From the Principal’s Desk

It has been a wonderful year at Lightning Ridge Central School. There have been many positives and our Presentation Day ceremony with over 100 guests proved yet again what a terrific, supportive community we have.

As we end the year it is important to remember that the school operates to support students education the best we can. This year students achieved more academic and social growth than has been achieved in a long time.

Some long term issues have been resolved making our school a place where every student and teacher is safe and supported. Where achievement is celebrated instead of being an embarrassment and where parents, grandparents are welcome to visit.

Next year the great partnership between our school and our community will continue to strengthen and we will celebrate an even more successful year in 12 months time.

I look forward to the challenges and successes 2015 will bring, see you then!

Thank You

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School commences

Year 1 to Year 12 students: February 4th 2015.
Kindergarten: February 9th 2015.

2014 School Newsletter now available online, check out our website on www.lightningr-c.schools.nsw.edu.au
Brain Olympiad

Last week I took an energetic group of 8 students to the inaugural Brain Olympiad hosted by St Josephs’ Walgett. The day was a series of tasks where the students had to work as a team to earn team points. This was our first time at such an event and we learnt a lot about how it all works. The team of 8 had 5 rounds of general knowledge, then some maths problem solving, public speaking and finished with a quick drama skit.

Congratulations to Lachlan Johnston, Luca Cheal, Katie Drew, Tyshannah Dowling-Parker, Charlie Taylor, Keith Jeffrey, Mahad Sohail & Opal Trumper.

Important Dates - 2015

2/3 February – staff training day (pupil free)
4th February – year 1 – 12 starts at school
6th February – Whole school swimming carnival
9th February – Kindergarten starts
K-6 Merit Assembly

Today we had our last merit awards assembly for the year. This was the last opportunity for the students to receive their Opal Awards, and the end of year Opal Pool Party has been planned for Friday 12 December. This is an opportunity for students to celebrate their commitment to being the best they can be and taking pride in their work. These students have worked hard to achieve their Opal Award. Well done to the 164 students in K-6 who have achieved this milestone in 2014.

![Images of students during the assembly]

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!!

![Christmas tree and Santa Claus]
Primary Student of the Week
Week 9  S1W
Dannielle McFadden
Danielle is an Outstanding Student who always tries her best and treats others with respect. Well done Dannielle!

Primary Student of the Week
Week 10  ES1B
Jaidey Samuelsson
Jaidey is an exceptional student who has experienced success in all areas this year due to her positive and diligent attitude towards her schooling. Congratulations Jaidey!

Primary Student of the Week
Week 10  S3M
Teleah Anderson
Everyday Teleah comes to class with a smile, a good mood and ready to work! As she leaves the classroom everyday, she also makes sure to say "Have a good day!" to her teacher. Teleah has produced some outstanding work and always makes sure her work is of top quality. It is our pleasure to have Teleah in S3M and our student of the week! Congratulations Teleah and keep up the good work!
Secondary Student of the Week
Week 9 Year 7
Grace McCarty
Grace is a respectful and responsible student who has made an excellent transition to our school. She takes pride in her work and produces task of high quality. Congratulations Grace!

Secondary Student of the Week
Week 10 Year 10
Ned Hallett
Ned volunteered to step in as a school leader in order to help with the Presentation Assembly due to the absence of Year 12. He spoke well and performed this role with maturity and professionalism. Well Done!

Primary Student of the Week
Week 10 Year 10
Casey Rice-Jones
Casey volunteered to step in as a school leader in order to help with the Presentation Assembly due to the absence of Year 12. He spoke well and performed this role with maturity and professionalism. Well Done!
Greetings for the last 2015 newsletter,

Our library is special and is made more special when students fully utilise it. There have been many rewards throughout the year, but Presentation Day, LRCS Reading Challenge party, library Turtle Draws have all happened in close succession.

Karlie Haverhoek who is in S2/3D received the Library Award for 2015. Karlie involved herself in many of the library events, particularly Book Week. She was a regular borrower and vocal in discussions. Other students were good borrowers, worked well in lessons, but did not participate in what the library has had to offer. I think this is sometimes helped if families know what is happening and work in partnership with the school and in my area: the library.

Paxton Kaluski and Ava Seaton with their prizes for winning the library Turtle Draw. The DK Learning books which Paxton and Ava chose were given to us by Books in Homes and are very good quality books, both in content and presentation.

LRCS Term 4 Reading Challenge

Mahad Sohail was our Term 4 LRCS Reading Challenge champion, handing in eleven recording sheets (110 books read). We had 73 students complete the challenge and they had a great party on Monday. Thank you to Kerrieanne for organising this for the students. The list of students who completed the Term 4 challenge appears below.

Stage 1 received their Term 4 Books in Homes in the library this week. It was just like Christmas but we had a better Santa.

Cilka Zagar was our Role Model presenter and it was lovely to have Cilka back in the library doing what she loves: being with books and encouraging students with her fabulous use of the English language, which is Cilka’s second language. Cilka’s story of coming to Australia with her husband Joe and baby son from Slovenia is such an interesting one.

I have news of Books in Homes for 2015. A submission has been completed for K-6 students by the Books in Homes Manager and we will be advised when a decision has been made. The decision will be made in March which means that if we are successful the earliest Books in Homes could occur would be Term 4, 2015.

Library Turtle Draw Winners:

**Week 7**
- ES1 Finn Sisa ES1B (Magazine Voucher)
- Stage 1 Charli McCabe S1M (Book: Fidgety Fish)
- Stage 2 Ava Seaton S2S (Book: Rocks and Minerals)
- Stage 3 Charlie Taylor S3L (Book: Just Stupid)

**Week 8**
- ES1 Paxton Kaluski ES1B (Book: Doodlepedia Animal Antics)
- Stage 1 Chanel Kenny S1M (Book: What Gives an Ocean Motion)
- Stage 2 Katarina Thompson S2G (Book: The Adventures of Lily: The Littlest Angel)
- Stage 3 Jane Crutchley S3M (Book: Eric Vale, Epic Fail)

*Best wishes for a great end of year wind down, Christmas/New year celebration and fun with your kids. Without the school routine there is plenty of time to enjoy reading. Please do!*

Penny Fahey Teacher—Librarian
Procedure: how to hatch a clown fish

Procedure: how to grow tomatoes

Maths games

IKI fit fun

Tyshannah’s homemade volcano
During Week 8 Miss Fitzgerald and Mr Gough took 15 of Secondary’s opal students on an amazing trip to Copeton Dam for a reward excursion. The group left Monday morning and reluctantly returned Thursday afternoon. We participated in a variety of exhausting but fun activities, such as fishing, doing tricks on the jumping pillow, a massive kayaking journey, shopping, kick boxing, bowling, laser tag, freaking each other out with ghost stories and truth or dare, serenading everyone with bus sing-alongs, entertaining road trip games (SPOTTO!) and plenty of others that won’t fit in this space. It was an awesome 4 days enjoyed by all, as we forged even stronger bonds. The ‘perfect’ students were excellent and received many glowing comments everywhere we went. We can’t wait until the next one, so don’t forget to hand in your merits!
Year 8 have been involved in constructing their own town. With the ‘Town Planner’ project, students have enjoyed naming their town, the streets, designing their buildings, planning the infrastructure, making 3-D nets of their buildings and inserting relevant businesses on their main street. Using the mathematical concepts taught in class, students have calculated the scale of their diagram, the perimeter and area, the cost of particular areas as well as describing the geometrical features of their buildings. Students have enjoyed this project and its development.

Students of Stage 4 and Stage 5 have completed the topic of ‘Data’. Data was collected using a range of objects including the most popular chocolate, colours of cars passing the corner of Morilla Street, rock samples found in the local area and many more activities.
STAGE 5

In term 4 students from Stage 5 have been working on our chemistry topic. A lot of experiments and some fairly intense theoretical concepts, Stage 5 have taken the challenge head on, working steadily throughout the term to develop their understanding and skills. Students started the topic by looking at the chemicals we use everyday and are now balancing chemical equations for a number of different reaction types. Working in the lab has been so much fun, getting to see precipitates form and metals dissolve is all the more fun when it’s paired with a sound understanding of what’s going on at a molecular or even atomic level! Stage 5 students should be proud of how well they work in the lab and how far their understanding has come this term.

STAGE 4

Stage 4 students have spent the last few weeks looking at the water cycle from a whole new perspective. Many students were already familiar with the water cycle, but with this topic we have been looking at our water cycle from a global perspective. We have delved into some of the bigger problems we now face when it comes to water. Students have come to understand how urbanisation and increased stresses on our hydrological cycle can affect everyone. We have looked at possible solutions to our diminishing fresh water sources and have even turned salt water into drinkable fresh water using distillation. This topic has been a real eye-opener for some students as we look at ways we can reduce our water use and ensure there will be enough water for future generations. Stage 4, our future global citizens have learnt a lot this topic and have even had some fun along the way.
Yaama,

The Narran Lakes Co-Management Committee wants to establish a logo. The Narran Lake Co-Management is made up of community representatives working in collaboration with National Parks and Wildlife to maintain the Cultural and Heritage significance of the Lake. Narran Lake is listed as a part of RAMSAR International Wetland for its cultural significance and bird breeding of the lake and surrounding area.

The local totems for the area of the local Yuwaalaraay/Yuwalayaaay tribes is the black snake and the longneck turtle which needs to be incorporate into the logo. See attached the local Dreaming story this can also can be incorporated in the logo.

More information see below;
Submissions due by 28th February 2015
Contact Aunty Brenda McBride: 0458818352 or Rhonda Ashby: 0475838991

The Narran River and Lake are an important part of Yuwaalaraay teaching, and are also important for other groups. The lake used to fill up regularly, and was an important food source at these times. Because of the plentiful food, people gathered there from many different language groups. Food included birds, their eggs and young, fish, mussels, and much more. The lake is the site of a very large shell mid-den, proof of the amount of food consumed there and of the number of the language groups who gathered there.

The Origin of the Narran Lake (Dreaming Story)
Old Baayami said to his two young wives, Birrahgnooloo and Cunnunbeillee, “I have stuck a white feather between the hind legs of a bee, and am going to let it go and then follow it to its nest, that I may get honey. While I go for the honey, go you two out and get frogs and yams, then meet me at Coorigel Spring, where we will camp, for sweet and clear is the water there”. The wives taking their goolays and yam sticks went out as he told them. Having gone far, and dug out many yams, they were tied when they reached Coorigel, and, seeing the cool, fresh water, they longed to bathe. But first they built a bough shade, and there goolays holding the food, and the yams that they had found. When their camp was ready for the coming of Baayami, who having wooed his wives with a nullah-nullah, kept them obedient by fear of the same weapon, then went the girls to the spring to bathe. Gladly they plunged in, having first divested themselves of their goomillahs, which they were still young enough to wear, and which they left on the ground near the spring. Scarcely were they enjoying the cool rest the water gave their hot, tired limbs, when they were seized and swallowed by two garriyas. Having swallowed the girls, the garriyas(crocodiles) dived into an opening in the side of the spring, which was the entrance to an underground watercourse leading to the Narran River. Through this passage they went, taking all the water from the spring with them into the Narran, whose course they also dried as they went along.
Meantime Baayami, unwitting the fate of his wives, was honey hunting. He had followed the bee with the white feather on it for some distance, then the bee flew on to some budtha flowers, and would move no further. Baayami said “something has happened, or the bee would not stay here and refuse to be moved on towards its nest. I must go to Coorigel spring and see if my wives are safe. Something terrible has surely happened”. And Baayami turned in haste towards the spring. When he reached there he saw the bough shed his wives had made, he saw the yams they had dug from the ground, and he saw the frogs, but Birrahgnoooloo and Cunnunbeilee he saw not. He called aloud for them, but no answer. He went towards the spring. On the edge of it he saw the goomillahs of his wives. He looked into the spring and, seeing it dry, he said “it is the work of the garriyas, they have opened the underground passage and gone with my wives to the river, and opening the passage has dried the spring. Well do I know the passage joins the Narran and there will I swiftly go”. Arming himself with spears and woggarahs he started in pursuit. He soon reached the deep hole where the underground channel of the Coorigel joined the Narran.

There he saw what he had never seen before, namely, this deep hole dry. And he said, “they have emptied the holes as they went along, taking the water with them. But well know I the deep holes of the river. I will not follow the bend, thus trebling the distance I have to go, but I will cut across from big hole to big hole, and by doing so I may yet get ahead of the garriyas”. On swiftly sped Baayami, making short cuts from big hole to big hole, and his track is still marked by the Morilla Ridges that stretch down the Narran, pointing in towards the deep holes. Every hole as he came to it he found dry, until at last he reached the end of the Narran, the hole was still quite wet and muddy, then he knew he was near his enemies, and soon he saw them. He managed to get, unseen, a little way ahead of the garriyas. He hid himself behind a big dheal tree. As the garriyas came near they separated, one turning to go another direction. Quickly Baayami hurled one spear after another, wounding both garriyas, who writhed with pain and lashed their tails furiously, making great hollows in the ground, which the water they had brought with them quickly filled. Thinking they might again escape him, Baayami drove them from the water with his spears, and then, at close quarters, he killed them with his woggarahs. And ever afterwards at flood time, the Narran flowed into this hollow which the garriyas in their writhings had made.

When Baayami saw that the garriyas were quite dead, he cut them open and took the bodies of his wives. They were covered with a wet slime, and seemed quite lifeless, but he carried them and laid them on two nests of red ants. Then he sat down at some distance and watched them. The ants quickly covered the bodies, cleaned them rapidly of the wet slim, and soon Baayami noticed the muscles of the girls twitching. ‘ah, he said, there is life, they feel the sting of the ants’.

Almost as he spoke came a sound as of a thunder-clap, but the sound seemed to come from the ears of the girls. And as the echo was dying away, slowly the girls rose to their feet. For a moment they stood apart, a dazed expression on their faces. Then they clung together, shaking as if stricken with a deadly fear. But Baayami came to them and explained how they had been rescued from the garriyas by him. He bade them to beware of ever bathing in the deep holes of the Narran, lest such holes be the haunt of garriyas.

Then he bade them look at the water now at Boogira, and said, “soon will the black swans find their way here, the pelicans and the ducks, where there was dry land and stones in the past, in the future there will be water and water-fowl. When the Narran runs it will run into this hole, and by spreading of its waters a big lake be made”. And what Baayam said has come to pass, as the Narran Lake shows, with its large sheet of water, spreading for miles, the home of thousands of wild fowl.
Plan Ahead This Summer To Live And Study Overseas In 2015

With the end of the year approaching, there has never been a better time to cast your thoughts ahead to 2015. Why not use the holidays to plan your 2015 WEP student exchange program?

Living overseas as an exchange student opens up a world of opportunities. For one, you get to experience another part of the world. You’ll live and learn in a culture that is vastly different from your own. You will also be exposed to a different style of learning, which will be useful if you decide to further your studies. Are you learning or want to learn another language? On an exchange program you can morph from monolingual to bilingual in a matter of months.

There’s no better way to learn a language than to surround yourself with it day and night, 24/7! Imagine the moment when you start dreaming in another language!

Okay, so now you’re thinking “this all sounds great, but I still need more convincing.” Think about the amazing, lifelong friends you’ll make while overseas. Later in life you may have the opportunity to travel back to your host country and reunite with old friends. When you return from exchange, you’ll arrive back in Australia with a new perspective on culture, languages and education, better organisational skills, and invaluable life experiences. All of these skills are extremely attractive to future employers.

And finally, you will most likely find that living as an exchange student in a foreign country will allow you to develop a stronger sense of independence. WEP exchange students have the opportunity to discover themselves while learning about another culture. A newfound mature outlook is one of the most beneficial aspects of participating in a student exchange program.

With over 20 different countries to choose from, deciding where to go is the hardest part! Need more information? Use the holidays to do some research. Visit us online at www.wep.org.au to request a free information pack, email us at info@wep.org.au, or give us a call in the office on 1300 884 733.
Movember is about bringing back the moustache (Mo), having fun and doing good to change the face of men’s health. Mo Bros take action by changing their appearance through the growth of a new moustache for the 30 days of Movember, and in doing so become walking, talking billboards for men’s health. Mo Sistas sign up and commit to supporting the men in their lives while helping to promote men’s health at home, in the workplace and within their community.

$660
TEAM FUNDS RAISED

LRCS raised
$660.00 for
Movember!!

Computers for Tender

We have a number of desktop systems that we intend to dispose of.

These computers have no operating system and no software.

If you would like to purchase one of these systems please contact the school to tender before the end of term. After 17/12/2014 we will be disposing of them via auction.
Uniform Shop will be closed during school holidays and will re-open:

From: 2nd February 2015
8:30—10:00 am
Monday—Friday
(open 5 days first week of school only)

From: 9th February 2015
8:30-9:00 am
Monday’s & Thursday’s only

Lost Property

Reminder to all parents, if your child is missing items of clothing please check lost property in BOTH Front office and your child’s classroom before the end of term.

All unclaimed items will be recycled into our uniform pool for 2015.
**Foster Carers make a difference**

Life Without Barriers is seeking compassionate and motivated people who are capable of providing care and support to children and young people.

- Carers can be male or female, single, married, de facto, same sex or a family;
- Carers may come from Aboriginal and multicultural backgrounds;
- Carers will receive support, training and financial reimbursement.

If you are interested in joining our caring team and enhancing a young person’s quality of life, please contact Shayne on:

Ph. (02) 6809 9500  Mob. 0407 062 020  Email. shayne.primmer@lwb.org.au or www.lwb.org.au

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Come and get your tyres & tyre pressure checked before Christmas  
Holidays – it’s free
IMPORTANT ROAD SAFETY REMINDER FOR
PARENTS AND CARERS THESE HOLIDAYS

As the school holidays approach, it is important to remember when walking near roads, on footpaths, near driveways and in car parks always:

- **hold your child’s hand.** Until they are at least 8 years old children need to hold an adult's hand. Until they at least 10, children should be closely supervised by an adult and hold hands when crossing the road.

- **talk to your child about road safety.** Talk about how to be safe when near roads. Be a good role model.

- **point out road safety dangers and differences in new environments.** This is especially important when on holidays in different surroundings. Roads, footpaths and pedestrian facilities may look different in holiday areas.

**The best way to keep your child safe on or near the road is to hold their hand.**

**Talk with your child daily about road safety.**

**Remind other adults and carers about this too.**

You can find out more at [Transport for NSW](http://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/stayingsafe/children/pedestriansafety.html)

Have a safe holiday break!
Communication Matters

Speech Pathology Drop-in Clinic

- Ask any questions you have,
- Chat about communication skills,
- Strategies and ideas to encourage communication,
- Find out more about speech pathology,
- Advice on whether you should refer your child.
- For everyone! – those who have not seen a speech pathologist, if you are on the waiting list or already seeing the speech pathologist.

Friday 5th, 12th December

9am-11am

Cost: Free

MacKillop Rural Community Services
28 Morilla Lane, Lightning Ridge
(building directly behind Harlequin’s Café, in the lane way)

For more information contact:
Lisa Newnham, Speech Pathologist
Phone: 02 6829 1800   Email: lnewnham@fwml.com.au
Lightning Ridge Community
Christmas Carols

Friday 12th December
7:30pm

At the Central School

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Carols & items for kids
Glowsticks, food and drinks for sale
Contact David Piper 6829 0597 for any queries

CLOSED
BREAKFAST CLUB will be closed
Last week of School