

Wagga Wagga District NEWSLETTER



Tuesday 25 September 2001 www.waggad.det.nsw.edu.au

CP 01/38

Dear Colleagues

Congratulations to all schools on the ways in which you celebrated Education Week with your communities. A celebratory feeling pervaded the district as it championed the importance and true quality of public education. In a world of growing factions and unrest the importance of a quality public education system to develop the society we would prefer to live in and raise our families has not gone unnoticed as the attached media article, "A Peaceful Way Forward Beyond The Prejudices Of Religion" suggests.

A very special thank you from all here at district office for the wonderful support given to the Wagga Wagga District Public Education Expo. The school display boards were exemplary, the performances outstanding and a positive interest in district schools forthcoming. The response from the public and shopping centre tenants has been so supportive that the Marketplace management has written a congratulatory letter and invitation to repeat in 2002. An evaluation of the event with district office staff (see attached excerpt) has resulted in an overwhelming request for a repeat event in 2002. Your thoughts and suggestions are invited by return email under the same three headings as the district office survey.

Extra Education Week appreciation certificates have been forwarded to all schools this week following requests from some principals for certificates with which they could recognize in-school contributions to the Education Week Expo.

The Term 4 meeting of district principals will be held in Young on 15 November. Primary and Secondary groups have planned meetings for the afternoon of 14 November with a possible combined dinner that evening. Your association executive will forward information to you.

District consultants have commented on the growing number of teachers attending after-school courses and meetings. They are to be congratulated on this indication of the professionalism of our teachers who seek the rewards of ongoing professional growth and district networking.

Another busy term comes to a close and a well-deserved rest for you all. Have a safe and restful break with family and friends.

Regards
Colin

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

I would like to thank Principals for their positive feedback after the BST Analysis session presented at the last district meeting. We understand that the needs of different schools vary and the use of this type of data is critical to the improvement of teaching and learning in our schools.

I remind PP5's and PP6's that the aggregation of data over the past six years will enable you to make valid comment and comparisons with state trends in your Annual School Report. Please contact me if you wish to collate this valuable information.

The Annual school report template and support documents should be in schools on your return after the break and I look forward to working with you and your teams in the preparation of these reports. Have a restful and well-earned break.

Peter Brabin
Chief Education Officer

SUPPORTING BEGINNING TEACHERS

The following website could be an extra support for your beginning teachers:

www.aeufederal.org.au/Support/newteachers.html

It looks at Frequently Asked Questions and Tip Sheets particularly around classroom behaviour management, Articles, New Teachers Online Discussion and Useful Web Resources.

ALSO A REMINDER:

Stewart House nominations should be forwarded to me by no later than Friday 28 September, 2001.

Rose Manousaridis
Student Welfare Consultant

BASIC SKILLS TEST RESULTS DISTRIBUTION

The results of the Basic Skills Tests will be distributed during Week 1 next term. The anticipated date for the distribution of Primary Writing Assessment results is the end of October. Principals can access District Office support to analyse results. Support is also available for classroom teachers to plan programs that address needs. Please contact Peter Brabin or Ineke Kolder-Wicks on 69373800 for more information.

REPORT FAULTY ROLLOUT COMPUTERS TO HELP DESK FIRST

Please remember to report all problems with rollout computers to the DET Help Desk on 1800 043 434 before you contact the computer company. This allows the Department to monitor the quality of the program and the companies providing the service.

The Help Desk staff will:

- ask for a description of the computer (make and model) and it's serial number
- seek to determine whether it is a hardware or software problem. Only hardware problems are considered under the on-site warranty
- give you a work request number, for example, W109200238. Quote this number for any follow-up calls regarding this computer
- give you information about the next step.

The school information package for Phase 5 rollout (Oct-Dec 2001) is available from DET web site:
<http://www.intranet.schools.nsw.edu.au/stand.cgi/staff/F6.0/hardware.htm>

Please contact me on 6937 3879 if you have any further queries.

Matt Gown
Technology Adviser

THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL COUNSELLOR WITH APPLICATIONS FOR BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT

Almost all Behaviour has a cause. In students at school some causes might include a learning difficulty, an intellectual disability, environmental or situational stress, mental illness, brain injury, a pervasive developmental disorder or a personality disorder.

The School Counsellor can play an important role in assessing the cause of behaviour difficulties with students at school.

Having identified the cause for a behaviour, appropriate strategies can be identified to manage or remediate the behaviour.

Questions 5 and 6 on Attachment Seven are to be answered by the School Counsellor when completing applications for Behaviour Support. The District Guidance Officer provides supervision and support to Counsellors in their assessments of these students.

Robyn Fowkes
District Guidance Officer

SCHOOL TEACHER ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW SCHEDULE

Some Principals reported not receiving the following message from Peter Phelps:

I refer to the General Manager of Personnel's memorandum of 24 July 2001 concerning the Teacher Assessment and Review Schedule.

The memorandum indicated that the date for completion of the School Teacher Assessment and Review Schedule had been extended to 31 October 2001, to be forwarded to the District Superintendent by 7 November 2001, with a copy being retained at the school. It is expected that the majority of schools will be able to meet these requirements.

Some schools have indicated during the TARS workshops that it would be of assistance if the date for the completion could be further extended. In order to assist schools, in the initial year of implementation, the final date for the completion of TARS at the school level is 16 November 2001, with the schedule to be **forwarded to the District Superintendents by 23 November 2001.**

Should you require this additional time, please contact Kevin Schipp, Staff Efficiency and Conduct Unit on 9561 8849, Jim Ironside, Manager, Staff Efficiency and Conduct Unit on 9561 8896 or Peter Phelps on 9561 1054.

Gaelle O'Neill
Staff Welfare Officer