Around the School: Our great news this term is that the toilets are going to be replaced!! A modular toilet block has been ordered and should be on site and set up over the school holidays. This has all been organized through QBuild and Paul Vella, our facilities manager. Paul has also indicated that once the building is functional he will be looking at getting a covered walkway from the school out to the toilets! This is an incredible outcome, as we have been endeavouring to have our toilets replaced for quite a number of years.

There has also been a lot of other building work happening around the school since the last school holidays. Geoff Murphy and his crew have completed the backlog maintenance jobs that had been identified over the last few years and hadn’t as yet been repaired. This has really freshened up quite a few areas of the school. We have also had extra solar panels fitted to the roof. These were applied for last year through the National Solar Schools Program. We now have a ten kilowatt capacity, which I’m told should reduce our electricity costs. In the near future, we will also be getting cupboards fitted across the back wall of the office.

In the Classroom: Children have been working very hard to reach their goals. These are updated every five weeks, and all children have them on their desks. Parents should know what their children are working towards as well, because the goals are listed at the top of each fortnightly Report Card. There has been a lovely ‘feel’ to the classroom this term. As the children have become more aware of our mantras (Every child has a good day every day; Every child matters every day) and how they are responsible in helping to achieve these daily, they have become much more focused on their work; and also more able to follow our school rules! Well done!

Our last English unit for this term involved the students appreciating Australian literature. The whole school has been studying Margaret Wild’s “Fox”. The final assessment piece for this unit required the Preps to write a recount of the story, the Years 1-3’s to write a bibliography about one of the characters (either Fox, Dog or Magpie), and the Year 4-7’s to take what they had learnt about abstract nouns from this story and to write a Memoir about their own life portraying an abstract noun of their choice. We hope you enjoy the following pages of our writing.

Report Cards will be mailed home during the first week of the holidays.

Dates to Remember:
Friday, 19 July: NAIDOC Day in Birdsville
Tuesday, 12 August: Teaching and Learning Audit
16-20 September: Camp Fairbairn

SCHOOL RESUMES: MONDAY 8 JULY
**MAGPIE BIOGRAPHY**

Magpie is kind, friendly and helpful to her friends.

She is loving to dog and plays with him. She is left in the desert. She wants to go home.

She is very upset and really sad because she misses dog.

*By Ben Farran (Year 1)*

**DOG BIOGRAPHIES**

**Beginning**

Dog is gentle and he helps Magpie. Dog loves his friend. He helps Magpie with her burnt wing. Dog’s blind in one eye, so he and Magpie run away together

**Problem**

A sneaky, sly, red fox came to Dog’s cave. Fox said dog was extraordinary. Fox was watching Magpie and she shrank away. She tries to warn dog, but he says, “Let him be.” Fox persuades Magpie to come with him.

**End**

When dog woke up, he saw that magpie was gone. Dog felt defeated, unhappy, miserable, depressed, low and upset. Dog thinks fox is mean, nasty, wicked, evil and awful. He learnt to never trust foxes.

*By Charlea Smith (Year 2)*

**Beginning**

Dog is helpful to his friends. He picked up Magpie in his gentle mouth and took her to his cave so he could help her. Dog has a blind eye. Dog and Magpie fly together. Dog is kind to Magpie.

**Problem**

A sneaky, sly, red fox came to dog’s cave and whispered to Magpie, “I can run faster than dog.” Dog is asleep when Fox and Magpie run into the red, hot desert.

**End**

Dog feels lonely and sad because magpie left him. Dog feels betrayed by Fox and Magpie.

*By Cherokee Crombie (Year 3)*
MORE DOG BIOGRAPHIES

Beginning
Dog was a very kind animal to Magpie. He was gentle and caring to her. They were the very best friends in the world. Dog has a blind eye and Magpie has a burnt wing too. Dog tells Magpie to go on his back and he will help her fly.

Problem
One day Fox came into their life, and Dog said to Magpie, “Leave him be.” Fox whispers to Magpie for the last time, “Come with me, not Dog.” Magpie said, “I’m ready.” Fox took Magpie to the desert. Magpie feels sad and she had to jigetty hop home. Dog feels the same way without Magpie.

End
Dog feels upset that Magpie is gone, but Fox was happy that they were both now alone. Dog now knows Fox is mean and unkind.

By Sophie Farran (Year 3)

Beginning
Dog was a gentle, kind, caring and a friendly dingo. He also had one blind eye. He carried Magpie to his cave and looked after her because she had a burnt wing. Together they could fly.

Problem
One day a sneaky, sly, fox came to their cave and persuaded Magpie to go with him. He whispered to Magpie and said, “I can run faster than dog.” Eventually Magpie said back to Fox, “I’m ready.” Then they went into the red, hot desert. Magpie had to go all the way home to get back to dog. Magpie and Dog felt sad that they were not together.

End
Dog felt sad and upset because he missed Magpie so much. Magpie missed Dog too. Dog should not have trusted fox.

By Saphea James (Year 2)
FOX BIOGRAPHIES

Beginning
Fox is lonely. He is a sly fox living by himself. He has a rich red coat.

Problem
Fox is alone. He persuaded Magpie to go with him to the desert. Then Fox ran away.

Ending
Fox is happy. Magpie got away from Dog, but Fox is still lonely. Magpie tried to go home.

By Cassidy Bell (Year 1)

Beginning
Fox is a lonely, selfish and cruel animal. He lives in the bushes and he has no family. He has a rich, red coat and haunted eyes.

Problem
Fox is jealous of Magpie and Dog's friendship. He persuaded Magpie, and took her in the hot desert to make her betray Dog. Fox ran away from Magpie and left her in the hot desert.

End
Fox is happy because he separated Magpie and Dog. Fox is still lonely and not friendly.

By Tristan Warren (Year 3)

Beginning
Fox is a lonely animal and a selfish animal. He lives on his own in the bush. He has a rich, red coat and haunted eyes.

Problem
Fox wants Magpie and Dog to be alone. Fox persuades Magpie to come with him to the desert. Fox says to Magpie, “I can run faster than Dog.” Fox takes Magpie to the hot, red, sunny desert. He leaves her in the desert.

End
Fox feels happy that Magpie and Dog are alone. Fox runs away back to the bushes. Fox feels lonely still. Magpie follows Foxes' track back to the bushes.

By Thalia Saunders (Year 3)
**RETELL OF “FOX”**

**Beginning**
Dog and magpie go to the cave. They look at the water. They went for a run.

**Problem**
Fox came and he persuaded Magpie to go with him. Fox took magpie and left her by herself.

**Resolution**
She said it was easy to die here. Dog was in her thoughts.

By Sascha Young (Prep)

**MEMOIRS**

**PICK ME UP!**

Shyness is where you feel scared to do something in front of other people; or like me, I’m shy when talking to people I don’t know. When I feel shy it’s like butterflies in my stomach. When I’m shy my fingers quiver and shake.

One day I told my Grandma that I was shy to talk to people I don’t know. She started to tell me a story that would help me be brave. She said, “When you were three you were as brave as anything.” I always wanted what I wanted. Grandma told me I used to scare her because when she put me down, I would want her to pick me up again, but she would say, “No.” I got angry so I left Grandma, huffing, and I went to a total stranger and asked them to pick me up.

After that, Grandma noticed that I was gone. She had a look around and she found me. I was sitting in someone’s arms smiling. Grandma picked me up and told me that she was so scared that I had left, and she did not know where I was.

Grandma kept telling me the story. She said, “The next day you were on Tom’s back.” Tom is my uncle. Tom put me down and I wanted to hop on his back again, but he said, “No.” So I went outside and jumped on Buster’s back. Buster is Tom’s dog. Buster was my horse; Grandma found me and told me that I looked like a cow girl on horse that looked as if he wanted to bite me. He almost bit me. After that, I never did anything like run away or jump on a dog’s back again.

After this story, I was not as shy. My fingers would not shake. When I felt shy, I would think of the brave baby I once was. When I thought of that, the shyness, along with the butterflies, would disappear. I could leave the shy world and enter into the brave world.

By Breanna Farran (Year 6)
Courage

Courage to me, means bravery; and that you’re not afraid to do anything. When I feel courageous I’m not afraid to do anything at all.

I had just had a great holiday in Bedourie and was ready to go back to Brisbane, because Brisbane was my home and all my friends and family lived there. I was happy to be going back home, I was so over the moon to go back and see all my family.

The next day, mum and dad sat down to have a talk. I was out the back with Cheyenne listening. What we heard made us feel miserable. We had just found out that we were moving to a place that was a two day trip to Brisbane. I couldn’t breathe.

We had just over heard that we were moving to Bedourie and to a new school again.

When we moved schools in Brisbane, I was very unhappy because I had to say goodbye to all of my friends. At my new school, I had to stand up in front of eighty-nine kids. This took a lot of courage. I then went to my classroom and had a look around. I had found out that I was sitting next to the girl who showed me around. When I sat down, I started to think about all the good things that might happen. All my courage got me through the first day.

In Bedourie, my first day of school it was a bit different. I met a girl who became my best friend that day, and I didn’t worry until I had to stand up in front of about ten kids. I was a bit shy to stand up, but my courage got me through it.

When I sat back down, I felt a bit happier, because I had thought that it would be a bit more of a lonely day, but it was more of an excellent day. I had used all my courage that day, to make myself feel happy.

At my other school in Brisbane I had learnt that it was fun to go to a new school if you have the courage to face moving.

I have learnt that my courage can get me through anything that I’m scared of.

By Dakota Croimbie (Year 6)
A Moment of Silence.

Despair to me is a feeling that is painful, sad and broken-hearted. It is like I am in a locker full of hurt; and it’s like someone has punched a hole in my heart.

Like when Nanna C died. The phone rang; Mum answered it and started crying and yelling out for Dad. When mum caught her breath she told me the bad news, and started crying again. Dad was silent, and as he was on the phone one tear managed to slip down his cheek with one soft sob.

A few days went by, and Mum and Dad headed down to the airport. I was staying with mum’s friend Dee, because Mum and Dad had to go to America to pick up Nanna C’s body and bring it back to Australia.

When they came back, she was cremated. We saw Mum and Dad again, and we then began the long drive to Naracoorte.

When we arrived at Naracoorte, we drove to a wildlife centre. We went inside a big building and there were all these replicas of animals. Dad took out a silver box, and then we went outside to near an entrance of a bat cave.

Dad open the box and took out a plastic bag with ashes in it... He took the bag and asked everyone if they wanted to say anything; and I said, ”May she rest in peace.” Dad open the bag and spread the ashes on a soft bed of red flowers. Aunty Cindy and Aunty Michelle were sniffling and holding back their tears, and so was I. Then we went back inside.

Dad let us play in the cave, but it is hard to smile and have fun when you are so sad.

As we drove home, I couldn't drink nor eat. I couldn’t even go to school.

Days went by, possibly weeks; and Dad said I had to get over it. I finally went to school and I manged to push out one small, genuine smile.

By Kaitlin Farran (Year 6)
A True Blue Queenslander!

Pride to me is the felling you get when you think your heart is going to pop out. Three times a year I get that feeling. I love getting that feeling, and when I do, I get really proud to be a Queenslander.

My pride to be a Queenslander started a few years ago. I started to watch NRL, but State of Origin was new to me. I watched the old games when Queensland used to get smashed by the Blues.

But eight years ago, our luck changed. Queensland started to win the games. That is when my pride for Queensland really started. I remember when Cameron Smith kicked a field goal from forty-five metres out. He was waiting for the ball to be passed to him. When he got the ball, he kicked it. The ball went faster than a tiger, and that won the game for Queensland.

That was a few years ago now, it’s been a while. The Queensland players have gotten older and the Blues have new players. The new players for the Blues might just be the trick to beat us.

But what’s shocking is that we’ll soon lose our good old players to new younger players too. The new, younger blood might just be what we need. When that day comes, I’ll feel low because my idols will not be there. The players that I loved and watched every night will not be there.

But still my pride for Queensland will always be strong. It’s so strong that one day I want to play for Queensland, and nothing will stand in my way. But until that day comes, I’ll still watch Queensland play, and nothing will break my pride for the maroons.

By Stacy Krause (Year 7)
Happiness is a Foal!

Happiness to me is to be with horses. Riding is always a pleasure. When I ride, I feel like I’m in another world. A perfect world where nothing can go wrong. All my troubles have disappeared.

My horse Petiti and I have a strong bond. I like to ride along the track that takes us to the bower bird’s nest, then we go out the flat to play tag on the horses. One day, she was being all silly. This was not like her. She had been really feisty and eating more than normal. She got really fat. So Dad started to suggest she was pregnant. I was so shocked, but happy. Dad thought that she would have her foal sometime around February.

On December 29th, Dad was taking Clara for a ride. I didn’t go because I was sick. The next minute Dad came running through the door. Then he said, “There’s a surprise for you at the yards.” I asked, “Did Petiti have her foal?” He nodded his head up and down.

I excitedly ran to my room and grabbed my socks and put on my boots. Before you know it, I’m out the door and at the yards.

When I got to there, I was smiling. Yam was so beautiful. Dad, Clara and I already made a name for her, Yam. Yam was so small compared to her mum. Her coat was like a beige colour with a white diamond on her face. I was so overjoyed. I could even watch her grow up.

Yam has grown a lot, Dad says. I don’t see her much because she is in the Four Mile Paddock at Marion, but I’m here in Bedourie. One day soon I hope I will see her again.

I will just have to ask Dad to take me for a drive to see her. I want to keep track of her growing up so I know when I can ride her. Then I will be so happy. It will feel like the world is perfect again. I will feel butterflies in my stomach and joy in my heart.

By Alice Jansen (Year 4)