From the Principal

ATTENDANCE

Our overall school attendance rate for the whole of first semester was 92.9%. At the time of our last Newsletter it was sitting at 94.3%. This is a disappointing drop, and our target of 95% is further away again. Congratulations to Thalia, Tristan, Charlea and Alice who all are maintaining a rate of 98% or above! One of the indicators of our overall school performance is our attendance rate, and I am asked to report constantly to my supervisors about it. Just remember that every day your child does not attend school will affect our overall attendance rate, and also reflect 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

SCHOOL OPINION SURVEY

The annual School Opinion Survey starts this week. All families, school staff and a representative sample of students will be invited to take part. We encourage you to take this opportunity to have your say about what this school does well, and how this school can improve.

Access details for the Parent/Caregiver Survey are attached - these are not linked to individuals, and you cannot be identified in the survey results that will be reported back to the school, or by the department.

Parents/caregivers are welcome to complete their survey online at the school. School computers will be available any afternoon after school this week. Please call ahead so we can ensure a quiet place is available for you to complete the survey. The online survey will remain open until 3 August 2014. Alternatively, you can simply complete the paper copy of the survey and return it to the school in the same envelope as it was sent home in. Please return hard copies by this FRIDAY.

I urge everyone to take the time to complete this survey, as we can only improve our school if we have honest feedback from all of our stakeholders.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Next week I will be attending Professional Development events. Monday and Tuesday I will be in Longreach for a Principal’s Business Meeting with the other CoWSS schools and our new Assistant Regional Director, Mr David Roach. David is taking over from Dave Manttan, who was our supervisor during first semester. I will then travel to Brisbane on Wednesday to attend the QASSP Conference on Thursday and Friday. This conference is an annual event attended by Primary State School Principals from across the state, and I am really looking forward to meeting with other principals and attending sessions which will help make me a more effective leader of our school. Mr Adam Hammer will be working with the students in my absence.

POSITIVE SCHOOL BEHAVIOUR PLAN

This week Terri and I are putting the final touches to our new look Positive School Behaviour Plan so it is ready to implement in Week 4. We are extremely fortunate here at Bedourie State School, as the students are usually very well behaved. The aim of this plan is to reinforce the behaviours that are already evident within our school, and to build on these to ensure that all of our students are learning each and every day to the best of their ability in a supportive and inclusive environment. Basically the Plan will work like this: Students will be awarded tokens when they display one of our targeted behaviours. These tokens will be tallied at the end of each week, and those students who have earned the required amount of tokens will receive an award which has been predetermined by the students themselves at the beginning of the week. More will be explained during our parade at the end of Week 4.
WINDORAH SPORTS CAMP

Once again, this camp was a great chance for our students to not only enjoy participating in sporting activities with children of their own age, but also to make and renew friendships. Unfortunately, the gymnastics coach missed the plane, so the children participated in Music sessions which were run by Ms Reid from Jundah (she was a music specialist teacher prior to taking up her principal’s position in Jundah); and everyone enjoyed these sessions. The sports played were athletics, touch, soccer, cricket and tennis. Our students did themselves proud, with everyone behaving in an excellent manner and participating in all activities on offer. A special mention must go to Dakota for winning the Music Award for the week, and Thalia for winning the Pink Group Student Award.

eKINDY

Below is an extract from an email that arrived at the school yesterday. If you know of anyone with children eligible to enroll next year, could you please pass this information on.

The waiting list for eKindy 2015 is now open.

Please advise local families with children who may be eligible for eKindy in 2015 (i.e. 4 by 30 June 2011) that they can add their child’s name to the eKindy 2015 waiting list. We will contact these families directly when registrations open.

Information about eKindy (including eligibility criteria) and the waiting list form can be found on the eKindy web page. https://brisbanesde.eq.edu.au/Ourschool/ekindy/Pages/ekindy.aspx

Leanne Hohnke-Jansen
Principal
In the Classrooms
From Mrs Jansen
Our C2C English unit for this five week block is related to poetry. The Prep to Year 3’s will be writing a poem, and the Year 4-7’s will be analysing a poem. So far we have examined mainly humorous poems and rhymes, and students have learnt about the general features of poems and the types of language used to convey different moods and feelings. Some of the language features we have encountered so far include nonsense words, alliteration, onomatopoeia, neologisms and rhyming words. In our reading, we have continued to apply the SCORE strategy to all areas of our reading. Charlea, Alice and Dakota are going to delve into figurative language whilst reading, and all other students are working towards recognising sequencing signalling words, and then use these to help them place story events in the correct order. We are settling in to our new Write2Spell Spelling program, and all students are still enjoying the jumping, tracking with weights and blindfold writing. Some students have demonstrated a significant improvement in this area of their learning.

Science for this term is taken from the Chemistry strand. Our unit is called Wet, Wet, Wet and we are exploring solids, liquids and gases. Last week we discussed definitions for each of these, and then made some Cornflour Slime. It was very hard to decide whether it was a liquid or a solid because when you picked it up it ran through your hands like a liquid would; but when you touched it in the bottom of the bowl it was hard like a solid! We also enjoyed some Spiders just to make sure we all understood what a gas was.

Our Arts this term is from the visual Arts strand, and we will be experimenting with colours; mixing them and using them to show our feelings.

From Ms Davis
We are off and racing for Term Three. The kids are established in their routines and are demonstrating enthusiasm and a high work ethic towards their learning. I am excited for the implementation of our new behaviour plan, to allow for continued consistency and positivity, as we work collaboratively with the school community.

In maths this term, the students will revise and extend their knowledge, understanding and skills in the following concepts: number and place value, measurement, fractions and decimals, money and financial mathematics and locations and transformations.

For our second History unit students will explain how communities changed in the past. They will be required to describe the experiences of an individual or group and then identify events and aspects of the past that have significance in the present. The Prep to year 1 students are going to compare how the past and present has changed, looking closely at families and technology. Year 3/4 will be assessed on their ability to explain how a community changed in the past and describe the experiences of the Aboriginal peoples, identifying aspects of the past that remained the same over time. Year 5 is required to conduct a historical inquiry to investigate how Peter Lalor and the Eureka Stockade were significant in bringing about change in Australian democracy. Year 7 will show their understanding through sequencing events about Egypt’s contacts with her neighbours and conflicts in her internal affairs and explain the effects of changes on Egypt’s administration; to explain and give reasons for the changes and continuities in the role of the nobility in Egyptian society.

I look forward to the term ahead and cannot wait to see what the students produce.

If you have any questions and queries, please don’t hesitate to get in contact.

From the P&C
From the President - Paul Jackson
There has been some movement in the P and C recently. Ronnie has had to step down as treasurer and Shahn enthusiastically volunteered to step into her shoes. A big thank you needs to go out to Ronnie for the work that she did while she was here.

There are a few more events coming up in the near future. The most immediate is a market day which will be held on the 24th of August. Again we need the help of any parents (and others) to make some cakes, slices, sauces etc for us to sell. It has been put on this weekend to coincide with the Variety Bash passing through.

We all need to chip in to help cover the costs of paying for the school camp. Without the P and C the kids would either not be going on camp or each parent would have to foot the bill (Approx $1100). There will be a few other events coming up a bit later in the year so keep an eye on this space.
CAIRNS CAMP (Wednesday 10-Friday 19 September)
Our school camp is fast approaching, and we need to get definite numbers to the bus company as soon as possible so they can book everything for us. Once again, the P&C will kindly be paying the total cost of this trip. The only money that children will need is a small amount of spending money to purchase souvenirs. All students will need to have three full school uniforms to wear during the day, and one school jumper. We will wash when possible and as necessary, to ensure that children have clean clothing to wear each day. A full list of what to bring will be sent home soon. These are the exciting activities that we have planned for the week:

- Charters Towers
- Gold Tour
- Drive In
- Townsville
- The Strand (Water Park)
- Billabong Sanctuary (native animals in three habitats)
- Reef HQ (Hopefully with an overnight stay here)
- Museum of Tropical Queensland
- Royal Australian Airforce Museum
- Queens Gardens
- Cairns
- Kuranda Railway
- Sky Rail
- Butterfly Sanctuary
- Indoor Adventure Centre based at the Casino
- Centenary Lakes Botanic Garden
- Green Island – Great Barrier Reef
- Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park

Night Activities
- Ten Pin Bowling/Laser Zone
- Movies
- Sizzler

Most parents indicated earlier in the year that their children would be attending this camp, and the costing that we have received to date is based upon those numbers. The P&C is more than happy to cover these costs for children who attend, but would like parents to be aware of the fact that if a booking is made for their child and then the child is withdrawn at a later date and without a good reason, then the parent will be expected to reimburse the P&C this cost (approx. $1100).

Can you please fill out and sign the form below indicating that you have read the above and agree to reimbursing the P&C should your child not attend the camp without good reason.

Permission and Understanding Note for CAIRNS TRIP

I, ______________________________________ give permission for my child/children _____________________________ to attend the school excursion to Cairns. I understand the event runs from Wednesday 10th -Friday 19th September, 2014.

I have read the above about the Camp and agree to reimburse the P&C if my child does not attend without good reason.

Signed ___________________________  Parent/Guardian