-good-book-for-young-kids

Helping Kids Learn How to Make Friends
If children are happy socially, they tend to be more engaged in their learning. Teaching your child about the importance of making friends is as vital as learning their ABCs. http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/how-friendships-boost-your-childs-learning

Bourke Walgett School of Distance Education Website
www.bwsode.schools.nsw.edu.au

Michael Grosse (Parentingideas)

What would you do as a parent?

“When a parent is more worried about a responsibility than their child, then the responsibility becomes theirs.”
Kids don’t have to worry about these things when their parents do all the worrying for them”
Miranda usually makes her two children’s lunches each morning and places them on the kitchen bench for them to put in their schoolbags as they dash off to school. This is smart parenting.

She makes the lunches which is her job, but her kids take over and pack them ready for school. Sometimes though she is tested!

Ben, her eight year-old and youngest, sometimes forgets to pack his lunch. Sometimes Miranda notices, and reminds him to pack his lunch before he races out the front door. More often than not, Miranda sees the forgotten lunch sitting forlornly on the bench when Ben is well and truly at school.

It’s these times that she’s sorely tested.
One side of her knows that her son will survive without his lunch. In fact, deep down she knows that he will beg, borrow or swap something at school to get a feed. She knows from past experience that he is resourceful.

Another side of her says that she doesn’t want her son to be inconvenienced or to go hungry. She fears that going without lunch could impact on her son’s behaviour or learning.

This is the classic battle between the Good Parent and the Responsible Parent within most parents. It plays out every day in homes around the country in many different ways.

The Good Parent is well-meaning, but can take on too much responsibility for kids’ welfare. The Responsible Parent, tends to take a harder line and gives more responsibility to kids for their welfare.

Who wins? In Miranda’s case, the Good Parent usually wins out. She usually ends up taking Ben’s lunchbox to school before recess, so that her son has his morning snack as well as his lunch. She feels embarrassed knocking on the
classroom door and passing it over to Ben’s teacher, but she also feels that she is doing her job as a parent.

This is a parenting mistake. Well-meaning Miranda is making Ben’s problem, her problem. Ben will never have to worry about packing his lunch when his mum will bring it up for him, if he forgets.

Miranda’s job is to make it easy for Ben to remember to pack his lunch but not to become responsible for it. Yes, she can remind him or put it somewhere so obvious that he can’t help but notice it. But her job needs to stop at this point. Make their problems, their problems

When a parent is more worried about a responsibility than their child, then the responsibility becomes theirs. The same principle applies with a range of every day issues such as getting up in the morning, eating dinner, putting washing in the washing basket. Kids don’t have to worry about these things when their parents do all the worrying for them.

If you want your kids to be responsible then give them responsibility. That’s a BIG FAMILY STRATEGY that you can put in place regardless of the size of your family.

What would you do if you were Miranda? Would you be the Good Parent, the Responsible Parent or be somewhere in between?

Quote of the Week

“Strong families build their own rituals and traditions, which help define them and set them apart”
On March 30th the Year 6 students from BWSODE on jetted off on their annual excursion to Sydney for the Young Leaders Conference. Whilst in Sydney students visited a number of sights and saw (and participated) in some amazing things. Highlights for our students were the live performance of The Lion King, sailing around Sydney Harbour on a tall ship, being on Sunrise and also personally meeting the Channel 7 crew. They also visited the Sydney Aquarium and the kids would kill me if I didn’t mention the ten pin bowling and most importantly the laser tag!

The reason for taking our students to Sydney is for the annual Young Leaders Conference, which takes place at Sydney Entertainment Centre every year. Our students were in a room with 6000 other students and listened to some pretty inspirations people about the importance of leadership. Speakers that stood out were Ita Buttrose, Andy Griffiths and 16-year-old Cohen Ashton.
Overall it was a wonderful couple of days. We were also lucky enough to have Year 6 students from Quambone and Carinda join us for the couple of days and all the students had a fabulous time.
STUDENT NEWS

Western Yr 4 student from the Walgett Centre, entered 2 pieces of Art in the Moree Show. He got a Highly Commended and Most Outstanding Exhibit Award. Congratulations Western.

Western's art work on display at the Moree Show

MERIT AWARDS

Walgett Students
Emily - Fantastic work in 'Ducks Crossing' / Neat work in all areas / Neat work in all areas.
Kelly - Excellent effort in handwriting.
Gilbert - Fabulous work in the 'Calling All kids' unit / For pleasing poetry writing Phenomenal work in measuring area.
Bridget - For an 'off the charts' effort in 'Pilawuk' / A fantastic effort in addition and subtraction using trading.
Beatrice - For a super effort in the 'Very Mice' unit / Magnificent measurement work / For taking initiative to complete optional activities.
Cooper - For great work with 'Spot the Difference'.
Max - For his AMAZING effort in his report on 'The Iditarod Trail Sledge Dog Race' / For his clever and witty

**Harriet** – For moving up a level in Spelling Mastery / Fabulous work in her Drug Education unit / Terrific problem solving skills / Thorough maths recordings / Outstanding independent reading / A grand independent effort in maths tasks.

**Eliza** – Her phenomenal effort in her poem ‘My Home Glen Eagle’ / A grand effort in all Maths Tracks units.

**Oscar** – Terrific results in chance activities.

**Darcy** – A wonderful improvement in tracing, matching and counting.

**Tully** – For being responsible and completing optional activities / Impressive independent recordings / Fabulous work with fractions / Beautiful independent readings / Terrific results in Spelling Mastery tests / for moving up a level in Spelling Mastery.

**Felix** – Excellent number recognition / Wonderful reading and retelling / A brilliant effort in addition and subtraction.

**Max** – For a huge improvement in pencil control / For embracing every minute of Mini School with enthusiasm / Always trying his best.

**Ayden** – Super ‘sock puppet’ made / Great directions given in maths.

**Western** – For writing an outstanding Literary Recount for ‘Trapped’ / Super spelling in Spelling Mastery / Beautifully presented and thoroughly completed work returns.

**Levi** – His excellent work in Place Value / Super work in maths.

**Teddy** – For a positive approach to all his work – Great Effort / An unbelievable effort in the ‘Break A Leg’

unit / For writing an awesome travel song.

**Zari** – For her ‘Off the charts’ recount of the ‘Arrival of Baby Moo’ / A huge effort to improve her work presentation.

**Bourke Students**

**Mulloka**- Great participation in Mini-School activities.

**Grace** - Trying hard in her reading and spelling this week.

**Katie** - Wonderful work with fractions

**Emmett** - Creative artwork on his "My Favorite Place"

**Jerry** - Showing good leadership throughout Mini School

**Millie** - Her interesting questions directed at our visiting speakers

**Murrumba**- Working hard preparing for NAPLAN

**Brandon** - Completing his Spelling Mastery level

**Paddy** - His enthusiastic involvement at Mini-School.

**TERM ONE PRINCIPAL AWARDS**

**Emmett M** - Consistently working hard and wonderful progress throughout the term.

**Sophie S** - Having a wonderful start to the year by working hard to catch up.

**Millie F** - Consistently working hard to take on board feedback and improve her work.

**Malcolm B** - For determination and dedication to improving his literacy achievements.

**Emily T** - Fantastic participation in all aspects of work

**John R** - Excellent participation in all areas of work.

**Jerry F** - Excellent academic achievement and leadership.
Max C - HUGE improvements in his writing tasks.
Eliza F - Outstanding work returns this term.
Felix H - Engaging with all satellite tasks.
Zedi J - Huge improvement in reading
Zari J - Huge improvement in attitude towards work.
Well done to all these students.

Primary Distance Education Alliance’s Integrated Curriculum Learning Design Project,
Student work samples including artworks, artist statements and imaginative texts, have been selected to be displayed and published. I would like to congratulate the following students, who had their work selected: Emmett, Millie, Adelaide, Jerry F and Luke – online scan

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Happy birthday to Phoebe who will celebrate her 12th birthday in the holidays, on April 15th. Hope you have a great day Phoebe.

A holiday birthday also for Jerry who will be 12 on April the 16th. Happy Birthday Jerry.

Adelaide will also celebrate her birthday in the holidays, on the 24th of April. We wish you a very happy 11th birthday Adelaide.

On May 3rd next term, Paddy will celebrate his 11th birthday, and we wish you a great day for then

Paddy. Just getting in ‘early’!

LIBRARY NEWS

Have a great holiday and enjoy some extra time to for some reading!
Loretta Robinson
Library
loretta.robinson@det.nsw.edu.au

HOME VISITS

Home visit 25/3/14
Miss Warden and I set off on our journey Monday afternoon, spending the night in Narrabri ready for an early start en route to “Honey Hills”.

We were pleasantly surprised with a welcome sign sitting on the gate creatively made by Zedi!

It was straight down to business when we arrived and both Zedi and Zari worked extremely hard completing assessments up until Morning Tea which we enjoyed on the gorgeous new deck cleverly built by Dale!
We finished off the rest of work in-between cuddles with baby Maverick before sitting down to a scrumptious lunch prepared by Jess – boy were we spoilt!!!
The finale of our visit ended with a ride on the motorbikes down to the bike track which Zedi and Zari demonstrated their motocross skills.
It is always such a pleasure visiting the Jones’, thank you for your amazing hospitality and we’re looking forward to catching up again soon!

Zedi, Maverick and Zari

Zari and Zedi on their bikes

MINI SCHOOLS

Bourke Centre
A ‘pictorial journey’ of the Bourke Students at their Mini school, as they visited many of the business houses and organisations around the town of Bourke.

At the Council

Behind the scenes at the Post Office

A local fireman instructing the children while on their visit

Mr Warne and Miss Slack-Smith with the students at the local Butchers
MINI SCHOOLS

Last week the school’s Bourke Centre was full of energy as our students came together for the Mini School. The Mini-School’s focus was on Science-Products and Services. Our aim was to visit product and service providers in Bourke that are more complex than we realise at first glance. This aim led us to a diverse range of visits and we were extremely fortunate that so many organisations gave up their time to speak with us.

Wednesday started off with a bus ride around town learning all about the services our local council provides as well as a close look at how town water is filtered. We came back to school and represented the importance of specific council roles in small groups designing posters of how our town is better off with these roles.

The afternoon provided excitement as our students were given the opportunity to record an announcement to be played on 2WEB followed by witnessing the impact water has on an oil fire at the Bourke Fire Station. It was a fun afternoon exposing our budding radio performers and future fire fighters while learning how important these services are to the Bourke community.

Our first day came to a close with a BBQ and movie night at the PCYC giving students a chance to trip up the teachers in a game of basketball then tuck into popcorn while relaxing in front of the big screen.

As the morning bell rang at the Public School, we began our school day with some exciting maths games and activities while several students spent time going over NAPLAN skills or being assessed.

After a delicious BBQ on Wednesday evening, a look behind the scenes at Willoughby’s Butchery Shop caused some of the girls to feel a bit queasy especially when it came to making
sauces. Everyone else enjoyed learning what types of meat and amounts of this are sold each week to the Bourke district.

Visiting, quite possibly the most used service in town for our families; the Post Office was a highlight. Learning how the mail is organised and seeing the pigeonholes for their properties made it all the more real to them. It was an added attraction when we soon learnt that we could surprise people coming to check their post boxes by looking back at them from the inside!

As the rain started to fall, we made a quick run for the Bowling Club for a culinary tour of the Chinese restaurant and science lesson. Between the large amounts of fried rice being shovelled and a science lesson on posting raw eggs to Sydney resulting in throwing packages off the balcony; our students had a ball. Upon arriving back at school, we had the pleasure of a music lesson run by Michelle from Mooramilla, which had everyone singing to a storybook and learning how to read music. After an action-packed day, we tried our luck at bowling with the huge storm clouds making their way closer to town and finished the evening with a meal at the Jandra Chinese Restaurant.

To celebrate Pete’s birthday, the students got their blood pumping by bursting balloons attached to each other’s ankles in a bid to be the last person standing. With hearts pumping, we arrived at Essential Energy ready to learn how our district is supplied with electricity and after seeing the machinery used we left with an insight into how extensive this service is.

There’s nothing quite like putting into practise what you’ve just learnt with a science lesson at the Bourke High School on electricity. As a finale to our Mini School and to finish our term’s work on cultures we had more time with the passionate and knowledgeable Melissa Turnbull. In the rain we had great discussions on aspects of traditional Aboriginal Culture. This lesson culminated with the students making and dining out on Johnny cakes and having some fun with ochre paints and Aboriginal tools.

A huge thank you to all those students who joined us last week, your well thought out questions and behaviour made it a pleasure taking you to these organisations. Thank you also to those parents who supplied delicious treats for our morning and afternoon teas.

Miss Slack-Smith

Walgett Centre

After Year 6 returned from Sydney, the students jumped straight into the beginning of our Term 1 Mini School which occurred from the 2 – 4 April at the Walgett Showground.

We had lots of fun things in store for our students and we definitely didn’t disappoint.

Our students have been studying different cultures around the world this term in satellite lessons and that was the theme for our camp. We ran an Indian Holi (colour) festival on Wednesday as well as participated in some yoga sessions with Robyn Walters.

On Wednesday night we had an Italian themed dinner where our parents put their culinary skills to the test and produced some beautiful pasta dishes and gelato for dessert.

On Thursday we had a cultural night were students dressed up in different cultural dresses from around the world and ran a trivia night to assess what they have learnt throughout the term. Parents again did a marvellous job of putting on an Indian spread for dinner where students got to try some different curries, pappadums, naan bread and mango lassie.

Other activities we participated in over the three days included science experiments, art sessions with Liz Powell, a games night, NSW Netball ball skills workshop,
aboriginal art with Johnny Dunn and much more.
I’d like to thank all staff, parents and other invited guests who helped make this camp such a successful one. We can’t wait to do it all again in Bourke in Term 2.

Pop Art by the students under the guidance of Liz Powell

The Holi festival was awesome fun!!

**SPORT REPORTS**

**State Diving**

**Harriet** represented our school at the PSSA State Diving Championships in Sydney on Sunday the 6th April. This is the first time we have ever had a DE student represent our school in this sport and was a fantastic experience and achievement. Harriet came 17th overall.