2015, Term 1, Week 4

MATONG PUBLIC SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 11th
Optional—Kinder Scripture

Thursday 19th
Mrs Moore—Principal’s Conference

Friday 20th
Mrs Moore—Principal’s conference

Mr Polkinghorne’s last day

A winning combination - Junior boys relay team

Stage One spoiling their valentines with hand sewn cards

Principal: Anne-Maree Moore

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Every child...Every chance...Every day...

Stage One spooning
their valentines with hand sewn cards

Tree Hugging fun

Like us on facebook
What a wonderful evening we had last Tuesday with many parents attending the information night and finishing with a delicious barbecue dinner kindly provided by the P&C. Thank you to all for your attendance and great company on the night.

Our students enjoyed their day at the Ganmain Pool last Friday participating in the events at the Coolamon-Ardlethan P.S.S.A. Small Schools' Swimming Carnival! I was very proud of everyone, particularly some of our younger students who were hesitant at the beginning of last term's swimming school. Congratulations to all our students for their efforts and cheering on the day. Many thanks to Miss Buchanan, Mr Polkinghorne and our parent helpers, who organised the students, assisted with the carnival jobs and cheered our swimmers along. Our district swimming carnival at Ariah Park will be Thursday 26th February.

This week we will farewell Mr Polkinghorne as our school Chaplain as he has taken up a position closer to his home. Staff, students and community will certainly miss his presence in the school. He has been a wonderful asset to our school and we wish him all the best in his future journey.

I am sure all our stars must have aligned last Thursday! The new fridge donated by the P&C arrived, Mr Booth made the final cuts for the Envirochamps learning stools in the Native Outdoor Learning Area (NOLA) and JOSS arrived to measure up the wall to be removed, as well as the playground for our long awaited new classroom. Along with lovely visits and phone conversation with parents and our wonderful students, it certainly was a lovely day!

Anne—Maree Moore
Principal

SMALL SCHOOL'S SWIMMING CARNIVAL

A big congratulations to all students who participated in the swimming carnival last Friday. Matong Public did extremely well and had many award winners on the day. Again a huge thank you to all parents/grandparents/carers for taking their children and helping out on the day, it was a fantastic day.

The district carnival will be held next Thursday 26th February at Ariah Park.

Individual Age Champions
Junior Boys: 2nd Ted Hatty
3rd Tyler Smith
11 Year Boys: 3rd Albert Booth
11 Year Girls: 1st Ella Collins
Senior Boys: 1st George Hatty
2nd Connor Smith

Miss Buchanan and Mr Polkinghorne

The “Old Timers” installing our new outdoor clock
**STAGE ONE NEWS**

Last Friday Year 2 went to the Small School’s Swimming Carnival. They went in lots of swimming races. Baxter and William won some ribbons. It was fun. Year 1 and Kindergarten learned to throw a boomerang with Charlie, Mrs McGuiness and Mrs Fisher. It was nice having Noah in our class.

By Stage 1 and Mrs Crocker

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**STAGE 2/3 NEWS**

Thank you to all the parents who attended our welcome barbeque last Tuesday night; it was great to meet and catch up with the families who Mrs. McGuiness and Miss Buchanan will be working with this year. If you could not make the barbeque but have any questions please phone the school and arrange a time to meet with us.

Miss Buchanan would also like to thank all the families who are assisting or have offered to assist with our history unit 'Australian’s at War'. Stage 2/3 students are very interested about this topic and we are extremely lucky to be given the chance to look at your family heirlooms.

This week in the Stage 2/3 classroom we will be incorporating some small assessment activities into our daily routine. This ensures that we are able to see where students are currently at and to ensure we are targeting the areas of need.

In Science we have begun to explore the properties of solids, liquids and gases through a series of experiments. The students were keen to investigate each of the substances yesterday and were making some great connections to their new knowledge.

Regards Mrs McGuiness & Miss Buchanan

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**STUDENT NEWS**

Last Friday was the swimming carnival at Ganmain Pool and all the students from Matong Public School, aged 8 years and over, attended. Everyone tried their best and had lots of fun. We now have a fridge in the classroom so we are able to keep our lunches cool.

Mandy Costello
The *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. More information about the survey is available at: http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 9 March and 2 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you **do not** want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by **Friday 27 February**. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above or from the link provided on our school website.

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**PSSA Trials**

Coolamon-Ardlethan P.S.S.A. Trials are to be held over the next few weeks:

AFL and Netball - Marrar - Coolamon - Wednesday, 11\(^{th}\) March

Unless a younger student shows outstanding ability, these trials are basically designed for Year 5 and 6 students who wish to be considered for a place in a district team. Parents are responsible for transporting students to and from these trials. If your child is interested in trying out for any of these teams, please contact the school for further details.
### UNIFORM ORDERS

Please place your uniform orders on a piece of paper, including size, and enclose, with payment in a school envelope and place in mailbox in School Office. Orders will be organised and sent home with your child on Thursdays. No uniform will be sent home without payment. If unsure of size, items can be returned and exchanged for correct size.

A School Jacket order will be placed early Term 2. Clothing pool items are available in most sizes, with a donation to P&C as payment.

Blue Polo shirts continue to be available at Robinsons Department store in Narrandera.

### UNIFORMS

- **Sport Polo Shirt**
  - Children 6 to 12 - $25.00

- **Sport Shorts**
  - Children's 6 to 14 - $16.50

- **Sport Track Pants**
  - Children's 4 to 14 - $23.00

- **Fleecy Jumpers**
  - Children's 6 to 14 - $30.00

- **Hats**
  - $15.50
DAY WITH A SCIENTIST

Please contact Matong PS office urgently if you would like your child to attend the Day With a Scientist program. See below for details. Cost is $38.50 per student. Transport would be by private vehicle. Be quick as numbers are limited.

Students in Years 4-6 are invited to register for the "Day With a Scientist" program to be conducted at Ashmont Public School on Monday March 16, 2015, 9.30 a.m. till 2.30 p.m. This program provides a wonderful enrichment... learning experience for students with an interest in science. During the day, students will work in pairs on engaging, hands-on activities designed to accelerate their understanding, further arouse their curiosity, stimulate their imagination, and foster their creative-thinking and problem-solving abilities. In addition, they will experience scientific demonstrations and other multiple intelligence exercises (e.g., science poetry and song) and complete peer reports. For further information about the program content, as well as testimonials, please visit www.ScienceTime.com.au and use the "Day With a Scientist" link. Cost is $38.50 (including GST) per student. The presenter is Dr Peter Eastwell, an experienced science educator and author.

AWARDS

Stage 1
Josef Meier - participating well in all class activities
Digby Currie - great application in Maths

Stage 2
Florence Meier - fabulous research about Australians at War
Tyler Smith - fabulous research about Australians at War
Jack McGovern - completing very neat handwriting

Stage 3
Amanda Costello - lovely handwriting in Handwriting
George Hatty - completing all set tasks neatly and on time

Behaviour Awards
Connor Smith - being a polite and hard working student
Brodie Rudder — helping the teachers during the week and taking his role very seriously
David Beard - being a positive class member
Baxter Smith - always being ready to help others

Principal Award
Brodie Rudder — kindness towards others
VOLUNTARY SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS

Each year the school provides all students with their textbooks and stationery needs. To assist with covering the cost of these items, we ask that family pay a voluntary contribution of $40.00 for each student, $80.00 for two students or $115.00 for three or more students. It would be appreciated if this contribution could be paid as soon as personal funds permit, either as a whole payment or in instalments.

COOLAMON LIBRARY NEWS

Our first “Heart and Soul” gathering for the year will be held next Tuesday, 24th February @ 10.30am at the Coolamon Library. The Theme is "Moving into Aged - Cared Facilities". Matt from Commins Hendriks Solicitors will be attending to offer advice and answer any questions. Everyone is most welcomed to attend.

The next storytime for the month of February will be held this Friday 21st February @ 10.30am theme "Under the Sea". We welcome any new families to come along.

Another year well on its way the library has many resources available. The library has three public computers with free internet, free wifi, printing services and photocopying all available. Also the library offers Inter Library loans and Inter Branch loans for those items which are not available in the library. We are continuously receiving new books, DVD’s, CD’s and magazines, call in for a browse - membership is FREE.

The Coolamon Library is on Facebook! News, pictures, events and opportunities are regularly uploaded - join us now!
**SCHOOL LUNCHES 2015.**
(Available Friday's only. Please ensure orders are placed in the lunch order box by Thursday of each week)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sandwiches</th>
<th>Rolls</th>
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<tr>
<td>Salad</td>
<td>$4.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vegemite/Peanut Butter</td>
<td>$3.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tomato</td>
<td>$3.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Egg/Curried</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chicken, Ham or Corned Beef</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meat &amp; Salad</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meat &amp; Tomato</td>
<td>$4.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meat &amp; Cheese</td>
<td>$4.20</td>
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% Extras .20cents

Toasted extra .50 cents

Pizzas, cheese & bacon or ham & pineapple $3.00
Hot Dogs (served with sauce) $3.00
Pies $3.50
Flavoured Pies $3.70 to $3.90
Sausage Rolls $2.50
Spinach & Feta Roll $3.00
Curried Vegetable Roll $2.70
Spicy Chicken Roll $2.70
Sauce .30

**DRINKS & ICE BLOCKS**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Drink</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pop Top Juice</td>
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<td>Orange Juice small</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prima</td>
<td>$1.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flavoured Milk/ Nippy's sm.</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quelch/Zooper Dooper Ice Blocks</td>
<td>.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunny Boys</td>
<td>.90</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Interested in Playing Basketball?

Narrandera Basketball are about to commence their junior autumn competition. The association takes single nominations and places children into teams. Players names and year at school are required please message Lee on 0409443711. Narrandera Basketball has a face book page you can message or email lee.longford@bigpond.com.au. Or contact the above mobile for more details.

Age groups are Juniors Div Yrs 1,2 & 3, Intermediate Div Yrs 4, 5 & 6 & Senior Div Yrs 7 +. Junior Div games at 5.00pm, Intermediate Div games at 5.50pm & Senior Div games at 6.40pm concluding at 7.30pm. Boys will play Wednesday afternoons and Girls will play on Thursday afternoons. Registration cost is $50 per child and games fees are $3 per week. Competition will commence Wednesday 25th February 2015. Names to me by the above methods by Friday 20th February 2015. Looking forward to a new season of basketball.

Aussie Hoops

Aussie Hoops is a basketball program for children from Kindergarten and above who haven’t played basketball before. This will be held on Thursdays from 4pm - 4.50pm and will commence on the first Thursday in March. Fees are $15.00 rego and $3.00 each week. Just turn up on the day to register.
Compulsory School Attendance
Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?
Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time
Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Gives students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?
On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child’s school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel
Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child’s school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child’s total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child’s school principal.
If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they’ll have missed over a year of school.

My child won't go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children's Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:


The school leaving age:


Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 0244 5129

www.dec.nsw.gov.au

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NSW Department of Education and Communities
Weekly Quiz

1. What team did the Australian cricket team play in its World Cup opener at the MCG?
   a. New Zealand  
   b. England  
   c. Sri Lanka

2. Why have Samsung's smart TVs been in the news recently?
   a. they have all been recalled because of faulty volume settings  
   b. they have been blamed for five house fires in Australia  
   c. the privacy policy allows the TVs to listen in on owners' conversations

3. What type of food is being pulled off supermarket shelves because of a potential Hepatitis A contamination?
   a. carrots  
   b. eggs  
   c. frozen berries

4. True or false, the Federal Government has decided that from 2016 student teachers will need to pass a national literacy and numeracy test before being allowed to graduate?

5. Which county will be celebrating the Year of the Sheep in their New Year celebrations this week?
   a. Japan  
   b. China  
   c. India

6. The court has released Mohamed Fahmy and Baher Mohamed, the colleagues of Australian journalist Peter Greste, after more than 400 days in jail. Which news broadcasting agency did they work for?
   a. BBC  
   b. Al Jazeera  
   c. ABC

7. In which country is Stockholm the capital city?

8. Why has the Tasmanian fishing ship Antarctic Chieftain been in the news?
   a. it sank off the western coast of Tasmania  
   b. it has been followed by Sea Shepherd for fishing in illegal waters  
   c. it was trapped in Antarctic Ice and had to be rescued

9. Rihanna, Kanye West and Paul McCartney performed their recently released song ‘FourFiveSeconds’ at the Grammy Award ceremony. What famous band was Paul McCartney a member of?
   a. ABBA  
   b. The Beatles  
   c. Pink Floyd

10. How many cars were involved in a South Korean car crash that was in the news last week?
   a. 50  
   b. 100  
   c. 170

11. True or false, Tony Abbott only kept his leadership in the spill motion by two votes?

12. Recent surveys claim that University students are resorting more and more to Dumpster Diving. What is Dumpster Diving?
   a. when people turn commercial dumpsters into outdoor rooms  
   b. when people search through dumpsters to find food to eat  
   c. when students hack the computers of university professors to try and find answers to exams

13. Australia has been invited to compete in the 2015 Eurovision Song Contest, to be held in May. Who represented Australia at the last Eurovision Song Contest?
   a. Jessica Mauboy  
   b. Delta Goodrem  
   c. Guy Sebastian

14. In which country did over 100 whales die in a mass stranding over the weekend?
   a. Indonesia  
   b. Italy  
   c. New Zealand

15. In what year did the first person walk on the moon?
   a. 1959  
   b. 1969  
   c. 1979  
   d. 1969
What 'popular' invention is this person using to hold his phone?

What caused this scene in Spain over the weekend?
- a. volcanic eruption
- b. an fire at a fireworks factory
- c. an explosion at a chemical factory

In which Australian city did this recent event take place?

This singer was very successful at the Grammy Awards. What is his name?

Which country has this flag?
Weekly Quiz - Answers

1. What team did the Australian cricket team play in its World Cup opener at the MCG?
   a. England - Aaron Finch scored a century, as Australia won by 111 runs in its World Cup opener at the MCG.

2. Why have Samsung’s smart TVs been in the news?
   a. The privacy policy allows the TVs to listen in on conversations - the company has been criticized for a poorly worded privacy policy that apparently let the devices listen in on household conversations.

3. What type of food is being pulled off supermarket shelves because of a potential Hepatitis A contamination?
   c. frozen berries - One Allegro bag of Nanna's frozen mixed berries are being pulled off supermarket shelves across Australia. The berries came from China and Chile and were packed at Patties Foods in Bainsdale.

4. True or false, the Federal Government has decided that from 2016 student teachers will need to pass a literacy and numeracy test before being allowed to graduate?
   True - The Government will also insist primary school teachers specialise in a particular subject. The moves are part of a bid to lift teacher quality after a Government-appointed panel found "significant pockets of objectively poor practice" in education courses.

5. Which county will be celebrating the Year of the Sheep in their New Year celebrations this week?
   b. China - The Chinese New Year begins on Thursday. With organised events such as lion dances, dragonboat races, lantern festivals and fireworks, Chinese New Year has become a major festival for most Australian cities.

6. The court has released Mohamed Fahmy and Ehab Mohamed, the colleagues of Australian journalist Peter Greste, after more than 400 days in jail. Which news broadcasting agency did they work for?
   a. Al Jazeera - The pair had been in jail for 411 days but have been released from prison pending their retrial for allegedly supporting the banned Muslim Brotherhood. Peter Greste recently arrived back in Australia.

7. In which country is Stockholm the capital city?
   Sweden

8. Why has the Tasmanian fishing ship Antarctic Chieftain been in the news?
   c. it was trapped in Antarctic ice and had to be rescued - The ship, which is operated by Australian Longline, broke a propeller and became stuck about 1,450 kilometres north-east of the icy McMurdo Sound waters. A New Zealand fishing vessel and an American icebreaker responded to calls for assistance from the stricken ship.

9. Rihanna, Kanye West and Paul McCartney performed their recently released song ‘FourFiveSeconds’ at the Grammy Award ceremony. What famous band was Paul McCartney a member of?
   b. The Beatles - McCartney has been recognised as one of the most successful composers and performers of all time, with 80 gold discs and sales of over 130 million albums and 100 million singles.

10. How many cars were involved in a South Korean car crash that was in the news last week?
    b. 100 - At least two people lost their lives and over 40 people sustained serious injuries when 100 vehicles crashed on a bridge near the main airport in Seoul.

11. True or false, Tony Abbott only kept his leadership in the spill motion by two votes?
    False - Prime Minister Tony Abbott survived the crucial party room vote on his leadership last week, with Liberal MPs voting 61 to 39 against opening up the top leadership positions to contenders.

12. Recent surveys claim that University students are resorting more and more to Dumpster Diving. What is Dumpster Diving?
    b. When people search through dumpsters to find food to eat - A voluntary online survey last year found almost 30 per cent did not have the financial resources to meet basic living needs.

13. Australia has been invited to compete in the 2015 Eurovision Song Contest, to be held in May. Who represented Australia at the last Eurovision Song Contest?
   a. Jessica Mauboy - Australia will be a one-off wildcard entry in the final stage of the competition. The addition brings the number of countries competing in Vienna to 40. As Australia will be an official competitor, audience members with a +61 country code will be allowed to vote for the first time.

14. In which country did over 100 whales die in a mass stranding over the weekend?
   c. New Zealand - More than 100 pilot whales that stranded on a New Zealand beach have died, and conservation officials have voiced fears for more than 90 others from the pod.

15. In what year did the first person walk on the moon?
   b. 1969 - Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin were the first people to walk on the moon. Michael Collins had to remain onboard the Apollo 11 command module until his colleagues returned from the lunar surface after 21 hours. The event was broadcast to television audiences around the world.

VISUAL ANSWERS
1. a. selfie stick - Barack Obama poke fun at himself in an internet advert encouraging people to sign up to America’s controversial new healthcare insurance.
2. c. an explosion at a chemical factory - a massive toxic cloud forced tens of thousands of people inside after an accident at a Spanish chemical factory in Iguassu.
3. Melbourne - Opening Ceremony of the 2015 Cricket World Cup.
4. Spain
5. Sam Smith - he took home four Grammy awards: Record of the Year, Song of the Year, Best New Artist and Best Pop Vocal Album.

Feedback: staff@classroomsolutions.com.au