From the Principal

ATTENDANCE
What a great start we have had this year with our attendance. Even though we had a spate of viruses and wogs hit late last term, we have managed to maintain an overall attendance rate of 95.6%! Well done Justin, Cassidy, Alice, Tristan, Lane, Charlea and Emma for missing only minimal days of school last term. Each of these students has a rate of 95% or more. Thanks to all parents for ensuring that your children are coming to school for as many days as they possibly can.

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 Every Day Counts videos live on DETE TV. http://www.youtube.com/DETQueensland

CLASSROOM UPGRADES
Our computer workstations are all due to be replaced this year, and in the interests of keeping up with technological advances, we have decided to replace them with laptops. These have been ordered and should turn up very soon. We have also ordered a second ‘cage’ to house these machines when they are not in use. This means that we will be able to do away with the three large computer desks, which will give us a whole lot more space in our upstairs room. New desks and chairs arrived over the holidays, and once everything is in place our school will have a fresh, new look.

eLEARNING @ BEDOURIE STATE SCHOOL
This year has seen us really move forward with our use of technology to assist in Curriculum delivery. A second language is now compulsory for all students in Years 5 and 6; and whilst we have continued to have French as our language, its delivery mode has changed. We now receive these lessons from the Longreach School of Distance Education, and the students are using iconnect to participate. This type of delivery requires all students to wear a headset with a microphone inbuilt that allows them to listen to and speak with other lesson participants, as well as use an interactive screen to complete the tasks asked of them by Madame Gavell, their teacher in Longreach. All students have adapted extremely well to this delivery mode.

Charlea and Alice also use this same technology each week to participate in extension classes with students from all over Queensland. This round they are working on the skill of Critical Thinking, and next round it will be Creative Writing.

INSTRUCTIONAL ROUNDS and PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
On Monday, 4th May, teachers from Jundah, Stonehenge, Windorah and Birdsville will be gathering here in Bedourie for our first Instructional Round of the year. We completed one of these Rounds at Jundah last year, and the learnings that I took away from the day were amazing. Not only do we teachers get the rare opportunity to watch other professionals teach lessons, but we also get the opportunity to witness other classrooms and how they are set up and run. It’s now our turn to showcase our lovely school and wonderful students; and both Jacobi and I will be teaching a lesson for the other teachers to observe! After the day is over, I will travel to Longreach for our Principal’s Business Meeting and CoWSS days. Jacobi will remain here in Bedourie and work with the students.

NAPLAN
All students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are required to complete this National Assessment of Literacy and Numeracy each year. The dates for this year’s tests are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 12-14 May. Last term each child had NAPLAN style questions to complete as part of their homework, and we will be doing more of these types of examples during school time to help get all our Year 3 and 5’s test ready between now and the actual testing.
eKindy
Thanks to the generosity of the Diamantina Shire Council, we have been able to start up ekindy at the school this year. As there is only one student enrolled in ekindy living in Bedourie, it was extremely important to ensure that we were utilising Council’s kind donation in a way that not only enabled the delivery of some of the ekindy components here at the school, but also afforded this student the opportunity to grow in the areas of interaction and socialisation with others. Keeping this in mind, we decided to wait until Mrs Bronwyn MacGregor, the ekindy teacher based in Brisbane visited both her student and our school in February, prior to implementing this exciting new transitional program into our school. During this visit, Bronwyn and I sat down and discussed ways in which we felt this program could benefit both the ekindy student as well as the younger students already in our school. It was decided to implement a program that ran for one full school day each week that would be attended by both the ekindy student and our Prep students. Prep students would be accompanied to the day by a staff member from the school.

We advertised the closing date of the ekindy facilitator position to coincide with Bronwyn’s visit as well. We received two applications for the position, and Bronwyn was able to be on the interview panel along with Ms Nicole Schellback (Council representative), Ms Fiona Connor (the CoWSS mentor) and myself. Ms Emily Joyner won the position, and ekindy finally started in Bedourie on Friday, 6 March.

100 YEARS OF ANZAC
This year marks the Centenary of our ANZACs landing at Gallipoli Cove, and to commemorate the event the Diamantina and Boulia Shires will be holding combined services and activities at the Vaughan Johnson Lookout. Our school has always been an integral part of the parade and service, and this year we have been invited to take part again. Because this is a once in a lifetime event, it would be amazing if ALL OF OUR STUDENTS were able to show their respect for our Anzacs by attending both the dawn and 10am services. In view of the fact that it may be difficult for all students to be at the lookout by 6am for the Dawn Service, I am offering to take any student who wishes to come to Marion Downs the night before, and to get them up to the Lookout in time for the Service. Could you please fill out the form on the next page and return it to school as soon as possible so we can begin to make arrangements.

Leanne Hohnke-Jansen (Principal)
100 Years of Anzac Celebrations.

Family Name:_________________________________________________________

Student Name/s:_____________________________________________________

Will your child/ren be attending the Dawn Service? Yes □  No □

Will your child/ren be attending the 10am Service?  Yes □  No □

Will your child/ren be staying at Marion Downs?  Yes □  No □

All children who do not have an accompanying parent will be returned to Bedourie after the 10 am Service.

Signed:___________________________________________  Date:____________________________