Keeping in Touch

Newsletter No. 3 ● 2015

DUBBO SCHOOL OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
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Hi everyone,

It looks as though term 3 has started with us all running flat out! Our staff development day on Monday 13th was time spent with Rocky Biasi learning about how to be an “accidental counsellor”. Many staff gained some valuable insight into how to support some of our students who suffer from a variety of mental health issues throughout their schooling life. Jenny Donovan and I spent some time at Dubbo College with other principals and DPs in a growth coaching and leadership course and were able to bring back some valuable information which has been shared with our executive.

This term we have had some visitors in our school from overseas, including Canada, UK and Minokamo (Dubbo’s sister city in Japan). The principals and teachers were very impressed by our facilities and how we go about our jobs of delivering learning opportunities to students in a distance education setting.

We have had two residential camps already with primary in Week 3 and Year 7-10 in Week 4. Feedback from both the camps has been very positive and the students have thoroughly enjoyed their time with teachers and each other this term. I had the pleasure of meeting with some of our SRC members during Week 4 camp for a discussion on what we can do to improve our school. The students have given me some valuable insights which I will be taking up with some of our staff in the future. No doubt, you will see some of the camp activities in this newsletter, and don’t forget to like us on Facebook too…there are plenty of updates and news there as well.

Staff at DSODE at present are undertaking and getting used to the new Department of Education’s (DoE, no longer DEC) new Performance Development Framework (PDF). Teachers are spending time with their supervisors in professional interviews to discuss their professional goals and how to improve teaching practice across the school. This is actually nothing new to teachers in NSW schools, as we have always undertaken these discussions….it simply means that we are becoming more aligned to the Board of Studies Teaching & Educational Standards (BOSTES) requirements for professional teaching standards across NSW. Our education minister, Mr Adrian Piccoli, often speaks to the media about increasing the standards of teaching across our state, and this includes higher entry requirements to university for students wishing to undertake teaching as a career. Of course, we are lucky that we already have all the really good teachers here at DSODE!!

As we head into the downhill race for the HSC this term, I would like to wish all of our year 12 students the very best as they sit trial exams and prepare for their HSC exams at the beginning of Term 4. I have already sighted some of the exciting projects that our students have been working on in their practical courses and look forward to seeing the rewards of all their hard work and labour.

Enjoy the remainder of Term 3…Chris Mason plans to return to the “big chair” next month, and I will be looking forward to less frosts and more sunshine after school (on the golf course!).

Take care everyone,

Debbie Murray (Relieving Principal)
Hi everyone.

Welcome to Term 3! The scary thing is we are almost half way through it already!

Year 12 are currently in the midst of their Trial HSC exams. The final build up to the HSC exams can be a very stressful time for both students and their families; if you require any support please do not hesitate to contact your student adviser, they will put you in touch with our Student Support Officer or School Counsellor. The BOSTES website has a lot of good information about exams, including Rules and Procedures and a timetable for the 2015 exams; I strongly suggest all students have a look at this website.

I would like to take this time to remind all senior students and their supervisors of their responsibilities when undertaking Assessment Tasks and Exams. Assessment Tasks and Exams must be completed as per the instructions on the front envelope. Supervisors must take a copy of all assessments/exams before returning them to school. This copy must include the Supervisors Declaration. If the Assessment Task/Exam goes missing in the mail, the copy will need to be forwarded to school. Failure to provide a copy may result in the student being awarded a zero for the task. Further information can be found under the ‘Downloads’ tab on our website.

During the next few weeks we will be conducting enrolment reviews for all categories of enrolment at DSODE. Due to changed circumstances some students may no longer be eligible for enrolment with us. The DE Enrolment Procedures can be found on our website- again, under the ‘Downloads’ tab. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions about your students’ enrolment.

Enjoy the rest of winter- stay warm!

*Jenny Donovan*
Middle Years Zoo Excursion

Students in Year 7 and 8 embarked on a whirlwind trip around the world on Thursday 6th of August – all within the gates of Taronga Western Plains Zoo!

Despite it being a rather chilly day, we enjoyed learning about the animals and the conservation, tourism and education efforts of the Zoo.

We learned about how to protect and prevent the extinction of endangered animals by learning about how to make more informed choices about buying unsustainable products such as palm oil.

Throughout the day we also considered the ways in which the Zoo appeals to a range of visitors from young to old, and worked together to develop a proposal to the Zoo with suggestions of ways to better cater for the varying needs, interests and abilities of people aged 2 to 100!

The Siamang Apes proved to be a crowd (and loud) favourite for everyone, along with the lion cubs, tiger feeding, hippo, and lemurs which were also very popular.

It’s not all monkey business – Jude, Harri and Sam enjoyed learning about the Siamangs

Years 7 & 8
7-10 Residential
**New Books to Borrow**

*How the Sun got to Coco’s House* by Bob Graham  
From prolific and multi-award winning writer and illustrator Bob Graham comes an enchanting story about the sun, and how it makes its journey from the far side of the world to the home of one small girl.

*Moon* by Matt Zurbo and Sadami Konchi  
Max’s dad is far away on his fishing trawler and Max is missing him badly, until his dad tells him to look at the moon. Dad is looking at the moon too, the same one that is watching over Max.

*Footpath Flowers* by JonArno Lawson and Sydney Smith  
A little girl collects wild flowers while her distracted father pays her and their surroundings little attention. Each flower the little girl gathers becomes a gift for a person or animal, and whether the gift is noticed or ignored, both giver and recipient are transformed by their encounter.

An ode to the importance of small things, small people and small gestures, *Footpath Flowers* is a quiet but powerful testament to the joy that children can find in ordinary things and the mutual value of giving.

*The Great and Wondrous Storyteller* by Michael Scott Parkinson  
Norbert is a little monster with very big ideas. He would secretly like to be a grown up, just like his dad. When Norbert decides one day that he is *The Great and Wondrous Storyteller*, there’s only one problem. Norbert can’t read. In fact, he’s never picked up a book before.

This is a story about books. Thin books and thick books. Tall books and short books. It’s about the wonder of books. It’s about the amazing stories they contain. But mostly it’s about learning to take baby steps before you take on the world. A perfect story for adults to share with children.

*My Amazing Dad* by Ezekiel Kwaymullina and Tom Jellett  
If Dad doesn’t mow the lawn like other dads, he might as well be brilliant at making mazes. *My Amazing Dad* pays homage to the bumbling dad who doesn’t always fit the handyman stereotype, but who certainly knows how to turn the everyday into something exciting.
New Books to Borrow

The Man with Messy Hair by Pamela Allen
There was a man with messy hair. He liked the mess. He didn’t care. But his messy hair soon got him into all sorts of trouble!
Perfect for acting and reading aloud, here is a fabulous new story from the inimitable Pamela Allen that children, their parents and their teachers will turn to time and time again.

Hooked on Netball: Netball Gems 1 by Bernadette Hellard & Lisa Gibbs
Maddy is just learning to play netball and her team will be playing their first game after weeks of training. She is very excited, but also nervous as she realises how much harder it is to play than train. With help from her coach and all her team mates, Maddy gets better each week.
When her Mum gets tickets to the Australian Diamonds vs. New Zealand Silver Ferns, Maddy gets to meet her idol, Madison Robinson, the Australian wing attack. Maddy is well and truly hooked on netball!

My Dad is a Giraffe by Stephen Michael King
Is your dad big and tall, gentle and fun? Can you climb up his legs, over his head, slide down his neck and ride on his back? Maybe your dad is a giraffe!

The Off-Limits Fence: Little Lunch by Danny Katz and Mitch Vane
Three highly illustrated hilarious stories about a group of kids and their adventures during the fifteen minutes of Little Lunch.
This is what happened during Little Lunch: we played Chinese whispers in a circle around the big old tree, Melanie saved a fly and opened up an Insect Hospital, and Rory kicked his football over the off-limits fence. What else can happen in fifteen minutes?

Lola’s Toybox: The Patchwork Picnic by Danny Parker and Guy Shield
When Lola is given an old toy box, she discovers it’s a magical passageway… To a world where toys come to life! Do teddy bears really have picnics? Are plastic toys really nastier than soft ones?
Follow Lola and her trusty but rather wonky learn-to-dress clown, Buddy, on their adventures in the Kingdom, where toys live when they aren’t being played with in the real world.
2015 Premier’s Reading Challenge Reminder

When does the Challenge finish?

Students must complete their online Student Reading Records by

Friday, 21 August (11:59pm).

True or False?

Can you guess which of the following are true and which are false?

1. Apples, not caffeine, are more efficient at waking you up in the morning.
2. A pack-a-day smoker will lose approximately 2 teeth every 10 years.
3. When you sneeze, all bodily functions stop, even your heart!
4. The average person over 50 will have spent 5 years waiting in cues.
5. The average housefly lives for one month.
6. Most of us have eaten a spider in our sleep.
7. Only 7 per cent of the population are lefties.
8. If colouring weren’t added to Coca-Cola, it would be green.
9. Your feet are bigger in the afternoon than any other time of day.
10. People do not get sick from cold weather; it’s from being indoors a lot more.

They are all TRUE... Now go back and think about number 6!

Happy Reading!

David Strain – Teacher Librarian

(02) 5804 7023  david.strain@det.nsw.edu.au
Woolworths Earn & Learn 2015

This year we will be participating in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program. Through this program we will be able to get new educational resources for our school/early learning centre – and all we need you to do is shop for your groceries at Woolworths.

From Wednesday 15th July to Tuesday 8th September, we are collecting Woolworths Earn & Learn Stickers. You will get one Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker for every $10 spent (excluding liquor, tobacco and gift cards). Please send your stickers in to DSODE with your schoolwork.

At the end of the promotion, we’ll be able to get some great new equipment. The range is extensive and offers lots of items ideal for our students – including resources for Maths, English, Science and some fantastic fun supplies for Arts & Craft, Sport and for our library.

If you’d like to know more visit


Look who's been caught reading!

Caitlyn Woolworths Earn & Learn 2015
Preschool Matters
Welcome to Term 3. What a busy start to the term we have had, it seems as though the holidays were months ago! Unfortunately we had to make the difficult decision of cancelling the Preschool component of our Term 3 residential. We just didn’t have the numbers to run the camp this time but we are hopeful Term 4 will be different. Please remember to RSVP to residential before the due date to help us with our planning.

Robyn is very busy planning home visits for this term. In Week 5 she will be visiting the Mudgee, Kandos, Muswellbrook and Bilpin areas with Jenny Ballhausen. This will be followed by a trip to the Bourke, Nyngan and Coonamble areas with Hayley Cosgrove in Week 7. We know there are some very excited pre-schoolers out there looking forward to a visit from Mrs Hoy which I’m sure will be full of lots of fun and play! Next newsletter we will have some photos from the visits to include.

Myall Mail
The Myall Mail is our annual school magazine. It includes a selection of photos and work samples which provide an overview of school activities and achievements. Please make sure your teacher has a head and shoulders photo of your child and either a piece of their work or photos of the work you would like to be included in the 2015 school magazine. Please send the photos and/or work to your teacher as soon as possible.

Artist of the Newsletter
Artist for this newsletter is Harry who has created some great pieces of artwork while exploring the Weather unit.

Thank you so much for sending in this bright and beautiful artwork Harry. Great work!

Congratulations Harry!
Professional Learning
There is a lot happening for our early years teachers this term. At the time of writing this, Robyn and Leanne are attending the Talking Transitions Conference in Sydney and our P-2 Initiatives Officer Cathy Campbell, is finalising the coordination of the Early Years Community Conference in Cobar which Robyn, Hayley, Alison and Kristina will be attending in Week 8. As part of the Rural and Remote Preschool Initiative our Preschool video conferences are continuing this term. The first includes an observation of a live classroom session ‘Writing in the Preschool’. The second involves some invaluable networking time with our colleagues at SOTA (School of the Air - Broken Hill). In addition to this Hayley and Robyn will be delivering a professional learning session to the whole P-6 staff about the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) and its role within the learning continuum for our students. All of these opportunities ensure our staff remain up to date with current research and practices, and deliver quality learning programs for your children. We will share some information with you from these TPL events in the next newsletter.

During a recent visit from our Preschool consultant Cathy Campbell, we discussed the importance of Sustained Shared Thinking. Following are some tips on how to support children’s sustained shared thinking.

- **tune in**: Listen carefully to what is being said, observing body language and what the child is doing.

- **show genuine interest**: Give your whole attention, maintaining eye contact, affirm, smile and nod.

- **respect children’s own decisions and invite children to elaborate**: ‘I really want to know more about this’

- **recap**: ‘So you think that…’

- **offer your own experience**: ‘I like to listen to music when I’m cooking.’

- **clarify ideas**: ‘Right Joseph, so you think this stone will melt if I boil it in water.”

- **suggest**: ‘You might like trying to do it this way.’

- **remind**: ‘Don’t forget that you said that this stone will melt if I boil it.’

- **use encouragement to further thinking**: ‘You have really thought hard about where to put this door in the castle but where on earth will you put the windows?’

- **offer an alternative viewpoint**: ‘Maybe Goldilocks wasn’t naughty when she ate the porridge.’

- **speculate**: ‘Do you think the three bears would have liked Goldilocks to come and live with them as their friend?’

- **reciprocate**: ‘Thank goodness that you were wearing gumboots when you jumped in those puddles James. Look at my feet they are soaking wet.’
• **model thinking**: ‘I have to think hard about what I do this evening. I need to take the dog to the vet’s because he has a sore foot, take my library books back to the library and buy some food for dinner tonight. But I just won’t have time to do all these things.’

• **ask open questions**: ‘How did you? Why does this…? What do you think?’

**Preschool iPads**
This year Rural and Distance Education funded the delivery of six iPads for our Preschoolers. We have two of these iPads circulating between families and the remaining four are used by our preschool students during home visits, workshops, school visits and residential. By now many of you would have experienced the arrival of one of these iPads with your child’s class mascot and feedback indicates they have been a welcome addition to our program. The inclusion of iPads into our preschool program is an important step forward. Mobile devices such as iPads provide our students with the opportunity to act upon their natural curiosity and expand their knowledge. They are a portable and flexible device ideal for students to develop their 21st century skills such as creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration. We encourage you to spend time with your child exploring the apps we have uploaded to the iPads. Research indicates they are an effective and engaging learning tool particularly when they are used in a supportive school and home environment. We welcome your feedback about the apps we have made available to your child and how they engage with the iPad so we can further develop the preschool iPad program. Please remember to take great care of our iPads when they visit your home!

**Birthdays**
Special Birthday wishes to

- Bridget for the 28th July
- Adelaide for 20th August

We hope you had/have an extra special day.

We hope you are all enjoying some special snuggle time with your child during this very cold winter. It’s a perfect opportunity to share story time, enjoy lots of indoor creative play and make a mess with the art and craft activities we’ve provided. Have fun and enjoy!

*Kristina, Robyn and Alison*
“Real humanity is shown when we care for others” - Professor Fred Hollows

The Fred Hollows Foundation is keeping Fred’s vision alive through The Fred Hollows Humanity Award which recognises Year 6 students who follow in his footsteps by showing care and compassion for others.

After three successful years in the ACT the Award is expanding into NSW with the support of NSW Premier Mike Baird.

Teachers, principals, parents and members of the community are encouraged to nominate a compassionate Year 6 student through the online nomination form by August 21. It’s a great opportunity for students to be recognised outside the sporting and academic realm.

All nominees and their parents will be invited to a presentation ceremony in Sydney to announce the NSW winner.

To nominate a student and learn more about the award go to www.hollows.org.au/humanityaward

Language Scholarships

In 2016 the MLTANSW Denise Soos Language Scholarships will be offered to students in Year 10 who intend to study:

- German Beginners course
- Japanese Continuers course

Two scholarships of $500 value each will be awarded. Applications are now open and available on the MLTANSW website.

The closing date for applications is 18th September, 2015.

FUNDRAISER

Chalk and Parent Direct (Modern Teaching Aids), run a a fundraising initiative which offers you the opportunity to purchase quality toys and gifts at competitive prices, and at the same time, provides a fundraising program which will enable our school to purchase updated educational materials.

If you would like a catalogue please contact Jenny Ballhausen, Kristina Powell or Jan Duncan.

Our school will receive a voucher for 20% of the total value of orders, which we can then use to purchase educational materials.

Orders must be in by 9 October 2015. A great chance to start your Christmas shopping!
For the students who are eligible for an ATAR you should have now received your UAC login and pin number. If you have not received it, ring UAC straight away. Make sure that you register with UAC as soon as possible, as the registration fee will increase on the 30th September, 2015. If you are not eligible for an ATAR but would like to go to university in 2016 please contact me, as there are pathways to university for non-ATAR students.

Once you have registered with UAC you will be able to enter your preferences. You will need to add at least one preference when you register. You can have as many as nine preferences and as few as one preference and you can change your preferences as many times as you like for free.

When you register you will also be able to nominate yourself for the universities early entry program known now as the Schools Recommendation Scheme (SRS). The following universities will be using UAC’s schools recommendation scheme to determine which students they will offer early entry to university.

- Australian National University
- Charles Sturt University
- Griffith University
- Macquarie University
- National Art School
- University of Canberra
- University of Newcastle
- University of New England
- University of Technology-Sydney
- University of Western Sydney

Other universities have their own early entry process. Please contact me if you are looking at attending another university for information on their early entry process. Not all universities have an early entry program.

University of New England (UNE) is also running their own separate early entry process. To apply for Direct Early Entry at UNE go to: http://www.une.edu.au/study/study-on-campus/get-early-entry
Southern Cross University have their own early entry program called the STAR program, which you will need to register online for at [http://scu.edu.au/futurestudents/index.php/29](http://scu.edu.au/futurestudents/index.php/29) (STAR entry scheme website). You will need to register for the STAR program before the 9th September, 2015. When you register you will need to nominate two preferences which you cannot change.

For the Schools Recommendation Scheme you will also need to put the university and the course that you want early entry to as the number one preference for the early round offer on 30th November, 2015. If you are given an offer in the early round you will need to accept this offer to secure a position in that course and at the university you selected. You can then change your preferences to try for a position in a different course and/or university in the main round offer. To do this you will need to move the course you accepted early entry too off your preference list altogether or move it to position nine on your preference list.

If you would like more information about different careers try the myfuture website or the Jobjump website for further information. The school’s login for the Jobjump website is ‘Dubbo School of Distance Education’ and the login is ‘magpies’. Alternatively you can contact Mr Quayle on 58047079 or email him at timothy.quayle@det.nsw.edu.au

**Apprenticeships and Traineeships**

Make sure you are checking local papers and approaching potential employers for positions. Check any apprenticeship providers in your town, for example in Dubbo Skillset. Once you find a provider you need to register with them so that they can support you in finding an Apprenticeship or Traineeship.

Skillset currently have advertised a Rural Retail Traineeship at Peak Hill. ANZ Banks are currently advertising for fulltime and school based Indigenous Trainees. If you are interested in these jobs please call me on 02 5804 7079 or Skillset on 02 6884 8100.
Last term was particularly busy for the Learning Support Team as we prepared for the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD). The process involved streamlining some of our recording procedures and a review of each student enrolled with DSODE full time. We would like to thank Danielle Eggleton for her assistance with completing student reviews and Tricia Bynon and Sandra Thompson who supported us with the entry of data in preparation for CENSUS day. It is great to work with such a dedicated and efficient group of people.

The 2015 data collection revealed that our teachers are currently making learning adjustments for 52% of the full-time students enrolled at DSODE and of these students, 43% have a recognised disability.

Breakdown of students with a recognised disability:

- 27% have a Cognitive Disability
- 7% have a Physical Disability
- 1% have a Sensory Disability
- 65% have a Social Emotional Disability

Breakdown of learning adjustments:

- 72 Students have Substantial Adjustments
- 132 Students have Supplementary Adjustments
- 26 Students have adjustments within Quality Differentiated Teaching Programs

The Learning and Support Team would like to acknowledge the hard work of the DSODE teaching staff to maximise learning opportunities for these students, it is a significant number of our enrolment and our staff work tirelessly to ensure all students have a positive learning experience.

Data collated from the NCCD will also be used to improve our school processes and the support provided to our students and their families.

The Learning Support Team meets weekly to discuss and review student progress. If you have concerns about your child’s progress please talk to your child’s Student Adviser, or in the case of Preschool/Primary their classroom teacher, who can determine if a referral to The Learning Support Team is required.

Successful student progress at school is very much about a positive partnership between home and school. The Learning Support Team look forward to continuing our work with you to realise your child's full potential at DSODE.

**Kristina Powell / Julie Messner**  
**Learning and Support Teachers**

*Following is a flyer which provides information on sessions for people who care for someone with Autism. The sessions are at no cost and an opportunity to connect with other families.*
Autism Support Group for Parents and Carers

Do you care for someone with Autism or Aspergers? You are invited to an evening with a difference.

It is an opportunity to make friends and gain new information.

- No diagnosis required people which suspected Autism or Aspergers are welcome to the support group. All parents, carers and grandparents are welcome to be a part of this support group
- Support group will focus on sharing information to parents, carers and grandparents with their suggestions for topics
- The aim of the support group is to be informative and inspiring for parents /carers and grandparents.
- Child care is not provided, but children are welcome to attend - parents and carers are responsible for this care

2015 Support Group will meet the last Wednesday of every month:-

- 30th September, 2015
- 28th October, 2015
- 25th November, 2015
- 16th December, 2015

DATE:
Wednesday 26th August, 2015

TIME:
6.30pm – 8.00pm

WHERE:
Northcott, 6 Quinn Street,
DUBBO, NSW, 2830

COST:
This is a FREE event

RSVP:
Monday 23rd August
Lynne /Anil 02) 6882 1099
As I write this, Jack Frost is well and truly still here. We have just experienced some of the best frosts yet for 2015 and it has been wonderful listening to snow stories from some of our students! Time to stay indoors and get lots of great school work completed and returned to your teachers. Students have been very busy.

New Students
We have continued to have new students enrol with us during Term 2 and early Term 3. We welcome Andrew, Ashton, Blade, Hudson, Indianna, Isaac, Jack, Jenae, Jesse, Kayla, Lachlan, Shykiah, Stacie and Tahlia. We hope you enjoy your time with us.

Dubbo Wellington Small Schools Athletics
Well done to the 14 enthusiastic participants who ran, jumped and threw at the Sports Day. The K-2 students had a terrific day of skill development through a range of tabloid activities. The older students participated in the competitive carnival. It was wonderful to watch our students ‘have a go’ at a range of athletic events, many of them for the first time, to see how well they did. I think some students exceeded their own expectations of their abilities!! It just goes to show, you should always ‘have a go’ because you never know what you are capable of!! We did experience many successes on the track and field with Adelaide, Clayton, Layna, Matthew, Mercede, Stacie and Tom all doing well enough to qualify for the Dubbo and District Carnival. Huge congratulations to Adelaide who earned the title Senior Girls Champion. Thanks to Mrs Cosgrove who coordinated the K-2 tabloids I know that Mali, Darcy, Rhys, Millie and 70 other little children from the Small Schools thoroughly enjoyed their day.

Year 4 - 6 Gulgong Excursion
This year, two of our older students, Matthew and Jacob, were fortunate to join with Geurie and Wongarbon schools to visit Gulgong for two days. It was fun, exhausting, educational, and, at times, an eye-opening experience. Most of the activities had a historical theme with a walk around the town in period costume, a visit to the Museum, gold panning (and yes some students found specks of gold!!), an old-school experience complete with caning (no child harmed but some great acting!), bush dancing and old time games. It was a fabulous experience for all.

Myall Mail
A HUGE thankyou to families who have begun to send in work and photos for our Myall Mail – the annual school magazine. The deadline is fast approaching for contributions. We need a head and shoulder photo of students and a piece of work.
Of a Primary Concern

Space is limited so if it is a long piece of writing then an extract only maybe included. You may think about a photo of a piece of art work, completing a science experiment or something else. Photos and work will only be published if permission has been granted by parents.

Photos and Privacy
We often like to include photos of our students in this newsletter which comes out twice a term, our School Magazine, our website and other publications. If you have a concern with your students name and / or image being published, please ensure that the school is aware. An email to your class teacher is the best method for this.

Work Returns
PLEASE return your work as soon as possible after completion. One of the requirements of Distance Education is to return weekly or at the outside fortnightly (unless you have a negotiated arrangement with your class teacher). This way work remains relative to the student and correction of errors and direction for improvement can be given. When work is received at school a considerable time after it is completed, it loses value to the student. It is a requirement that students participate, engage and return work and if time passes with no work received or no explanation for an absence, we have processes that need to be followed and remain on the students records. At this point in time (near the end of week 5) it would be a reasonable expectation that we would have received 2 – 3 weeks of Term 3 work.

Mathematics
Poor old mathematics is probably the most under rated, least popular area of learning, yet one of the most important! No matter what your opinion is, it is important to remain positive and convey this positivity to your student. I have found the following which may give some food for thought. The full articles can be found on the [http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au) website. This is an awesome Department of Education website full of useful ideas and information. Check it out!

Helping kids feel good about maths

- Talk positively about maths so your child also values it.
- Play games with your child, which involve adding dice or numbers, to show them that maths matters.
- Ask your child how they work out maths problems; it helps build their knowledge and boosts their confidence.
- Help your child to group objects by asking them to set the table or put the cutlery away correctly.
- Point out maths in everyday life with your child whenever you can.
How young kids learn to understand numbers

- Kids learn counting as a pattern of words, just like a nursery rhyme.
- Kids learn the pattern of counting by repeating the numbers.
- To count, kids need to match saying the number words with the correct number of things.
- Kids should be given lots of opportunities to practise and explore counting groups of things.
- Children also need to recognise and name numbers.

Ten tips for older students who find maths hard

- Speak with your child about any concerns they have with maths.
- To be confident with maths, your child needs to understand why maths works, not just how to carry out procedures.
- Relate maths content to familiar experiences.
- Discuss how words in everyday contexts can have mathematical and non-mathematical meanings, eg table.
- Remain positive and ask your child to do the same.

Maths Dictionary

A reminder that one of the best maths web sites available is www.amathsdictionaryforkids.com We hope that everyone has it saved in their favourites. Not only does it give a definition for the many maths terms that we come across, but it gives examples, many of which are interactive. If you haven’t looked at it, please do.

‘Mistakes are proof that you are trying’ - Anonymous

(but every teacher and parent has probably said it)

Hope you are all having a fantastic week

The K-6 staff
Live Production of The 26-storey treehouse – A play by Richard Tulloch

During Term 3 camp, Stage 4 English attended the live performance of *The 26-Storey Treehouse* at the Dubbo Regional Theatre. *The 26-storey treehouse* play is written by playwright Richard Tulloch, who also wrote the play *Hating Alison Ashley*, a play studied by year 8 English during term 1, 2015.

The students and teachers really enjoyed the performance and the opportunity to view Richard Tulloch’s successful production. After the play the students created this collaborative review (next page) that gives excellent insight into this popular adaptation.
“I thoroughly enjoyed The 26-Storey Treehouse play, I enjoy comedy and this is a good example. If you have read this book before, then you may feel that you have just read it all over again! I really enjoyed the extensive physical humour spread throughout this play. The play has very elaborate humour and the actors/characters are hilarious. For example, the scene where the captain's head was bitten off by the great fish and then later used as a bowling ball. The slap stick comedy looked real even though it's not. We watched the transformation of the captain from having a wooden head to a sea-animal. It's crazy but it worked! Parents love the silliness of the slap stick comedy and the kids love the music and the laughter that ensues. I liked how the actors used the space they had on the stage. One of the best parts I think would have been when the Terry's inflatable underwear got too tight and he started 'freaking'. I liked how they engaged the audience and used some of the ideas from Hating Alison Ashley. There were also a few primary schools at the theatre and they loved it! I heard a few say they would love to go back, I would also like to too! We were the only high school students and it was still good. I wouldn’t miss the show if it’s in town.”
As we approach the end of the winter season and welcome the Spring weather, you will see the wattle trees glowing with their yellow blossoms.

This is a busy time on the environmental event calendar.

"It’s everyone’s backyard!"

Do your part in keeping ‘Australia Beautiful’ by being involved in your local community’s activities during the national awareness week and throughout the year.

Calendar of Events
2015 The Year of Soils
23-28 August - World Water Week
24-30 August - Keep Australia Beautiful Week
September National Biodiversity Month
1 September National Wattle Day
7 September National Threatened Species Day
13 September National Bilby Day