From the Principals Desk

Opportunities to excel, opportunities to learn and opportunities to assist others. This is what the last two weeks have been all about at Lightning Ridge Central School.

I have been fortunate enough to have seen amazing examples of quality work from a variety of stage 2 and 3 students. It is great to see teachers, students and parents working so closely to achieve improved outcomes for students.

As part of our desire to work cooperatively with parents we are trialling an easier way to remind parents that their child has been absent and they need to explain the absence. If your child is absent a SMS will be sent to the phone number we have on record reminding that an explanation is required. Please reply to the text with a reason for their absence and that is satisfactory for our records. Please don’t be upset if you get a message it is just a reminder to try to help and also a reminder to you as the School cannot change absences after 7 days. It is important that we keep our records accurate so if your contact details ever change please let us know as soon as you can.

Last week we had the University of NSW Aspire program working with students across the school giving then an insight into the benefits of continuing education beyond compulsory schooling. The presenters were able to excite students with a range of possibilities for their future.

The future is what school and education is all about. Students who attend school regularly and try their best to succeed have a better future – not just at school but for the rest of their lives. One way schools prepare students for the rest of their lives is by offering opportunities to learn about life and the things that will impact on them throughout their lifetime.

Last week we were fortunate to be able to screen Impact by Motivational Media for our 7-12 students. This one hour presentation featuring music and video focussed on how your life can impact on yourself and others and the impact others can have on you. A thought provoking learning experience that was also very entertaining and enjoyable.

We have had, for some of our older students, talks about sexual health presented by health professionals to ensure they receive factual information to protect their health and wellbeing. A Quit Smoking program is being organised to assist smokers who wish to quit and friends of smokers who want to help their friends. I hope this will have a positive effect on reducing the horrific health effects of smoking in the future.  

Continued over page
Partnerships are a very powerful way to make improvements and we have been fortunate to have developed some excellent community and parent partnerships which have been beneficial to all involved. We now have a partnership between our Stage 5 Child Studies class and our Stage 1 students. The Stage 5 students have begun working in the Kinder classes to learn about the needs of children as part of their course. The Kinder class is benefiting from lots of extra helpers, some magnificent role models and both are having lots of fun learning.

Our Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG) has been reformed for 2014 and I’m looking forward to working with an energetic, co-operative and enthusiastic group as I did last year.

I’m pleased that Rhonda Ashby has been elected as the President for 2014. It will be great working with Rhonda in this new role and I also look forward to her return to teaching Aboriginal Language at school as soon as she is able.

Not so good news is the loss of one primary class due to falling numbers this year. The Department of Education and Communities has a formula to determine the number of teachers in each school and this year the reduction in student numbers in K-6 has led to the loss of one class and a teacher.

Mrs Mapperson has returned to relief teaching and Miss Verry's class will be moved into other appropriate classes. Miss Verry will teach a class previously shared by Mrs Mapperson and Mr Forbes. There will be some disruption and already K-6 staff are working hard to make the changes as positive as possible for all students.

Last newsletter I said that our next P&C meeting was week 4 next term. Sorry, it is actually Week 3 which will be at 5pm Tuesday May 13. See you there!

From The Deputy Principal - Darren Ball

Last week, saw some important days of recognition such as National Close the Gap day, Harmony Day and National Day of action against Bullying and Violence. These events, while recognised once a year, are priorities at Lightning Ridge Central school every day.

Our school goals, of Showing respect, Following instructions, keeping our hands and feet to ourselves, being in the right place at the right time and producing quality work, ensure that our school is a safe and productive environment, where all cultures are valued and respected.

As we near the end of Term 1, students will be completing Assessment tasks to demonstrate their understanding of the learning that has been occurring in their classes. This week would be an excellent time for parents to enquire what tasks students are completing and ensuring students have a quiet area where they can concentrate on their studies.

Mr Grant Hancock has offered to coach football teams this year. As we know coaching football is a very specialised activity and at times we have struggled to find teachers who are qualified to coach teams resulting in teams going away lacking the preparation necessary to be competitive. Grant saw this last year as he watched his sons play and, being qualified and eager to assist all students, has volunteered to run a coaching program for a range of teams next term. Thanks to Grant and our PE staff who will be assisting with organisation. Thanks also to Mel and Stanley who are also helping in this great initiative.
The uniform shop is pleased to announce that we are now taking orders for the NEW LRCS winter jersey.

All students from Year 9 to Year 12 are invited to order or purchase these hardwearing, long lasting, value-for-money jerseys.

A $35 non-refundable deposit must be paid at the time of ordering.

The uniform shop is open Monday and Thursdays, 8:30am to 9:00am.

ONLY $65

Entries for the NSW University Competitions close Friday 4th April
Student of the Week
Secondary Week 7
Matthew Grace

Student of the Week
Secondary Week 8
Zoe Bryant

A young lady who at school makes the most of her time. She consistently follows the school rules, is friendly and respectful to her peers and adults. Her teachers are impressed by the level of dedication Zoe puts into her learning and education.
Student of the Week

Primary Week 8
S1/2V
Jada Seaton

Congratulations!

Student of the Week

Primary Week 9 S1M
Ellie Gough
Ellie has a fantastic attitude in all learning areas.
I always enjoy a bookshop visit and recently needed to find a gift for a friend’s birthday. It was so easy! If you know someone well there are so many choices and I have been known to buy books a person already has. Getting to know students so that you can recommend a book is fun and getting to know your children and what they like to read is very rewarding.

It has been most rewarding to read to the stages this term and I am looking forward to seeing the delight that Stage 1 will express when they receive the books they chose some weeks ago.

Stage 1 parents, friends and interested community are most welcome and encouraged to attend the Books in Homes Presentation in the library on Thursday 3rd April. The timetable is written below for your information. Please come! Megan Lawrie is our Role Model Presenter. Megan has come through some pretty tough experiences and her love of books, family and desire for education is inspirational. Please come if only to hear Megan’s story! (Retold by me)

Books in Homes Timetable Thursday 3rd April: S1M and S1F will receive their books 12.30 – 1.30 and S1W and MCT from 2.00 - 3.00. Please come if you can!

The 3rd of April is also the cut off date for the LRCS Reading Challenge. There has been a steady flow of recording sheets on my desk.

Kindergarten are enjoying the books by Gene Zion all about a dog called Harry. They listen and even when I choose an audio book which is quite long are able to stay focused. The sign of a good book! Stage 1 are recommending books from the books in Homes collection. We just do not have enough time to read them all but they will be available to borrow next term and of course some books will be owned by students soon. Stage 2 were very interested and concerned about Junko Morimoto’s life after reading My Hiroshima. Stage 3 have understood the author’s purpose in dot and the kangaroo and listen intently to my oral reading each week. Hopefully we will finish the book soon. We want to find out if Dot finds her way home and which native animals come into the story and which conflicts need to be overcome in this journey.

Library skills are more of the programme this year and I am loving it. Students learn and understand how our library is organised so that they can find books independently that they want to read is the main purpose. With this understanding also comes a desire to be tidy and put books back where they belong which is helpful to all library users.

We had two principals at our schools interviewing staff, students and community members with the aim to improve outcomes for Aboriginal students. I was asked if we have enough resources. My response was, “You can never have enough!” Well really you can. It all depends how you use resources and our school library is very well resourced. I believe our teachers are making good use of what we have. They are very good borrowers and Secondary staff are always buying new up to date material to help their students.
Library Turtle Draw winners recently were:

**Week 7**
- **ES1** Alex Hawkins—LohseES1B (Canteen Voucher)
- **Stage 1** Bella Hackett S1M (Canteen Voucher)
- **Stage 2** Rabi Sharma S1/2V (Canteen Voucher)
- **Stage 3** Sophie Bienke S3R (Book: Clinton Gregory’s Secret)

**Week 8**
- **ES1** Ashton Dench ES1B
- **Stage 1** Erin Buchanan S1F
- **Stage 2** Kiara Barrett S2G
- **Stage 3** Opal Trumper S3R

The library continues to be a haven at lunchtime. It is a wonder our Duplo hasn’t worn out from its continued use at lunchtime. Our junior students particularly at very keen to be off the playground and in the library. There are great things happening in the playground but the library has something for everyone!

That’s all for now. As always, come visit the library if you can. Come to assemblies. Come to the BIH Presentation. Be involved in your children’s education. Best wishes, Penny Fahey, Librarian

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**Dyslexia Screening and Lens Assessment**

On Thursday the 1st of May 2014 and If enough children on Friday 2nd May (Term 2 Week 1) Erin Young from the Dubbo Irlens Dyslexia Clinic will be coming to Lightning Ridge to screen or test children for Irlens Syndrome (formerly known as Scotopic Sensitivity Syndrome).

Some children/adults use coloured overlays or glasses to help process visual information. Symptoms can include: Light sensitivity, reading problems, discomfort, attention and concentration problems, writing problems, depth perception and word distortion.

**Costs: Dubbo Irlens Dyslexia Clinic prices**

- The basic screening costs $88 and takes 1 hour
- The second assessment is for the coloured overlays/lens assessment and costs $198
- Coloured lens costs a minimum of $200 (Plano only, no script)

Should you wish to have your child assessed or reassessed please contact Jasna at Lightning Ridge Central School 6829 0511 and I will put you on the list.

Also, Diane French who lives in Lightning Ridge is qualified to conduct basic screening. If you want to have your child screened before 1st May, contact Diane on 6829 2296 and she will advise cost.
The NSW University Competitions 2014

The NSW University has competitions for students from Year 3-12. They are now known as ICAS. (International Competitions and Assessments for Schools) Students who participate in these competitions gain a measure of their own achievement in an external testing situation. All students receive a certificate and an individual student report indicating which questions they answered correctly and their score compared to the rest of the students tested.

I am available if you would like to discuss the competitions further. Money and permission notes need to be at the front office by Friday 4th April, 2014.

Mrs P Fahey
NSW University Competitions Organiser

2014 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) Permission Slip.

Please return this section to the front office with payment by Friday 4th April, 2014.

I give permission for my child ............................ in year ............... class ...............
to participate in the following competitions.

(Please tick the competitions you would like your child to enter and attach the appropriate money)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Competition</th>
<th>Date of Competition</th>
<th>Entry fee per student</th>
<th>Year level of test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer Skills</td>
<td>Tuesday 20th May</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td>Years 3 to 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Wednesday 4th June</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td>Years 3 to 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Monday 16th June</td>
<td>$17.00</td>
<td>Years 3 to 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>Tuesday 17th June</td>
<td>$11.00</td>
<td>Years 3 to 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Tuesday 29th July</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td>Years 3 to 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Tuesday 12th August</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td>Years 3 to 12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please find enclosed total payment $...........
Name of Parent/Guardian ..................................................
Signature of Parent/Guardian ........................................... Date .................................................................
National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy 2014

LETTER TO PARENTS

In May 2014 the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN has the support of all State and Territory Education Ministers and will assess the literacy and numeracy skills of students across Australian schools.

The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child’s level of achievement. Each student’s level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard.

Background information (student name, gender, date of birth, language background and Aboriginality) will be collected as part of the National Assessment Program. This information is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that every student’s right to privacy is maintained.

The NAPLAN tests will be conducted from 13 - 15 May 2014.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TUESDAY 13 MAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY 14 MAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY 15 MAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Conventions (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Numeracy (Number, Algebra, function and pattern, Chance and data; Measurement and Space)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the Numeracy tests students do not require any measuring tools such as rulers or protractors. In Years 7 and 9 there will be two Numeracy tests: one where a calculator is allowed and one where calculators are not to be used. For the calculator test, the student should use the calculator that they currently use at school.

Friday 16 May – A ‘catch-up’ day is scheduled for students who missed a test or were absent on a test day.

Students may be considered for exemption from the tests if:

- they are newly arrived in Australia (less than one year before the test) and with a language background other than English, or
- they have significant intellectual disability and/or significant co-existing conditions which severely limit their capacity to participate in the tests.

All other students are expected to participate in the tests. Disability adjustments which reflect the student’s normal level of support in the classroom may be provided. Large print, Braille, coloured paper versions and electronic tests are available to meet the needs of individual students.

Access to disability adjustment or exemption from the tests must be discussed with the school Principal and a parent or carer consent form must be signed.

Students may be withdrawn from NAPLAN by their parent or carer. This is a matter for consideration by parents in consultation with the Principal. If you wish to withdraw your child from the tests, a parent or carer consent form must be signed.

Please make an appointment with the Principal of the school your child attends if you would like to discuss your child’s participation in NAPLAN.

Additional information about NAPLAN can be found at www.nap.edu.au/NAPLAN/Parent_Carer_support/index.html.

Handbook for Principals NAPLAN 2014

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STAGE 4 have just finished a poetry writing unit, submitting their anthologies last week. We are moving onto an introduction to the news media, and will continue this into next term.

STAGE 5 have been learning about the concept of *displacement* through a study of asylum seekers and texts including Anh Do’s ‘The Happiest Refugee’.

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A Haiku

Stage four are wicked
They write awesome poetry
Now we’ll read the news
STAGE 4 have also just finished their assessment task on Global Change. They have explored the inequalities that exist in the world, and what is being done to reduce these issues.

STAGE 5 are investigating Issues in Australian Environments. They have been working hard on fieldwork for their Research Action Plan assessment task.
On Thursday 20th March, Kindergarten students visited the Lightning Ridge Preschool for the Close the Gap Family Fun Day.
Lightning Ridge Central School is offering you the choice of our newsletter being e-mailed to you each Fortnight, or you can download a copy from our website

www.lightningr-schools.nsw.edu.au

(Or you can order your paper copy as usual)

Please fill in the attached request and return to the school

WE ARE GOING GREEN in 2014

Please send my newsletter by (please circle one only):

Email ....... I will download newsletter ..... paper copy

My email address is : .............................................................................................................

My Children/s name/s are: ....................................................................................................

Of Year/ Class .......................................................................................................................
Family details - update form

Student name(s): ..................................................................................................................................................................................

Residential address: ........................................................................................................................................................................

Correspondence address: ........................................................................................................................................................................ (if different to Residential address)

Home phone number: ........................................................ Mobile: ........................................................................................................

Email address for correspondence: ........................................................................................................................................................

Parent/Carer name 1: ............................................................................................................................................................................

Phone number (home): ................................................................. Phone number (work or mobile) ..............................................................

☐ Occupation group (1, 2, 3, 4 or 8) - see over for explanations

School education ..................................................................................................................................................................................

☐ Year 12 or equivalent
☐ Year 11 or equivalent
☐ Year 10 or equivalent
☐ Year 9 or equivalent or below

Educational qualifications - what is the highest qualification completed?

☐ Bachelor degree or above
☐ Advanced diploma/diploma
☐ Certificate I to IV (inc. trade cert.)
☐ No non-school qualification

Parent/Carer name 2: ............................................................................................................................................................................

Phone number (home): ................................................................. Phone number (work or mobile) ..............................................................

☐ Occupation group (1, 2, 3, 4 or 8) - see over for explanations

School education ..................................................................................................................................................................................

☐ Year 12 or equivalent
☐ Year 11 or equivalent
☐ Year 10 or equivalent
☐ Year 9 or equivalent or below

Educational qualifications - what is the highest qualification completed?

☐ Bachelor degree or above
☐ Advanced diploma/diploma
☐ Certificate I to IV (inc. trade cert.)
☐ No non-school qualification

Emergency contacts

Emergency contact name 1: ......................................................... Relationship to student: .................................................................

Phone number (home): ................................................................. Phone number (work or mobile) ..............................................................

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Phone number (home): ................................................................. Phone number (work or mobile) ..............................................................
Parent occupation groups

Group 4
Machine operators, hospitality staff, assistants, labourers and related workers
- Drivers, mobile plant, production/processing machinery and other machinery operators
- Hospitality staff [hotel service supervisor, receptionist, waiter, bar attendant, kitchenhand, porter, housekeeper]
- Office assistants, sales assistants and other assistants
- Office [typist, word processing/data entry/business machine receptionist, office assistant]
- Sales [sales assistant, motor vehicle/caravans/parts salesperson, checkout operator, cashier, bus/tram conductor, ticket seller, service station attendant, car rental desk staff, street vendor, telemarketer, shelf stacker]
- Assistant/lade [trade/s assistant, school/teacher's aide, dental assistant, veterinary nurse, nursing assistant, museum/gallery attendant, usher, home helper, salon assistant, animal attendant]
- Labourers and related workers
- Defence Forces ranks below senior NCO not included below
- Agriculture, horticulture, forestry, fishing, mining worker operator, [farm overseer, shearer, woodchip classifier, farm hand, horse trainer, nurseryman, greenhouse gardener, tree surgeon, forestry logging worker, miner, seafarer/fishing hand]
- Other worker [labourer, factory hand, storeman, guard, cleaner, caretaker, laundry worker, trolley collector, car park attendant, crossing supervisor]

Group 3
Tradesmen/women, clerks and skilled office, sales and service staff
- Tradesmen/women generally have completed a 4 year Trade Certificate, usually by apprenticeship. All tradesmen/women are included in this group
- Clerks [bookkeeper, bank/PO clerk, statistical/account clerk, accounting/clerical/sales clerk, payroll clerk, recording/registry clerk, billing clerk, stores/salesclerk, purchasing/order clerk, freight/transport/stevedoring clerk, bond clerk, customs agent, customs clerk, admissions clerk]
- Skilled office, sales and service staff
- Office [secretary, personal assistant, desktop publishing opera tor, switchboard operator]
- Sales [company sales representative, auctioneer, insurance agent, salesperson/floor adjuster, market researcher]
- Service [aged/disabled/hospital care worker, nursery, meter reader, parking inspector, petrol worker, courier, travel agent, tour guide, flight attendant, fitness instructor, canine dealer/supervisor]
- Designer, illustrator, proof reader, sportsman/woman, coach, trainer, sports official
- Associate professionals generally have diplomas/technical qualifications and support managers and professionals
- 8 business administration [recruitment/employment/industrial relations/training officer, marketing/advertising specialist, market research analyst, technical sales representative, retail buyer, office/project manager]
- Defence Forces senior Non-Commissioned Officer

Group 2
Other business managers, arts/media/ sportspersons and associate professionals
- Owners/manager of farm, construction, import/export, wholesale, manufacturing, transport, real estate business
- Specialist manager [finance/engineering/production/personnel/industrial relations/sales/marketing]
- Financial services manager [bank branch manager, finance/investment/broker, insurance/credit officer]
- Retail sales/services manager [shop, petrol station, restaurant, club, hotel/motel, cinema, theatre, agency]
- Arts/media/sports [musician, actor, dancer, painter, potter, sculptor, journalist, author, media presenter, photographer, designer, illustrator, proof reader, sportsman/woman, coach, trainer, sports official]
- Associate professionals generally have diplomas/technical qualifications and support managers and professionals
- 8 business administration [recruitment/employment/industrial relations/training officer, marketing/advertising specialist, market research analyst, technical sales representative, retail buyer, office/project manager]
- Defence Forces senior Non-Commissioned Officer

Group 1
Senior management in large business organisation, government administration and defence, and qualified professionals
- Senior executive manager/department head in industry, commerce, media or other large organisation
- Public service manager [section head or above], regional director, health/education/police/fire services administrator
- Other administrator [school principal, faculty head/dean, library/museum/gallery director, research facility director]
- Defence Forces Commissioned Officer
- Professionals generally have degree or higher qualifications

Please note
- If the person is not currently in paid work but had a job or retired in the last 12 months, please use the person's last occupation.
- If the person has been in paid work in the last 12 months, please write "B" in the box.
Parent Online Payments from 28th April 2014

It will be possible for parents to make online payments to the school for amounts owing for students, via a secure payment page hosted by Westpac. Payments can be made using either a Visa or MasterCard credit or debit card. The payment page is accessed from the front page of the school’s website www.lightningr-c.schools.nsw.edu.au by selecting $ Make a payment.

Items that can be paid include voluntary school contributions, subject contributions, excursions, sales to students and creative and practical arts activities (these include band, drama and dance). There is also a category called Other this to cover items not covered in the previous headings, Other can be used to make a complete payment of a school invoice.

When you access the $ Make a payment you must enter:

- the students name, and
- class and reference number OR
- the students name, and
- date of birth.

These details are entered each time you make a payment as student information is not held within the payment system. There is also the option to enter the Student Registration Number and Invoice number if you are aware of them, these are optional fields.

This is a secure payment system hosted by Westpac to ensure that your credit/debit card details are captured in a secure manner, these details are not passed back to the school.

You have the ability to check and change any details of the payment before the payment is processed. Receipts can be emailed and/or printed.

Details of the payments are passed daily to the school where they will be receipted against your child’s account. As a receipt has been issued from the payment page a further receipt will not be issued by the school.

For any enquiries regarding the Online Payment process please contact the School Administration Office on 02 68290511.