From the Principal

ATTENDANCE
Our great start to the year with attendance has continued throughout the term, with half of our students meeting the 95% target that the region has set. In fact, three of our students have attendance rates of 100% to date! Well done to Thalia, Tristan, Cassidy, Charlea and Alice for their super attendance. At the moment, our overall school attendance rate is sitting at 92.5%, so we still have a bit to do to hit our target.

Research shows that students who have good patterns of attendance are more likely to achieve at school. If students aren’t at school or don’t stay the whole day, they are missing valuable lessons. Check out the new Every Day Counts videos live on DETE TV.

http://www.youtube.com/DETQueensland

OUTBACK ADVANTAGE NAME CHANGE
The Outback Advantage Cluster of schools was required to change its name and logo earlier this year. Ilfracombe, Isisford, Muttaburra, Aramac, Jericho, Stonehenge, Jundah, Windorah, Birdsville and Bedourie State Schools will now be known as the Coalition of Western Small Schools (CoWSS). Our new logo is on the bottom of the left hand margin! The Cluster still work very closely together, and continue to support each other at every opportunity.

GRG FUNDING
Thanks to the parents who took the time to complete the form in the last Newsletter. As a result, we were able to pool our $5000 funding with the other CoWSS schools. Using the pooled money, we will be able to implement three projects within our school, thus ensuring that all students will have the opportunity to achieve the best possible outcomes during their educational journeys. Our Coalition Principal, Gemma Thorpe, has worked tirelessly over the past few weeks to pull these projects together for us, and as a result our first project - the implementation of a new literacy program called Write2Spell2Read - will begin next week. The ladies who wrote this program will be travelling out to Birdsville to provide Professional Development to teachers, teacher aides and interested parents next Wednesday. Our whole school will travel to Birdsville for the day, and while the staff members are working on ways to implement this exciting new program into our schools, the children will participate in a joint activity day with the Birdsville students. Students will need to be at the school at 6:30am so we are able to have the whole day down in Birdsville. We are hoping to leave Birdsville by 2:30pm to be back in Bedourie by 5pm. There will be a few extra seats on the bus. Any parents who are interested in participating in this program are welcome to come along. Please let me know as soon as possible if you wish to accompany us. Students will need to pack snacks for in the bus, as well as something for second break. Lunch will be provided. Please return the attached permission slip on Monday.

Our second project involves working cooperatively with other members of the Coalition to ‘pull apart’ the multi age C2C units and rewrite them, ensuring that all students are being instructed in year level specific content, whilst still working in our multi age settings. At the moment, all teachers are doing this in their own way in their own schools, and it is extremely time consuming. The aim of this project is to have different teachers work on different units and then share the end product. This will allow us to then have more time to plan and implement quality lessons for the students in our schools. Once again we will be receiving top quality professional development to complete this project. I will be travelling into Longreach in Week 10 for the initial stages of the project, and Terri will be working with the students at the school.

Our third project is yet to get underway, but involves using ipads and technology. Other teachers from other schools will be invited (via technology) into our classrooms to observe our lessons; and then to provide feedback to enable us to improve on how we are instructing our students.
Each of these projects is exciting and innovative, and both Terri and I look forward to taking part in them. All have been designed as a result of top quality research that provides evidence that these projects will enhance student outcomes.

**PROJECT 600**
Project 600 is a Regional Reading Program utilising technology to deliver a reading program. This year, one of the Project’s targeted groups was Year 5, and we were lucky enough to be invited to join. This means that twice each week Alice has the opportunity to interact with other Year 5 students via a virtual classroom and website chat rooms and blackboards to further investigate the top level structures involved in reading. Our slower satellite connection has played havoc this past week, but hopefully all will be back to normal soon.

**NEXT TERM**
Next term we would like to start having a school parade once a month, where parents and interested community members could come along for a brief time to see just what is going on at the school. It would also give both Terri and I the chance to publicly reward those students who have been performing very well in their learning. Awards will be given for Bookwork, Attendance, and improvement in both English and Maths. At the moment we are thinking that Friday would be the best day to hold a Parade, as Terri is always in town on a Friday morning, however if you know that this will not work for you, PLEASE let us know so we can work on an alternative day.

**PRAC STUDENT**
Next term we are fortunate enough to have a fourth year prac student coming to Bedourie to work with us. Her name is Catherine Brooks and she is studying at Christian Heritage College in Brisbane. She will be with us from the beginning of Week 2 through until the end of Week 5. Catherine has completed her past pracs in a variety of different educational settings, and we are looking forward to having her join our team.

**SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**
Term One finishes on Friday 4th April, with Term Two beginning on Tuesday 22nd April. This first week will be a short one, as Anzac Day is on the Friday. (As is always the case, students from the school have been invited to participate in the Anzac Day march and service).
Lastly, I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe Easter.

Leanne Hohnke-Jansen
Principal

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**In the Classrooms**

*From Mrs Jansen*

This has been an extremely busy term for all students, and one of the highlights for me has been seeing the consistently high standard of Bookwork that is now evident in all areas of learning within our school. We have examined two genres in our English – Narratives and Persuasives. We have read and analysed texts from both these genres; written our own texts adhering to the specific generic structures; and worked with punctuation and grammar to help improve our writing. We have also continued to read daily in our reading groups. Some students have been working on recognising main ideas (and topic sentences for the older students) in their specific reading goals, whilst others have been learning to reorganise parts of the text to compile complete ideas. Spelling has also been worked on daily, and we all enjoy using Literacy Planet activities every second week.

Biology has been our science strand this term, and we have been learning about living things and the seven characteristics that all living things exhibit; as well as environments and habitats of certain animals. We are now busily working on our assessment pieces to show just how much we have learnt. The Years 3, 4 and 5 students have been very impressive using the computers to search for and save information for their assessments!

Our Arts project this term has been drawn from the Drama strand. We are Spacetroopers going into outer space to save Planet Earth. Some of us are going to Neptune, some to Uranus and others to Saturn. None of us realised just how difficult it would be to plan and organise a group trip into space! We have successfully packed our space crafts and made it to our chosen planets. Now all we need to do is land and establish our settlements. No doubt there will be more obstacles to overcome before all is completed!
In technology lessons we have been using the computers and internet to find and save images and then manipulate them to have them fit where we want them. We have also been working with text boxes and word art - once again using these tools proficiently and then manipulating and changing our writing until it is just how we would like it. Watch out for a surprise to come home for the holidays!
Dakota has continued to participate in twice weekly French lessons delivered via a conference phone and virtual classroom throughout the term. She has been learning how to speak in French about items of clothing!
All in all, the term has been jam packed as we have tried to squeeze all of this learning into our school days!

From Ms Davis
Throughout this year I will be planning all the Maths, History and Health and Physical Education. This really allows me to monitor and extend each student at his or her individual ability level. I also have developed a better understanding of where each student is heading, and where he or she has come from in each subject.
It is that time of the term already, where the students have to put everything they have learned into practise and complete tests and assessments for all subjects. The work and results they produce over the next couple of weeks will go towards there mid year report card. This is why it is vital that all students attend school every day. It gives them the opportunity to achieve the best results they can!
We have been busy in Maths this term exploring the concepts of Number and Algebra, Measurement and Probability. The progress our students are making in these areas has been evident and pleasing.
In History this term the students have been investigating a range of topics. Prep to Year 2 have been learning about past significant family and community events and how different people celebrate these events. Years 3 and 4 have delved into the First Fleet and have looked at different celebrations and commemorations from around the world. Finally, Years 5 and 7 have developed their knowledge about colonies, settlements and changes in Australia. They also explored the Ancient Greek culture and how their culture has developed.
We have had a great term and I can not wait to mark the work the students produce.
Best Wishes.

Terri Davis

A note from Sister Cath
Parents of Catholic children who are 8 or older and wish their child to begin preparation for first Communion please contact Sr Cath on 4651 2939 or email at barcysm@bigpond.net.au as soon as possible.

Permission Note for Birdsville Activity Day - Wednesday 26 March 2014.
I, _______________________________________ give permission for my child/children ____________________________ to attend the BIRDSVILLE ACTIVITY DAY. I understand students will need to be at the school by 6:30am and will not return until approximately 5pm. I will supply snacks for on the bus and food for second break.

Signed _____________________________________________________________________
Parent/Guardian