FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Welcome back to Term Two. I hope everyone enjoyed their break. This Term Mrs Dowell is returning on part time maternity leave for one day per week. It is great to see Nadia back. It is wonderful to be back at school for Term 2, the weather is bracing, the colours are gorgeous and students are involved in a busy and challenging term, which began with NAPLAN in Week 3 for students in Years 3 & 5. We wish you well in your NAPLAN results. From there, our attention turns to Cross Country with both centres participating in their local events today. Lots of students have been training over the holidays in preparation for this event and we wish all participants the best of luck. Term Two is also a reporting term and these will be posted to parents in Week 8. If you would like to discuss any aspects of your child’s report please make an appointment with their child teacher during Week 9. Staff will be attending the DE Symposium in Week 8. This is an excellent opportunity to discuss practices and work with our peers in Distance Education. A skeleton staff will be operating in the centres on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Our last activity for Term Two will be our Whole School Mini-School in Week 9 June 24th – 27th. The venue for this event is still being worked out but the activities and learning experiences that the students will be undertaking are close to completion and it will be another wonderful experience. For supervisors, there will be a merit selection workshop, discussion on the new English curriculum, P&C meetings and mental health workshop, so we hope everyone can make it along to camp. Walgett has been busy over the past few weeks in preparation for the local show. The students submitted some fantastic work and many are celebrating their successes. Well done to all those who submitted work and thank you to the Walgett staff for supporting your local community in this area.

Kind Regards
Wendy Hay
Principal
DATES TO REMEMBER
May 23 – Barwon Cross Country @ Goodooga
May 29 – Bourke Cross Country@ Enngonia
June 5 – Walgett Integration Day
June 9 – Queens Birthday Holiday
June 11 – Western Region Cross Country
June 13 – North West Region Cross Country
June 24–27 – Whole School Mini School

PARENT INFORMATION

Managing screen-time and Social Media
Helping kids find the right balance between activities, homework and screen time is a challenge that only gets harder as they grow older.

Common-sense Media has lots of useful resources to help – from movie and game ratings to articles like this one on setting screen time limits that are realistic enough that your children will actually follow them. Read the article here: http://bit.ly/1pBIfmk
Kids also discover and understand new social media long before we adults do. You can get information and the facts at a glance regarding Social Media from ‘School A to Z’s Technology Glossary’ and also find other information about age restrictions and things to watch out for, at this website: http://bit.ly/188OerY

Social Media and Privacy
Regardless of your child’s age, the world may already know a lot more about them than you might suspect. According to recent research:

• 92% of children under the age of 2 have a digital shadow (it starts with proud parents posting newborn baby photos on Facebook or Instagram)
• A quarter of Australian children 8 -12 years old use Facebook, but the minimum age for a user is 13 years.

• More than 20% of tweens publish photos of themselves on Instagram
• Young people 14 - 19 have an average of 453 fans, friends or followers on social media.

2014 Privacy Awareness Week was held from May 4th – 10th. This was a good time to review your family’s privacy settings and discuss online security, however there is a lot of practical information and resources to share with your kids at www.ipc.nsw.gov.au

School A to Z on Homonyms
Homonyms (also known as homographs), are words that are identical in pronunciation and spelling but have different meanings. They can be nouns, adjectives or verbs. The context gives them their meaning. Ask your child for an example, like this one:
I prefer a fine tip on my pen.
He gave me a tip for the Melbourne Cup.
Don’t tip the water on the floor.
You gave the waiter a generous tip.


Mental Maths Strategies
We teach children a range of different strategies to add and subtract numbers. By showing them several methods for solving maths questions, we’re helping them to look for patterns. All this builds a good sense of “number” which means they understand the relationships between different numbers and why different ways to add and subtract work well. The goal is that your child will understand many ways to approach a maths problem and will be able to choose a way that makes the most sense to them. School A to Z has a lot of resources, including help sheets on mental maths strategies.
www.bit.ly/JkiUsY

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

Our school has started the first few weeks of Term 2 with a great array of things going on. With several new families joining the school late in Term 1, there have been a number of home visits completed. Home visits have occurred at Byrock, Janina and Fords Bridge with the O’New Dawn, Mort and Murray families. We appreciate these families hosting us and applaud the hard work students have been doing for their teachers. There has been an emphasis on initial assessment and working with students and supervisors to help them establish sound schoolroom routines.

In Week 1, staff from the Bourke Centre travelled to Walgett for Professional Development. Teachers were in-serviced in a new numeracy assessment tool ‘TOWN- Taking Off with Numeracy’. This should further add to our ability to target students’ strengths and weaknesses when setting their individual learning plans.

Week 2 was our first school assembly for the term via satellite. Thanks to a flurry of satellite installations for new students late in Term 1 it was exciting to have most of our school logged on for this assembly as well as satellite lessons that week. On Thursday May 29th the students will join other schools in the district to participate in the District Cross Country at Enngonia. We look forward to catching up with our students on that day.

Mr James Warne
Assistant Principal

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO Margaret, our SAM from the Bourke Centre

PARENTING IDEAS

MICHAEL GROSSE

Seventeen years ago, Cheryl Koeig was a typical Sydney mother, celebrating Mother’s Day with her husband and two young sons, Jonathon 12 and Chris 10. One week later, Jonathan was involved in a car accident that left him with a severe traumatic brain injury and changed their life forever.

Since that day, Cheryl has worked tirelessly to help, not only Jonathan but also other sufferers of brain injury. In 2009, Cheryl Koeig was awarded the NSW “Woman of The Year” and this year, was the recipient of the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to people with disabilities, their families and carers.

This is a little of her extraordinary story:

“Jonathan was born two days before Christmas in 1984. He was an adorable baby and as a toddler he was boisterous and creative. I enjoyed every minute of those years at home with the boys. Becoming a mother defined me. How can you not change when suddenly there exists something that is more precious than your own life?

Bedtime stories were a special time because they opened up their imagination, music and playing their favourite songs and dancing crazily with them. Dinner every night, without fail, we ate at the dining table together. This was, and is, an important ritual in the milieu of our family life. It’s where we partake in each other’s day, share thoughts and exchange memories.

Now that my boys are men, it’s not the fancy holidays or big events that are my most golden memories. It’s the ordinary, everyday things.

On Sunday, May 18, 1997 everything changed. Just after 5 pm I called Jonathon inside for dinner. Minutes later I heard a huge bang – he just didn’t see the car coming. I found him lying on the street.
A CT scan indicated a brain injury; his clinical signs weren’t good, and they couldn’t tell us if he’d make it. Jonathan was in an induced coma for the first month and for four more months I didn’t leave his side. I knew I was making a difference to his recovery. All day long I told him how much we loved him, that he was going to be all right. He was in intensive care for three weeks and then his eyes started to open. I knew he knew me. I was completely driven in my mission to restore what littlesemblance was left of my family. Around the two-month mark I wheeled Jonathan to a piano in the hospital music room. He had no neck control, he was still dribbling and not talking, but he was just starting movement in his right arm. At the piano he reached out and started playing ‘Chariots of Fire’, the song he had been learning at the time of the accident. That’s his theme song now, and he played it at the launch of my book. Jonathon had post-traumatic amnesia for about 10 months, which indicates the worst kind of brain injury. It’s been a long, hard journey. At three months he started making moaning sounds, he was trying to communicate, and then he started making ‘mmmm’ sounds. I literally pulled apart his lips to get his mouth moving but I closed the curtains around us because people thought I was crazy. But then one day he looked at me and said ‘Mum’. I can’t describe the joy I felt. The first day I left him, my sister stayed with him and gave him a drink of grape juice that hadn’t been diluted. He gagged and blurted out: ‘I want my Mum!’ I walked back into his room and he was talking! We called my husband and said ‘Someone here wants to speak to you’. Without any prompting, Jonathan said in the softest voice: Hi…Dad… I…Love…You…Dad’. We were all in floods of tears. Jono’s accident not only changed who I was, it also changed the complete dynamic of our family. I had to wear so many different hats in my new role as mother to Jono. I was, and, to varying degrees, still am, his carer, his rehabilitation case manager, speech therapist, occupational therapist, physiotherapist, tutor, social secretary, counsellor for depression, and by and large his navigator through life. My mothering of Chris did a complete 360, too. Chris was only 10 at the time of Jonathan’s accident and I had to neglect him and his needs for the best part of five to 10 years because my entire energy was driven towards getting Jonathan better. To this day, I feel an enormous amount of ‘mother-guilt’ about not being there throughout probably the most crucial years of a boy’s life: adolescence. But he has become the most extraordinary young man, with the right blend of compassion and empathy, integrity and humility. He’s a Civil Engineer and when he married last year, Jonathon was his best man. I’m enormously proud of both my boys although Chris is probably my proudest achievement because he’s done it all by himself. But our kids learn by watching us, in ways we don’t even realise at the time.”

WALGETT SHOW RESULTS

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<th>Place</th>
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<tr>
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<td>1st &amp; Infants Champion Artwork</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art – Free Choice</td>
<td>Teddy</td>
<td>1st &amp; Lower Primary Champion Artwork</td>
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<td>Western</td>
<td>4th</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Art – Monsters</td>
<td>Felix</td>
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<td>Art – Match My Art</td>
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<td>3rd</td>
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<td>Campbell</td>
<td>2nd</td>
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</table>

**GROUP AWARDS**

- Group Effort investigating HSIE Stage 1: 1st
- Group Effort investigating HSIE Stage 2: 1st
- Group Effort investigating HSIE Stage 3: 1st

**HOME VISITS**

Morris
Below are some pictures from the Morris’s Home visit in first term, that weren’t available at the time.

![Campbell, Mrs Colwell, Harriet and Laura](image)

![Mrs Colwell and Miss Warden with a lovely ‘Welcome’ sign](image)
we took a break and tried our hand at archery (or as Mr Warne likes to call it, bow ‘hunting’). The boys clearly have a natural ability in this area and promptly showed Mr Warne and I how it’s done. Welcome to the school Mort family and thank you for having us!

Ms Nagle

O’New-Dawn
Ms Nagle and I headed out to Byrock to do some work with Mulloka and Murrumba. It was great catching up with the boys. Unfortunately they both had to do quite a bit of assessment for us, which they took in their stride.

There were a couple of highlights to the day, firstly the O’New Dawns have a huge boar with their domestic pigs and we enjoyed seeing him and the rest of the animals that they have on their place.

Mort
In Week 1 on the 30th April, Mr Warne and I visited the Mort Family at their new home, Janina. It was fantastic to see their “work in progress” home coming together and learn how the property was returning to the family after a number of years. Barney and Charlie have made an amazing start at Distance Ed, coming to us this term from Bourke Public School. We put the boys to work right away as we threw just about every test we have at them. Welcome to DE, boys (we promise it won’t always be like this!). When our brains were about to fall out of our heads,
Secondly, like all home visits our sporting activities had to occur in an improvised location. This resulted in a game that would appear shambolic from the outside but was lots of fun to be a part of. Thanks to the O’ New Dawns for having us, and to the boys for working hard.

Mr Warne

Tonkin

Miss Evans, Miss Johnson and Mrs Hartog headed out to “Nilgie Park” on Tuesday 20 May. It was quite an adventurous trip between the bulldust and wash outs and let’s not forget that beautiful green grass! Miss Evans was wishing she could take some of it home… It was excitement plus upon our arrival and we were greeted with a gorgeous welcome sign made by Teddy, Emily and Max.

We started with a quick morning tea before heading off to the School Room. In between satellite lessons, we worked with Teddy and Emily completing some testing and revising work and introducing new concepts. Max also worked brilliantly with Miss Evans on number, colour and shape recognition and also reading ‘Edward the Emu’ and writing a story together about visiting a zoo which Max cleverly illustrated. It was wonderful to spend time with Teddy, Emily and Max who are all loving the DE experience and thriving in their new learning space.

We were fortunate enough to have some entertainment during lunch with Emily and Max performing on the stage (stairs) a couple of tunes! What fabulous singing and amazing dance moves as well…!

Time was getting away from us, so we headed outside for a look around and Teddy, Emily and Max put on their motocross gear and showed us their bikes.

Before we knew it, we were farewelling the beautiful Tonkin family and heading back to Walgett.

We would like to thank the Tonkin family for their wonderful hospitality, what a fabulous day had by all. We look forward to catching up again soon!

Fasen

On Friday 16 May, Miss Warden and I headed off towards Miralwyn – there were lots of roads and after only one wrong turn we made it to Catie and Jamie’s house!
2 super excited girls, who had been bursting in anticipation of our arrival, greeted us. After having a quick cuppa, it was down to the school room for a story. Catie was very keen to work with Miss Evans in the guided reading and writing sessions while Jamie spent some time with Miss Warden reading and drawing. It was wonderful to meet Roisin who will be supervising Catie and Jamie with their work this term. They have a beautiful and productive work space set up and everyone is happy!

After lunch Catie and Jamie took us outside for a tour, they had lots of fun on the swings – wanting to go super high and jumping madly on the trampoline. By this time we were all a little weary and in need of a rest!

We would like to thank the Fasen family for having us and we look forward to catching up again soon.

**MERIT AWARDS**

**Walgett Students**

**Campbell** (From Term 1) – A brilliant start to Term 1 / A fantastic effort in Maths Tracks units / For an “off the charts” effort in “Calling All Kids” / For his sensible ideas in the Drug Education unit ‘Taking Medicines Safely’ / A solid effort in comprehension tasks / Excellent work in Maths Tracks recordings / Excellent work with mental strategies / For his brilliant explanation on ‘How to Start a Motorbike’ / For consistent improvement throughout Term 1 / A grand effort in all Term 1 tasks.

**Oscar** – Fine working out skills in maths / Brilliant poem ‘Holidays Happy holidays’ / Impressive independent recording for English and Maths / A solid effort to understand Maths concepts / Impressive art work for

**Murray**

Mr Warne and I visited Jessica and Warren at Merita on the 8th May. Jessica is brand new to the area and to our school. Welcome Jessica!

After being thoroughly impressed by their “water views”, we put Jess through her paces with a number of tests.

Being new to D.E, Jess, Mr Warne and I went through what an “average” day looks like, walking through all the activities Jess has programmed for this term.

Warren cooked us feasts of hamburgers before Jess and I settled in to binge learn about “Body Facts”. Jess, you were amazing!

Welcome to the Distance Ed family Jess and Warren!

Thank you for being such gracious hosts.

Miss Slack-Smith
‘Family Print’ and ‘I Do Like to be Beside the Sea’.  
**Kelly** – Beautiful handwriting.  
**Zedi** – For an unbelievable effort in English units / Magnificent measuring capacity work. / Super work in Drug Education.  
**Bridget** – Beautiful handwriting / Sensation effort in maths / Writing a wonderful personal recount / Magnificent work with mixed numerals.  
**Catie** – For a magnificent start to DE / Excellent sounding out skills For awesome art work / For writing an amazing ’Princess Story’ / A dynamic job in maths with numbers 1 - 5.  
**Teddy** – Super symmetry work.  
**Percy** – Dynamic work with factual descriptions / Outstanding handwriting / Super spelling results / For excellent comprehension work / Superb story ’The Disastrous Fishing Trip’ / Excellent work in his English unit.  
**Harriet** – Hard work and efforts in Maths throughout Term 1 / Beautiful handwriting / Terrific results in her NAPLAN revision / Extensive well-presented MP3 recordings / Creating a beautiful family print / Regular and consistent work returns / Marvellous work in measurement.  
**Gilbert** – Super work in English / Terrific work with time.  
**Beatrice** – For sensational work in the STLD unit ’Pilawuk’ / Excellent comprehension work.  
**Western** – An unbelievable effort in the ’How & Why’ unit / Amazing spelling results.  
**Tully** – Brilliant work in her Drug Education unit / Extensive well recorded maths recordings / FABULOUS poetry piece ’Saddle’ / Her outstanding persuasive writing piece on the Walgett Pool / Cool converting between different measurements / FABULOUS independent reading.  
**Felix** – Awesome work in the ’I like Dogs’ unit / Amazing artwork.  
**Jamie** – Magnificent work in ’Where is the Green Sheep’ unit.  
**Ayden** – Working consistently hard in all areas / Fantastic illustrations drawn in writing / Stretching out his words in reading.  
**Emily** – Terrific effort in NAPLAN practice papers.  
**Max** – Cool comprehension skills.  
**Bourke Students**  
**Jerry** – Fantastic effort in the Rugby League Outback Challenge / Excellent work in Maths.  
**Charlie** – Fantastic effort in the Rugby League Outback Challenge.  
**Barney** – Fantastic effort in the Rugby League Outback Challenge / Effort in Maths.  
**Malcolm** – Fantastic effort in the Rugby League Outback Challenge / Being amazing at everything.  
**Brandon** – His amazing efforts in journal writing.  
**Charlie** – His enthusiastic participation in satellite lessons.  
**Jessica** – Working hard to catch up in literacy.  
**Kate** – Her hard work on satellite / Fantastic effort in her Week 2 work.  
**Katie** – Her wonderful writing from the perspective of a parrot.  
**Aaron** – His writing from the perspective of a confused kangaroo.  
**Luke** – His good thoughts and answers on satellite.  
**Jon** – Fantastic Hero Award / Great effort and composure during NAPLAN.
John B – An enquiring mind for Science in satellite lessons / Trying his best at NAPLAN.
Mulloka – Trying his best at NAPLAN.
Paddy – Trying his best at NAPLAN.
Calum – Trying his best at NAPLAN.
Grace – Trying her best at NAPLAN.
Jessica – Trying her best at NAPLAN.
Murrumba – Trying his best at NAPLAN.
Hannah – Trying her best at NAPLAN.
Millie – Wonderful piece of writing on ‘My Friend for Life’.
Sophie – Working hard to understand money.
Olivia – For being a supportive sister to Hannah during NAPLAN.
Emmett – Developing his writing each week.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Belated birthday wishes to two students Mariade who turned 8 on April the 12th, and Robert who turned 10 on May 2nd. We hope you both had very happy birthdays.

Belated birthday wishes to Teddy as well, who had his 10th birthday in the holidays, on April 27th. Happy Birthday to you.

Happy birthday to Cooper who celebrated his 5th birthday on May 8th, hope you had a great day.

LIBRARY NEWS

Well done to all the PRC readers who have sent me the names of the books they have read so far. Lots of books have been enjoyed - Many chocolate frogs have been sent and enjoyed! On Monday the 19th we read the book “Too Many Elephants in this House” for National simultaneous Storytime. Eleven students logged on and took part. This event happens each year to help boost children’s love of reading. BWSODE has participated for the past five years.
This term the Kinders and Year 1 students are looking at Picture books and they will make their very own picture book based on numbers. Year 2 students are exploring what Non Fiction books are. Years 3 and 4 are looking at the many uses for a Thesaurus AND Years 5 and 6 are having some fun with Abbreviations. I am in the process of subscribing to StoryBox Library for BWSODE and when I have the log in details I will forward them on to you. There are lots of fantastic ebooks on this website.
Many of the short listed books and books we use in our units of work are available. Hope everyone has enjoyed a great book in the last few days or weeks. Remember if there is any book you would like to see in the Library please let me know.

Loretta Robinson  
Library  
loretta.robinson@det.nsw.edu.au

SPORT REPORTS

RUGBY LEAGUE 
In Week 2 the Year 5 and 6 students from the Bourke Centre joined students from Louth and Enngonia schools to form the Small Schools Rugby League Team for the Outback Challenge. This was fabulous as our players hadn’t played together before and in fact rain had prevented our school students joining in last year, so some had not had the opportunity to play at all before.

It took our team a couple of games to get used to the physicality of rugby league, but by the third game they all learnt their strengths and formed a good little team. I am sure all the students involved had a wonderful day and learnt the thrill of running with the ball in their hands and backing themselves against the opposition. Well done everyone on adapting very quickly and playing with great confidence and self-belief.

WALGETT SHOW 
Millie and Katie with Sandy McGrath at the Walgett Show