Survey Feedback

Thank you to all families who have returned surveys so far. Your responses are very important to us. We value your opinion and future directions will reflect feedback that we receive. If you could please return surveys by Friday, 27 November then that would be greatly appreciated.

Over the next couple of newsletters I will address various issues that have been raised in the comments section, focussing primarily on areas that have been raised more than once.

Firstly, I wanted to write about the school executive as a few people indicated that they were unaware that we had an executive or what that meant. The executive consists of the four Assistant Principals (APs) and the Principal. Each AP is responsible for a Stage (Early Stage 1, Mrs Rozi Marsh; Stage 1, Mrs Nadine Tagaroulias and Ms Michelle Pritchard; Stage 2, Mrs Jocelyn Flook; Stage 3, Mrs Sarah Jardine). Due to the size of the school, each AP is entitled to one day off class a week to complete their executive duties. These include: meeting with parents, organisation of events, student welfare issues, leading designated areas of the school plan and other duties as directed by the Principal.

This week I will also address electronic communication methods. As I hope you are aware, we are trying to move away from a paper based newsletter towards electronic communication. The recently reformatted newsletter is designed to be more easily read on electronic devices. The newsletter can be read through SkoolBag, email or downloaded from the school website. I take on board the feedback that SkoolBag has been underutilised and will be working to ensure that this method of communication becomes more effective between now and the end of the year. Belair Public School does have a Facebook page. The address is: https://www.facebook.com/Belair-Public-School-1460107777640043/?fref=ts or you can simply search Facebook for Belair Public School to find it easily. Our Librarian, Miss Nyssa Kelly, has been doing an excellent job of uploading photos of events, putting in weekly reminders of things that are happening and putting in quick reminders as well.

Using the school website for communication of student learning is a work in progress. Stage 1 and Stage 3 have uploaded content so far. There are a few classes / Stages that use blogs / weeblys to communicate class activity. You may like to look at: http://4m2015bps.weebly.com/ http://stage2bps.weebly.com/ or http://www.belairstage1.blogspot.com.au/ as examples.

Electronic communication is an area that will continue to evolve and improve as people become more familiar with the possibilities.

Awards Ceremony for the Newcastle Herald Writing Competition

Today Miss Kelly and I had the pleasure of accompanying our Newcastle Herald Writing Team to the awards ceremony held in Broadmeadow. The field of writers from across the Hunter was excellent. We were fortunate enough to be awarded:

**Best News Story – Highly Commended**

Congratulations to the following students:

Ella A, Sophie A, Eleanor M and Olivia M
Assembly this Friday

With the mini fete this Friday we will be holding our assembly earlier at 12pm.

Captains’ Speeches

This week the school is listening to Year 5 present their Captains’ speeches. Students from Years 1–5 will vote tomorrow. Good luck, everyone!

2016 Belair Concert Band Auditions ~ Tomorrow

Tomorrow students from Years 2 to 5 interested in joining the 2016 band will be given the opportunity to audition. Any further inquiries can be directed to Ms Loredo.

Year 6 Mini Fete ~ Friday 27 November

Year 6 students are planning a range of exciting activities for their mini fete on Friday 27 November this week. Students are encouraged to bring along $5 to $10 to spend on the day. It would be helpful if they could bring coins instead of notes as most prices will range from 20 cents to $1. Money raised from the fete is used to purchase a gift to the school from the outgoing Year 6 students. A traditional activity is ‘The Haunted House’ where a classroom is converted to a pitch black maze. This activity is restricted to Year 3 to Year 5 students. Parents might like to send a note into classroom teachers if they have particular concerns. Year 6 have a range of prizes on the day including lollies and treats. They have been instructed not to go overboard with these. If your child has any dietary restrictions in relation to these foods, please let teachers know. The mini fete will run from 1pm to 2:30pm. 

This will be an out of uniform day for all students. With some activities, students may get wet.

Senior Choir ~ Monday 30 November

All Year 3 to 5 students interested in joining the Senior Choir in 2016 are encouraged to audition next week. Mrs Purdy and Ms Hide will be holding auditions in the Hall at first half lunch on Monday 30 November. Current Senior Choir members do not audition however members must express their continued commitment to Mrs Purdy to ensure their position for next year.

Surf School Mufti Day ~ Tuesday 1 December

To celebrate the start of summer, and to raise funds for the Waves for Water project, we are having a mufti day on the Tuesday, 1st December. Students are encouraged to wear their beach clothes (not swimmers) and bring in a gold coin donation. This is a student based initiative providing money to buy water filters so that people all over the world have access to clean drinking water. Further information can be found at:

http://www.wavesforwater.org/project/surftoschool

Swimming Carnival ~ Thursday 3 December

Our swimming carnival is being held on Thursday next week. Thank you to everyone who has returned the note and money already. Please return these this week to assist with organisation.

Students who are identified as weak swimmers will wear a yellow wrist band on the day.

Asthmatics should bring their puffer with them, especially if they have exercise induced asthma.

Head Lice

Recently we have had several cases of head lice in the school. We ask that parents please keep a look out for these and treat appropriately. Thank you.

Shoebox Revolution ~ repeat request

Shoebox Revolution provides homeless people of Newcastle and Central Coast with basic necessities.
If you could donate shoeboxes filled with donations of non-perishable food items, toiletries and warm clothing that would be greatly appreciated. Please return to Mrs Bale by Friday 27th November.
Kindergarten Transport Excursion

All of Kindergarten students went on our Transport Excursion because we have been learning about Transport. All the teachers tried to get a bendy bus and we scored a bendy bus. We also went on a train. The Kindergarten students went in the top carriage. Some of the parents came to help and they were great. We went on a ferry to Stockton and back and we went to the park for lunch. After that we went to the fire station. We learnt about safe fires and bad fires. The best part of the day was going on the bendy bus and playing on the playground equipment at the park.

By: Matilda W (KM)

Last week we went on our Transport Excursion. We went on a bendy bus. We went on a train and on a ferry. We went to the park for lunch and we played at the park. Some people’s mums and dads came to the park to have lunch with the Kinder children. It was a very hot day but it was cooler at the harbour and getting on and off the ferry and at the train station. My favourite part was going on the bendy bus because I got bendy bus fever which made me giggle. It was a great day.

By: Sammy T (KM)

Year 5 Sydney Excursion

On Thursday of Week 7, Year 5 took the bus to Sydney for our second one day excursion. Our first stop was the Powerhouse Museum, where we learnt more about the Australian gold rush. We got to play a game to help us understand what life was like during that period of time. Next we caught the bus across town to the Sydney Jewish Museum to learn about the harsh life of those who lived through the holocaust and to pay our respects to all those lost in that terrible disaster. We were lucky enough to hear the story of a survivor called Mimi. After we listened to her amazing story, we jumped back on the bus to head home after our fantastic day. By: Ella A, Eleanor M and Sophie A

Student Awards

Canteen Roster and News ~ (Canteen Supervisor Sonja 0438 684 401)

** Gluten Free Chicken Tenders $1.50 each or two in a wrap with lettuce and mayo for $3.80.
** Please remember to place your Sushi orders on Wednesday for Thursday lunches.

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<td>Brayden H, Ella A</td>
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Band: Athiana K, Lucas W
Honours: Jack F, Hailey W

Wed 25/11
Robyn S

Thurs 26/11
Jane B, Jane H

Fri 27/11
Karen R, Danielle W, Karen B, Derek L

Mon 30/11
Julie F, Sasha S

Tues 1/12
Karen S
P&C News

P&C Funding for End of Year Fundraising Raffle

Belair P&C are looking for donations from the community for the ‘End of Year (Christmas) Raffle’.

We are looking for ‘major’ and ‘minor’ prizes.

Is there anyone with a small business who could donate their services, a voucher or some products? Do you have a holiday home and would consider donating a week’s accommodation? Are you a hairdresser or beauty therapist who could consider donating a haircut and colour or facial? A mechanic or a gardener? Do you know someone who could donate prizes or services? We are also looking for donations of electronics, kitchenware or other smaller prizes....

Please help the P&C and Belair Public School by donating if you can! Gifts and enquiries can be directed to Felicity Charlton on 0428 872 132. In return for donating you will feature on our Facebook page and in the school newsletter. Raffle tickets are $1 each and all fundraising efforts will go towards the purchase of CommBoxes for the classrooms. The raffle will be drawn Friday 4th December 2015 at the P&C Mini Fete (Week 10).

Book Club News

Orders are due back tomorrow, Wednesday 25/11/15. Remember you can collect your order from the office if you would like to keep it a surprise. Just attach a note to your order form with your name and phone number.

Upcoming Events

* 25/11 Captains Speeches
   Band Auditions at Lunchtime ~ Year 2
* 26/11 Captains Speeches
   Band Auditions at Lunchtime ~ Years 3 and 4
* 27/11 Year 6 Mini Fete
* 30/11 Senior Choir Auditions
* 1/12 Surf School Mufti Day
* 2/12 Scripture Christmas Assembly at 11.30am
* 3/12 Swimming Carnival
* 4/12 Kindergarten and Stage 1 Presentation Day
* 8/12 Canteen RED DAY
* 10/12 Year 6 Farewell
   Drama Performance ~ K–2 (9am–10am) and Years 3–6 (10am–11am)
* 11/12 High School Transition
   Reports Go Home
* 14/12 Presentation Day ~ Years 3–6
* 15/12 Stage 3 Party Day
   Kindergarten Party Day
* 16/12 Stage 2 Party Day at The Forum
   Stage 1 Party Day
   Year 6 Clap Out
   Last day of 2015 for all students
Thank You to the following businesses for supporting our End of Year Fundraising:

- Jarvie Computing
- lewis + zwart architecture
- Bronni Page Yoga
- Princess Ballet Company
- Honeysuckle Hand Built
Kindergarten Transport Excursion
Newcastle PCYC KidzCare offers quality accredited care to children from Kindergarten to Year 6. Our mission is to encourage children to participate in a variety of enjoyable activities within a safe and familiar environment.

Our activities cater for children of varying abilities while encouraging maximum involvement. Children rotate through activities which regularly include a variety of craft, cooking and sports for children to participate in.

Each school holiday period offers excursions to the movies, local parks, iconic landmarks or popular entertainment venues. In the Summer school holidays we will be visiting Newcastle Museum to experience the age of the Tyrannosaurs, and going to the cinema to see *The Good Dinosaur*.

Newcastle PCYC KidzCare staff members attend regular training to keep up to date with changes in legislation and programming, and are experienced in a variety of fields including childcare, physical education and primary teaching.

A copy of our current holiday program can be found on the Newcastle PCYC website: [www.pycnsw.org/newcastle](http://www.pycnsw.org/newcastle)

For enquiries, please contact the club on 4961 4493, or via email at [newcastlecc@pcycnsw.org.au](mailto:newcastlecc@pcycnsw.org.au)