Welcome Back
A very warm welcome to all our new families and welcome back to familiar friends. I trust you have all had a safe and happy holiday period. Our thoughts go out to all those around us who have had to battle the floods and some not so very far from here. I hope your loved ones have remained safe through this period. I know the children are very excited about the new year ahead and we have some very special things planned throughout the year to motivate and extend their learning at school.

Staff
I am very pleased to welcome Cassie Biti to our school as a full-time temporary teacher this year. The increase in our student population has lead to the return of two full time teachers which is an excellent position for our school. Cassie has been a wonderful support in 2010 and I was delighted to be able to offer her a full time position at Wakool Burraboi this year.

Cassie will be teaching the 3-6 class this year and I will teach the K-2 class.

With the National Partnership funding continuing this year we are able to employ support staff for an extra four days a week. Sara Mathers will support both classes in Literacy, Numeracy and Technology on Mondays and Tuesdays. Julie Heywood will provide teacher release on Wednesdays and provide art lessons and library research skills for both classes.

We welcome Mrs Narelle McGowan to the teaching staff this year. Narelle will provide my release on Thursday and will take the K-2 class whilst I have my office day. Narelle has a strong background in physical education and will be an asset to our school sports program.

Teaching Support Staff
- Mon – Mrs Mathers
- Tues - Mrs Mathers
- Wed - Mrs Heywood
- Thur – Mrs McGowan

Routines
Class schedules will be explained to parents at our information evening meeting, but general school routines are;
- Mon – Canteen
- Tues - After School Sport
- Wed - Library
- Thur - Sport
- Fri - Homework Due

Home Reading
Each morning K-2 children will need to read their home readers to an adult and swap them for a new one to take home. This calls for as many listening ears as possible. If you are able to listen to children read before school for 15mins, regularly or occasionally, it would be most appreciated.
Canteen
Canteen will begin for the year next Monday. Please check the attached sheet for menu and helpers roster. If you wish to be added to the roster, please contact Kimberley Macauley.

Best Start
This Friday I will spend the day taking each Kinder student individually, to assess them in numeracy and literacy. This will be a pleasant experience for them with stories and games - no pressure or formal testing! Each Kinder student across the state is assessed in the first two weeks of school to gain an accurate picture of what skills each child brings to school. Parents will receive a report later in the term with some practical suggestions of ways to help at home in the areas of literacy and numeracy.

Professional Learning
At Wakool Burraboi, we highly value keeping up with new and innovative teaching methods. Throughout this year staff will focus primarily on Maths and Spelling professional development. Next week however I will be attending a student welfare course called ‘Friends for Life’. This is a continuation of the ‘Fun Friends’ course we ran with the younger students last year, but designed for older students. As the ‘Fun Friends’ program was so beneficial and has become part of our shared language at school, I have decided we should take the older students through this ‘Friends for Life’ program. I know this is unfortunate timing but this is the only date the course is offered until the end of the year.
I will then travel to Wagga to attend a mandatory Principal’s Conference on 17th & 18th February.

Small Schools Swimming Carnival
On Monday 21st Feb, we will join with Mallan and Moulamein schools at Moulamein Public Pool for our small schools carnival. All students will be attending the carnival. K-2 students will be having lessons at Moulamein PS until recess when they will walk to the pool and join in some novelty events and sub-junior races. Students who are 8 years or older may attend the carnival for the full day to compete in the junior races. Parents are welcome to attend for the day and assist with transport if possible. Students who do not have parents attending will be transported by Cassie, Sara and I.
Students are asked to wear school sports uniform and bring their swimmers, a towel, hat and sunscreen. Please bring a packed lunch and plenty of drinks for the day.
As the district swimming carnival is to be held on Friday 25th Feb, there will not be room for postponement if the weather is against us. In this case we will use the times from our carnival in Dec 2010 to select our competitors for the district carnival.

Terms and Weeks
Please don’t think I don’t know what week it is! We need to call this week 3 even though it is the student’s first week, to come in-line with other schools across the state. Eastern school staff resumed work on 28th Jan, which was week 1. Western school staff resumed school on 3rd or 4th Feb - namely week 2, and our students began on 7th Feb which is week 3. Very confusing I know, but unless we fall in-line with the other schools we run the risk of confusing dates across the region which may lead to missed opportunities.
Parent Info Afternoon
In week 5 on Wednesday afternoon Feb 23, we will hold parent information sessions to explain classroom routines, homework, home reading procedures, subject outlines etc. This is a good opportunity to ask questions or discuss general school issues. Yr 3-6 info will be from 5 to 5:30, K-2 info will be 5:30- 6:00.
If you would like to make an appointment to discuss your child's individual needs please see Cassie or I, to arrange another suitable time.

Australia Day Ambassador
Wakool Shire Australia Day Ambassador Mrs Susanne Gervay is an award winning writer who is passionate about writing and the power of words to create a better world. Her nationally and internationally recognised children’s and young adult novel I Am Jack was read by years 3/4/5 last year with Miss Biti.
At the Australia Day Ceremony held at the Wakool Hall, Susanne told the story of her parent’s journey as Post WW11 Hungarian refugees who rebuilt their lives in Australia.
We were very fortunate to have Susanne Gervay visit Wakool; her stories captivated all that attended no matter what age.