WHAT'S ON AT BTS
Mondays – (every week)
School Banking
Wednesday 3 February 2016
Swimming Carnival (back up date is 8/2/16)
Wollongong Uni Discovery Day
Thursday 4 February 2016
Wollongong Uni Discovery Day
Wednesday 10 February 2016
Special Dux Assembly 10.00 am

BTS - P&C
Meet on Week 4 and Week 8 of each term in the School library at 6.30 pm. All welcome.

Swimming Carnival
Wednesday 3 February 2016
This is a normal school day, students absent must provide a note to explain the absence.

Kindergarten and Year 1 will walk to the pool at 12 noon to join the other students.

Bus children in Year 2 to Year 12 will be dropped at the pool in the morning and all bus children will be picked up from the pool at 3.00 pm.

Students not going on buses will be dismissed from the pool at 3.00 pm.

Pool entry is $3.00 all students are required to pay the entry unless they have a season ticket.
Parents and spectators will be required to pay $1.00 entry.

SPECIAL ASSEMBLY
WEDNESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2016
10.00 am in School Hall
Announcement of
Batlow Technology School
Year 12 DUX
Presentation to SRC representatives and House Captains
First of all, welcome back to the new school year. It is absolutely fantastic to be back. We commenced a number of exciting new projects in 2015 across the school and will commit to furthering the implementation of these strategies.

Our three Strategic Directions have remained the same; Teaching and Learning, Wellbeing and Community Links. We have allocated substantial funding to all of these areas to ensure we meet our projected milestones for 2016.

A special welcome to our new Kindergarten students. Miss McRorie had a delightful day on Friday with these students. They have appeared to settle in very quickly. Much of this can be contributed to the extensive orientation program that Miss McRorie conducted in 2015.

As part of our ‘Community Links’ strategy, we are exploring having various interest groups for adults utilising our school facilities after hours. Some staff have already expressed interest in possibly co-ordinating: Yoga, Music, Woodwork and Metalwork, Drama and we have a community member willing to run computer classes. If you have an idea, then I would welcome the opportunity to explore it further. Mrs Tofa is also establishing an after-school ‘Homework Club’ in the Learning Hub.

In 2015, the Batlow teaching staff spent significant hours after school analysing students’ responses from NAPLAN testing. The students’ literacy responses provided an insight into areas where teachers can focus individual attention. Our active Learning and Support Team will ensure that teachers have this information so individual strategies can be developed.

To further enhance students’ literacy, our Literacy Continuum Team has gathered work samples from every child. This has allowed our team to plot every student of Batlow Technology School on the continuum allowing the literacy development of each child to be tracked throughout their school years and more importantly providing important information for teaching staff to differentiate the learning for each of our students. This has been achievable due to the uniqueness of our school and dedication of our staff. Very few schools in NSW can claim a 100% tracking of students’ literacy.

Mr Andrew Piper is poised to lead his Numeracy Team and track every child with their numeracy. Both of these strategies will definitely provide greater education growth in our students.

On Wednesday we have our school Swimming Carnival. I stress that this is a normal school day and every child is expected to attend regardless if they are competing or not. The carnival is an opportunity to develop house spirit amongst the students. Further information is within this edition.

In Week 3, 10 February 2016, we are conducting a special assembly to acknowledge the 2015 Year 12 Dux. Also the students who have been elected in as either a Student Representative or House captain will receive recognition. Our Assembly will commence at 10.00 am.

Our school is extremely fortunate to have a Breakfast Club. This is a service that teaching staff volunteer their time to provide breakfast to any student. The teaching staff ensures that this service is available every day of the week. Breakfast Club commenced on Monday.

We have not only had a good start to the year …………...it has been FANTASTIC!

We have only been at school for three days and I think the following quotes sum up beautifully what’s happening at Batlow Technology School.

A new teacher exclaimed to their faculty, “I think I’ve died and gone to heaven”, in response to the courteous behaviour of students.

A senior student, “I did not really understand Algebra, but after one lesson this year with teacher XXX, I get it!”

Finally, as mentioned we have four new staff; Ms Rebecca Foster (permanent English/Drama), Mr Paul Withers (permanent Science/Ag), Miss Megan Henry (History) and Mr Bruce Norton (Mathematics). I am pleased to state that all new staff are an exact fit for our staffing needs so we are ready to commence the year.

I certainly look forward to an exciting year in 2016.

Mr Greg Hodges
BATLOW TECHNOLOGY SCHOOL WELCOMES NEW STAFF

Mr Greg Hodges (Principal as at 27 January 2016),
Mr Paul Withers (Science/Ag)
Miss Megan Henry (History)
Ms Rebecca Foster (English/Drama)
Mr Bruce Norton (Maths/Science)
Miss Amanda Smith (Learning Support Teacher)
Mrs Gina Elliott (Learning Support Officer)
Miss Darah McAlister (Learning Support Officer)
Mrs Angela Curtis (Canteen)

ACCOMMODATION URGENTLY REQUIRED
Mr Paul Withers our newly appointed Science/Ag teacher is in urgent need of accommodation. Paul requires a rental accommodation which allows dogs, out of town on acreage would be preferable but in town with a fully fenced yard would be acceptable.

Please contact the school as soon as possible if you can assist in this matter.

PRIMARY LIBRARY INFORMATION
Primary library classes will be held on the following days in 2016. Please send your child’s library bag on the appropriate day.

- Kindergarten/Year 1: Wednesday
- Year 2: Monday
- Year 3/4: Monday
- Year 5/6: Tuesday

BOOK CLUB
At Batlow Technology School we subscribe to Scholastic Book Club. Leaflets are distributed to Primary students twice a term by library staff.

Payment can be made directly through the Scholastic Book Club LOOP (Linked Online Ordering and Payment System). Follow the instructions on the payment page of the Book Club leaflets.

Alternatively students or parents may order books or other items from the leaflets and return the order forms with payment to the school by the due date. Items purchased in either way will be distributed to the students on arrival in the school.

The school library receives a percentage of all sales made through Book Club. This enables us to purchase books for the school library.
An exciting learning opportunity is being provided for students at Batlow Technology School. Students from K-12 are invited to participate in the Homework Learning Centre that will be held in the Learning Hub (library). The proposed sessions will be happening every week on Thursday from 3.15 pm – 4.15 pm.

Students must bring their home learning, any assessment tasks that need the internet, and/or area of concern that they would like to improve on, e.g. literacy or numeracy. Ms Pauline Tofa will be supervising students at this time. Students who are interested need to write their names on the form in the Learning Hub (library).

For more information please contact:
Ms Pauline Tofa (02) 6949 1208

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**Community News**

Clare’s Laugh n Learn Academy
Registered School Age Care

Clare Miller
90 Pioneer Street
Batlow 2730 NSW
clare.miller1997@gmail.com
0475381009

Before and After School and Vacation Care
CCB and CCR available to eligible families
www.ghchildren.com.au

Registered
educator
with Greater Hunter Children Services