From the Principal

ATTENDANCE

What a great start we have had to the year with attendance! Nearly all students have attended each day on time for the past fortnight. As you would have noticed from the documents that went home last week, every minute that your child misses from school is valuable learning time that cannot ever be regained. Central Queensland Region has set a target of 95% for all schools to reach this year. For us to reach this target, each child is only able to miss ten school days for the entire year! I will keep you updated on our progress in each newsletter.

GREAT RESULTS GUARANTEE FUNDING

Queensland is a great state with great opportunities. To ensure this continues well into the future, our state education system needs to be at the top of its game, producing highly literate and numerate graduates who have the ability to innovate and rise to the challenges of tomorrow.

As a result of the Federal Government’s Students First - A fairer funding agreement for schools initiative, Queensland’s Minister for Education, Training and Employment - Hon John-Paul Langbroek recently announced that in 2014 $131 million from the Federal Government will be distributed to schools under the Great Results Guarantee to improve learning outcomes for Queensland students.

Great Results Guarantee funding is in addition to all other resources that schools currently receive. On average, Primary schools will receive $508 per head or a minimum of $5,000 for small schools similar to Bedourie.

Under this agreement, I will be accountable for improving the performance of every student at Bedourie School ensuring that no student is below the National Minimum Standards for literacy and numeracy for their year level and ensuring that our high performing students continue to achieve better results.

While individual schools and their communities have the flexibility and autonomy to decide how the funding is spent, I am, as part of the Outback Advantage Cluster of Schools, exploring the options of submitting a collaborative agreement with OA. We have had a number of teleconferences to discuss our options and are looking at a number of evidenced-based programs to support literacy and numeracy and the development of staff capacity.

Please advise of your ideas and thoughts on the Great Results Guarantee on the attached note and return it to the school as soon as possible. We have a very tight timeline in which to complete our agreement. Once endorsed the Great Results Guarantee 2014 will be published on our school website www.bedouriess.eq.edu.au and will be communicated to the school community via our school newsletter and at the P & C meeting.

MEDICARE LOCAL SCHOOL VISIT

On Wednesday afternoon, Cassandra Whatley from North and West Queensland Medicare Local will be running a Do it Right…. For Your Life - Healthy Kids session for school children beginning at 2pm. If you wish for your child/ren to take part in this session, could you please return the attached forms tomorrow.

SCHOOL SWIMMING

We will once again be offering our students swimming lessons each Friday afternoon as part of our Physical Education program. Ms Davis has the necessary qualifications and will take these lessons when she is in town. I have yet to speak with MJ as to her availability in the off weeks. Ms Davis will begin lessons this Friday. Please sign the attached permission form if you wish for your child/ren to participate in these lessons. ALL students are required to wear SUNSAFE swim shirts. If you do not
have a sunsafe shirt, please let me know as soon as possible so we can attempt to find one.

**HOMEWORK**
All students will have homework as of this afternoon. As per our Homework Policy, if the work is completed neatly and carefully each night for two weeks, there will be a reward of no homework during the third week. All children have a Homework Diary in which they have a laminated card explaining what tasks need to be completed each night, as well as a laminated card explaining the expectations to achieve a sticker each night and therefore receive the no homework reward after two weeks. Please assist your child/ren each night by reminding them of the tasks they need to complete. Children who are still learning their Sight Words (mainly those in Years 1 and 2) have a Sight Word folder that contains the lists of words they are learning each week. Inside the folder is a list of games and activities that you can play with your child to help them learn these words. I have also included a set of words for you to use. Can you please ensure that they are placed back in the zip lock bag in the homework folder and then returned to school so they can be swapped around each week. Other children have a Vocabulary Folder in their homework. Please read the inside of this folder in order to assist your child learn how to use these important words. These lists will be changed as Reading texts change - this term that will be once each fortnight. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns whatsoever about homework.

Leanne Hohnke-Jansen
Princ

**New Student**
Welcome to Christian Jackson, our new student this year. Christian was very excited to start school and began Prep on 28/01/14.
Quality learning and achievement – every student, every day
Effective teaching – every teacher, every lesson

Permission Note for School Swimming

I, _______________________________________, give permission for my child/children ____________________________________________ to attend Swimming Lessons each Friday. I understand that all children are required to wear a SUNSAFE shirt in order to participate in these lessons.

Signed ________________________________________                              Date___________________________

Parent/Guardian

GREAT RESULTS GUARANTEE FUNDING

These are my suggestions for how the school may be able to utilise the $5000 funding to further support literacy and numeracy learning:

1. ______________________________________________________________________________________________

2. ______________________________________________________________________________________________

3. ______________________________________________________________________________________________

I do/do not agree with our school writing a collaborative agreement with the other Outback Advantage schools if it means we are able to purchase a better evidenced-based program to support literacy and numeracy learning and the development of staff capacity.

Signed ________________________________________                              Date___________________________

Parent/Guardian