Principals Report

Welcome back to Term 4, 2015. I hope everyone had a relaxing and safe holiday and is ready for a busy and productive term.

Following a sumptuous breakfast on the verandah of our Hospitality Trade Training Centre on the last day of term 3, Year 12 students received their portfolios at their Graduation Assembly. They are now engaged in the HSC exams which began on Monday 12th October.

Year 11 has now begun studying towards their HSC and we wish them all well. Mrs Booby, Miss Russell and Ms Blewitt are currently making plans for a series of study skills, time management and general HSC support to be implemented during the rest of the year and into 2016.

I was very pleased to announce the incoming School Captains and Vice Captains at the Year 12 Graduation Assembly, and I have every confidence Lily, Nick, Amber and Jacob will be exemplary representatives of Wee Waa High School throughout the next 12 months.

Wee Waa High is to be the recipient of a donation from the proceeds of the Namoi Cotton golf day. We are very grateful to Namoi Cotton for this donation as it will allow the school to fully fund the “Teen Mental Health First Aid” program which will run later this term over 3 days with years 9, 10 and 11.

Congratulations to Mackenzie Weaver of Year 7, who has received an Achievement Award for her short story “Untitled”. As a result, Mackenzie has been offered the opportunity of having her story published in a book containing poems and short stories from students all over Australia.

Montana Jones and Abby Downes are also to be congratulated on sharing the award of an Ella Bella Memorial Scholarship in recognition of rural students in Years 7 to 10 who are “yearning to learn”.

Good Luck Year 12

School Captains Nicholas McPherson & Lily Cruckshank
School Vice Captains Amber Conomos & Jacob Haynes

AECG Meeting
Wednesday 28th October
3.30pm Anglican Church Hall
All Welcome

If you would like an electronic copy of the newsletter each fortnight, please send an email to janelle.lilliebridge@det.nsw.edu.au
SES Cadets

The SES Cadet program concluded on Tuesday 15th September with an activity day in Narrabri. The Cadets participated in some practical aspects of SES work giving them a real insight into the SES core roles being flood and storm response. A fantastic day was had by all and the Cadets learnt to use the manual hydraulic equipment as well as the hauling and lifting/descending gear and were quick to adapt to the scenarios. It was a great pleasure to have these students representing Wee Waa High School in the Cadet program.

Jayne Lovelock
A lot has happened in Grow and Learn since our last article. We have seen each and every student involved grow in social and academic areas, so much so that they are well on their way to graduating from the program to make room for new students. More specifically, we have seen them grow in areas of team building within the program and increased engagement in other classes as well. We have also seen strong leadership skills development during the year among the students. This will help us make the decision of who will stay on as a peer leader to work with the next rotation of students.

Over the next term we will have a period of time where the graduating and incoming students will overlap to help integrate the new students into the program by working together on the same project. On the 2nd of November Grow and Learn will host an Elders Luncheon at the school. While we focus on literacy and numeracy skills, a major part of the program centres around connecting and building stronger social and life skills among the students and their relationship with the community. We have invited a number of Elders to come and share a meal that the students will plan, prepare and serve together.

The students are currently very busy designing their own themed place mats for this occasion and are excited this new project and they are looking forward to the next stage of Grow and Learn in 2015. The new peer leader will remain with us to assist in helping the new students transition into our program.

Mr. O’Shea, Helen and Kate.
MONDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2015

WELCOME BACK FROM HOLIDAYS

I’d just like to welcome everyone back from the school holiday break. Hope that you are all full of energy. We have a long school term ahead, with different activities coming up on the school calendar.

A reminder to all Aboriginal Parents that Stage 5 Exams will be starting on Monday 2nd November, Stage 4 on Monday 9th November. Please send your children/child in that week because it is an important week for the students.

We will also have an Elders Lunch with the Grow & Learn students on Monday 2nd November at the High School.

UNVEILING OF TOTEM POLE AT LIGHTNING RIDGE

On Friday 9th October, I was invited by the Little Diggers Pre-School to the unveiling of a Totem Pole at Lightning Ridge. The Totem Pole consists of a butterfly and a dreamtime story in respect to Aunty Joan Barker, one of Lighting Ridge’s Elders. I would like to present the dream story to you.

How the Opal Came to Be

A long time ago in the dreamtime, one of the most beautiful of all creatures was Pallah-Pallah the butterfly, with her beautiful dazzling multi-coloured wings. She lived happily with her family near the reeds of the Coocoran Lake. She would often wonder about the high mountains they could see a long way away, which were covered in white and the white on the top of the mountains would shine when the sun shone on them.

Her husband who was named Ballah-Ballah often told her not to leave the safety of the grasses and reeds that grew around their home on the beautiful clear water lake. But one day when her husband went fishing, Pallah-Pallah thought she would go and have a quick look at the white on mountain. When she flew up high everyone looked at her beautiful coloured wings and said “she looks like a rainbow”. Pallah-Pallah flew higher and higher and could see the mountains covered in white. She was excited and said “I will go right up there and see this white for myself, and then I will return and tell my husband”. As she reached the high mountain snow began to fall. Snow beat down on the frail and weak Pallah-Pallah. She fell to the ground and the snow covered her. She didn’t die, but lay quiet and went to sleep while the snow fell and buried her.

She laid under the snow until the spring came. As the snow melted away so did Pallah-Pallah’s beautiful colours. The colours just disappeared, melting into the snow. As the snow melted down the mountains and across the plains the colours ran with them to disappear into the ground near the lake and ridges.
Pallah-Pallah looked at her wings and they were no longer beautiful. She returned to her husband and family and everyone was sad to see that she was no longer a beautiful butterfly but a plain moth, just grey and brown. The beautiful colours that disappeared from Pallah-Pallah's wings, went into the ground at the Morillah stone ridges and lakes formed the colours of the rainbow on the dazzling opal stones. That is how the opal came to be.

Copyright by J. Barker 1999

BROSPREAK

Wee Waa High School has started a new program this term. Targetting Aboriginal boys in year 9 & 10, the students will have the opportunity to relate more to culture and experience Aboriginal artwork. Lighting Ridge artist, Mr Darryl Ferguson (who created the totem pole in front of the AEO office at the High School) will be working with the students. The boys will be carving their own didgeridoos with a their own unique story. Darryl has attended the first lesson on the 7th October at the high school. The boys had two periods with Darryl walking around the area looking at marked trees. This is a positive initiative.

ABSTUDY

This is a friendly message to families that are receiving Abstudy. Students need to attend school 85% of the time to be paid. The School Term Allowance is paid each term to eligible students. Students are required to attended school 85% of the school term to receive this allowance. If students attend school less than 85% of the school term then their allowance will be stopped. If this occurs then the parents/caregivers need to come to the school as soon as possible to rectify the unexplained absences.

"Strive for Excellence"
We are the Champions!!!

Towards the end of last term members of the Show team travelled to the National All Breeds Heifer Show at Dubbo and took out the major prize of Grand Champion School at the show!! This title was awarded for team work and quality herdsmanship in preparing and showing their animals. It was such a team effort from our more experienced members and some new to showing, demonstrating the real team effort students put in to helping and teaching each other. This is such an exciting achievement and is the absolute icing on the cake for what has been a most successful year for the Wee Waa High School Show team. Well done team!
A huge thank you Michael Maxwell for delivering us two big bales of hay to help feed the livestock over the holidays. The lambs have been weaned from their mothers and were very happy with the hay!

Thanks also to Matt Hibbens and Matt Shearin for helping out with the tail docking of the lambs. It is much appreciated to have this parent and community support and we certainly wouldn't be able to do what we do without it!!
Yr 9/10 finished their Beef Cattle Production unit with the presentation of the school steers for judging and an oral presentation on what to look for when judging these animals. All students appeared to enjoy the unit and working with the animals.

Year 12 Agriculture and Primary Industries students finished their classes with a little party at the Ag farm and are now preparing for the HSC exams. I wish them all the best for exams and the future and am extremely proud of their efforts in their Agriculture studies over the last two years.

Verity Gett
BREAKFAST CLUB

**FREE**

EVERY FRIDAY 8-9AM
OUTSIDE HOSPITALITY ROOM

ALL Students Welcome
Bedford College - Scholarship Opportunities

Bedford College in Sydney are offering Scholarships for chosen school leavers who commence their study with in February next year. Scholarships will be awarded for both of our one-year, full-time Diploma courses in Business/Management and Early Childhood Education and Care and will cover half the cost of tuition fees for the 2016 academic year.

The Scholarships will be selected on a portfolio submitted by applicants (must be received by COB 30 Nov 2015) which must include:
1. References, including from High School, employer, personal etc.
2. Resume
3. School Reports from last 2 years
4. 1-2 page essay written by the student describing themselves, their interests and hobbies and their career aspirations on completion of the Diploma.

For more information please contact us on 1300 174 174 or visit our website http://www.bedford.edu.au/

COUNTRY EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS
Go to https://cef.org.au  Then click on Scholarship Guide
This information gives you 205 pages of scholarships that are available for students who are considering going to University. You can scroll through the scholarships that are available and click on any that may apply to you. This will take you to the application page for the relevant scholarship.

PUGGY HUNTER ABORIGINAL SCHOLARSHIPS – UP TO $15,000 PER YEAR
For Year 12 students intending to enrol in a health related course such as Nursing, Midwifery, Allied Health – Occupational Therapy, Dietetics, Environmental Science / Health, Paramedics, Radiology, Speech pathology and other allied health fields. The scholarship is for students studying at Certificate IV and above. Apply at wwwacn.edu.a/phmss Applications close 12th October 2015

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE PORTFOLIOS
In November, Year 10 students will be undertaking a Mock Interviews with local employers. Students are required to complete a Portfolio and need to bring in any awards they have received during their High School Years. It is urgent that these portfolios are completed in the next few weeks. Can parents please assist your children by getting these awards together and make sure they bring them to school to Ms Blewitt or Ms Widauer.
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY INDIGENOUS ENGINEERING SUMMER SCHOOL

10 to 16 January 2016. Students in Years 11 and 12 in 2016 can apply. The program is fully sponsored with all activities, accommodation, flights and meals covered by Engineering Aid Australia and the University of Sydney. The week long program includes site visits to key Sydney locations, participation in cultural activities, curriculum exercises and networking opportunities. Students will meet with engineering industry representatives and participate in a Bridge climb. If you are interested in Engineering as a career, see Mrs Widauer for an application form. Applications close 16th October 2015.

AUTOMOTIVE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Apprenticeships are available for 2016. Go to www.vantageautomotive.com and click on apply now. Choose a dealership you are interested in and complete the online form. Attach your Resume with a cover letter and complete a short online assessment. The dealership may then contact you for an interview.

CADETSHIPS WITH McDOUGAL JONES AND THE MJH GROUP

Career opportunities in the residential building industry. Cadets will complete a Certificate III in Business and a Certificate IV in Building and Construction. You will receive on the job training and a career in the building industry. For further information go to mcdonaldjoneshomes.com.au or call Mark Maguire on 02 49182645.

UNSW MINING SUMMER SCHOOL

Learn about study, careers and opportunities in the Australian Mining industry from professionals, current students and recent graduates. 18-20 January 2016 For students in Years 10 and 11 who are interested in science or engineering. Cost $200 For more information go to unsw.to/summer-school. Applications close 31 October 2015.
Professional Tutors will come to Narrabri and work with you to form a large, complete concert band!!

30 November - 2 December 2015
Crossing Theatre Narrabri

Who can come?
This workshop is for all instrumental players of all ages and experience. Instruments involved are piccolo, flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, bassoon, trombone, French horn, tuba, drums, percussionists (or piano players with fluent reading skills) of all standards.

Cost: $70 per student. Cheque can accompany application form.
Cost includes all music workshops, concerts and supply of music
PAYMENT: Cheque to be made payable to Tamworth High School and sent to:
Di Hall,
Arts Coordination Officer
PO Box 370,
Tamworth 2340

OR pay by Direct Deposit. Please do not send money with the form. You will receive an invoice by email at the address supplied on the Nomination form.

Closing Date for Applications is Tuesday, 9 November 2015
What to bring: instrument, music stand, pencil, casual clothes, black & white for public concert.

Timetable

Monday 30 November
Crossing Theatre
Workshop 9 am - 3 pm
Advanced players 3 - 5 pm

Tuesday 1 December
Workshop 9 am - 3 pm
Advanced players 3 - 5 pm
Public Concert 6 - 7.00 pm

Wednesday 2 December
Workshop 9 am - 2.30 pm
Schools Concert 1.30 - 2.30 pm

Queries to Di Hall  Mobile 0411704654 Email: di.c.hall@det.nsw.edu.au
BandLink 2015

Narrabri Workshop

Please use ONE FORM per Person. Please Print

SURNAME:--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

FIRST NAME:-------------------------------------------------------------AGE:............Year(4 to 12)............

HOME ADDRESS:----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

INSTRUMENT:-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

SCHOOL:--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

PHONE: Home:...........................................................................Mobile:......................................................................................

Email address:...............................................................................................................................................................................................

Please note: Any further information regarding the workshop will be sent via this email address.

Closing Date: Tuesday, 9 November 2015

Send to: Di Hall
Arts Coordination Officer
PO Box 370
Tamworth 2340
Email: di.c.hall@det.nsw.edu.au
Is it a safe place for our kids?
A guide for parents.

As a parent or carer you play an important role in making sure your kids are spending time in places that are safe. This guide will help you look out for ‘child safe’ places.

What is a ‘child safe’ place?
Child safe means making sure the place where our kids spend time is safe from neglect, physical, sexual or emotional harm or abuse. A child safe place will have rules that are set up to make sure our kids are kept safe.

Parents have a right to know who is working with their children.
It is your business to know who is working with your children. Every day kids around NSW spend time with adults outside of their home. This can be at places like a sports club, youth group centre, or a drama studio. As a parent or guardian you need to understand what organisations should be doing to keep your child safe.

It is the law that people who work with your children including many tutors, nannies, coaches and counsellors have a current Working With Children Check. However, there is much more an organisation can do to keep kids safe.

Understanding the Working With Children Check.
In NSW all people who are working with your children (as well as a number of volunteers) need to have a current NSW Working With Children Check clearance number.

Some people don’t have to get a Working With Children Check number, such as a parent that volunteers in an activity that involves their own child e.g. a sports coach. The Check provides either a clearance or a bar to work with children.

It is a crime for a person with a bar to work or volunteer with children.

How do you know they have a Check?
Parents and guardians are now able to ‘verify’ if the person working with their child (under 18) has a Working With Children Check. When we say ‘verify’, we mean parents can check online.

By checking online you will instantly see if the person is allowed to work with your child. Also, if they become a ‘barred’ person we will let you know. You will however need to know their details, including their name, birth date, application or clearance number.

What parents can do.
Employers and organisations can check or verify online that their workers or volunteers have a current Working With Children Check clearance number. So you don’t need to check a person who is employed but if your child has a coach or tutor that you pay directly you can go online to verify a Working With Children Check.
How to verify a WWC online

To verify, follow these simple steps:

**STEP 1**
Ask the person who works with your child for their surname, date of birth and WWCC or APP number.

**STEP 2**
Go to [www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/check](http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/check) and click on this blue button:

![Start Here](image)

**STEP 3**
Under Verify, click the Individuals (e.g. parents) Verify button.

**STEP 4**
Complete the form, including the reason why you are checking the person (e.g. sports coach, dance teacher etc)

**STEP 5**
Click Submit.

**STEP 5**
You will receive the outcome by email.

What should I look for when choosing a safe program for my child?

It’s always good to become familiar with the places where your children spend time. A Working With Children Check is important but its only one part of what should be done to make a place ‘child safe’. When choosing a service or program for your child it’s important to ask questions of those in charge so they can tell you what they do to keep kids safe.

For example, do staff have the right qualifications and training? What type of training, ongoing support and advice do workers receive about creating a child safe environment? Does the organisation involve the parents and children in the decisions that affect them? How does the organisation respond if there is a complaint or allegation?

It’s also important to ask your children about their experiences and let them know you are interested in what they do. Talk about safe behaviours and teach them to talk to you so they can tell you if they ever feel scared, worried, upset or uncomfortable.

Some questions that may help to start the conversation include:

- What do you like most about the service?
- What don’t you like?
- Does anybody make you feel happy?
- Does anybody make you feel sad?
- What makes you feel safe?
- What makes you feel scared?

To find out more about child safe organisations go to:

or contact us on (02) 8219 3600
Living with Grief and Loss

WEE WAA

4th November, 2015

Grief is a normal part of life, but this doesn’t make it any easier to deal with when a tragedy happens. This workshop can help you to know how to deal with yours and others feelings of loss through the grief process.

When: Wednesday 4th November, 2015
9.30am — 1.30pm

Where: Namoi Family & Youth Service
George Street, Wee Waa

Cost: Free - includes course materials and morning tea

For further information or to register please contact
Anglicare NI Moree Ph 6752 3419
Or Email Moree Office on acsmoree@bigpond.com
How to install our app

On Apple
- On your iPhone open the app store
- Search for our schools name
- Press Install
- Enter your iTunes password
- It will commence downloading immediately

On Android
- On Your SmartPhone open the Android/Google Play market
- Search for our school name
- Press install
- Your app will start installing instantly

To Open Our App
- Look for our schools app icon on your phone screen
- Press the icon once
- It will open automatically
- When prompted select yes to receive notifications and use your location (this will make sure the google maps and pop-up alerts work for you)

Having Trouble?
- Shut down the app and or your phone to refresh the phones memory
- Uninstall your app and reinstall it
- Contact support@activeschoolapps.com.au for help within 24 hours
10 Tips to Stress Less

- Enjoy lunch outside
- Get your hands dirty - do some gardening
- Accept an imperfect me!
- Explore your playful side
- Seek a different perspective
- Take one small step towards your goals
- Take the scenic route
- Be generous with kind words
- Appreciate the people in your life
- Feel the breeze

VISIT WWW.STRESSSTIPS.ORG

Mental Health Association NSW 1300 74 1 fii Jt NSw