

LIGHTNING RIDGE CENTRAL SCHOOL



Principal: Mr Kerry Adamthwaite

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Term 4 Week 10 2015

From the Principal's Desk

After such a fantastic, successful year of so many positive things happening around our school, I'd like to begin by mentioning a few of the things that I hope to improve on next year. We want a school which is safe and free from violence and bullying. Aggression or violence is **never** acceptable in our school and **every single time** there will be a **consequence** for the perpetrators. That will not change next year and I look forward to getting the support from parents to help us reduce the amount of inappropriate behaviour that occurs each year. We have already made huge gains but any violence is too much violence and we will not stop working on this until our school is free from violent behaviour.



Our academic results are improving, student learning and engagement is greater right across the school however it's not perfect and therefore it's not good enough. The staff of the school will continue to work to improve the learning of your children and again we rely on parents to support us. One way to help is to encourage attendance at school and the completion of all set work whether assessments, study or homework. If we have students here learning **every day** we open up tremendous opportunities for your child's future.

Our school continues to improve year after year and the future options that this opens up for your child are only limited by the effort that they are willing to put into their learning. I trust 2016 will be another year of success and improvement for everyone connected to Lightning Ridge Central School.

It's hard to believe that 2015 is drawing to a close. It has been such an incredibly busy, productive and exciting year. This year, students at Lightning Ridge Central School have volunteered more in the community than in previous years, they have participated in more sporting events than previously and have been involved with more inter school visits and excursions. Students have been involved in more cultural events than in previous years. It's no wonder that everyone is exhausted.

During November the quality of our school was assessed by independent principals from outside of our area and they found what we already know; this is a fantastic school. I am constantly amazed at how well the staff, students, parents and community work together cooperatively to try and make it a better school. Many areas of our school are performing better than others around the state but that does not mean that we will slow down our work to improve the quality of the school and the quality of the education for your children.

2015 was the year of many highlights. Our students have been selected for rugby league and rugby union representation in addition to our usual diving, swimming and athletics representatives. A massive number of students were selected to represent our school in the acclaimed Moorbilla choir. Our students have also had a high level of participation in the Bangarra Dance and New South Wales State dance company activities.

The academic results of our students are improving. Our kindergarten and stage 1 results are improving out of sight through the great efforts of our teachers and our instructional leader.



Term 4

2015

WEEK 10

**Thursday 10th
December**

Stage 3 Pool Party

**Thursday 10th
December**

**Year 6 Farewell
6pm - 8pm**

**Friday 11th
December**

**K-6 Opal Awards Pool
Party**

WEEK 11

**Wednesday 16th
December**

**Last day of school for
2015**

Term 1

2016

**Thursday 4th
February -**

**1st day back for
Stage 1—Year 12
Students**

**Friday 5th
February -**

**1st day for
Kindergarten**

2015 School Newsletter now available online,
check out our website on www.lightningr-c.schools.nsw.edu.au



From the Principal's desk continued...

Our secondary results and the engagements of students in secondary classes have improved immensely.

Visitors to our school always comment on the quality of our school grounds and facilities which are better than most schools in New South Wales and the atmosphere of peaceful, calm learning which unlike previous years, is very rarely shattered by violence or aggression.

At the end of 2014 and the beginning of 2015 our new school plan, which describes our vision for our school for the next 3 years, was developed with some community consultation. In 2016 parents will again be asked to consult and share their ideas about where our school should head in the next few years and the types of students that our community would like to see develop with the help of our school. I would like to see a lot of positive, informed discussion involving a wide cross-section of our parents and community. I firmly believe that the more consultation we can have and the more input we can have with parents and community members the better our plan will be and the more successful our students will become.

2016 will be an exciting year with the introduction of laptops for secondary students and iPads in primary. We have a plan to use these technologies to improve the learning of all students from kindergarten through to year 12. Like most initiatives it will place an increased burden on teachers to prepare different lessons, more engaging lessons or more challenging lessons for your children but you are fortunate because the staff of Lightning Ridge Central School are happy to put in the extra effort for the benefit of your children.

School will return on Thursday, February 4 for all students except Kindergarten. Kindergarten will come to school on Friday the 5th February. From February 1st staff will be returning to school to undertake 3 days of professional learning and this will include a refresher for the Positive Behaviour for Learning Program that operates within the school. This will be run by staff of the school and consultants from Dubbo. We also have Anne Worrad from New South Wales Health coming back to the school to run a session on dealing with students who have a background of trauma. We will be training primary staff in using iPads and secondary staff in using the new student laptops. We will also complete training in the code of conduct for staff and students as well as a variety of other mandatory training sessions and professional learning to improve the quality of teaching for 2016 and into the future.

Parents are welcome to participate in some of these sessions if they are interested. However, if you would like to attend and stay for lunch or morning tea we will need to know in advance so that we can have food prepared for everybody. Please ring the school on 6829 0511 and let the office staff know by Wednesday 16th December.

I'd like to thank everybody for their support during 2015 and a particular thank you to those staff who are leaving us for various reasons and won't be here to see our progress during 2016. I wish them all the best in the future and remind them that they are always welcome to return and see how things are going.

I'd like to issue an open invitation to parents and community members to come in and see the fabulous things that are happening around our school and to be part of our schools planning, development and if possible the lessons for your children. If you have a concern or if you have a compliment please feel free to come in and have a chat. It's often better to make an appointment first as this is a very busy place and I am not always available at short notice but I will always be happy to sit down and talk to visitors and offer any assistance that I can.

Have a safe and happy holiday and we look forward to seeing you and your children again safely back in February next year.



Library News

Hello,

We had the Term 4 LRCS Reading Challenge party and below are photos of the happy group devouring plenty of a Christmas feast.

Vanessa Kotru was the Champion, having read 190 books, but there were plenty of students who had read more than ten books. Fifty five students received their certificates, enjoyed lunch and ended with red and green jelly. Merry Christmas!



A reminder to look for any library books you may have at home. Many students still have overdue books. We have had a lot of fun writing poetry this term and S1S wrote a great Question/Answer poem.

What is Football?

A game of fun, catch, kick and pass
Tackle, run, tries scored on grass.

Library turtle draw winners were:

Week 8

ES1 Sharlize Masters ES1T

Stage 1 Ellie Gough S1S

Stage 2 Lucy Barrett S2F

Stage 3 Megan Pymble S3D

Best wishes for the holiday break. Read lots, rest lots and return safely.

Penny Fahey Teacher Librarian





Primary Student of the Week

Week 8 ES1G

Aiden Brown

Aiden is a fabulous addition to ES1G. He always tries his best and produces quality work. Aiden is very caring towards others. He always uses kind words and offers help when needed. Aiden has excelled in all areas of the classroom and should be very proud of himself. Congratulations Aiden!

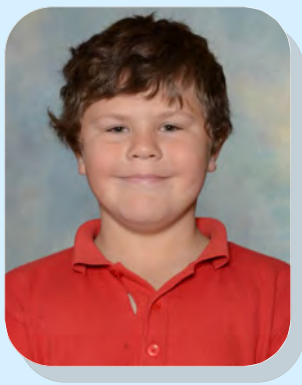


Primary Student of the Week

Week 8 S3M

Daemen Thompson

S3M's student of the week this term is Daemen Thompson. Daemen has worked really hard this term in all areas of the curriculum and has produced some work to be extremely proud of. He makes good contributions to discussions in the class and often enhances group discussion through his insightful comments. Daemen is a self-motivated student who is a valued member of S3M. Well done Daemen!



Primary Student of the Week

Week 9 S2C

Noah Hallam-Adamson

Noah has been awarded Student of the Week for applying himself to his learning. He is a happy and enthusiastic student who respects his class mates. Noah is making great progress and is working well in small groups. Congratulations Noah!



Primary Student of the Week

Week 10 S1M

Levi McCabe

Levi is a cheerful and considerate student who always displays an enthusiastic attitude towards his learning. He is rarely seen without a smile on his face and is always willing to participate and help others when needed. Levi has worked extremely hard this term and has made significant improvements in all learning areas.

Well done, Levi!



Primary Student of the Week

Week 10 S3D

Megan Pymble

Megan has been awarded student of the week for week 10 as she always applies herself to all areas of her learning. She works well with her class members and is very friendly and helpful.

Thank you and well done Megan!



Secondary Student of the Week

Week 9 MCK

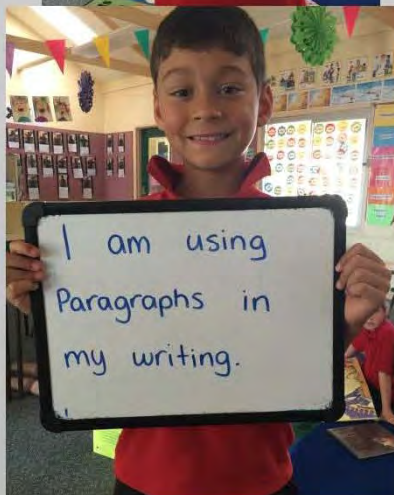
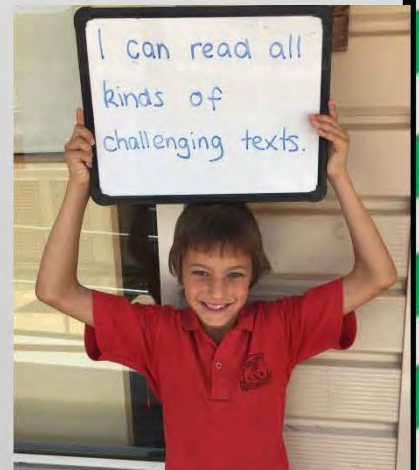
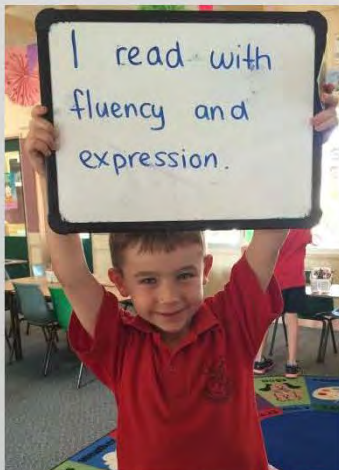
Marshall Mahoney

Marshall has shown much improvement in his application to all aspects of school over the year. He shows respect to both staff and peers and is a delight to have both in the classroom and at his participation in community service activities.

Keep up the good work Marshall!

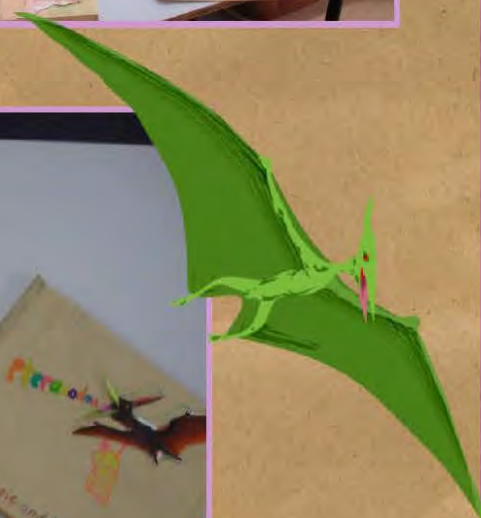


Look at some of the Stage 1 student's achievements!



Paper Bag Books

During Term 4 the students in Stage 2 have been exploring the wonderful world of Dinosaurs. In S2F we have been working on a book project to share our knowledge.



Stage 2

Australian Opal Centre

Stage 2 visited the Australian Opal Centre in Week 6 of this Term to learn about fossils and Lightning Claw (the recent dinosaur fossils found near Lightning Ridge). The visit related directly to the Science unit “Beneath Our Feet” and gave the students from Stage 2 a hands-on experience learning about fossils, rocks, minerals and everything Lightning Ridge.



The fossils were really cool.—Tegan

I liked looking at the dinosaur fossils because they had opal in them.—Khya



It was very interesting—Tia





I enjoyed riding the scooter.—Corbin and Bulya



I liked looking at the cat bones.—Kirra



I liked creating Lightning Claw like a dinosaur artist.—Melanie



There was a lot of fun activities.—Tilak



I liked looking at the nest and pretending to be a pelican.—Noah



ENGLISH AND HSIE END OF YEAR WRAP UP

The English and HSIE Faculty would like to congratulate all students for their responsible approach to their yearly examinations. Students worked well and behaved in such a way to give everyone in the exam their best chance at success.

Once more in English please...

Stage Four English developing their extended writing topics essay writing visual literacy and creative writing. Stage Four Pandora have been practicing their public speaking and argument skills with a series of class debates on a number of topics including homework, school uniform and computer games.

Stage Five have been busy since the exams. Cardinal has produced a range of poems, short stories and images inspired by the poem "Said Hanrahan" by John O'Brien, which follows the fortunes of a small rural community as they battle drought, flood and the threat of bushfires.

Thunder rolls

As the sun finds shelter behind the clouds
The rain comes pouring down
The wind is wild, the thundering is loud
And the lightning strikes the ground.

Flash flooding begins streaming
It draws a mighty crowd
Women and children crying and screaming
It's such an awful sound.

Lives are wrecked, their homes are gone
As they wipe their tears away
Soaking wet, all the hope has been torn
While most start to pray.

Now they have moved on
They've found a new place to stay
Summer time has come
And all new memories are made.

But just as they find happiness
It all happens again
They have all lost faithfulness
This time it won't mend.

But this is nothing like the last time
It's stricken hot and dry
It's worse than committing a crime
'Cause a lot more people die.

Not from wild winds, lightning and flood
But from destructive roaring fire in a flash
We haven't seen any blood
But all our houses and memories left in ash.

By Luke Clauss, Pat Demaine, Jake Guihot and Angus Hallett



Stage Six have commenced their HSC course with an exploration of the theme of Discovery and a study of the Australian play "Rainbow's End" by Jane Harrison, which is set in the 1960s and centres on the challenges faced by an Aboriginal family living near the town of Shepparton. Students submitted their first HSC assessment task and now have a greater insight into the demands of their final year of high school. Over the holidays senior students are encouraged to work on their imaginative writing for the Area of Study and to read widely in preparation for their first round of exams at the end of Term One.

Year 12 English Studies has created a range of colourful visual representations for their unit *We Are Australian*.



Historically speaking...

Stage Five History students have followed the events that led to World Wars One and Two and the impact of war on the people of Australia. Students have researched trench warfare, the life of Adolf Hitler and famous events such as the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games and *Kristallnacht* (Night of the Broken Glass). Currently students are focusing on the war in the Pacific, specifically Australia's campaign in Papua New Guinea.

The history of Ancient China and its great dynasties has been the focus of lessons in Stage Four. Students have been studying the origin and significance of the Great Wall of China, the Emperors of China and the terracotta warriors, and experimenting with Chinese writing.



Science and Maths

As the year draws to a closeyou could be expected to think that the numbers are all done for the year.

But No!! Numbers never sleep.

Classes have been on **math' o' matical**

scien-trific excursions to

Stage 5 Gem first went around **explore the outside world..**

the world visiting the world's largest optical telescopes in Hawaii, Chile and Australia. They learnt how to make a single mirror, carefully swirling the molten glass as it cooled over 6 months, then a further two years carefully polishing and coating it to optical perfection. This was a virtual excursion where we joined Dr Richard McDermid and learned of some of the challenges and joys of being an astro-physicist.



Harlequin Maths went to Canberra to learn about the practical challenges of flight via a video conference from the Science enthusiasts at Questacon. We did our own resistance trials creating paper helicopters of differing dimensions, and experimented to find 'What works best'.



The design team

Questacon helped us turn the ALR into a paper plane test-flight centre.

Gem also got to do some cool practical maths stuff with Questacon, learning how to make tessellating patterns, work out the probability of a coin dropping on a line and a quick check for multiplication on their fingers.



PRESENTATION DAY





CANTEEN NEWSLETTER

I would like to thank all Students and Staff for making the Canteen a very busy and successful year and a thankyou for your patience on very busy days (and your wonderful manners). Thankyou to Heidi for helping out on those days!

Just a reminder of deleted products:

Go cookies
Frozen moosies

*Nachos have been out of stock for the last few weeks!

By the end of Term 4, a few products might not be available to order or buy as the Canteen tries to keep only a limited amount of stock during the holidays.

I would like to wish everyone a wonderful Xmas and New year!

Thankyou,
Susan Chapman.



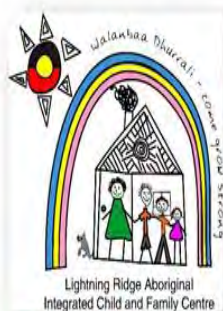
PACER



Students from our school have recently undertaken an educational tour of the national capital, Canberra. Students were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. We would like to thank the PACER team for their contribution .

IF YOU HAVE HAD PROPERTY STOLEN FROM THE SCHOOL GROUNDS, PLEASE REPORT THIS TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE (02) 6829 0511 AND WALGETT DETECTIVES (02) 6820 3931.



The Lightning Ridge Aboriginal Integrated Child & Family Centre (Walanbaa Dhurrall) wishes to advise that the Centre will be closed from **Friday the 18th December 2015**. We will reopen on **Monday the 11th January 2016**.

The Staff would like to wish every one a very Merry Christmas and a safe & Happy New Year!



Safety and Security of Students.

One thing that has caused me a great deal of anguish and distress this year has been those rare occasions when people from outside the school have come into our school and caused problems for our staff and students. The most shocking case was that of 2 people who came onto school grounds to assault one of our students fortunately other students were able to prevent any serious injuries until staff intervened. We have had a couple of incidents when parents have come into the school yelling abuse and using bad language. This has caused great concern and distress for both staff and students and is completely unacceptable. We have also had the parents of students who have split trying to make the school the battleground for their custody disputes. Again this is completely unacceptable and is distressing and disruptive for staff and students.

I have repeatedly asked parents and visitors to come to the school office and sign in to the school as a way of protecting the safety, learning and well-being of students and staff.

Unfortunately this is often ignored and our staff are being put under stress by approaching people without a visitors badge and asking them what their business is on school grounds because they have chosen not to go to the front office. Most of the time visitors if would come to the front office and explain their reason for being at school they would be given a visitors badge, do what they need to do and then leave. No problem!

To keep students safe we need to treat any person on school grounds without a visitors badge as an intruder for the safety of your children.

It is with great regret that for the security of our school it may become necessary to keep all of our gates locked each day to prevent unauthorised access and the distress and disruption that **this has, at times, caused to your children's learning.**

I am hopeful that this message will get through to visitors and this drastic step will not be necessary however, if visitors continue to ignore the rules of the New South Wales Department of Education and refuse to visit the school office to sign in I will have no option but to lock the gates.

I would love to have more parents involved in our school, I would love to welcome each and **every visitor to our school who has a genuine and positive reason for visiting and I'm afraid that** locking gates will discourage visitors however I would rather discourage visitors than put your children in danger or have their learning disrupted by inappropriate contact during lesson time.

Kerry Adamthwaite
Principal.

NSW Department of Education

Behaviour Code for Students

NSW public schools are committed to providing safe, supportive and responsive learning environments for everyone. We teach and model the behaviours we value in our students.

In NSW public schools students are expected to:

- Respect other students, their teachers and school staff and community members
- Follow school and class rules and follow the directions of their teachers
- Strive for the highest standards in learning
- Respect all members of the school community and show courtesy to all students, teachers and community members
- Resolve conflict respectfully, calmly and fairly
- Comply with the school's uniform policy or dress code
- Attend school every day (unless legally excused)
- Respect all property
- Not be violent or bring weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco into our schools
- Not bully, harass, intimidate or discriminate against anyone in our schools

Schools take strong action in response to behaviour that is detrimental to self or others or to the achievement of high quality teaching and learning.

Behaviour Code for Students: Actions

Promoting the learning, wellbeing and safety of all students in NSW Public Schools is a high priority for the Department of Education and Communities.

We implement teaching and learning approaches to support the development of skills needed by students to meet our high standards for respectful, safe and engaged behaviour.

Respect

- Treat one another with dignity
- Speak and behave courteously
- Cooperate with others
- Develop positive and respectful relationships and think about the effect on relationships before acting

Respect cont...

- Value the interests, ability and culture of others
- Dress appropriately by complying with the school uniform or dress code
- Take care with property

Safety

- Model and follow departmental, school and/or class codes of behaviour and conduct
- Negotiate and resolve conflict with empathy
- Take personal responsibility for behaviour and actions
- Care for self and others
- Avoid dangerous behaviour and encourage others to avoid dangerous behaviour

Engagement

- Attend school every day (unless legally excused)
- Arrive at school and class on time
- Be prepared for every lesson
- Actively participate in learning
- Aspire and strive to achieve the highest standards of learning

The principal and school staff, using their professional judgment, are best placed to maintain discipline and provide safe, supportive and responsive learning environments. The department provides a policy framework and resources such as Legal Issues Bulletins, access to specialist advice, and professional learning to guide principals and their staff in exercising their professional judgment. In this context the NSW Government and the Department of Education and Communities will back the authority and judgment of principals and school staff at the local level.

The Department of Education Behaviour Code for Students is the same as the expectations we hold for your children's behaviour.

At Lightning Central School we take behaviour very seriously.

*We regularly reward positive behaviour and there will **always** be a fair consequence for negative behaviour.*

Behaviour which is harmful or prevents learning is particularly targeted.

Staff Development Day Proposal 2016

Day 1 – Monday 1st February

<i>Time</i>	<i>Professional Development</i>	<i>Where</i>
9.00	Welcome back and introduction	Library
9.10	PBL ⌘ Refresher	Library
10.30	Morning Tea	Hall
11.00	PBL ⌘ Managing incidents in classrooms and playground	Library
12.15	Lunch	Hall
1.00	Wellbeing	Library
3.00	Finish	

Day 2 – Tuesday 2nd February

<i>Time</i>	<i>Professional Development</i>	<i>Where</i>
9.00	Technology ⌘ Primary – iPad training ⌘ Secondary – new laptops, google docs	Primary: A06 Secondary: Library
11.00	Morning Tea	Hall
11.30	Stage/Faculty ⌘ role statements	TBC
1.30	Lunch	Hall
2.30	Code of Conduct	Library
3.00	Finish	

Day 3 – Wednesday 3rd February

<i>Time</i>	<i>Professional Development</i>		<i>Where</i>
9.00	Instructional Rounds (Feedback Strategies) Instructional Rounds group	Online Mandatory Training All other staff	IR Group: OMT: your choice
11.00	Morning tea		Hall
11.30	Primary/Secondary ⌘ Organisation for 2016		Primary: A06 Secondary: Staffroom
1.00	Lunch		Hall
2.00	Stage/Faculty ⌘ Planning/classroom time		TBC
3.00	Finish		

Kindy Start Graduation



Merry
Christmas