From Sharon’s Desk

I trust everyone enjoyed the extra day off over the weekend, with beautiful weather too. Who would believe it’s winter?

Public Speaking - Congratulations to the Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking team Thomas Gray, Will Cuthill, Beth Blanch and Justin Blanch who competed in the local area final in Bletchington last Thursday. Particular mention goes to Beth and Justin Blanch who both gained first place in their stages. They will now compete in the Riverina and Western NSW Regional Finals.

Fantastic effort Sean Stanley on his involvement with the Western Region PSSA U11’s Rugby League team who competed in Sydney in the state championship. You were noted for your maturity and competitive approach as well as being a great representative for our school. Well done.

Early Action for Success conference is being held this week in Sydney. Michelle Wilson (Instructional Leader) and I will be in attendance. Dubbo South came on board the program this year. The program provides a leader (Michelle) to map out what students K-2 across both Literacy/ Numeracy continuums to give the school information on how each child is progressing in these areas. We can map the levels that each child has achieved now and where they need to improve. This will provide information as to what strategies need to be used by students and teachers to achieve these goals. Mrs Karen O’Leary is off class for the remainder of the year developing the targeted students. Mrs Wilson helps develop strategies with the staff. Community seminars will be carried out next semester to inform parents of the program.

Get Smart will be occurring across this week. This program is a positive process which involves a partnership with schools and the local police. Targeted families with students who have been away from school for periods of unexplained leave may have a visit from both the police and an attendance officer (HSLO) from Department of Schools and Communities. It is important to get your children to school every day they are fit, to achieve their learning outcomes. If your child must be away, please send in an explanation via the school app, phone call or a note to the teacher.

Year 6 T-Shirts have all been circulated. They look fantastic and are well designed. Great effort to Mr Jason Blake, Mr Lincoln McBroom and Mrs Blekemore. Students are wearing them with pride and big smiles.

Changed personal details - It is incredibly important that for whatever reason, if you change your personal family details (address, phone or health and legal issues) WE NEED TO KNOW! Many times we contact parents and all contacts on our system are disconnected. These updated details are needed especially for emergencies.

Newsletter - Hard copies will be available for families in Term 3. Obviously going electronic hasn’t helped all families. All families need to know what happens in our school. Please give us your email address if you’d like to have your newsletter emailed to you.

Kindergarten Enrolments for 2015 are now being taken.

Please drop into our office to pick up an information pack. Let any parent know who has a child turning 5 by 31st July 2015. We will be running our transition program in Term 4. More details will come closer to the date.

Dubbo City Eisteddfod

Last week saw a number of groups attend the Eisteddfod. 5/6H entered the group improvisation section and received Highly Commended. They all performed a short play about a random topic they were provided with and had one minute to prepare and 2 minutes to perform. Highly Commended was also awarded to 2M/2H in the verse speaking section. Some students from 5/6T attended the Eisteddfod last Wednesday to compete in the Primary Telephone conversation. They too were given random topics and only had 1 minute to prepare. Holly Keizer and Gabby Wood were awarded second, Kimmy Trappett and Maeve Sparrow 3rd with Tom Shields and Cooper Pychtin as well as Abbey Murphy and Abbey Macleod receiving Highly Commended. Well done everyone.

The Primary Bands need to meet Mrs Smith-Geeing in the Shed tomorrow morning at 9am to have a final practice.

Positive Partnerships Autism Workshop

A FREE two day workshop for Parents/Carers of school age students on the Autism Spectrum.

Venue: Dubbo RSL Club

When: Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th June 2014

Registrations are now open at: www.positivepartnerships.com.au
Western Cross Country Team.
The Western Cross Country team will be heading to Wellington tomorrow to compete. We wish them the best of luck and look forward to hearing about how they all went.

Dubbo District Boys Touch Football
Congratulations on a fantastic effort by Jayden Blake, Blake Merritt, Sean Stanley and Dulin Smith who played for the Dubbo District Boys Touch Team on Friday. Although they weren’t chosen for Western from the strong competition, they displayed outstanding sportsmanship both on and off the field. What a wonderful effort! It’s what we like to see from our students.

Outdoor Learning Garden Area (OLGA)
OLGA received a grant for $1,350 to go toward plants, irrigation, tools, gloves and plant signage. Timber for garden beds will be purchased at a later date. We are looking for a parent who may have a bobcat to level the area and spread stone or roadbase. Please let Libby Mcintyre know on 0429 019 309 if you are able to help with this. The school will also be holding working bees for parents and students to come along and help with the gardens and will be advertised once dates have been set.

We are also looking for donations of $80 for sandstone rock seats which will have a small plaque on it saying “Proudly donated by xxxx family 2014”. If you are interested in donating, please let Libby know on timandlib@bigpond.com

Ear Bus - Help Needed
The Ear Bus Project is taking off and the committee require more help. If you’d be able to volunteer with administration work or with man power, please contact Rachel Mills 0413687671 and Donna Rees 0419534447. This is a very valuable service for our community and the Western Region.

Library News
Book Club Issue 4
Issue 4 orders are due to the Library no later than 9.20am Friday 13th June. Spare leaflets are available. Orders must be in an envelope/lunch bag with the student’s name & class clearly marked. EXACT money only please - NO CHANGE facilities. Cheques are payable to DSPS P & C. Online payment slips AND order forms should be returned to the library. NO late orders are accepted.

Premier’s Reading Challenge.
On Semester 1 reports, the Premier’s Reading Challenge box has been ticked for all students who completed the challenge prior to last Friday 6th June. All students who complete after this date will have it recorded on Semester 2 reports. Congratulations to these amazing readers who recently finished the challenge: Fynn Auld KG, Bailey Varcoe KP, Jemima Ferres 1K, Ella Grandey 3L, Claudia Haseler 4J, Hamish Price 4J & Annabeth Keen 5/6H.

Dubbo Show Art Prizes
A number of classes submitted entries into the art section of the Dubbo Show. Congratulations to everyone who worked hard on their artwork. The following students received awards.

Healthy Ears Hear Better
Our students participate daily in cough and blow sessions to help them to have healthy ears. If you are concerned about your child’s hearing, or they have had recurring ear infections, you can have their hearing tested in Dubbo at the following venues:
Community Health 6885 8999 - Testing is free and no GP referral is required but there may be a 3-4 month wait;
Hearing Life 6882 0807 - Cost is $40 which is not covered by Medicare and no GP referral is required;
Dubbo Allied Health 6360 1884 - Cost is $40 not covered by Medicare but a free test may be possible if your child is eligible for a Care Plan (speak to your GP to find out if this applies to your child), no referral necessary; and
Australian Hearing 6881 2400 - Free testing but you will need an Ear Specialist referral.