It is with great excitement I write this first Principal’s piece for the 2015 Wheatlands State School Newsletter. I am thrilled to be back at Wheatlands and sincerely missed our little school. I have returned with new skills and knowledge from my time as the Deputy Principal at Kingaroy State School. It has been business as usual from Day One here at school and I look forward to another very successful year for the Students at Wheatlands State School.

The Regional Agenda and State Education Agenda continues to drive the overarching direction of our school. The following is an extract from the front page of the Regional Charter of Expectations.

“Every Student Succeeding”

Purpose: Preparing Queenslanders with the knowledge, skills and confidence to participate effectively in the community and the economy.

Copies of the Regional Charter of Expectations can be obtained upon request from the school office. I am currently drafting the 2015 Annual Implementation Plan for our school. The school will focus on 4 key priorities for the school year; they are as follows:

- Implement Seven Steps to Writing as a school wide writing program with a focus on pedagogy and feedback.
- Implement STRIVE, (Structured Tier Two Robust Instruction of Vocabulary Experiences) to enhance oral language and reading skills of students.
- Focus on data management practices by enhancing student tracking, item level analysis and short cycle procedures.
- Continue to refine and develop differentiation and adjustments, focusing on the upper two bands, U2B, students requiring support and students with disabilities.

In a review of communication between school and home I have decided to reintroduce the publication of hard copy newsletters for each family. The electronic copy will continue, however feedback has indicated that parents missed the paper copy.

We are currently trialling a variation to the second break routine. Students will now play from 1.00pm-1.30pm and then eat prior to returning back to class. It is envisaged that students will be more settled and will have had chance to cool down prior to heading back into classrooms.

Whilst the large majority of students have commenced the school year in full uniform there are a few who have new white shoes. Can I please remind parents that students are to be in black shoes. The P&C has endorsed the school uniform and it is an expectation that students wear the full school uniform daily. Your cooperation is appreciated.

In the coming week parents will receive an assessment planner. This planner is an outline of all the assessment items your child is completing and includes check dates and submission dates. It is designed to assist parents to keep track of assessment items. It is advisable to locate this document somewhere it will be readily seen for example, the fridge. 3 way meetings will be held in week 3 from the 9th-13th of Feb. It is a school expectation that a parent or caregiver attend this meeting with the class teacher.

Finally, I would like to remind all parents about the importance of ensuring your child is at school every day. The State, Region and Wheatlands State School are heavily committed to promoting “Everyday Counts”.

Yours in Education.
Daniel Bishop
We have got off to a fantastic start this term! Welcome to our new Prep students and welcome back to the Year 1’s. Thank you Year 1 students for your help in getting the Prep students to ‘learn the ropes’ this week, we have now (almost) mastered lining up!

This Term is a busy one. Our English unit is all about reading stories and at the end of the term students will present a short talk to the class about their favourite book character for their assessment item. I will send home the task and assessment information about this in Week 5. We have two STRIVE words a week, these are listed on the weekly homework sheet. We have been very amused this week and look forward to new words appearing.

We will begin sending home readers for students next week and we will look at two letters a week- the letter name, sound and action before moving into sight words later in the term. Year 1’s will be revising their sight words before moving on with the Magic sight word program.

In Maths Preps will look at the numbers to 5 for reading, writing and counting, but we will be counting to 100 by rote regularly. We will also be investigating patterns and sorting objects as well as comparing objects by attribute ie size- big, small and locations such as up, down, on top of, between, under and over.

In Science the unit we are covering is about living things. I bought my dog ‘Gus’ in this week and I look forward to hearing the children tell us about one of their pets next week in ‘Show and Tell.’ Roster sent home today. Please feel free to email me a photo of your pet so we can share it on the interactive whiteboard at abrim1@eq.edu.au. I have a few pets ready to go for next week already.

In History we will start reading some picture books about ANZAC day. We will look at some of the symbols of ANZAC celebrations such as ANZAC biscuits, poppies, slouch hats etc.

Mrs Alex Brimblecombe

Library News

Welcome back to the library for 2015! As always, the library is a busy place at Wheatlands with students enjoying it being opened every lunch hour during second break. There is always lots to do including colouring in, playing games, jigsaw puzzles, watching TV, reading and just being with friends. This term I will be conducting special craft days on Wednesday of Week 5 (making bookworm bookmarks) and Week 10 (Easter craft).

Just a reminder to all families that library borrowing is EVERY Wednesday and that it is an expectation that every student will borrow each week. Students require a library bag to borrow to take books home and are also allowed a book in their desk or chair bag at school. Please encourage your child to regularly borrow to enable them to receive stickers on their borrowing charts in the library and prizes at the end of the term for the consistent bor-rowers.

During library lessons this year I will be focusing on the explicit teaching of reading strategies through the use of modelled reading. Modelling involves times when the text is being read and when thinking is being described (think aloud). This term our main focus will be on the reading strategies predicting and connecting to text. We will learn why they are useful and how efficient readers use them.

Lastly, this year we will also be conducting our annual Book Fair being held in Term 2 and Book Week Dress up Parade, held in Term 3. Some exciting events to look forward to.

Mrs Anderson
Teacher Librarian

School Banking News

This year is going to be very exciting for School Banking. The OUTER SPACE theme will take students on a mission to Planet Savings with eight new reward items to choose from. In the first term there will be an ET Video and a planet Handball, term 2 Invisible Ink Martian Pen and Intergalactic Rocket, term 3 Glow-in-the-dark Solar System and Cosmic Light Beam Torch and in term 4 Outer Space Savers Money Box and Lunar Light Band. The big prize this year is one very lucky school banker can win a family trip to DISNEYLAND CALIFORNIA. To be in the running for this prize you just need to bank 25 times through school banking. School Banking will be on THURSDAY this year. If you wish to sign up for School banking new forms are available from the office or see Mrs Hetherington. If you need a new bank book please see Mrs Hetherington.

Happy Banking!
Welcome to my new parents and welcome back to those who I have again! What an exciting and busy start to Term 1 we have had. Students have settled into our classroom routine well.

Please check Communication Books daily for any important notices or information about your child that day. 3-Way Meet Interview Timetables have been sent home – please ensure these are returned ASAP. Thanks 😊

**ENGLISH**

Students will complete the “Reading, Writing & Performing Poetry” unit this term. In this unit of work, students will read and listen to a range of poems to create an imaginative poetry reconstruction. Students will present their poem or rhyme to the rest of the class.

This week we have started looking at a variety of rhyming stories from our library and discussing the words that rhyme. We started using our new Handwriting, Reading and Grammar Conventions workbooks this week. Students were very excited!

**MATH**

Students will begin the year learning about “Number”. This will include numbers to 999, addition and subtraction (multiplication and division for year 2), skip counting & number patterns and problem solving (word problems).

This week we completed the “Are You Ready?” test online (Mathletics) and started our Mathletics workbooks. Students were able to revise basic counting forwards and backwards and incorporate counting into some fun, hands-on math games.

**SCIENCE**

This term students will be completing the unit of work, “Look! Listen!” It will provide opportunities for students to investigate sources of light and sound, how these are produced and how light and sound travel. Students’ understanding of the role of light and sound in our lives and our community will be developed through hands-on activities. Through investigations, students will explore why we have two eyes instead of one.

This week we read the story, “Sounds in the dark” and asked students to listen carefully and imagine what might be happening. We recorded and discussed the “Scary Sounds” that we heard from the story.

**HISTORY**

To start off our History unit this term, we will be completing a mini-unit of work on Anzac Day. Students will learn that ANZAC Day is the solemn day of remembrance of those Australian and New Zealand Army Corps soldiers who fought and died at Gallipoli in 1915. It is also a day of remembrance for all soldiers who have fought and died for their country. Students will explore when we remember, how and why.

**TECHNOLOGY**

This term students will complete the unit, “Meeting Needs by Design”. This unit provides an opportunity for students to investigate the needs of people and animals as living things, particularly their habitat or shelter and work in groups on design tasks for an insect or small animal home before engaging in a group design task for a human shelter. The main shelter will need to withstand sunlight, wind and rain.

**HIGH EXPECTATIONS HANDWRITING AWARD**

Week 2 – Ryan Mollenhauer

**GREEN SLIPS**

Week 2 – Leo Clarke, Tara Kinsela
Welcome to 2015 Year 3’s!

We are ready and raring to go and settling into our new classroom happily!

In English this term we are doing a novel study on “The Twits” one of my personal favourites from Roald Dahl. In this unit, students read a narrative and examine and analyse the language features and techniques used by the author. They create a new chapter for the narrative for an audience of their peers. Lots of great words and gross stuff!

STRIVE Words Week 1

Impossible- If something can’t be done it is impossible. *It is impossible to lick your forehead with your own tongue.*

Disgusting – If something is really gross and makes you feel sick it is disgusting. *The smell in my brother’s room disgusts me.*

Revolting - If something is really yucky it is revolting. *Picking your nose is a revolting habit.*

STRIVE words Week 2

Plotting- Secretly planning to do something is plotting. *The robbers were plotting to rob the bank.*

Obediently- Children are obedient when they follow the rules and do what they are asked. *The children sat obediently, waiting for parade to begin.*

In Maths we will be working on Reading and Understanding Whole Number, Addition and Subtraction Strategies as well as Multiplication and Division Strategies. Each child has a Mathletics Username and Password. Children are encouraged to work on some tasks at home. Mathletics is a great resource for parents as well. The Help prompts give great examples and explanations of concepts.

In Science we are going to work through a Primary Connections Unit “Plants in Action”. Our focus will be seed germination and growth, conditions for plant growth, parts of seedlings and flowers and making and recording observations.

In History we will be working on a short unit on The ANZAC story. Our focus unit for the Semester is Investigating European exploration and the movement of peoples. In this unit students will investigate the following questions:  • Why did the great journeys of exploration occur?  • Why did the Europeans settle in Australia?  We will also  • investigate the journeys of the great explorers from the 1400s to the late 1700s and how these resulted in colonisation and the building of empires around the globe and  • sequence key events related to the colonisation of Australia

In Art this term we will be inspired by the illustrators of children’s books. Maybe some of our work will be good enough to be displayed in the library!

I look forward to meeting with you in week three to discuss your child’s results in Initial PAT tests and set goals for the year!

Cheers
Libby

ICY CUPS $1
Sarsparilla, Orange,
Raspberry, Lime
STRIVE

Wheatlands State School is always investigating ways to improve the academic outcomes for our students. We will be implementing the STRIVE program as part of our English lesson this year.

WHAT IS IT?

STRIVE is a program to explicitly teach vocabulary. Developed by Speech Therapists, the STRIVE approach teaches children high frequency words with a sophisticated meaning that can be used across a variety of contexts and require direct instruction.

WHY DO IT?

Good readers use many strategies to help them understand what they read. Lots of readers can decode the word (work out how to pronounce it) but don’t know what the word means. Having a good vocabulary is one part of good reading comprehension. Reading comprehension difficulties are simply the tip of the iceberg! What lies beneath is a much larger problem of poor word knowledge. Readers must know 92% of the words in a sentence to understand it.

WHAT WILL IT LOOK LIKE IN A CLASSROOM?

Each class will work on 2 STRIVE words a week. These words will come from the books and texts that they are reading as part of their English units. Some words may also come from other key learning areas. These words will be published in each newsletter. The children will come up with a ‘kid friendly’ definition for each word and complete activities over the course of the week to reinforce its meaning. The children will be encouraged to use the new words as part of their spoken and written vocabulary. The words will be displayed on walls in each classroom and form part of a class dictionary.

An example STRIVE words could be

**Hideous** - If you say that something is hideous, you mean that they are not very nice or are ugly.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

By including the STRIVE words in your conversations with your child you are increasing their exposure to the word and helping them to confirm their understanding.

---

**Welcome to 4, 5, 6!**

As a graduate teacher, just starting out, I am excited and ready for 2015!

In **English** this term, we will be studying narratives, with a specific focus on the novel and film *Red Dog*. In this unit, students will analyse narratives and short stories with a focus on character development in relation to plot and setting and will produce a comparison of the movie and text.

In **Maths**, we will be focusing on number, mental strategies for subtraction and addition, written algorithms, problem solving, multiplication facts and strategies, mental multiplication and division strategies, and written algorithms. Children will also continue to participate in the online *Mathletics* program, which is encouraged for at home use, as well as class time.

In **Science** this term, we will be exploring a unit on micro-organisms. Within this unit, students will study how micro-organisms affect everyone, through disease, decomposition, food spoilage and bacteria.

In **History** this term, students will study the meaning and historical account tied to ANZAC. This unit will involve research into Australian history and require students to apply their inquiry skills to discover the story of the ANZACs.

Finally, this term I will be sharing my love of all things beautiful in our **Exploring Colour Art** unit. Within this unit, students will discover the reasoning behind colour combinations as we explore: the colour wheel, primary, secondary and tertiary colours, complimentary and analogous, as well as warm and cold colours. Within this unit, students will unleash their creativity in several different pieces.

Also this term, from February 4th – 6th, our year 6 students will be going on a leadership camp to Barambah Environment Education centre. We wish them well on this exciting trip!

With a full year of learning and creativity ahead, I am looking forward to becoming a part of the Wheatlands community!

My doors are open and I look forward to getting to know everyone.

Amy Snow
RECYCLE FOR THE SCHOOL!

Do you have any old automotive Batteries lying around?? Please drop them off at Murgon Tyre & Auto who can recycle them for you and all proceeds will be donated back to our School.

Thank you to Murgon Tyre & Auto for this great program!
Donations already received total—$1079

KEEP RECYCLING!

COMMUNITY NEWS ITEMS

Tennis coaching will resume on Wednesdays starting in the 2nd week of school.
45 minute lessons. Maximum 8 students per class. $8.50 per student, payable by term account.
Please contact Leanne Sippel 0438 684 705 to book your child in.

Wondai Proston Junior Rugby League & Wondai Wolves sign on
Sunday 8th February commencing @ 3.00pm— All new junior players please bring along your birth certificate
Junior players can sign on online by going to the NRL website at www.playnrl.com and follow the links.
You can use your password from 2014 or request a new one.
Club will also be providing internet access at the grounds on sign on day.
Senior players must complete a players registration form, this can be done at sign on day.
The club would like senior players to attend for a social afternoon. No need to worry about tea sausage sizzle provided.
Vikki Evans
Next General Meeting - To be announced—Term 1—2015

If you have anything you would like to add to the agenda for the next meeting, please add it to the form at the front office counter.

TUCKSHOP

First day for tuckshop this term is Friday 6th February. Please have your orders in the classroom baskets by 3pm Wednesday 4th. Menu for Term 1 is attached.

26th Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesdays</td>
<td>Library borrowing day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursdays</td>
<td>PE &amp; Music sessions and School banking day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th—6th Feb</td>
<td>Year 6 Leadership Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th—13th Feb</td>
<td>3-way meetings this week with parents/teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27th Feb</td>
<td>Dental Van forms to be returned to office by today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd April</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th April</td>
<td>First day of Term 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DENTAL VAN IS COMING TO WHEATLANDS IN TERM 2!

Families will find attached to their newsletter today the information form from the School Dental Service. This form is to be completed and returned to the school office by Friday 27th February at the latest if you would like your child to participate in the government funded dental care program. One form per family.

Please note that Parents/Guardians must attend the first appointment with their child/ren.

OLD COMPUTER EQUIPMENT - GIVE AWAY—AS IS CONDITION

Multiple number of Computer LCD Flat screens
Multiple number of Computer Keyboards
SHARP Multi-function Printer/Copier—In need of repairs to toner drum approx. $1000—Giveaway—as is condition

FOR SALE

Refrigerator—2 Door—Working condition—For Sale $100—as is condition

First in best dressed—Please see Daniel or Jenny in the office

Generous Rebates Available
Caring Qualified Staff
Tue, Wed & Thu
9.00 am - 2.30 pm
60 Baynes St
wondaikindy@datawave.net.au
Ph: 4168 5313

Wondai Community Kindergarten

Paul Henderson ELECTRICAL
Electrical Contracting
Un: 68635
82 McConnel Way
Mondure Q 4811
Fax 07 4168 9741
Mob: 0408 387 673