Welcome back for Term 2, I trust that all parents and students had a fantastic break and everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing holiday. We had a fabulous first term for 2014 and I look forward to being able to share with parents at our Parent-Teacher interviews next week, all of the success that the students had in their first term.

We are very lucky to have 2 new students at Birdsville State School. In our final week of last term we had Zoey (Grade 2) and Shanita (Prep) join our school. We welcome you and your family to our school and community. I would like to thank all students for being so kind and welcoming to our new students. They have been working very hard to ensure they are demonstrating the appropriate behaviours for our new students.

Term 2 saw the completion of our week’s 6-10 Data cycle and I am very proud to share that all students achieved both of their literacy and numeracy goals. We have a fabulous process at Birdsville State School for identifying areas of weakness and shifting these to strengths. The teachers at the school spend many hours analysing the data, selecting goals and strategies, creating resources and then teaching the skills, to ensure that our students are achieving the very best that they can at all times. Once the teachers have explicitly taught the students the skills and used many strategies to ensure the students achieve their goals, the teaching staff participate in a conversation around the data that has been collected and the effectiveness of strategies used. This conversation helps ensure that there is consistency, accountability and analysis of our school processes. I thank both the students and staff for their time with our data cycles and I look forward to being able to see this translate in the students’ day to day work and assessment.

I would like to thank all of the students and their parents, for their involvement in our ANZAC day parade. We had many positive comments about our students and we are very proud of them all. Thank you to Izayah Gilby, for taking the time to read the poem and also for reading it at the ceremony. Well done.

I am very much looking forward to participating our 2014 P&C AGM. I hope that the community is able to show their support by attending the AGM this Wednesday the 7th of May, 6pm at the school. The P&C play a pivotal role in schools particularly small schools, the dedication and hard work that these members play not only helps shape our school and lead it in a positive direction but provides an opportunity for input and active decision making for aspects of the school.

Term two is a very eventful term for everyone. Our students will be participating in NAPLAN testing in week 4 and also Windorah sports camp in week 10. I will be out of the school at various times, most importantly to attend the Regional Principals Conference at the end of May in Gladstone. I look forward to being able to incorporate the knowledge gained from this conference, to help shape the way that I lead the school. I am also participating in unit writing for our Coalition of Western Small Schools and believe that this unit writing will not only transform the way that we at Birdsville State School deliver the curriculum but also trust that it will impact our students very positively. Our Coalition of Western Smalls Schools is also participating in Instruction Rounds as per research completed by Richard Elmore. This Instructional rounds in Education is taken from the use of ‘rounds’ in medicine and is a method of observations, discussions and sharing that is directed at pedagogical practices in schools and in particular Explicit Instruction.
I will be participating in our very first ‘round’ whilst in Longreach for unit writing and will be working alongside other small school Principals to improve teaching practice. I am very thankful that the other small schools are opening their doors for us to observe their work and I look forward to being able to repay them in the coming months when they make the trip out to Birdsville.

Thank you again to the parents and community for your ongoing support.
Yours in Education,
Tiffany Rigby

NAPLAN Testing

The annual NAPLAN testing will be held in week 4 of this term. The staff and students have been working hard to ensure that they are as prepared as possible for this testing. We ask that you take the time to talk to your child about this testing and remain as positive as possible. We do not want to place any pressure on the students as it can be a time that brings higher than normal anxiety. At parent teacher interviews we will discuss with you some actions that we as a school will be taking during this testing and we look forward to being able to celebrate with the students after successfully completing this testing.

Attendance

I would like to congratulate the students on a terrific attendance rate for Term 1. Our students achieved 98.6% attendance last term which is greater than the Term 1 average for QLD state schools. Our data cycles include a collection of attendance data for each 5 weeks and students are given an A-E grade. The marking is based on-

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>&gt;96.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>93.0% - 95.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>90.0% - 92.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>85.0% - 89.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>&lt;84.9%</td>
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Each day every student is spoken to about whole school and individual attendance. We are trying to make our students more accountable for their data and the decisions they make around attending school. It is my hope that you child is discussing with you their attendance rate and is proud of what they are achieving.

Student of the week

Week 2- Sam Hannan for:
For being a responsible learner.

Bookwork Award

To these students for: Displaying exceptional bookwork and dedication to Birdsville State School’s Bookwork Policy.
Week 2- Shanita Major

COMMUNITY NEWS

P&C
AGM: 7th May at 6:00pm (at the school)
Next P&C Meeting: will follow the AGM

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