From the Principal

ATTENDANCE
At the end of last term, our attendance was 94.3%. Wow! What an amazing result; and so close to our target of 95%. Unfortunately, over the past two weeks we have had some students return late from holidays, and then others have been struck down by the vomiting wog, so our rate has dropped to 93.7%. Hopefully everyone will be back on deck soon and the rate will slowly creep up again. Congratulations to Tristan, Thalia, Charlea and Alice who still have overall attendance rates of 98% or above for the year. Well done!!!

POSITIVE SCHOOL BEHAVIOUR PLAN
Our Positive School Behaviour Plan (Bedourie Behaviour Busters) has been running for almost a term now, and all staff at the school have noticed a marked decrease in the annoying little behaviours that the students exhibit from time to time. Our classroom has a more peaceful feel to it, and all students are definitely much more ready to learn each session, with very little time being wasted on collecting necessary gear and waiting for children to be attentive. This term we have changed a few of our targeted behaviours, as well as making our Friday Rewards a little more difficult to obtain. Children can receive a possible 40 tokens each day, and now need to have collected 145 by Thursday afternoon to be able to participate in the Friday Reward!

UNDER COVER WALKWAY AND TOILETS
Finally our ‘excuse for a toilet block’ has not only become more child friendly (a smaller pan in both the Boys and Girls Rooms; a step up to the urinal so smaller boys can actually reach it; and mirrors lowered in these rooms as well), but it has also become much more heat resistant with the addition of a laminated panel roof over the whole structure. And as if this wasn’t enough, it has also received a very welcome face lift. Privacy screens have been fitted outside the doors, and the whole building has been ‘attached’ to the school building by a covered walkway! Workers arrived yesterday to complete the finishing touches. Now we just need to get the green grass growing again and it will look absolutely amazing.

ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR
In early September, we had a visit from our new Assistant Regional Director (ARD) Mr. David Roach. It was an absolute pleasure to invite David into our school and to be able to work with him for the short time he was here. He discussed our School Profile (which highlights all areas of performance at our school) with me; and managed to speak to each student about their individual work and to look through their workbooks. David indicated that he was pleased with the way in which our school was performing. He was also very impressed that the students were all motivated to learn and really wanted to improve their results. These were very positive comments, and made both Terri and I feel very proud to be associated with such a lovely group of children.

SCHOOL CAMP
Our Camp to tropical North Queensland was a resounding success. Everyone learnt so much - not only educationally - but also about respecting others and getting along with them. Children were also given the opportunity to become more independent in caring for themselves and their property. We visited places and explored environments that most of us would not have a chance to experience because we live so remotely. Socially, we ate at a variety of venues, played Laser Skirmish, Ten Pin Bowl and went to the Movies. The ten days were action packed, and we were capably driven around by our ‘tour guides’ Pete and Liam. Many, many thanks to the P&C for once again supporting this exceptional learning experience.
NAIDOC DAY
Last Friday the students from Birdsville travelled to Bedourie to help us celebrate Naidoc Day. A great time was had by all as they baked damper, made healthy food (LOVED the milkshake maker), fished and learnt the new art of sand painting. Thanks to Joyce and Jean for sharing your amazing culture with us; the Diamantina Shire (especially Nicole Shellback) for organising the day; and Chas and his merry band of cooks for feeding us so well.

SPLASH'N'ARTS CAMP
Our combined swimming and Arts camp is fast approaching and will be held from 10-14 November. This year we will be offering four activities for the children to rotate through each day, and we have engaged highly qualified instructors to work with your children in each area. Alina Manttan (Graham) is the swimming instructor. She has worked with us before, and has proved to be an excellent coach at all levels of swimming, from beginner right through to the more advanced children, where she concentrates mainly on stroke correction and technique. Helen Horner is the lifesaving instructor. Helen has worked with the children for the past two years, and once again is kindly supplied to us by Lifesaving Australia. We are also offering two new Arts activities this year. Firstly, we have engaged the services of Ms Laura Kirkwood, who will travel from Melbourne to instruct the students in African Drumming. This sounds absolutely amazing! Our other new area is Drama, and Ms Fiona Bazley-Hodges from Brisbane will work with the students in this area.

Once again this year we will be asking for help from our parents and community members. If you are able to cook something for a smoko or volunteer some time to work in the kitchen preparing food for forty hungry mouths, please contact the school. Every contribution will be greatly appreciated.

PRE PREP DAYS
This year we have started a new program to help younger students transition smoothly into Prep. Each Wednesday we will run a morning of activities that will help these youngsters get into the routine of school and feel comfortable in the learning environment. Our first day was on Wednesday, and Jack and Lane had heaps of fun exploring the school environment. If you know of any other children who are ready to start Prep next year, please let them know about this program.

NEXT WEEK
Next week I will be away in Longreach attending a Principals’ Business Meeting and a CoWSS Meeting. At this point in time, I am unsure as to who will be replacing me.

In the Classrooms
From Ms Davis
The students and teachers are off to a lovely, motivated, eager and engaged start to Term 4. For the final term the Math’s program is continuing to run as per the previous terms, though the CoWSS cluster are beginning to implement a new numeracy improvement project that has come out of the North Coast Region. This project requires the students to sit pre and post diagnostic tests each term. These test results do not go towards the students’ final report card marks. The diagnostic tests are based on key concepts and strategies that students need to be able to master. The focus is to use warm up activities each day that allow the students to be taught the concept. As they become more confident, they develop skills that are efficient.

During the weeks that I am in Bedourie, for the final hour of each day we will be delving into Geography. By the end of this term the Prep - Year 2 students will be required to pose questions about important places, describe people’s connections with places, explain why places are important and suggest how to care for places. Also, they will describe how people in different places are connected and identify factors that influence these connections. The Year 3-4 students will conduct an investigation into how people could improve the waste management of a significant place. Alice will investigate how the impact of natural hazards on people and places can be reduced in her local area. Dakota is required to research and answer the following Inquiry question: What strategy for action can be used to improve the access to services and facilities to increase liveability in her local area? The children really enjoy geography and it allows them to begin to develop their worldly knowledge.
I would also like to take this opportunity to publicly announce that I am transferring to Goondiwindi State School for 2015. I have mixed emotions about this move, very sad about leaving, scared though extremely excited and eager for my new adventure. It has been an absolute pleasure to teach in this wonderful place with fantastic children, staff and parents. I thank you all for the support and knowledge over the last two years. I will move from here with the most amazing memories and experiences.

Let’s finish 2014 with a bang!!

Terri Davis

From Mrs Jansen

As Ms Davis has already mentioned, we are off to a flying start this term - and thank goodness, as we only have nine weeks in the term and two and a half of these weeks will be taken up with extra curricular activities! The children have been really firing on all cylinders, and already have completed some excellent quality work and displayed some real progress in their thinking skills.

In our English this term we will only have time to complete one unit, and it will be another Persuasive Unit. Students will be utilising the experiences that they had whilst we were on Camp to come up with ideas to write a persuasive speech about something that should be saved and protected so future generations can enjoy it. In our reading, the lower groups will be practicing their Reading Between the Lines (Inferential Comprehension) skills, whilst the upper group will be learning to identify fact and opinion within their texts.

Science is taken from the Physics strand, and we will be examining forces throughout the term. The assessment activities will be: Prep - Year 2 students will be designing and constructing a push pull toy; the Year 3/4’s will design and construct a simple machine; and Alice and Dakota will design and construct a complex machine.

We are also putting together a picture diary of the places we explored during our School Camp. Each student is compiling this using photographs and memorabilia that is of special significance to them. This will give each student a very personal memento of our wonderful trip.

From the P&C

All,

The Tringo Night was reasonably successful and everyone hopefully left with a full stomach. A big thank you again to the “usual” people who helped to prepare, set up and run the evening. Without the help of these people, the P and C would not exist and all parents would have to pay for kids to go on school camp. We are now calling on parents to provide cake, jams, chutneys, chillies or whatever they can to add to the Market Stall which will be held on the 1st of November. We have been doing pretty well at the Market Days and are hoping that people other than “the usuals” can contribute. If you are unable to donate baked goods, please get in touch with me and we'll find another way for you to contribute.

Paul Jackson
P&C President

The toilets have had a ‘facelift’ and the new covered walkway links them to the front door and then the front gate. Once the grass covers the red dirt, we will be looking amazing!
School Camp

Charters Towers

Panning for gold

Stock Exchange Arcade

Townsville

Military equipment at the RAAF Museum

Meeting animals at the Billabong Sanctuary

At Reef HQ, where the kids got to spend the night.

Getting soaked at the Water Park.

Cairns

Exploring the coral reef via sub near Green Island

Firing the cannon at the Museum of Tropical Queensland

Enjoying the Sky Rail

A night of ten pin bowling

Spear throwing at Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park
Naidoc Day

Learning how to create healthy foods.
Sand painting.
Our biggest fish of the day.

Pre Preps

Jack and Lane enjoying rolling out play-doh on their first day of Pre Prep.