From the Principal

ATTENDANCE
Our Attendance Goal for 2016 is 95%.
The attendance rate for Term 1 ended up being 93.7%, which is just below our 95% target. Most students have had an awesome start to Term 2, and there have been very few absences due to illness. Unfortunately, four students have had extended trips away for one reason or another, and this will see our rate plummet. At this point in time I am unsure of the actual figures, as there appears to be a ‘glitch in the system’ and the figures are not showing. Congratulations to Thalia, Jack, Eliana and Charlea who have not missed a single day to date this year.

WRITING: This year’s School Improvement Agenda
Our push to improve writing skills throughout the school has continued this term. We now have a clearly levelled Writing Continuum on the display board, and students have selected their own avatars to display on this Continuum. They have written a ‘benchmark’ piece and marked off the skills their piece exhibits. They now have a clear line of sight as to exactly where they are at, and what skills they must develop in order to move to the next level. This continuum will ensure each student can easily determine their writing goal for each five week block.

KINDY
At the start of the term we began our Remote Kindy Pilot program. This program runs over five days each fortnight – three days one week followed by two days the next week; and Trudie is doing an awesome job of keeping both Olivia and Hunter on track each day. As with all new programs, we have experienced a few teething problems, but are working through them slowly with the aim that by the end of the term we will have these youngsters transitioning into our classroom on a daily basis.

CHAPPIES
We welcomed back Chappy Pete and Chappy Chris in Week 2, and they have just completed their second visit to us. Both students and staff alike have been very pleased to see them after such a long break. Once again we will be sharing them on a rotational basis. They will work with Boulia, Dajarra, Urundangie and us this year, and will be in our community every third week. On their next visit with us, the Chappies will begin to work through another unit of the ‘You Can Do It’ program that they so successfully implemented here last year. The topic they will be looking at is peer pressure.

BRENDAN SMITH (ARD)
On Wednesday, 13th April, Brendan visited our school to get to know both the students and staff alike. Brendan is the Assistant Regional Director allotted to our school, so he is the person who I work with to keep our school moving forward and improving. He was very supportive of any questions that I had, and offered some invaluable advice around our writing agenda. Brendan was also extremely positive about our school in general, and was particularly impressed with the quality of the students’ bookwork. He was pleased that students could so readily talk about what they are learning and why. I really look forward to working with Brendan over the year to help make Bedourie State School the best place for educating your children that it can possibly be.

ANZAC DAY
On Anzac Day our students all represented the school splendidly, as they marched in the parade and then participated in the readings and wreath laying at then Commemoration Service. A huge THANK YOU to each and every student for showing your respect to our fallen soldiers in such a mature and well behaved manner.
ANZAC DAY cont:

Following the Service, the P&C held an extremely successful BBQ and Bingo afternoon. Many thanks to our great parent and community supporters for supplying such a lovely range of tasty salads for us to enjoy with our BBQ.

PRESTON CAMPBELL and CLINTON TOOPI VISIT
On Wednesday 27th April, we welcomed both Preston and Clinton into our school, along the rest of their travelling team. They are moving through Central West Queensland promoting good mental health and well being; as well as overcoming domestic violence. Before taking to the oval to play some awesome games, these men had the students totally engaged as they spoke to them about their lives and families. An extremely enjoyable morning was had by everyone involved.

NAPLAN
On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of last week, the Year 5 students (Charlea and Emma) sat their Naplan Tests. From what I saw of their efforts during the working time, they both deserve to do very well. Results will be sent to schools in early September. The Year 6 students also did a Naplan practice.

THIS WEEK
This week the Diamantina Shire is hosting the Western Queensland Local Government Conference; and our school will be involved in this event in two ways. Firstly, the students have been invited to open the Conference on Tuesday morning by singing the National Anthem, and then performing our Small Town Magic poem that we wrote up in Boulia last year. Secondly, the P&C are one of the clubs co-catering for the conference, along with the Race Club, Gymkhana Club and Golf and Leisure Club.

A note was sent via the Community Network last week requesting smoko items and times that people may be available to help out in the kitchen. PLEASE try to support the P&C in some way over the conference, as our share of the monies made from this venture will go towards funding our trip to the Snow. If you can help out with food, please leave it at the hall on Monday; if you can offer assistance in the kitchen please let Colgate (Trevor Stewart know), or just turn up when you can.

Ms Loata Brown (one of the district relieving teachers based in Longreach) will be in Bedourie this week to work with the children. This is to give me some much needed time in the office to catch up on the many admin tasks that just seem to be piling up. Loata worked with the students last year, and they are all looking forward to having her with us again.

PRINCIPAL’S CONFERENCE (Gladstone)
The Central West Region Principal’s Conference (which occurs every two years) is once again being held in Gladstone, and I will be travelling over to the coast to attend. Ms Wickstead will be working with the students from Monday, 30th May through until Monday afternoon, 6th June. In order to have her with us for this time, her schedule has had to be rearranged, so she will now be down in Birdsville for the next two weeks, and then spend the following two weeks here in Bedourie. Hopefully after that things will settle, and she will be back on to her weekly rotations.

WINDORAH SPORTS CAMP
Thanks to everyone for sending back the forms so promptly for Windorah Sports Camp. We are now all registered. The sports on offer this year are Hockey, Tennis, Gymnastics, Football, Athletics, Netball and African Drumming/Drama. It promises to be a very exciting week.

CANBERRA/SNOW CAMP
I was very busy organising the Canberra/Snow Camp last week. At the moment we will be leaving Bedourie on Wednesday morning, 7th September in time to arrive in Dubbo at 6:45 am on Thursday morning to have breakfast with the animals at the Western Plains Zoo. We will visit the old Dubbo Gaol in the afternoon and then overnight in Dubbo before heading off Friday morning to travel to Perisher where we will catch the oversnow up to Charlotte Pass. We will spend the weekend in the Snow - having skiing lessons and making snowmen - before heading down the mountain on the oversnow to get on the bus and travel to Canberra where will sight see for the next four days. I am just waiting on our itinerary to be finalised, and then will get it out to everyone. We will need to have a meeting sometime in the near future to discuss what types of clothing will need to be purchased to allow us to be comfortable in the cooler climate.

Leanne Hohnke-Jansen
(Principal)
In the Classrooms
From Mrs Jansen
It’s hard to believe that we are now at the end of the fifth week of the term. A few weeks ago it seemed that eleven weeks would take forever to pass, but in the blink of an eye we are already nearly half way there!

There has been so much learning happening in the Classroom, that it is difficult to know where to start.

Our Science for this term is based around ‘The Earth in Space’, and we have really enjoyed looking at the planets within our solar system - the characteristics of them; and their similarities and differences to those of earth.

For the upper year levels, we have been able to mesh this learning into our C2C work, as well as our reading. At the moment these students are working on a persuasive powerpoint detailing why their imaginary character should be selected above all other humans to colonise a new planet as the earth is threatened by a mysterious black cloud. Our grammar and punctuation foci have been sentence types and apostrophes for possession respectively. At the moment we are reading non-fictional texts about astronauts and space travel.

In the lower year levels we have read the text ‘The Very Blue Thingamajig’ and are now completing many and varied writing activities around this character. We have mainly been examining how to write compound sentences by using special words called FANBOYS (for, and, nor, but, or, yet and so). All these younger students are doing an amazing job completing their daily writing tasks using both the Word Wall and their awesome ‘sounding out’ skills to write words! It is also very pleasing to see just how hard these younger students are working each week to learn their new sight words and spelling words.

From Ms Wickstead
WOW! What a cracking start to Term 2 we have had. We have hit the ground running, and all students are putting in huge efforts!

So far this term in Math, the P-2 group have been looking at 2D and 3D shapes; their properties and where they are within the school. We have also been looking at money. We made our own shop earlier on in the term, and the students were able to go shopping within the classroom. This week we have started looking at adding numbers together to make 10 by using the Part-Part-Whole method. The students are working hard towards reaching their goals by the end of Week 6.

The students in Grades 4-6 have been working hard too. We started off learning about fractions and decimals, and how to convert them between each other. We then looked at the properties of 3D shapes, and where we could find them within the community. This week we are looking at angles, estimation, multiples and powers. The students are doing great with their Math Mentals and their Times Table Challenges. It is so great to see them trying so hard!

Geography has seen us looking at Bedourie as a learning topic for the little kids. We have been looking at the features of Bedourie, and mapping out the town, the school and our homes. The Big kids are currently looking at the different characteristics between Asian Countries and Australia. This week we are looking at Vietnam, Somalia, Mexico Japan and Singapore.

In Health and Physical Education, all students have been learning about Healthy Eating habits and the different food groups. Students have also been learning how to kick and throw a football, and how to dribble a soccer ball.

Thank you for an awesome start to the term, and I am looking forward to the rest of it.

Kindy Kapers
‘Slobbing and ‘scrabbing’ in the Goop; making watermelon pops to share..... and when it all gets too much we take a quick nap!
Anzac Day

Preston Campbell and Clinton Toopi Visit