From the Principal

ATTENDANCE
Once again, I am very pleased to report that we still have five of our students maintaining an attendance rate of 95% or higher; and three of these still have not missed any school time at all so far this year. Congratulations to Charlea, Tristan, Thalia, Cassidy and Alice for your super efforts. Thanks also to your parents for ensuring that you are attending school each day. Our present overall school attendance rate is 92.6%. This is 0.1% higher than it was at the time of the last Newsletter, so we are slowly closing the gap towards reaching our target of 95% for the year. Just remember that every day your child does not attend school not only affects our overall attendance rate, but also reflects in the progress that your child is making at school. If you haven’t already done so, check out the Every Day Counts videos live on DETE TV.

http://www.youtube.com/DETQueensland

ANZAC DAY
It was lovely to see most of our students turn out to march on Anzac Day; and also very rewarding for the students to all have a parent standing by to watch them and make them feel proud. The behaviour of our students at the Commemoration Service in the park was exemplary, and many community members commented on this. A big thank you to the students who laid a wreath or performed a reading. After the formalities in the park, the P&C hosted a very successful Bingo afternoon in order to raise funds for our upcoming trip to Cairns. A huge thanks to all the parents and community members who donated either their time or food to help make this such a successful event.

SCHOOL PHOTOS
Firstly, thank you to everyone for being so patient whilst the P&C tried to sort out just where last year’s photos disappeared to. At the moment, Lorraine Kath is reprinting them all so that everyone will receive a complimentary pack containing both the school group photo and individual photos as well. This year’s photos will be taken next Monday, 12th May. Could you please return the attached order form and money to the school as soon as possible.

NAPLAN
On Tuesday 13, Wednesday 14 and Thursday 15 May, students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will take part in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy, or NAPLAN, as it is commonly known. Skills that will be tested include: reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy. These tests are done here at school and are considered just another part of the curriculum.

It is important for you and your child to know that NAPLAN is not a pass/fail test. It simply looks at what level students are achieving in literacy and numeracy against National Standards and compared with student peers throughout Australia.

NAPLAN cannot be studied for and students are not expected to do so. The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to let them know that it is just a routine part of their school program, and to urge them to do the best they can on the day.

All students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are expected to participate in NAPLAN testing. Later in the year we will send you an individual student NAPLAN report that you can use to view and monitor how your child is progressing.

More information is available on the NAP website (http://www.nap.edu.au/).

PRAC STUDENT
Ms Cathy Brooks, our prac student, joined us last Monday and has settled extremely well into our school and its routine. She is planning and teaching the current English C2C and Science units, as well
From the Principal

Quality learning and achievement – every student, every day
Effective teaching – every teacher, every lesson

as assisting in the delivery of all other subject areas. Both the students and teachers are enjoying working with her.

PARADE
Our first parade will be held on Friday, 23rd May at 9am. We would like to invite parents and interested community members to join us as we celebrate the successes of our students.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
This term is shaping up to be very busy for staff attending professional development. From Friday 23 May until Monday 2 June, I will be attending the mandatory Regional Principal’s Conference in Gladstone, and we are fortunate to have Terri working with the students for this time. Terri will then be attending Brain Gym sessions in Townsville from 13-20 June. This learning will tie in very nicely with our new Spelling program that incorporates a great deal of movement to facilitate activating the working memory. I explained the CoWSS group and our joint Great Results Guarantee plan in the last newsletter. As part of this plan, I will be attending Instructional Rounds sessions in Jundah on 12 June, and then go on to Longreach for the following week to complete our C2C Curriculum adaption. Terri will be working with the students until she leaves for Townsville, and then a relief teacher will take over.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS
On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons of next week, Terri and I will be conducting Parent Teacher interviews. During these sessions we will discuss with parents the progress that their child/ren have made so far this year, and also how we plan to continue fostering their educational growth. It is always a pleasure to be able to share this information with parents. Could you please fill in the attached form, indicating the day and time that best suits you. If none of these times are convenient, please indicate so we can sort something more suitable.

MR DAVE MANTTAN
Yesterday we had our first visit from our new Assistant Regional Director (ARD), Mr Dave Manttan. During his time at the school, he reviewed some of the many documents and policies that our school has in place to ensure that they are aligned with EQ requirements. He also looked closely at the results that our students have achieved to date this year on their standardised testing, and was pleased to note that all are making adequate progress. Dave then spent some time speaking with the students. He listened to some of them read and also inspected their books.

MRS BEARDMORE
Last Friday afternoon, Vickie received the sad news that her mother had passed away in the Philippines. She has flown over to be with her family, and will not return to school until 20 May. I’m sure that you all will join me in offering Vickie our deepest condolences during this difficult time.

WINDORAH SPORTS CAMP
Information and consent forms will be sent home early next week.

Leanne Hohnke-Jansen
Principal

In the Classroom
From Mrs Jansen
Our new Spelling Program - Write2Spell2Read -is now up and running, and we have been concentrating our efforts on learning about the eight (or nine if you are in Years 5 and 7) main ways to spell the long e sound. The program requires the students to jump, chant and zoom daily as they activate their working memory to ensure that what they are learning is retained. They are also using blindfolds and arm weights to write and trace the letter combinations. Keep an eye on the Weekly Report Folders to see the progress being made using this new and innovative teaching process!

From Ms Davis
Once again in maths for Term Two we are teaching the concept of number and place value every week, two times a week. For the other two lessons each week we will investigate the concepts of measurement, shape/geometric reasoning, money and financial mathematics and locations and transformations. Each term the curriculum is designed to build and extend on the students’ knowledge from the previous term.
In geography this term we are geographers, and as geographers we ask questions about the world and people around us. The students will develop skills in posing geographical questions to investigate, collect, represent and describe data and interpret data to develop a conclusion in response to geographical challenges. The Prep to Year 2 students are exploring different place features, space features and how the places and their features are shown on maps. Years 3-4 are exploring similarities and differences in places near and far. Alice is going to extend her mental map of the world with a focus on Europe and North America. She will learn to identify and describe the relative location of places on a national scale and to complete maps using cartographic conventions. In this unit, Dakota will examine the many uses of water, the ways it is perceived and valued, its different forms as a resource, the ways it connects places as it moves through the environment, its varying availability in time and across space, and its shortage.

From Ms Brooks
My name is Cathy Brooks; I have been a guest in your children’s classroom for the last two weeks and it has been amazing. Your children are simply delightful and a pleasure to teach. I have met a few of you already and I look forward to meeting and getting to know you all in the next few weeks.

This term in English Prep - Year 3 are investigating different books and looking at the different characters in them. They have been having lots of fun using a wide variety of words to describe the characters.

The Year 4 - 7 group are currently looking at how to use animation for storytelling. In the next few weeks they will be creating their very own stop motion animation. I am very excited to see the finished product as I know they have been working hard.

This term in science the whole school is focusing on Earth related science. Prep - Year 2 are investigating weather, water and soil. Years 3 - 5 are investigating soil erosion and will eventually propose a plan on how to fix an erosion problem in the community, and Year 7 is learning about a variety of topics ranging from the rock cycle to extreme weather situations. Keep your ears peeled for any interesting facts they might bring home!

From the P&C President
All, I thought I’d put a quick word in here that I have assumed the role as President for the P&C this year. We have already had reasonable success at recent fundraising events including ANZAC Day and the Cake Stall at the recent markets. We will be running another Cake Stall and hopefully selling some BBQ food for lunch at the next market/Auction day which will be held at the Bedourie Community Hall on Saturday the 31st of May. We will again be chasing support through either assistance in time or donation of cooking skills. There were some great cakes at the last one (Biscuits, Brownies etc are also welcome)

I know I haven’t been here long, but I have worked in most parts of Queensland. I have not come across a place yet that has P&C Fundraising to pay for the school camps. I encourage ALL parents to assist the P&C in some way and contribute whenever possible. Considering that half of the committee members on the P&C don’t have children that attend the school, it is not too much to ask that all parents of children attending do what they can to help.

If anyone currently has a difference of opinion or any form of conflict preventing them from contributing or attending, please come and see me and I will honestly try to correct any issues. If not, then suck it up and remember that the P&C is here to help the kids. Hope to see you on the 15 May at the next P&C meeting.

Paul Jackson  (P&C President)

Parent Teacher Interview

Name:___________________________________________

Please circle the time that best suits you

Tuesday 13 May              4pm          4:30pm          5pm
Wednesday 14 May         4pm          4:30pm          5pm
Thursday 15 May            4pm          4:30pm

Is there any other time that you would prefer? ____________________________________________