Welcome Kindergarten 2015
We had a delightful bunch of Kindergarten students arrive yesterday, eager to start their career at Primary school. It is such an exciting time for children and their families. At the end of the day all children seemed to be happy to return the following day with smiles (albeit a few tired ones) all around.

Special Religious Education (Scripture)
At Belair School all children have the opportunity to attend Special Religious Education where a teacher of their preferred religious persuasion is available. Our school SRE program is run by authorised volunteers of approved religious persuasions. The program is coordinated by the Belair Baptist Church, however it is a non-denominational program and general in nature. At this point in time the only program offered is Christian.

There is an opt-out option for parents who do not wish their child to attend SRE classes. Under departmental policies, schools are not permitted to offer curriculum instruction during scheduled SRE lessons so non-SRE students will spend time reading, drawing etc.

Parents wishing to exercise the opt-out option, please send a note to the principal stating your child’s name and class. This is for all students K-6. Alternatively, parents may email the school account belair-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au.

The new enrolment form has led to some confusion in relation to SRE options and an additional note is being sent to some Kinder parents to help clarify matters.

Kiss and Drop Zones
Last year our school lobbied the council to improve the safety of school drop offs and pick-ups. As a result, two “Kiss and Drop” (no parking) bays have been created. These bays work very efficiently when everyone follows the intended procedure and only stops for a minimal time whilst children enter or leave the car. Parking for longer times in the zones not only disrupts the flow of pick-ups it can also result in heavy fines and demerit points as schools are regularly targeted by traffic wardens and police. Please remember that the staff car parks at Terence, Carolyn and Cynthia Streets are for staff only, deliveries and emergency pickups.

Parent Information Sessions
Teachers look forward to introducing themselves to their students’ families and having a chat about class operation for 2015. Please note, these are not opportunities for in depth discussions related to an individual child’s learning. Later in the term parents will be invited to parent/teacher discussions. Mr Beard will look after children in the library during these sessions. Information on these sessions is detailed below.

Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten): Tuesday 10th February ~ 5.30pm-6.30pm in the KM classroom (Room 8). This will be for all Kindergarten classes
Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2): Wednesday 11th February ~ 6pm-7pm
Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4): Tuesday 10th February ~ 6.30pm-7.30pm
Stage 3 (Years 5 & 6): Wednesday 11th February ~ 5pm-6pm

Opera House Choir
Our delightful school choir has successfully auditioned for the Schools Choral Festival at the Sydney Opera House. There are places for 36 of our senior choir members to participate in 2015. Because of the level of commitment to this event, students are only permitted to be involved in either Starstruck or the Opera House Choir. More information will be provided to interested students shortly.

It is very exciting to see our students having this opportunity once again.
Class Library 2015
Monday: 4P, KM, KZ, KA, IT and IS
Tuesday: 2/3A, 2K, 2DP, 3H, 6G and 4M
Wednesday: 6B, KBC, 1M, 1/2H, 4/5F and 5P
Thursday: 5/6J, 3/4L and 3M

All students are required to have library bags to borrow in 2015 to ensure the books are kept clean and dry as they make their way to and from school. If you have problems acquiring a library bag please see Miss Kelly – she is more than willing to help out!

Band
Welcome back to our band students! Here are some general reminders for parents to help get their children started in band for the year. Band rehearsals are held in the Band room behind the canteen at 1:55pm Wednesdays and 8am Fridays. Students need to bring their instruments, black display folders, a pencil and Accent on Achievement. Students should have booked lessons with a private tutor. If you are having problems securing a tutor please see Ms Loredo. Each Friday they will also need to bring their practice booklets with practice times entered and initialled by parents. Invoices for 2015 band fees will be sent home with your child next week. Happy Banding!

Representative Sport Trials
Students wanting to nominate for Zone Sports Trials should see Mr Baker to receive a nomination form.

Conjunctivitis
Please be aware that we have had 3 cases of conjunctivitis since school has returned across the grades. If your child wakes up with red itchy eyes with a yellowish discharge please seek medical advice. It is extremely contagious but easily remedied by a course of suitable eye drops.

Medical Conditions:
If your child has a medical condition, eg asthma, severe allergies etc, it is imperative that you supply the office with current and relevant information, so we can best manage your child. This also includes updating phone numbers which may have changed over the holiday period. All medication must be taken to the office for administration to students.

Book Packs
Thank you for all the parents who had paid for their book packs. For those still needing to pay don’t forget we offer our Parent Online Payment system as well as a cash/cheque system through the office. Next week we will be sending home statements of outstanding invoices including general school contribution and those with major excursions coming up. Notes about these will be sent home in the next few weeks.

Book Pack Prices

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Lost Property
We are already getting jumpers and hats handed into Lost Property without names. Please clearly write your child’s name on these items so we can return them to your child.

School Photos
Our school photos for K–6 will be taken on Thursday 5th March. More information will follow at a later date.

P&C News
Uniform Shop: Opening hours are each Monday of the school term from 8.45 – 9.30am

Kind Regards P&C Committee

Canteen Roster

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Canteen News
Noodles and Fried Rice no longer available – please do not order.

Sushi – orders must be in by recess on Wednesday for Thursday lunch. This will be available weekly in Term 1 (if we do not get enough orders we will cut back to once a month).

Red Day (Donut & Drink) on Tuesday 17th Feb. Orders and money ($4) must be in by Thursday 12th Feb.

Community News
KOTARA SOUTH NETBALL CLUB REGISTRATION ~ New registrations will be taken at Kotara Bowling Club Wednesday 4 Feb 5-8pm. Please provide a copy of your birth certificate. Existing members can renew online. See www.facebook.com/KotaraSouthNetballClub

Girls Hockey ~ Souths Junior Girls Hockey registration on Monday 9th Feb, 4.15-6pm at Newcastle International Hockey Centre, Broadmeadow. Ages 4-18 yrs. Contact Robyn Skene 0409 120 950.

Hopsotch and Hoolahoops ~ Starting at Belair PS Monday 16th Feb. Casual dance class for boys and girls. Ages 4-7yrs - 3:45-4:15pm; ages 8-12yrs - 4:15-5pm. Cost: $8 for 4-7yrs and $10 for 8-12yrs. Contact Nikki Burdack - hopsotchandhoolahoops@outlook.com

South Newcastle Junior Rugby League ~ Registrations open for new and returning players. Registrations to be completed on-line - links on the South’s Facebook page or website. On-line registration assistance days will be held at South Newcastle Leagues Club Sunday 8th Feb (2-4pm) and Thursday 13th Feb (6-8pm) for those without access to “on-line”. Final registration day Sunday 22nd Feb 2-4pm.

Mimi League - Under 6s to Under 8s; Mod League - Under 9s to Under 12s; International U13s to U18s

Enquiries: Scott Hallet at scotthlltt@yahoo.com.au or Graeme Fitzgerald on 0407 093 662.