Welcome to 2014

I would like to thank the community of Birdsville for their warm welcome. Dywayne and I are very proud to now call the town of Birdsville home and we have high hopes that this lovely town will remain our home for at least the next 3 years. We made the move from Aramac to Birdsville and we have loved the small town similarities. We recently got married and love the thought that this is our first year as married couple along with our first year in Birdsville. Dywayne and I have thoroughly enjoyed our first few weeks in Birdsville, we have made many friends and met a large array of amazing people. I am very proud to have been offered the position of Acting Principal at the school and through many discussions with the wider community have found that I am certainly not alone in believing that Birdsville is a terrific school with hardworking students.

I look forward with great anticipation, to forging strong relationships as the year continues both within the community, with my students and also my staff. I am excited about working collaboratively with the staff and P&C to ensure that Birdsville State School is achieving the best outcomes for all students and achieving great success in the coming years.

As you will know, the last few years has seen a vast improvement in the curriculum across QLD and the nation, with a National Curriculum being employed (Australian Curriculum). We have been following the roll out of subjects over the past few years and 2014 brings another subject – Geography. Once again this will see a shuffle in our timetables and we look forward to being able to implement this subject across all year levels.

Having been appointed as the new Acting Principal, I have been working hard to ensure we as a school are working to see improvements from all students in all areas. We as a staff have taken the time to sit down and take a look at where we have come and where we see ourselves going in 2014 and beyond. As a staff we have examined the 2013 Teaching and Learning Audit of Birdsville State School and identified areas of concern for us, we look forward to being able to ensure that consistent teaching practices, collection and analysis of data, systematic curriculum delivery and differentiated classroom learning not only occurs at all times at Birdsville State School but is well documented and clearly identifiable. These domains are not just important to us when we have a Teaching and Learning Audit occurring, it is much more important that, for our students to be achieving the best that they possibly can, these things need to be fully engrained in what we say, do and see, at Birdsville State School EVERY DAY.

I thank the staff students and parents for a fabulous first 5 weeks of learning and I look forward to sharing more news later in the term.

Yours in Education

Tiffany Rigby
New Website
I am excited to announce that Birdsville State School has a new website. We were very lucky to have been given the opportunity over the holidays to apply for a free website build. Due to not having been to the school prior to beginning this year I provided the minimum amount of information required to build the website and over the next few weeks I look forward to being able to go in and update information. It is my hope that we will be able to upload newsletters and run a calendar of events through the website and I encourage parents and the community to have a look and provide feedback and ideas, so that the website can be used to its fullest potential.

Starting the School Year
We have had a very positive start to the year and many thanks goes to the dedicated staff who have spent many hours ensuring that the students settle in to their new routines and are getting straight into their workload. I am very happy to have had lovely comments about the students and how they settled in this year. It is my number one priority to make sure that my students feel safe and supported at Birdsville State School and as a community I feel that we all have vested interest in the wellbeing of the school. It is vitally important that we build a strong home and school relationship and that our lines of communication are always open, this ensures a positive and productive learning environment for all students.

Communication between parents and the staff here at Birdsville State School is very important to us. There are often times that parents may debate with themselves as to whether they should discuss their thoughts or share their opinions. It is my job to make sure that you feel comfortable and welcome in the school and therefore feel able to meet with the staff about concerns. I would like to remind you that nothing is too trivial when it comes to the education of your child. If you have any concerns or would like clarification, please contact us. I will ask however, I ask you to please consider the following points.

- The teaching staff’s number one is teaching the students, and therefore if you arrive unannounced, it may not be convenient or possible to release them from teaching duties to speak to you. It is always best to arrange a meeting time, or pop in after school.
- If you want to meet with me, it is generally best to make an appointment as I can have a number of commitments throughout the day and am not always readily available, in saying that, I am happy to make time if something arises that needs to be dealt with there and then, and strongly advise that you contact the school, or come and see me after school, in this instance.

Great Results Guarantee
Birdsville State School has received $5000 which is to be spent on improving student outcomes in Literacy and Numeracy. As part of this process within our cluster of small schools, improvement targets in the identified areas have been developed and also a range of initiatives will be implemented to assist us in reaching these. These include:

- Working with the local schools cluster to upskill all teaching staff in a program called Write2Spell2Read.
- Generation of more streamlined units of work to cater for our diverse learners.
- Purchasing of an administration Ipad to be used for coaching purposes.
- Professional development to all staff on Coaching and Feedback.

Student of the week
Week 2- George Hannan for:
An outstanding effort in both maths and English!
Week 3- Sam Hannan for:
Enthusiasm in all areas.
Week 3- Alicia Veal for
A fabulous effort in all of your subjects-you are trying SO hard!

Bookwork Award
To these students for: Displaying exceptional bookwork and dedication to Birdsville State School’s Bookwork Policy.
Week 2- Izayah Gilby
Week 3- Alicia Veal
Week 4- Izayah Gilby

COMMUNITY NEWS

P&C
Next P&C Meeting: TBA
AGM: TBA

Queensland Government
Education Queensland

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