From the Principal

ATTENDANCE
As I sit here and write our last Newsletter for the year, I can hardly believe the excellent attendance rate that most students have maintained throughout this year. It is really beginning to show in their learning and improvement rates too. Our attendance rate for Term 1 was 91.6%, during Term 2 it rose to an amazing 94.2%, only to rise to an ASTOUNDING 96.8% in Term 3. This term is not looking as good, with our rate sitting at 93.7% today. Our overall rate for the year at the moment is 94.2%; and with some families not going to be in attendance for all or part of the last week we are not going to reach the magical 95%. Congratulations to Thalia, Tristan, Charlea and Alice who all are maintaining a rate of 98% or above! Our new students, Dean and Emma are not letting the team down either, and have recorded 100% each in their first month with us. Well done also to both Vada and Orin for managing to get their rates back over 92% even though they had to go away when Tina had the baby!

A huge thank you must go out to all parents who have hustled and bustled to get their children off to school each day this year. Your efforts are much appreciated by all staff here at the school.

POSITIVE SCHOOL BEHAVIOUR PLAN
We have continued to implement our Positive School Behaviour Plan this term, and we are amazed at the influence this is having on each and every student’s learning. We very rarely have the need to redirect children’s attention back onto task, and also have little need to be asking students to go and collect the appropriate gear they need for the session. This means that much more of our precious class time is spent on learning! To date this term each child has been on target each week (they can only afford to miss three tokens a day if they are to remain on target), and we have had some lovely Friday treats - including a water bomb fight and lunch at the Roadhouse! On top of this, each student received their ‘On Track’ prize of a Smiggle water bottle prior to Splash’N’Arts Camp! They are now working towards having the highest number of tokens for the term.

DAKOTA’S GRADUATION
Dakota’s Graduation will be held this Friday night at the Simpson Desert Oasis. Congratulations Dakota, on completing your Primary schooling. Thank you for being such a positive influence on our school. Your happy, smiling face and caring ways will be missed next year.

REPORT CARDS
Terri and I have been working hard to get Report Cards written so they can be proof read and then sent out. They will be in the mail to you on the Friday, 5 December.

NEXT YEAR
As we already know, Ms Davis will not be with us next year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Terri for all of the hard work that she has put in over the past two years. Her dedication and passion for teaching has offered our students the best possible opportunities to learn. Good luck in Goondiwindi!

Terri’s replacement will be Ms Jacobi Leaver. To see more about Jacobi, please turn the page.

School will recommence next year on TUESDAY, 27 JANUARY. I will be attending meetings in Longreach from 19-21 January, and will then be back in Bedourie for the remainder of that week until school resumes. At this point in time, we will have fifteen students enrolled on Day 1!

CHRISTMAS TREE
The annual P&C Christmas Tree and BBQ will be held at the pool on Friday 5 December. Once again, the P&C is looking for donations of salads for the night. Please return the form in this newsletter if you are able to assist.

All the best for a restful Christmas and a Happy New Year with your family

Leanne Hohnke-Jansen (Principal)
From the Principal

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

Splash ‘N’ Arts Camp

Water Safety with Helen

Swimming with Alina

African Drumming with Laura

Drama with Fiona
From the Principal

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

SPLASH’N’ARTS CAMP

On Monday, 10 November, twenty-one eager students, along with their parents/carers arrived in Bedourie to take part in our annual Splash’N’Arts Camp. This year our theme was Movie Stars, and children were placed in three groups - Minions, Box Trolls and Dragons. These groups then rotated through four activities during each day - Swimming, Life Saving, Drama and African Drumming. After afternoon smoko, Ms Davis provided Christmas Craft activities; and our night activities included a Games Night, A Minute to Win It competition, and a Movie Night.

After a bumpy flight out from Brisbane, our instructors arrived - some a little worse for wear and not at all looking forward to their trip back on Friday! Once again, Alina Manttan joined us as the swimming instructor, and she ably instructed the younger students on learn to swim, and also provided stroke correction and fitness for the older students. Helen Horner returned to instruct in Life Saving, this year bringing an offsider, Karen. All children should now be safe around water, and the older ones can also perform CPR. We also had two new instructors join us this year.

Fiona Bazley-Hodges is a teacher of Drama, and over the week she worked on voice projection, movement and body language in order to help the students pull together their amazing performances on Thursday afternoon. The Minions, along with Miss Jess from Sandringham, presented an hilarious skit about Fabbo Cake Mix. The Box Trolls were somewhat more adventurous and recreated the entire Lion King Movie; whilst the Dragons entertained with corny jokes and Movie send ups. Each group did an excellent job, and it is a credit to Ms Fiona that she was able to inspire the children to confidently present such ambitious projects.

Our second new instructor was Laura Kirkwood, and she had the students banging on their African Drums! Laura worked on beat and rhythm with each group over the week, telling the children traditional African stories of what each piece of music was used for and when it would be played. She also ensured that students knew the basics of how beats and rhythms are written musically. Once again, it was absolutely amazing to see just how much the students learnt in such a short time. As an educator, it was so satisfying to see many of the children just so ‘in the zone’, closing their eyes and going with the music.

We were fed very well during the week, and a big thank you must go to all of the women who worked so hard in the kitchen. Ladies from the stations (Coorabulka, Sandringham, Glengyle and Mt Leonard) and also parents from Birdsville all pitched in to help the local ladies who turned up each day.

Thanks also must go to the groups who so kindly sponsor our Camp each year. Skytrans provides us with free flights for our instructors, and RREAP funding from the school budget is utilised as well. A special thanks to the Diamantina Shire for the use of the venues, their monetary input, and especially to the Parks and Gardens crew who ready the venues for us.

A wonderful week was had by all.

Leanne.

JACOBI LEAVER

Here is a picture of Jacobi. She was born and bred on the Gold Coast, and her first degree was in Marketing and Public Relations. She lived in Vietnam for five years, ran her own restaurant and taught PE at an International school.
She then returned to the Gold Coast and decided to get a post graduate Teaching degree. For the past four years, Jacobi has taught at Mudgeeraba Creek State School, where she has worked with various age groups of students.
Her main hobby over the past few years has been lawn bowls.

Jacobi says that she is now ready for a new adventure in the Channel Country; that she loves meeting new people; and that she doesn’t mind a yarn!
From the P&C

Hey all,

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the people and committee members who have worked so hard through the year and helped to keep the fundraising going for the Bedourie P and C. Again, an especially big thank you goes out to the helpers that don’t have kids in the school. You have no obligation to help but we wouldn’t survive without you. I hope to see some new faces next year at the meetings and events to accompany the new students coming to the school. We have some big fundraisers coming next year including ANZAC Day and we need all the help we can get. On behalf of the P and C I wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and look forward to seeing EVERYONE at next years first P and C Meeting in early February 2015.

Paul JACKSON
President
Bedourie P and C

Christmas Tree Catering.

Once again, the P&C are asking for donations of salads for the Christmas Tree BBQ on Friday, 5 December.

Could you please indicate below what you are able to provide.

☐ Pasta Salad  ☐ Tossed Salad
☐ Potato Salad  ☐ Other
☐ Coleslaw

Thank you very much for supporting the school.

Signed:_____________________________________________ Date:____________________________