Playground Trees and Student Safety
A level 5 arborist has conducted a safety assessment of trees in our playground. A number of trees have been determined to be too risky to leave in the playground and will be removed by the Department of Education and Communities as soon as possible.
To ensure student safety, temporary fencing has been erected around the potential drop zone around the trees. This will disrupt some activities such as Ausplay. As well as the removal of some trees, others will have limbs removed to further minimise risk to students. It is sad to think that the school is going to lose some of its lovely trees, however the safety of students must be a priority.

Parent Online Payments
Parent online payments will go live at Belair PS on Tuesday 25th March 2014. We will be holding a brief information session on Monday morning at 9am in the hall. A power point tutorial has been put on the school’s website today to assist parents becoming familiar with this additional payment option. Cheques and cash payments are still available.

Education Performance in NSW Schools
Periodically media personalities and various high profile people make comments about the falling standards of education in Australia. It is interesting to note that overseas, Australia is seen as a high performing country in relation to education outcomes for students. It is true that Australia has not raised outcomes in literacy and numeracy as quickly as some extremely high performing systems, however, there is strong evidence that the breadth of education in Australia is producing students with better collaborative and problem solving skills than those in the very high performing systems.
Research does show that Australia as a whole can improve in the aspect of equity of educational outcomes, however the last few years of National Partnerships in Education has had a significant impact on improving student outcomes.
New South Wales also punches above its weight when compared to other states, particularly when socioeconomic disadvantage is taken into account.
All Public Schools in NSW are on a continual journey to improve the way they go about their business of optimising outcomes for their students.

Parent Teacher Interviews
Teachers report that they have found the opportunity to meet with parents highly valuable over the past couple of weeks. Comments such as “I now know much more about my students and am in a better place to meet their needs” demonstrate the value in these interviews being held earlier in the year.

Year 4 Aussie Bush Camp Delight
I had the pleasure of accompanying Year 4 to the Great Aussie Bush Camp. It was a delight to spend three days with such a happy, friendly and well-behaved group of students. The camp is all about developing student cooperation skills and also helping them face challenges by taking them out of their comfort zone. We saw some amazing incidents of students pushing their way through their fears to achieve a goal. The staff at the camp commented on the great response, respect and behaviour evident in Belair students. Thanks to Mrs Flock, Mrs Mounser and Ms Purdy for giving up time with their families to allow our students this great adventure.

Belair School APP
The App is a free download from your Apple or Android store. When you sign in using the Username: community Password: Belairps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Upcoming Events</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 March</td>
<td>National Ride2School Day Cricket Belair vs The Junction ~ Smith Park P&amp;C Meeting at 7pm in the staffroom all welcome!</td>
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<tr>
<td>25-27 March</td>
<td>Canberra Excursion ~ Year 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 March</td>
<td>Zone Cross Country ~ selected students</td>
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<td>2 April</td>
<td>Year 6 to Kotara High School</td>
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<td>3 April</td>
<td>Sydney Excursion ~ Year 5 Belair Walk to School Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 April</td>
<td>Stage 2 Shaun Tan Exhibition Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 April</td>
<td>Athletics Carnival ~ whole school</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 &amp; 10 April</td>
<td>State swimming ~ selected students</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 April</td>
<td>ANZAC Service at School</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 April</td>
<td>Last Day Term 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 April</td>
<td>Term 2 ~ Children Return to School</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 May</td>
<td>Grandfriend’s Day commencing at 9.30am</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Cross Country
Well done to everyone for outstanding participation and sportsmanship at our school cross country last Friday. Point score: Kookaburra 47, Emu 46, Kangaroo 41, Platypus 36. Congratulations Kookaburra on your narrow victory.
Placegetters were:
8 & 9 years: Claudia, Holly, Jessica, Tully, Zac, Jamie
10 years: Eleanor, Ashley, Madison, Zachery, Zane, Finlay
11 years: Emma, Charlotte, Shelley, Chris, Andy, Will
12 years: Saskia, Lily, Jacinta, Jared, Kye, Finlay & Elijah
The top three placegetters in each age will now go to Zone Carnival at Mayfield next week. Unfortunately, Year 6 students will be away in Canberra at this time and unable to participate. Thanks to Mr Knox for his great organisation of the carnival.

Cricket News
On Monday the 3rd to Thursday the 6th Jared Muller and Grant Clifford represented the Hunter at the NSW PSSA Cricket carnival on the Central Coast. The boys played four days of tough cricket winning two out of the four games they played. That placed them in 4th out of 14 teams. Congratulations boys.

Student Medical Forms
Recently we sent home additional medical forms for students who had not returned their forms from last year. Once again we are urging those families to complete and return these forms to the school office as soon as possible to assist us in meeting requirements requested from the Department of Education.

P&C News
Annual General Meeting ~ Wednesday 19th March at 7pm in the staffroom all welcome.

Easter Raffle: Thank you to all our families that have returned their raffle tickets or have brought in Easter egg donations. Additional tickets are available from the office please return tickets and money to the locked box in the foyer.

Book Club: Orders are due in by tomorrow Wednesday 19th March.

Kind Regards P&C Committee

Students’ Awards
KA Sam B, Thomas M, Emelia R, Jianan S
KK Shaun J, Macy W
KM Lucy Mc, Eliza B
KZ Madeline T, Thomas B, Simone J
1B Bronson B, Xavier C
1S Ella Mc, Zane C
1T Sebastian K, Florentina P
2H Kiara G, Lucas B
2K Kaylan V, Abbie R
2P Alistair S, Maya A
3D Kai J, Mia S
3H Nicole A, Lynch S
3W Zoe G, Aiden I
4M Jaiarni L, Cye H
4P Jarvis V, Kiarli N
4/5F Jordan B, Samuel M
5B William C, Lauren T
5/6M Eli E, Chloe T
6G Ethan A, Eva H
6L James B, Hayley Mc
Dance Cassie A, Lexie B
Choir Matthew J, Emma B
Band Thomas M, Rowan M, Samuel M, Skye M
Library James K
Honours Thomas K, Mia B

Please note due to privacy issues we have decided to only print students’ first names and initials for award winners

Canteen Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>19/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>20/3 Patricia Nicholson, Monica Mamonto, Ruth Moore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>21/3 Mel Donnellan, Rachel Hopkins, Dianne McNally, Kristy Waller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>24/3 Wendy Noble, Jane Farah, Kathy Georgiou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>25/3 Susan Sommers, Cath Tinson</td>
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</tbody>
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If you are unable to do your shift, please phone Louise 0438 516 744

Canteen News
If you would prefer a wrap instead of a burger or sandwich please write this clearly on the lunch bag.

Please ensure the order is clearly written on the bag. In many cases we are unable to understand what is being requested. Example ~ chicken lettuce mayo wrap could be the Cheeky Chicken Rissole or cold chicken meat.

- Hotdogs are no longer available (as they are a Red Item)
- New item ~ Belair Beef Burger
- Our Chicken Schnitzels are now homemade
- New Promotion ~ purchase any piece of fruit and you will receive a free gift

Louise Davidson Canteen Co-ordinator

With this Newsletter you will receive:
- Athletics Carnival Permission Note ~ K–6
- Shaun Tan Exhibition Excursion Permission Note ~ Years 3 & 4
- Australian Schools’ Competitions Permission Note ~ Years 3–6
- Go 4 Fun Flyer ~ Youngest child in the family

All notes are available on our school website for your convenience