From the Principal

ATTENDANCE
After our amazing start to the year and completing Semester One with an awesome overall percentage of nearly 96%, it is disappointing to have to report that we have completed the year with an overall rate of only 92%. Things really started to fall apart in Term Three, with our rate falling to an all time low of 87%! Thankfully this has picked up again during this term to 91%. When all of the term rates are averaged out, we get our yearly rate of 92%. Hopefully next year we can improve on this and meet our 95%, as when students are away from school it not only affects their learning, but that of the entire school, because time has to be taken from those who were in attendance to enable those who were absent to be instructed in the content that they have missed. Children who attend school less than 90% of the time are considered to be ‘at risk’ in relation to their learning.

CHAPLAINCY
Chappy Pete and Chappy Chris have now had three terms working with us. The students love having them here and eagerly await each visit. Over the course of the year, Chappy Pete has been delivering components of the You Can Do It program to the students. This is an overall student wellbeing program promoting both social and emotional learnings. It includes the topics of getting along, persistence, resilience, organization and confidence.
Just yesterday I received notification that our application for funding to continue the Chaplaincy program here in Bedourie had been successful. This means that the program can continue until the end of 2018. Chappy Pete and Chappy Chris have indicated that they wish to continue working with us, so hopefully after a holiday down in Melbourne they will be fit and rested and commence back with us back midway through Term One.

CLUSTER TEACHER
After working the Semester between Birdsville and Bedourie as the Cluster Teacher, Michelle will now move on to take up a permanent role at the school in Alpha. I would like to thank her for the effort that she put in to working with us and wish her all the best. Next year Ms Sarah Wickstead will be joining us to tackle this role. Sarah is currently working at Russell Island State School, and is looking forward to travelling west to work with us. She will spend her first two weeks down in Birdsville before flying up to work with us.

MS ATHENA
Ms Athena has also decided that it is time to move on, and she will be relocating to Brisbane. Athena has been with us as both a Teacher Aide and Cleaner for the past eighteen months. During this time she has forged many wonderful bonds with both students and staff alike, and she will be sorely missed. I would like to wish her well in her new venture. Applications have now closed to fill the cleaning position, but the Teacher Aide position is yet to be advertised. We would like to start someone in this position casually to begin the school year, so if you know of anyone who may be interested, please give me a call.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS
All students have worked extremely hard this year, and have met or exceeded the targets set for them at the beginning of the year. They have well and truly earned their end of year awards!
2015 SCHOOL AWARDS:
1. Recognition of Attendance (ekindy) - Eliana Karra
2. Recognition of Attendance (Prep) - Lane Warren
3. Most Consistent Writing - Thalia Saunders
4. Most Improved Book Work - Dean Woods
5. Most Improved All Rounded Academic Performance (Sponsored By Robbie Katter) - Emma Woods
6. Nurturing “The Little Ones” - Cassidy Bell
7. Most Improved Attitude Towards Learning - William O’Bryan
8. The Password Whizz - Justin Bell
9. Most Improved Independent worker - Cherokee Crombie
10. Most Consistent Worker - Tristan Warren
11. Perfect Attendance - Grace McIntyre Award - Charlea Smith
12. Most Improved All Round School Growth - Christian Jackson
13. Most Improved Behaviour - Jack Halse
14. Leadership Award (Sponsored by GBA Consulting Engineers) - Alice Jansen

REPORT CARDS
Report Cards are in the same envelope as this Newsletter. If you have a child in Year 3 or 5, their Naplan results are also included. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss anything at all about your child’s education.

LASTLY
I would like to wish everyone a safe and joyous Christmas and New Year break. I look forward to working with you all again next year. Don’t forget, the first day of school for 2016 will be WEDNESDAY, 27 JANUARY.

Leanne Hohnke-Jansen (Principal)

TERM 4 PHOTOS
Small Town Magic

If you travel up to Queensland and you keep on heading west
You’ll come across the town that we reckon is the best
Forget about Mt Isa, Birdsville or Windorah
Just unfold your map and act like an explorer
And when you hit Bedourie you might wonder where you are
But when the sun goes down you’ll be dazzled by the stars
You’ll see The Milky Way stretch across the sky
Venus, Mars, The Southern Cross shining in your eyes
You might hear a dingo howling beneath a crescent moon
Just one little glimpse of magic and you know you’ll be back soon
Where the dust will wake up memories in the scorching midday sun
Of racing pigs and camels and having lots of fun
Camp ovens will be fired up, the tucker tastes just great
When you pull up in Bedourie it’s not hard to find a mate
Everybody’s friendly and everybody’s cool
And the coolest kids in town are from Bedourie School
So grab a pen and write this down before you all forget it
Come and see us in Bedourie, we guarantee you won’t regret it

(sing to Waltzing Matilda)

Come to Bedourie, Come to Bedourie, Come to Bedourie
You’ll have a lot of fun
You’ll meet some real cool kids and you never will forget us
Come to Bedourie, our town's Number One!