A word from the Executive
Deputy Principal Programs– Mrs Lyn Rummery

Dental Visit
Students from Preschool to Year 6 were visited by the dental team at the school on Thursday 10th March, 2011, 79 students were seen in total. This is the second time we have had the dentist visit the school. The children certainly were more comfortable with the checking process and seemed to enjoy the experience.

The preschool class came as a whole group as every child in preschool returned a permission note. Some children watched the dentist while others were able to colour in the stencils that the dental team bought for us.

Here are some photos of the preschoolers having their teeth checked.

The infants classes were very interested in the check ups with many of the students helping the dentist out with advice. Most of the students in infants wanted to be the first in their class to be checked.

There were not a lot of primary students who took the opportunity to be check which was a shame as these students have their adult teeth that require more looking after as these are the teeth they will have for life.

All of the children were given a sticker and a tattoo as part of their visit.

Parents of children who have emergency issues will be contacted immediately by the dental team with all others that require follow up to be contacted in due time.

A huge thanks to the dental team for visiting us.

Upcoming Events

21 March  
Harmony Day

23 March  
Secondary Zone Winter Sports Trials In Coonabarabran

25 March  
Visiting performers- “Phunktional”

28 March  
Children’s Author “Too Cool” Books- Phil Kettle visits Warrena St. Site

30-31 March  
First Aid Course for Years 9 to 12

4 April  
Moorambilla visit

4-6 April  
Secondary Dance Camp

5-7 April  
CHS Lawn Bowls- Coffs Harbour

8 April  
Last Day of Term 1

If anybody would like to be emailed a copy of the newsletter each fortnight just send an email to peter.m.nichols@det.nsw.edu.au and I will add you to our electronic mail out list 😊
AECG Signing

Monday 14\textsuperscript{th} March was a special day for Walgett Community School with the signing of the AECG partnership agreement for 2011. Both school sites including teachers, staff and students K-12 met at 12 o’clock in the school hall at our Warrena Street campus. Distinguished guests included members of the local AECG including president, Mr Steve Ruttley and our state delegate, Mrs Anne Dennis, Regional Director of Education Western Region, Mrs Carol McDiarmid, School Education Director Mr Paul Loxley and president of the NSW AECG Ms Cindy Berwick. Also in attendance, courtesy of Outback Music, was Bunna Lawrie, songwriter and member of the well-known band, Coloured Stones. The event was hosted by our Principal, Mr Peter Cochrane.

The ceremony started in style with Bunna and the High School Band playing a great version of the Coloured Stone’s hit, “No More Boomerang.” This was followed by a moving “Welcome to Country” by Yr 6 school leaders, Teliyah Hickey and Gary Abel. Gary speaking Gamilaraay with Teliyah translating for him.

Then Mrs Carol McDiarmid was invited by Mr Cochrane to come up on stage and speak about the AECG. She explained the role of the AECG and told us why they are so important for both our school and the Walgett community.

Then Miss Barrett’s 5/6 class went on stage and performed two wonderful items including the hit song, “All I Want to Be.” It was an outstanding performance that the audience clearly loved judging by the loud applause.

Then it was time for the formal proceedings to begin with the signing of the agreement. Photos were taken as both Mr Steve Ruttley and Mr Peter Cochrane signed the document stating the shared aspirations and goals for our students in 2011.

Following the signing, it was time to cut the AECG cake. A piece of cake was given to each student in attendance. Then a formal luncheon was held in the staffroom for guests and all full members of the AECG including a number of teachers on our staff including Chris Hunt, Donna Dennis-Horan, Deb Walford, Kaylene Hall, Gail Simpson and Katrina Nichols.

For students, parents and other school staff, the celebration then continued down at the Walgett Pool with a free barbeque and a swim.

The AECG signing was a great advertisement for Walgett Community School. The day was well organised, entertaining and the behaviour of our students was excellent. Well done to all involved.

Michael Clare
Primary Report

Stage Three Report

This term year 5 & 6 students have started the year full on. We have been learning about Australian Democracy. We explored the idea of us being a Ruler for the Day.

Here are some of our thoughts:

“If I was ruler for the day, the first thing I would do is change my name to Tyrell the Tyrant. I would get people to build me four mansions. There wouldn’t be any schools because I would demolish them and build a McDonalds.” ~ Tyrell

“I would slave boys around and give them $2 an hour.” ~ Caitlin

“There would be no smokes or beer in town. No grown up would be in town. All the shops in the world would be here.” ~ Stevie-Lee

“I would build a theme park at the school. School would start at midday and end at 4pm.” ~ Gary

Our days at the high school are filled with lots of practical activities. We have enjoyed participating in science experiments, art, woodwork, music and cooking!

We have some wonderful singers in our class. We performed the song Dhirrabuu Mari - Outstanding Murris for the Freedom Ride students who came to talk to us about the experiences of Charlie Perkins in 1965. 5/6 has also shown off our singing abilities in assembly, singing Everything at Once by Lenka, which is a song full of similes.

Bunna Lawrie and Michael came to visit our class this week. We played a few games where the students had to keep in time with the rhythm and they taught us a song called ‘Black Boy’ by Bunna and his band Coloured Stone, which was a huge hit back in the 80’s. We had a go at writing our own song, which one day we would like to perform for you.

Dhirrabuu Awards – Student Merit Card

Week 7

Kinder – Mrs Dennis – Tim Clare, For 1:1 matching when reading and knowing 5 sight words.

Year 1 – Mr Hunt – Geoffrey Tighe, For a big improvement in writing his name.

Year 2 – Mrs Walford – Valerie Sullivan, For a big improvement in her journal writing.

Year 3/4 – Mrs Horan – Margie Duffy, For always trying her best in reading groups.

Year 3-6 – Mr Horan – Steven Gibbs, For a big improvement in spelling.

Year 5/6 – Miss Barrett – Gary Abel, For always doing all of his work.

Week 8

Kinder – Mrs Dennis, Jacinda Doolan, For fantastic magic writing when writing about recounts

Year 1 – Mr Hunt, Warren Fernando, For concentrating really hard in class

Year 2 – Mrs Walford, Sarah-Kate Weatherall, For consistency in all KLA’s

Year 3/4 – Mrs Horan, Libby Lake, For persistent effort in verbally constructing an exposition

Year 3-6 – Mr Horan, Jordan Murray, For trying hard in guided reading

Year 5/6 – Miss Barrett, Allan Carberry, For an excellent attitude to schoolwork

Language – Miss Flick, Gordon Green, For working independently to construct language sentences

Mrs Grech, Geoffrey Tighe, For improved behaviour during art activities
HEALTH AND LEARNING—HOW THE SCHOOL CAN HELP YOUR CHILD

For some students, learning can be improved by checking their physical health. An assessment can be carried out in Walgett by a General Practitioner (GP), Paediatrician (specialist medical care of infants, children and adolescents), Occupational Therapist (OT), Speech Therapist, Vision specialist (e.g., Optometrist, Ophthalmologist), Hearing Specialist (e.g., Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist, Audiologist), Cardiologist (heart), and may reveal a problem which will improve with treatment. An Obstetrician/ Gynaecologist also visits Walgett.

For some children and adolescents, assessments and treatment of emotions and behaviours are required (e.g., Anxiety, Depression, ADHD, Cognitions, Sleep Problems, Self-harming, Addictions). Specialist assessment and treatments of brain functioning, behaviours, and emotions are generally carried out by a General Practitioner (GP), Psychologist, Child Psychiatrist, Paediatrician, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS).

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

If you are concerned about any of your child’s behaviours, learning, socialisation, or emotions, or if your child has experienced physical or emotional trauma now or in the past, contact the School or make an appointment with a specialist.

WHO CAN ASSESS MY CHILD IN WALGETT?

The exciting news is that specialist services for children and adolescents in Walgett are increasing. Students at Walgett School can now access many services without having to travel. To find out more talk to these people:

School Principal- Peter Cochrane
Deputy Principal Programs- Lyn Rummery
Deputy Principal Secondary- Peter Nichols
School Counsellor-Lynn Jarman (Tuesdays)
District Guidance Officer -Pauline Allen (Tuesdays and Thursdays)

TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

General Practitioners
- Outback Division of General Practice at Hospital
- Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service for an appointment.

Paediatrician
- Dr Dominic Fitzgerald consults each month through Walgett Hospital.

Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist
- Dr Clive Smith* (‘Dr Clive’) - will consults through the hospital; two days every second month; first get a referral from a GP.
- Dr Stephen Koder: consultations are conducted by video conference with Dr Koder, a child psychiatrist at Westmead Children’s Hospital - contact Jan Downing at Community Health in Lightning Ridge, 6829 9900

Psychologists
- Lisa Burns - referral through WAMS
- Lynn Jarman/Pauline Allen- appointment at the School

Counsellor
- Jan Downing - CAMHS, phone Community Health, 6829 9900

Hearing/Vision/Speech Pathology
- contact the School or WAMS

Learning Difficulties/Behaviour
- contact the School, School Counsellor

Royal Far West
- phone 1800 500 061 and register your child. You and your child travel to Manly in Sydney and get assessed by a paediatrician, psychologist, psychiatrist, speech pathologist.
- Dental services and Orthodontics can also be arranged. * new service this year

CONFIDENTIALITY IS A PRIORITY
The English Faculty has had an exciting start to 2011 with the Year 7/8s joining us at the Arthur Street Site. Year 7/8 Apples teacher Ms Thompson has been working on a Dreaming Tracks Journal with her students investigating their rich cultural heritage and histories. Year 7/8 Orange’s teacher Mr Kovacs has been looking at the famous Emily Rodger novel *Rowan of Rin* and preparing for the NAPLAN exams arriving here on May 10, 11 and 12.

Mr Sayers 7/8 boys have been enjoying their free reading time with a brand new set of *Street Commodores Magazines* arriving at school. The boys were lucky enough to have an article written about them in this month’s edition on *Street Commodores* in an interesting article entitled ‘World’s Coolest Teacher’. Great work Mr Sayers!

Year 9 have been delving into the world of John Marsden in his epic *Tomorrow When The War Began* series, by comparing both book and film. Look out for the sequel to *Tomorrow When The War Began*, which will be shot in NSW later this year.

While Ms Trindall’s Year 10’s have been working alongside Ms Cox’s critical study of S.E. Hinton’s classic teenage novel *The Outsiders*.

Year 11 have been leading the way on persuasive texts, including the speeches of Winston Churchill and Martin Luther King. Year 12 have been looking at HSC Module C Moving Into The World via a variety of texts by Christine Anu (Torres Strait Islands), Armin Greeder (Germany) and Willy Russell (England).
So far in 2011, Year 10 have made a great start to the year. Students have improved across the board and been involved in many extracurricular activities such as sport and music.

**A few things for Parents of Year 10 Students to remember:**

- **School Certificate.** It is a very important year for your child and that it is vital that they come to school, do the best that they can in their classes and make sure they complete all assessment tasks. **Please ask your child if they have homework or assessment tasks due.**

- **TAFE.** TAFE is a great tool for your child to have. It is hands on experience that they are accredited for throughout Australia. It can be an effective tool that they can use to gain employment after they leave school. It is on Tuesday and Wednesday; so ask your child what day they go, what course they are doing, help them to be on time and if they are **having problems please see me or Mr Nichols ASAP.**

- **Year 10 Shirts** - Parents will need to pay for them by **week 9 which is the 25th of March. $39 to the front office.** When we have all students shirts paid for I will send away the application so **make sure you pay by the due date.**

**Work Experience and Work Placement.** Students will be involved in Work Experience and may also be involved in Work Placement this year. This may require them to wear full school uniform or where the uniform set by the workplace, it may also be a requirement for a course or subject. **Please ask your child what they will need so that they are ready and remember this is a great time for them to build on their confidence and get their name out there for possible employment after they leave school so their first impression should be a good first impression.**

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**Homework Centre - Arthur Street**

Students in Years 7 to 12 are invited to complete their homework, study for exams and build literacy skills at the Homework Centre.

- **Where:** Library
- **When:** Wednesday & Thursday-3.10 to 5.10
- **Food and Drink Provided**
- **The bus will take students out to Gingie and Namoi Village at the end of the day.**

Please see Miss Thompson or Mrs Martelli for more information.

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Paiten Wise has started work experience at the Walgett Pharmacy. She will be working on a Tuesday from 1-5pm. Thanks to the staff at the Pharmacy for supporting our students.

Melissa Ozoux

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Paiten Wise with Walgett Pharmacy Staff
**TVET Beauty Therapy**

Students from Walgett undergoing their Certificate in Beauty Therapy travelled to Dubbo for a week of block work. Students made facial scrubs, learnt about the skin and how to look after it and applying makeup. Students will complete a second block at Dubbo Tafe during June.

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**Sport Report**

**FOOTBALL AUSTRALIA**

Football Australia put students from 7 to 10 through the Grass roots program. Students learnt a variety of skills and games on the day. All the students had fun and Football Australia are excited about re visiting our school that they are coming out again in May.
**Sport Report Continued**

**Girls Basketball**
We travelled to Coonamble to play Open Girls basketball round 1 in the North West Knockout. The girls played extremely well and only lost by 1 point in the dying minutes of the game.

**Boys Basketball**
The open boys team were fortunate to have a home game against Lightning Ridge. The boys dominated the whole game and defeated the ridge 40 to 18. It’s the first time in 4 years we have defeated the ridge but with Mr Clarkes training regimen the boys have really come far in their skills and tactics. The boys will play the winner between collerenabri and Boggabilla.

**Friday Sport**
We are at the pool every Friday 9-11 for the remainder of the term. Please remember to bring:
- Towel
- Spare clothes
- Sunscreen
- HAT

**Upcoming Secondary Assessments**

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<th>When</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Task</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Yr 7 &amp; 8</td>
<td>Language</td>
<td>Oral Presentation</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
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<td>Music</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>English</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
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<td>History</td>
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<td>Metals</td>
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<td>Visual Art</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Yr 9 &amp;10</td>
<td>Dance</td>
<td>Practical task &amp; dance Analysis</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
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<td>Media file / topic test</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
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<td>Music</td>
<td>Analysis of Song</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Yr 9 &amp;10</td>
<td>PDHPE</td>
<td>ICT Bullying Research</td>
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**Kids - Having Problems? Need Help??**

Kids Helpline is a free 24 hour counselling service for Australian kids and young people aged 5-25 years. You can get help over the phone, email or web. Our counsellors talk with more than 6,000 kids each week, and help with all sorts of problems, big & small.


**Parents - Having Problems? Need Help??**

Parent Line is a telephone counselling, information and referral service for parents of children ages 0 to 18, who live in New South Wales. Parents, grandparents and carers anywhere in the state can call Parent Line on **1300 1300 52** for no more than the cost of a local call. We are available 24 hours every day including public holidays. All calls will be answered directly by our team of trained, professional counsellors.

Bourke School Education Group and Community Concert Band

Come and join us to establish a Bourke School Education Group Community Band. The band will meet and perform regularly throughout the Bourke School Education Area.

Who: Teachers, parents and community members who wish to develop their musical skills in a band setting.
When: Saturday 12th March
Where: Nyngan High School
Time: 10:00am - 3:00pm

Come along and bring your instruments and musical scores!
Please bring any musical stands.
Contact: Anita Moore - Marra Creek Public School

Ph: 02 6824 4358
Fax: 02 6824 4383
Mobile: 0418 433456
Newsletter Items

Students, parents, community members and staff are welcome to put items in the newsletter. Just mail your items to Walgett High School P.O. Box 228 Walgett 2832 or email – nicola.vankuyk@det.nsw.edu.au
DHIYYAAN DHAANDIYAAY-BAA
FAMILY LEARNING PLACE
Playgroup 0-5 years

Dhiyyaan Dhaandiyaay-Baa, Family Learning Place, Playgroup 0-5 years is a Kid’s Excel program. The playgroup has started up again in 2011 at Birraleegal Goondi Pre-School. This program is funded by the Department of Education, Employment and Work Relations under the Parent and Community Engagement Program (PACE.) Families attend the playgroup to interact with their children. There are lots and lots of fun things to do. You and your children can read and sing along with books, play with the toys, do a drawing together, colour in, do puzzles and a whole lot more.

You can have fun on the outdoor equipment. There are slides, things to climb on and walk through. At the playgroup on Friday, 11 March 2011, families joined in and did an activity on Harmony Day, Everyone Belongs, which is celebrated, this year, on Monday, 21 March 2011.

Joining us at the playgroup were other agencies. The Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service (WAMS) staff, Goonimoo Mobile Service playgroup painted the children’s face.

The Outback Division’s, Dietician, chatted about healthy finger foods for you and your children.

Families yawned amongst each other and laughed with their children, having lots of fun.
Dhiiyaan Dhaandiyyaay-Baa, Family Learning Place, Playgroup 0-5 years will be held on:

**FRIDAY, 25 MARCH 2011 and then again on FRIDAY, 1 APRIL 2011**

9.00 am to 11.00 am

Birraleegal Goondi Pre-School

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO COME ALONG AND JOIN IN THE FUN

GIVE YOUR CHILDREN AN EARLY START TO EDUCATION

Lunch is provided for the children at the playgroup.