FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The countdown is on until the end of 2014 and what a year it has been. The school has had a very successful year with vast improvements seen for individual students, improved data around behaviour at the school as well as from an administration perspective, improved results displayed through our systems audit and more clarity around the direction of our fabulous school.

As the year comes to an end, we reflect on what a fabulous year we have had and take this opportunity to thank all of the key stakeholders within the school and community for their ongoing support. I thank all of the people who attended our Presentation Night and Graduation dinner. The night was a great success and our students did a marvellous job at presenting on the night. Congratulations to all of the students who received an award on the night.

This also signals the end of primary schooling for our only year 7 student, Izayah Gilby. We are very proud of the amazing work Izayah has demonstrated this year and the growth that we have seen. We have no doubts about Izayah’s success as he heads of for boarding school and we wish him all the very best. We look forward to hearing all about the amazing experiences that 2015 will hold.

The ending of 2014 will also see the departure of our outstanding Teacher, Miss Terri Davis. We are very sad to see her go and we wish her luck in her new job in Goondiwindi. Miss Davis has been a major asset to the school and her influence and inspiration will remain at the school even though unfortunately, she will no longer be with us. Good luck Miss Davis! Make sure you keep in contact!!

To all of the families, staff and students, thank you for an amazing year. I have appreciated your ongoing support and commitment to the Birdsville State School. I have been lucky enough to be appointed as the Permanent Principal of Birdsville State School for 2015. Dywayne and I are very excited to remain in the community and continue to build lasting relationships and move the school forward.

2015 looks bright for Birdsville State School. With a commitment to improving curriculum delivery and continuing to create supportive relationships for our children being major priorities. The school has two areas of the curriculum that we are addressing as priorities and these include Writing and Spelling. I look forward to sharing our Annual Implementation Plan and Explicit Improvement Agenda when we meet back in early 2015.

As mentioned before we will be losing Miss Terri Davis as our Diamantina Cluster teacher, this means that we have a new arrival! Miss Jacobi Leaver will be starting here in Birdsville at the beginning of 2015 and is moving out from the Gold Coast to take up this offer of employment. Miss Leaver currently teaches at Mudgeeraba Creek State School and has been working at the school for 4 years. She has had some time working in Special Education as an Acting Head of Special Education and I look forward to utilising some of this knowledge that she gained in this role, to cater for the individual needs of our students in Birdsville. I am very excited to meet Miss Leaver and I have no doubts that she will love Birdsville and that everyone will help her to settle in nicely.

Report cards will be heading out shortly, we will have these ready for students to take home on their last day of school. Just a reminder that the last week of school is still very important. This gives us time to finish anything that is needed, clean the classroom in preparation for next year and celebrate together and with Miss Davis. Miss Davis was unable to have the last week in Birdsville last year which means this year we need to have lots of fun with her!

The Christmas Tree party will be held on the 29th of November. All community members are invited and we are celebrating with a beach/Hawaiian theme. We thought it might be nice to get in touch with the beach theme to cool ourselves off! Come along from 3pm-7pm to see Santa, have some nibbles and an end of year catch up. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Have a fabulous Christmas and New Year’s, be safe and enjoy your time off. I look forward to starting fresh and ready for a big year in 2015.

Thank you again to the parents and community for your ongoing support.
Yours in Education,
Tiffany Rigby
ATTENDANCE
This year has been a very big year for attendance at Birdsville State School. With the introduction of our A-E ratings and our strong commitment to engaging students, so that they WANT to be at school. The students are to be commended on their amazing attendance rate and their dedication and commitment to coming to school every day. The amazing improvements that we have seen this year would not have been possible, if our students were not attending school consistently. You have set very high standards for yourselves and I have no doubt that next year will be just as fabulous!

To give you all an overview of attendance for 2014, I have made some comparisons:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>Improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>95.2% (B)</td>
<td>96.6% (A)</td>
<td>↑ 3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>94.1% (B)</td>
<td>97.1% (A)</td>
<td>↑ 3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>85% (D)</td>
<td>97.2% (A)</td>
<td>↑ 12.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>81.4% (E)</td>
<td>98% (A)</td>
<td>↑ 16.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>88.4% (D)</td>
<td>97.7% (A)</td>
<td>↑ 9.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This overall attendance rate of for 2013 can be broken down to show the approximate average of days off. With an attendance rate of 88.4% this equates to:
88.4 days out of every 100. 11.6 days off every 100 days.
200 school days per year (approximately) which equates to 23.2 days off in total over 2013

4.64 weeks off - over the whole year.

This year’s equivalent data indicates
With an attendance rate of 97.7% this equates to:
97.7 days out of every 100. 2.3 days off every 100 days.
200 school days per year (approximately) which equates to 4.6 days in total over 2013

Less than one week off - over the whole year.

97.7% = One of the highest attendance rates across the state.

Please take the time to read through the above data. This is very supportive of why your child should be at school and that EVERY DAY COUNTS.

BEHAVIOUR
2014 has seen the revitalisation of the Birdsville State School Behaviour Program. With students receiving Pelican Points based on positive behaviour they are displaying around our three school rules-
Be Safe
Be Respectful and
Be Responsible.

We have spent much time teaching students about these behaviours, how they can improve their own behaviour and set high expectations for themselves. Our students strive to achieve 20 pelican points per week and if successful are treated to a behaviour party. Our behaviour party this term was a surprise party! Our students had to be on track at the random point during the term to attend and thankfully, all students were in attendance.

The day was WET themed and consisted of students have water bomb and water squiting fights, slip and slides and lots of food. The staff made lunch for the students and surprised them at 11am with a table full of pizza, garlic bread, dips and biscuits, dino snacks, chips and lollies. The children were very well behaved and should be very proud of their achievements in behaviour in 2015. All students have excelled!

MISS JACOBI LEAVER

Hello Birdsville,

My name is Jacobi Leaver and I will be the cluster teacher for Birdsville and Bedourie next year. I am very excited about my new job and cannot wait to get out there!

I wanted to share a little bit about myself in preparation for next year. I was born and bred on the Gold Coast and currently teach at Mudgeeraba Creek State School. I have been teaching here for 4 years and have taught many different year levels.

Before teaching I completed a degree in Marketing/PR. I’ve also lived in Vietnam for five years, worked for the Hilton, run my own restaurant and taught PE at an international school. I came back to the Gold Coast and worked at Griffith, this is when I completed my Post Graduate Diploma in teaching.

My main hobby is lawn bowls and I also love golf. I look forward to moving to the channel country and I can’t wait to meet you all and learn all about you and the lovely place you live.

Have a great end of term and safe holidays. I look forward to meeting you all in the New Year.

Miss Jacobi Leaver
Birdsville State School Christmas Tree 2014

Saturday 29th November 3pm - 7pm
At the swimming pool.

**BBQ provided**
Please BYO alcohol (no glass) and a salad or nibbles.

Santa will be here with presents*

**HAWAIIAN THEME!!**
Bring out the hula skirts and hawaiian shirts!

Whole School Attendance Rate = 97.7%

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

P&C AGM to be announced shortly.
All community members encourage to participate and have your say!

Queensland Government
Education Queensland