



THE BIDGEE SCHOOL

Newsletter

TERM 3, WEEK 10 Friday 28th September 2018

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From the Principal

Dear Parents/Carers,

2018 has certainly been our most exciting year yet with the addition of three new classes, two for high school students in years 7-12 and another primary class to add to the new one started last year. Our primary classes now support students from K-3 and 4-6. So four new classes in the last twelve months has seen us more than double in size and most importantly able to cater to the ever-increasing number of young people requiring support to recover from trauma and remain engaged with education.

With new classes, larger grounds, new students and staff there has been much change this year which has been both challenging and exciting. Overall everyone has adapted extremely well and I am very proud of all students and staff for embracing the many changes and continuing our culture of care and compassion for all.

Two other notable exciting events in the last term or so have been the addition of Casper our Labradoodle puppy to help Humphrey, now that there are so many more students to support and the acquisition of our very own bus! Whilst Casper is still undergoing training he has settled in beautifully and loves his role here. Having a bus has given us the freedom to transport students to many activities/events that otherwise would not have been possible.

Wishing everyone a happy and relaxing holiday. See you in Term 4.

**Students will commence Term 4 2018
on Monday 15th October 2018**

Class 1 Maree

Class One has experienced a number of changes this term. The class had the privilege of having two teachers during week 1. During this week, Carol and Maree went with the students to see an energetic performance of the '78-Storey Treehouse' (a book they had been reading together in class last term) at the Wagga Civic Theatre. At the end of the next week the students and Maree said goodbye to Carol and wished her well with her studies.

Reading has been a big focus this term with the fun of the Book Week Parade. Students have enjoyed Modelled Reading with the books 'Conspiracy 365' and more recently 'Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief'. Members of the class have been working hard using the MacqLit literacy program and then applying their reading skills to their independent reading. Every week we visit the library to borrow new books to read.

On Mondays, students have looked forward to cooking in the kitchen as a class. We have focussed on teamwork, food preparation and presentation skills. Students have made pizza, soup, meatballs, chicken parmigiana, salad, burgers, and biscuits. They were especially proud to make biscuits to wrap and give to the staff who help teachers in every classroom and the office at Bidgee.



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We have explored the Antarctica this term and have been amazed to find the size of some of the creatures when we have used scale drawings. As a part of the unit the students have worked hard to create effective string art. They have developed good hammer and nail skills and have made beautiful patterns with string. Thank you Class One for the opportunity to get to know you. You are amazing young people! Have a safe and happy holiday and we will see you all at the beginning of Term Four.

Class 2 Shaun

Class 2 have enjoyed their term, rising to the many challenges thrown at them throughout the term. Everyone tried their best with our Monday challenge of walking or running up Beauty Point Drive, and class 3 joined us most of the time. Walker and Kane showed consistency during our morning workout, Walker going from being able to do 1 push up, to being able to do 11 push ups. Great determination Walker! Kane worked steadily and independently on his study of the Hatchet novel, creating his own survival kit, and sending short radio messages to possible rescuers. Ariel, Walker and Kane all improved their spelling understanding from taking words from the novel, Hatchet. We welcomed Kyle to our class this term, and were happy to witness his improvement in engagement as the term progressed. Kyle has a wonderful nature with Casper, but thinks Humphrey drools too much (For those who don't know, Casper and Humphrey are our assistance dogs). All students learnt about their Window of Tolerance this term. They learnt that their window can be wide or narrow on different days, and that they can use different strategies (such as controlled breathing, or moving away from a trigger) to return to within their Window of Tolerance. Ask them what they remember from it. Our class studied survival techniques this term, Haneen showing impressive insight into how to escape from natural disasters including floods, and how to survive when things go wrong when ice climbing and in the dessert. He outscored Dylan (our aide) in our survival quiz competition. Everyone in Class 2 improved their writing

structure this term, using a main event, then before and after strategy to sequence their writing. The students liked the man in the ice cube, and escape from Mogadishu tasks the most. Well done to everyone who gave their all in class 2 this term. I look forward to continuing to push you mentally and physically next term.

Class 3 Tammy

Class 3 has been a very busy, productive class this term. Often having 5 or 6 students in the room meant students had to deal with extra voices and more movement in the room, while focussing on their own learning. I was pleased to see students who were able to ignore these distractions and practice using HOW2Learn strategies and focus on their own behaviour choices.

Class 3 engaged in a variety of learning activities which not only focused on developing academic skills and knowledge's but also required students to employ and reflect on effective learning habits. Class 3 covered a range of topics in Mathematics and student's learning was evident in their ability to apply a greater range of mental strategies to mathematical tasks including; reasoning, questioning and making links to prior learning.

In HSIE students learnt about Ancient China. Students looked at the experiences of the ancient Chinese by exploring their occupations, lifestyles and family structures as well as law and order. They learnt about war and conflict, the life of Emperor Qin Shi Huang, women's lives, religion and trade. Students developed an understanding of the importance of geography and land use in the development of the Chinese civilisation.

Finally well done to all students in Class 3, I appreciate the effort you have put in this Term and have enjoyed your company immensely. Have a safe holiday and I will see you in Term 4.

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Class 4 Ericka

WOW! Term 3 has been a wonderful term for all the students who joined us at The Bidgee School in our new class formed this term. Class 4 have been focusing on an 'Under the Sea' theme this term, with many of our literacy and creative art learning activities linking to the theme. In numeracy we have been focusing on learning about whole numbers and 'friends of ten'. Throughout the term, Class 4 has had the pleasure of having some of the senior students work alongside their younger peers, assisting them with learning activities. This term we have enjoyed many mindful walks to the park to play and further develop friendships in our class. The students were given the opportunity to participate in a taster for gymnastics, which is a program that will continue next term along with swim school. This term has been a very positive and productive term with the students having an open minded approach to learning and participating in many different opportunities. Congratulations class 4, I wish you all a happy and safe holiday break and look forward to seeing you in Term 4.



Class 5 Ben

Term Three saw lots of changes for everyone in Class Five. A move to a new classroom, a split from younger students in Class Four as well as a change in teaching staff, with Ben being the new Class Five teacher. Over the course of the term students have adjusted to these changes and have really settled into a new routine. We spent lots of time learning and participated in many fun and engaging activities. Students really enjoyed Wednesday STEM activities, where we constructed towers, bridges and boats, as well as using tablets to program Sphero robotic balls, which will be something we will continue to build on next term. I hope everyone has a safe and happy holidays and I look forward to seeing everyone again next term.

Class 6 Beck

Class 6 has had a very busy and productive term. We have welcomed new students to our class and friendships have developed, with positive relationships being formed. I'd like to thank all members of Class 6 for being flexible and adapting to changes in location and routine when needed. Well done Sean, Jorga, Jeni, Jonathon, Riley and Caleb for all of your excellent work and by displaying resilience and open mindedness throughout the term.

This Term we have been studying a unit called "Facing Your Fears" in English, looking at different pieces of writing based on this theme. The literature has allowed the class to discover what fear means to us, as well as other people and assisted them to depict this in their own writing. Our newest class members have continued with Macqlit and reinforced reading and are improving their literacy skills every day.

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In Mathematics we have learnt about Congruent and Similar Figures, Linear Relationships (the Number Plane) and Data. The students have developed a good concept of these shapes and are able to use graphs to plot points and equations. Some students are continuing with Maths Mentals and focussing on their Times Tables.

In History we have been studying Ancient China in History and have learnt a lot about the culture and rituals of this ancient society.

We have taken the opportunity to go to Airborne Gymnastics for BEEP as well as cooking stir fries, hamburgers, cookies and biscuits. In PD/H/PE we have been studying Adolescence and Identity.

I'd like to congratulate Class 6 for a great term and encourage them to continue with the effort in Term 4. I wish them all a happy & safe holiday!

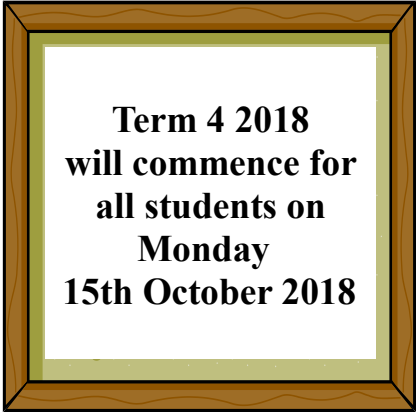
Class 7 Michelle

This term has been packed with learning and adventures and has flown by very quickly. I would like to take the time to welcome the new students that commenced in Class 7, one of our brand new classes, this term. Students have begun to form solid friendships and have developed positive relationships with their class peers. I have been impressed with the tolerance, compassion and social intelligence displayed by students in Class 7 this term. Well done Rhyanna, Lily, Jack, Damien, Seth, John, Hannah and Gemma for all of your excellent work this term.

Some older students displayed resiliency and accountability this term capitalising on the opportunity to participate in learning outside of The Bidgee School. Congratulations to Jack for demonstrating accountability and resilience when attending TVET at TAFE, Music at Mt. Austin and Rock Camp at Borambola and a huge congratulations to Jack for being accepted into The Riverina Conservatorium of Music to attend weekly piano lessons. It has been fun listening to Gemma's accounts about design tasks she has worked on at WWHS this term. Last but not most definitely not least congratulations to Rhyanna on the completion of her Final Year 12 Examinations through Karabar Distance Education.

Class 7 continued to develop their writing skills when completing weekly quick writes which formed the base for proofreading and editing activities. Students have shown growth when they have written short stories independently after group brainstorming. I was highly entertained and engaged by the creative stories students wrote.

Finally well done to all students in Class 7, I appreciate the effort you have put in this Term and have enjoyed your company immensely. Have a safe holiday and I will see you in Term 4.



**Term 4 2018
will commence for
all students on
Monday
15th October 2018**

*Regards,
Marianne Mitchell
Principal*