From the Principal

ENROLMENTS
We have begun our year with thirteen students enrolled here at the school. A very warm welcome must be extended to our new Prep student, Eliana Karra. We have also welcomed back Lane Warren. All students have settled extremely well into routine, and there has been a huge amount of learning occurring on a daily basis. Behaviour has also been exemplary, and we have been able to award many Behaviour Tokens each day!

STAFFING
This year Ms Sarah Wickstead has come on board as our Cluster Teacher. Sarah is young and enthusiastic, and the students have responded very positively to both her warm manner and methods of instruction. We have also welcomed two new ancillary staff members. Mrs Denise McLaren is working in the classroom, and Ms Trudie O’Bryan is our new cleaner. Both of these ladies are performing roles that were undertaken by Ms Athena last year. Welcomed back to Mrs B, Mrs Tully and Davo. With this great team in place, our school is humming along very nicely.

ATTENDANCE
Due to our relatively poor overall attendance last year (92%), attendance once again must be front and centre of our school’s agenda. Obviously, if students are not at school every day they are not learning, which is concern enough on its own. However, when students do return from absences - especially extended ones - the learning of the remainder of the cohort is also affected, as teachers must find the time to ‘catch up’ the absentee student. This in turn takes up the precious learning time of those who have been regular attendees, and therefore limits their progress as well.

This year again our targeted attendance rate is 95%. If we are to reach this target, each child is only able to miss ten school days for the entire year. After eight weeks at school, our rate is sitting on 94.5%; and both Sarah and I would really appreciate your help in making 2016 the year to ensure that all students have the best opportunity to learn! If you are having any concerns about getting your child to school each day, please contact us.

WRITING
As has been explained at the past two P&C Meetings, writing is the area that we are targeting for our School’s Explicit Improvement Agenda this year. This simply means that we have a very narrow and sharp focus on how writing will be taught within the school, and due to this we are expecting this specific area of learning to show the most improvement over the year. Bedourie has opted to base its writing improvement plan around the John Collins approach. This approach suggests that there are five types of writing that students need to master. Type 1 is where students are given a limited time to generate a set amount of words related to a given topic. Type 2 is where they are required to write a specified number of facts/questions or statements about a given topic in a specific time frame. Both of these writing types are helping students to generate their ideas and vocabulary about topics quickly.

Type 3 writing requires at least one paragraph to be written, and focuses on three correction areas for the writer. To be successful with this type of writing, the writer must demonstrate that the writing is complete, it is easy to read, and it is free of error in the focus correction areas. Students are required to revise and edit their drafts. Type 4 writing is Type 3 writing that has been read aloud and critiqued by another. Two drafts need to be written. Type 5 writing is of publishable quality. Many drafts have been written, critiqued and edited.

Students in the upper school have been working on Types 1 and 2 writing over the past few weeks; and are really enjoying the challenge of thinking quickly! It will be great to introduce them to Type 3 tasks after the holidays, as they will have developed the necessary skills to attempt these tasks confidently by then. Students in the lower school have just begun writing Type 1 tasks, and have really enjoyed the challenge of completing these as well.
KINDY
Earlier this year we were invited to become a pilot school for the delivery of kindy in remote schools. All details of this offer finally arrived a couple of weeks ago. Education Queensland has agreed to provide us with 15 hours additional Teacher’s Aide time, and also support from ekindy via the Brisbane School of Distance Education if we agree to implement the Pilot. Given this awesome support, I have decided that we will go ahead with it. Trudie O’Bryan will be coming on board to facilitate the program which will be known as RKindy; and we are looking at running three five hour days each week – Monday through to Wednesday. Sarah and I have been busy discussing ways in which we can integrate certain components of the program into our early years grouping, and are sure that this can be an extremely positive experience for all concerned.

PLAYGROUND
Late in 2014, Nicole and I wrote a submission on behalf of the P&C to receive a grant to replace our current playground equipment. This submission was successful, and after a lot of negotiating last year the new equipment has finally arrived. We are currently awaiting quotes to get it all fitted to the strict specifications of Education Queensland that ensure it can be safely utilised by the students.

P&C
We have had two P&C Meetings this year, and it has been lovely to see so many new faces attending. Our new office bearers were elected last week - Simon Halse (President), Shandell Smith (Secretary) and Trudie O’ Bryan (Treasurer). Thanks to these members for agreeing to step up and take on board a position. As you all know, the P&C plays an integral role in the education of our students, and without your continued support it would be difficult for us to achieve as many of the things we do.

SCHOOL VISITORS
• Earlier this term Ms Fiona Connor (our Outback Advantage Cluster Principal) visited for a day. It was great that she was able to meet Sarah, and also observe the students going about their tasks. She was extremely positive in her feedback, noticing a huge difference in our students attitudes towards their learning, and also in the ways they are now going about their tasks.
• Goodnews the Clown also visited last week. He is a member of Les Nixon’s Outback Patrol team, and flew in for an hour to give the students some religious instruction.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE
Last week I was approached by the Council to determine if the school students would be interested in performing at the Western Local Government Conference that is being hosted by the Diamantina Shire in May. As a result, we will have the honour of opening the Conference on Tuesday morning 18th May, by singing the national anthem and performing our ‘Small Town Magic’ poem that we presented at the end of year concert. Thanks to the Council for enabling our students to showcase some of their many talents on such an important occasion.

SCHOOL CAMPS
This year each student will be given the opportunity to attend two wonderful camps.
• Firstly, Windorah Sports Camp will be having a change of date this year, and will be held in the first week of Term 3 (11-15 July). This Camp always provides students not only with a wealth of sporting skills; but also the opportunity to reacquaint themselves with old friends and to make new ones.
• Our big Camp for 2016 is planned to take in Canberra and the Snow. This Camp will run from Wednesday 7th September through to Friday 16th September (the last week and a half of Term 3). We will be taking in many of the sights in and around Canberra, and also having a couple of days in the snow!
In order for planning to begin on both of these camps, I need to know how many students will be travelling with us. I would willingly take along ALL of the students who are enrolled at the moment, as over this first term they have all displayed behaviours that would make it a pleasure to have them come along.

HOLIDAYS will begin this Thursday afternoon; with school resuming on MONDAY 11 APRIL.

I would like to wish you all a safe and Happy Easter.

Leanne Hohnke-Jansen
(Principal)
**In the Classrooms**

**From Mrs Jansen**

We have been very busy learning about narrative, persuasive and informative pieces of writing. We have tried something different in our approach to teaching and assessing English this term in Years 4-7 in that we have firstly combined two English C2C units and are teaching only the critical content from these; and also we have looked very carefully at both our History and Science Units and have been using content from these areas to help determine our Reading content, as well as our Assessment pieces. This has lessened the load when it comes to completing actual assessment tasks, and the students have really enjoyed the challenge of putting historical evidence into their English work; as well as using their reading time to find the necessary information to develop both their Science and History knowledge. With our lower year levels we have also combined two C2C units, but have kept our reading and sight words separate.

Our science unit this term has been drawn from the Biology strand; and we have been looking at the different classifications of animals, their life cycles, adaptations and conservation. Both the Platypus and the Green Sea Turtle have been studied in depth, and you would be amazed at just how much the students all know about these animals!

**From Ms Wickstead**

Before I get into the details of what has been going on in the classroom this term, I would just like to tell you a little bit about myself, and what I will be teaching your children while I am at Bedourie State School. My name is Sarah Wickstead, and I have moved out here from Russell Island, where I was teaching Year 3 last year. This year I will be planning and teaching Maths, History/Geography and Health and Physical Education. Next term, I will be hoping to implement the teaching of Digital Technologies into the classroom.

Over the past term, I have spent 4 weeks here, and we have done a lot of learning. In Maths, we have been exploring the concepts of Number and Place Value, Measurement and Probability. We have had lots of hands on activities, enjoyed using the big Interactive Board and Mathletics. The Big Kids have also been doing little challenges among the group to improve their Number Facts – by doing the Times Table Challenge (you may have noticed them bringing home coloured certificates every fortnight) and they have been partaking in weekly Math Mentals. Last week the students put their learning into practice and completed numerous assessment pieces for Maths.

In History this term, the students have been looking at a different range of topics. The Prep to Year 2 group learnt about past significant family and community events and how different people celebrate these events. They Year 4 to 6 group have been looking into The First Fleet, Secondary Colonies (such as Moreton Bay), and Democracy, Federation and Women’s Rights.

Next term we will be looking at a range of concepts in Maths – Number and Place Value, Fractions and Decimals, Shape, Money and Location and Transformation. Next term, I will introduce Geography into the classroom and we will be looking at Features of Places and Location of Places (Asia, Europe and North America).

We have had a fantastic start to the year, with all students showing great engagement in their learning, and I am looking forward to working with them next term, and furthering their abilities.

Have a safe and Happy Easter, and I look forward to seeing you in Week 1 of Term 2.

Sarah Wickstead

---

Goodnews the Clown

---

Eliana Karra on her first day at school
Participation in Bedourie State School Camps - 2016.

This year, we will be offering all students the opportunity to participate in two amazing School Camps. For both of these Camps, parental costs will consist of providing the necessary clothing, and also a minimal amount of personal spending money.

Could you please indicate by ticking the relevant boxes below if your child/ren will be participating in these camps.

I, ________________________________________ give permission for my child/children _____________________________________ to attend

________________________________________

Windorah Sports Camp (11-15 July)
Canberra and the Snow Trip (7-16 September)

Signed ___________________________ Date___________________

Parent/Guardian