On behalf of the staff and students I would like to wish you and your family a very happy Christmas and all the best for the coming year. Farewell to our Year 6’s who are leaving us for high school. We wish you every success in this next stage of your learning journey. Farewell also to students in other classes who, for a myriad of reasons, will not be at Belair in 2016. We wish you well wherever you may be.

And finally farewell to those members of staff who will not be returning to Belair next year. Chris O’Brien, Nadine Purdy, Tess McAllister, Michelle Ovenstone, Nadine Tagaroulias and Roger Knox are all moving on. We wish you well and thank you for your hard work and dedication to the students of Belair.

Mr Warwick Beard will be returning in 2016. It has been a privilege to be the relieving Principal in his absence. Thank you for your support and for making me welcome. I take many happy memories with me and several ideas for the future.

In other changes, the staff at Belair will be joined by Donna Summers as a permanent class teacher. Donna was successful at interview and comes to us with many experiences and ideas that will make her a valuable addition to the school.

With some permanent members of staff on leave in 2016 there will also be a few changes in other classes. These will all be announced next year.

**Presentation Day**

It was a pleasure to attend the Stage 2 and 3 Presentation Day Assembly on Monday 14th December. Congratulations to all students who were recognised on this special day. You have worked hard this year and deserve the recognition for your effort. Special congratulations to Zane Butterworth who was recognised as Dux for 2015. It was very special to see the 2009 Dux, Casey Regan, and School Captain, Ellen Frohlich, in attendance. Ellen gave an inspiring speech reminding all of us that ‘real life’ is made of the experiences that we are making now. It does not begin when we leave School or leave University. Life is now and we need to make the most of it through participation in all and any opportunities or events that come our way.

Thank you to Sarah Jardine for a terrific effort in organising her first Belair PS Presentation Day and to all of the teachers and school administration staff who supported her in making the morning a success. Thanks also to each of the parents and family members who were able to attend. The children really appreciate seeing you at these special functions.

**Stage 2 Party Day tomorrow**

Could students please wear their swimmers under their clothes. They will also need to be wearing suitable clothing and shoes for participating in games – preferably shorts, shirts and joggers. Please pack underwear for changing into after swimming. Don’t forget to take a towel, lunch, recess and a water bottle.

**Community Languages**

In 2016 there will be the opportunity to enrol your child into a community languages class after school one day a week. This will be run by “Fun Languages” and there will be a cost involved.
French and Spanish will be offered and if there is enough interest, Mandarin may be added to the program. More information will come out early next year.

School Development Day

All staff will be attending the School Development Day on Thursday 17th December. They will be completing a CPR course and asthma training as well as planning for the coming year.

At the School Development Day on Wednesday 27th January 2016, teachers will receive other mandatory training and have their skills updated for tracking the progress of students with a disability.

First Week Back

In 2016 the school year commences on Thursday 28th January for students in Years 1-6. Students in Kindergarten will attend a Best Start assessment and then begin school on Tuesday 2nd February. Students will start their year in the same class group as this year. New classes should hopefully be formalised on Monday 1st February, depending on the number of new enrolments that arrive in the first week. The school office will be open on Wednesday 27th January for any inquiries and the uniform shop will also be open from Wednesday 28th January through to Friday 30th at 8.45am.

Holidays in 2016

To assist you in your forward planning please be aware of the following dates:

End of Term 1 holidays: Saturday 9th April – Tuesday 26th April
End of Term 2 holidays: Saturday 2nd July – Monday 18th July
End of Term 3 holidays: Saturday 24th September – Sunday 9th October
Last day of school for 2016: Friday 16th December.

The Department of Education encourages all parents to take family holidays during these times so that students are not missing any schooling.

P&C News

Canteen Supervisor

On behalf of the P&C we would like to congratulate Sonja Cooper on being offered the position of Canteen Supervisor starting in 2016. The P&C had a number of applicants for the position and the panel made their decision based on experience and qualifications. We would like to thank everyone who applied. We look forward to continuing to work with Sonja in 2016 and are excited to see what new and exciting things Sonja may bring.

P&C Message

This year has been a big year for the P&C at Belair with lots of fundraising ventures including The Entertainment Book, Chocolates, Raffles, Mother’s Day and Father’s Day stalls and disco. With all the hard work and dedication of our members and with the support of the Belair community we have been able to hand over more than $16,000.00 to the school to help with such things as the purchase of Comm Boxes, technology, library resources and so much more. On behalf of the P&C I would like to say a great big thank you to everyone because without your help and dedication, we would not have been able to do this.
This year, as we farewell another Year 6 cohort we also farewell 33 of our Belair families and I would like to wish you all well in your next ventures at high school and thank you for your support over your time here.

With these families we also have some of our P&C members leaving including Nichole Richens who has helped run our schools disco’s for a number of years and has been an active member of the P&C. Rachael Hopkins has also been an active member over her time with the P&C, involved in many of our fundraisers. Vanessa McNally who has spent many hours over the years looking after the Entertainment Book fundraiser and giving her time to numerous P&C events including the Belair Fair as well as serving as President and Vice President. Col Jackson who has been a valued member of our P&C taking on the treasurer job and spending countless hours helping us keep all our fundraising in check and looking after the financial side of the canteen, uniform shop and school banking. On behalf of the P&C I would like to say thank you for volunteering your time on so many occasions.

Again, thank you to all families for supporting our great Belair community and I wish you a Merry Christmas and look forward to a great 2016.

**End of Year Raffle**
The raffle was drawn on Friday 14th December at the Stage 1 Presentation Ceremony. Congratulations to all those lucky winners who received some fantastic prizes. Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets, a massive total of $1,750.00 was raised and will be put towards the purchase of a new COMM BOX for one of the classrooms. A very BIG thankyou to all those families and local businesses who donated prizes, they were all very well received. Thanks to: The Good Guys Warners Bay, Ruby Skies Hairdressing New Lambton, NovaTax Financial Planners Merewether, Gateshead Ultratune, 33 Degrees South, Jens Piano Tuition, Vistana Malaysia Restaurant Charlestown, Princess Ballet and Bronni Page Yoga.

**Canteen Roster and News ~ (Canteen Supervisor Sonja 0438 684 401)**
It has been a wonderful year in the canteen. Thank you to all the helpers/volunteers for all your hard work throughout the year. I appreciate everything you have done and will be hoping to see you all again in the New-Year.

**Upcoming Events**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>16/12</td>
<td>Stage 2 Party Day at The Forum</td>
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<td>Stage 1 Party Day</td>
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<td>Year 6 Clap Out- 2.30pm</td>
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<td>Last day of 2015 for all students</td>
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<td>28/01/16</td>
<td>First day Term 1 for Years 1-6</td>
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**Community News**

**South Newcastle Junior Hockey**-
South Newcastle Junior Girls Hockey Club is looking for new players
Girls aged 4-18 and Boys 4-9
All training and games are played on the synthetic turf at Broadmeadow
Training is Mondays 4.15-5.15 starting 9th February 2016.
Come and Try/Registration day Monday 9th February 2016
Contact Sue Evans: 0415 906 234 dsevo@bigpond.com, Katrina Juchau: 0439 427 517
katrina.juchau@bigpond.com or Melissa Lintott: 0432 011 459 jlintott66@optusnet.net.au

January School Holiday Program at the Hunter Wetlands Centre

Tuesday 19th January 10am -12.30pm for 7-10 years. Making It! Use glue, wood, string, paper and other materials to make. Cost: $20-Booking essential phone 4951 6466.


Wednesday 20th January 10am -12.30pm for 4 – 7 years. Digby Fixit Live! Adapted from her book Digby’s Moon Mission, author and performer Renee Price will use storytelling, songs and puppets to bring her character Digby to life. This 30 minute performance will be followed by book signing, craft and a chance to meet some of our wetland reptiles at an interactive talk. Cost: $20- Booking essential phone 4951 6466.

Thursday 21st January 10am – 2.00pm All ages. Wonders at the Wetlands - a family fun day activities for all ages and parents as well. Live music dip-netting, bird-spotting, reptile talks crafts, face painting and so much more to see. Visit the Hunter Wetland Facebook page or website for more information. Cost: entry by gold coin donation. No bookings.

Newcastle City Council Summer Program:

Please find below the link to the Newcastle City Council’s Summer School Holidays brochure. We have a wide range of activities and events on during the Summer school hols at Newcastle Art Gallery, Newcastle Museum, Newcastle Region Library, Blackbut Reserve, Beresfield Pool and the Beaches and Baths.