Art Show and Book Week Parade

What a busy week at Belair PS! I am really looking forward to seeing the Art Show on Wednesday evening. The committee have done an amazing job organising everything for it. The hall is spectacular! We hope you can join us, however, if you are unable to come on the night then the show will be open on Thursday as well.

Then on Friday we are having the Book Week Parade. This is sure to be another spectacular event. I had the pleasure of seeing the two dance groups last week and am looking forward to a repeat performance. Miss Kelly and the Book Week committee have done a great job of organising the day so that it will all run smoothly. Friday will be your last opportunity to purchase from the Book Fair as well.

Regional Athletics

We have a team of students competing in the Regional Athletics Carnival on Friday. On behalf of the staff and students, I would like to wish them all the best. I’m sure that they will do the school proud and represent us with a high level of sportsmanship and skill.

Communication

As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter we are looking at enhancing and improving our communication strategies. A number of measures are currently being used/ introduced.

- We have a Belair Public School Facebook page. Here you can see reminders of what is happening each week as well as reading good news stories. There is a “Rules of Engagement” notification on the site. Please keep to this when making any comments. We currently have 148 ‘likes’. It would be wonderful if we could get some more ‘likes’ this week.
- Many families are now using our Skoolbag. The app has been downloaded 469 times. From here we have 164 email addresses. This week we are trialling not sending paper copies to families who use Skoolbag. We are aiming towards becoming totally paperless.
- If you would like to receive the newsletter via either Skoolbag or email please download the app and / or provide us with your email address.
- The Belair School website is currently undergoing an enhancement process. There is a new tab entitled “Stage pages 2015”. Stage 3 is first off the mark with some photos of students playing netball. This tab will continue to be added to with the goal of all stages having some input by the end of term. Continued additions will be made in Term 4 and into the future. If you have any suggestions of what you would like to see then please let me know. This is primarily a space to celebrate achievement and to keep you informed of what is happening in our classrooms.

Apologies to our Neighbours

Due to the electrical storm yesterday, Belair School experienced a very close encounter with a bolt of lightning. As a result it triggered our alarm system until approximately 10.30pm. We would like to sincerely apologise to our surrounding neighbours for this unexpected event.

Toilet Access for Parents

We frequently have parents who wait with their child until school starts – particularly K–2 parents. If you are one of these parents and you feel an urge to use the facilities, we are now leaving the Disabled Toilet at the front of the hall open for your convenience. This toilet is also available for parents working in the canteen or uniform shop. Parents are not to use the student toilets. Thank you for your cooperation.

Year 6 to 7 ~ Kotara High School

Could parents of students enrolled at Kotara High School for Year 7 in 2016 please take a look at the KHS website for information regarding their BYOD program that will commence for Year 7 next year. The website and link to the Weebly will give advice on the program, the BYOD policy and the specifications for purchasing devices.

Tell Them from Me Surveys

Tell Them from Me surveys are an important data collection tool for schools to gauge their success in meeting student needs. This term Belair PS is participating in all three types of surveys. These are for students in Years 4–6, for teachers and for parents.

The Partners in Learning parent survey is for parents and carers of school students. It is designed to clarify and strengthen the important relationship between parents/carers and school by gaining insights into parent/carer and staff communication, activities and practices at home, and parent/carer voice on school support of learning and behaviour. The survey results help to build an accurate and timely picture that schools can use for practical improvements. It complements the student and teacher surveys.

Further information is included in the attachment that is available on the website addition of the newsletter or through Skoolbag.

To access the survey go to:

Parents of students in Years 4–6 will receive a separate note. You only complete the form if you do NOT wish your child to participate.

Learning Partnerships Group

The 2015–2017 Belair School Plan identifies 3 strategic directions for the school, the third of which is to further enhance students’ learning by fostering a strong sense of partnership between the school, the students, their parents/caregivers + the wider community.

A Learning Partnerships Group, comprising thirteen teachers + parents, meets regularly to discuss current practices, their effectiveness, possible improvements and the move into an electronic age. The group then provides advice to the Executive for their consideration when making School policy.

As we consider learning to have a broad meaning (academic, sport, music, environment etc) we have started with school-wide communication (eg website, app, blogs) and are working our way towards stage, class + student specific communication.

If you are interested in more information please contact the School Office who will pass your details on to one of the group members.

Dance Group News

Dance Auditions next week for any students wanting to try out for the Belair Dance Groups.

Auditions will be:
- Juniors (Years 2 and 3) Monday 31st August at 8am in the school hall.
- Seniors (Years 4 and 5) Wednesday 2nd September at 8am in the school hall.

Sport News

Last Monday Maddy M and Emma H went to Parramatta for PSSA State Touch Football. After going through the tournament undefeated, they lost the semi-finals. Emma was fortunate enough to be selected to play in the NSW team which will now go to Adelaide to compete in the Pacific School games in November.

Emma will be selling raffle tickets to help fund her trip. Tickets are available from Emma outside the library at recess or lunchtime. Tickets are $2 each. Thank you for any assistance you can give.

Student Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KA</th>
<th>Archie E, Xanthe C</th>
<th>KRC</th>
<th>Harry B, Lara H</th>
<th>KM</th>
<th>Lauren P, Saranya T</th>
<th>KZ</th>
<th>Ethan C, Ellie G</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1M</td>
<td>Charlie W, Aleah K</td>
<td>IS</td>
<td>Ana G, Shaun J</td>
<td>TT</td>
<td>Thomas M, Ruby F</td>
<td>1/2H</td>
<td>Bronson B, Emily H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2DP</td>
<td>Hannah A, Ashton c</td>
<td>2K</td>
<td>Levi G, Michael R</td>
<td>2/5A</td>
<td>Laura B, Harry H</td>
<td>3H</td>
<td>Allira B, Lucas B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5F</td>
<td>Imogen Y, Charli H</td>
<td>5P</td>
<td>Claudia J, Emily S</td>
<td>5/6J</td>
<td>Nixon S, Cye H</td>
<td>6B</td>
<td>Jason A, Vivian D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6G</td>
<td>Zane B, Alex V</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dance</td>
<td>Sarah J, Zoe M</td>
<td>Band</td>
<td>Adriana K, Rebecca H</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Honours: Ryder A, Charlotte J, Rowan S

With today's newsletter you will receive:
Tell Them from Me Survey (Yrs 4–6 only); Request Parent Permission to Publish

*****SEE THE WEBSITE FOR OUR EXTENDED VERSION OF THE NEWSLETTER*****
Sushi orders need to be in tomorrow for Thursday lunches. If we do not get at least 20 orders unfortunately we will not be able to provide this service. No regular lunch orders will be available this Friday 28/8/15.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wed 26/8</th>
<th>Thurs 27/8</th>
<th>Fri 28/8</th>
<th>Mon 31/8</th>
<th>Tues 1/9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wendy N, Perin P</td>
<td>Kathleen E</td>
<td>Mel D, Rachel H, Cate S, Susan S, Christine C</td>
<td>Elizabeth C</td>
<td>Tina W, Natasha W</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

P&C News

Father's Day Stall ~ 2nd September:
We have some wonderful gifts for sale for that special man in your child's life. Some examples are: magnetic photo frames, crime novels, key rings, tools, stationary and wheelie bin cricket stump stickers. All gifts are $5. We still need volunteers for the day. So far we have only had 3 people volunteer. We will be supplying cuppas and biscuits to our helpers. If anyone can help, please phone Katrina Johnson on 0408 442 762 or meet at the hall at 9am.

Uniform Shop News:
The online survey is closing this Friday 28th August, please go to: [http://goo.gl/forms/586YpEqBse](http://goo.gl/forms/586YpEqBse)
A Uniform Shop volunteer is needed starting Term 4. No experience needed – you will work alongside existing uniform shop volunteers and learn the job as you go. Hours are each Monday from 8.45am – 9.30am. Preschool / younger children are welcome to accompany you. Please drop into the uniform shop or contact Tina on 0431 061 195.

Book Club News:
Issue 6 brochures went home this week. Orders are due back by Wednesday 2/9/15.

Upcoming Events

* 24/8–28/8 Belair Education Week / Art Show and Book Week Celebrations
* 24/8–28/8 Book Fair Opens
* 26/8 NPBS Maths Competition
* 26/8 Belair School Art Show
* 26/8 Choir to perform
* 28/8 Book Week Celebrations
* 28/8 Picnic Lunch
* 28/8 Dance Groups to perform
* 28/8 Regional Athletics Carnival
* 2/9 Father’s Day Stall
* 2/9 Year 5 Parent Meeting ~ School Hall at 4.30pm
* 4/9 Belair Spring Ball ~ evening event
* 8/9 Canteen RED DAY
* 9/9 Tocal Excursion ~ Stage 1
* 10/9 Tocal Excursion ~ Stage 1
* 10/9 Public Speaking Regional Finals
* 17/9 Year 6 Winter Sleep out ~ 6pm approx
We are inviting all our Belair PS parents, carers and families to the Art Show opening on Wednesday 26th August at 6:30pm to 8:30pm as part of our Education Week celebrations. This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase the creativity of our Belair Public School students and hear the senior choir as they perform.

Tea / coffee and cakes will be for sale from the canteen and will need to be consumed outside the hall. Our senior students will be collecting gold coin donations.

For those unable to make the official opening, the Art Show will also be open on Thursday 27th August from 9am to 2:55pm in the hall. We look forward to seeing you at this event and thank you for supporting this event.
Parents, carers and families are invited to attend the

**2015 Education-Book Week Celebrations**

**Friday 28th August 2015**

under the Primary COLA, outside the library.

**10:15am** Junior Choir

**Book Parade**

K–2 students

**11:00–11:30am** Extended Recess

Cakes, coffee and tea will be on sale for families from the canteen ($1.50 tea / coffee and $1.50 for a cake)

**11:40am** Band, Junior and Senior Dance Groups

**Book Parade**

Years 3–6 students

K–2 families are invited into the K–2 classrooms after recess as students participate in literacy and art activities.

2/3A will attend the Primary Book Parade.

A fun fitness activity in the Year 1–2 open area will then take place for K–2 students before lunch.

**Sausage Sizzle – Friday Lunchtime**

(approx 1pm)

Students will be served their sausage sizzle from their classrooms by their class teacher.

Parents/families are invited to purchase their sausage sizzles from the canteen ($2.00 each) on the day.

Please send the money for your child’s sausage sizzle to school with your child on Friday 28th August and hand the money to the class teacher.

**No regular canteen orders will be available on Friday 28th August**
1. What is the Partners in Learning parent survey?

The Partners in Learning parent survey is part of the Tell Them From Me suite of surveys on student engagement. The parent survey helps to clarify and strengthen the important relationship between parent and school.

The survey is designed to measure, assess and report insights at the school and system levels. The focus of this NSW survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

2. What kind of questions will the survey ask?

The survey questions aim at understanding parents’ perspectives on their child’s experience at school, including teaching, communication, activities and practices at home and the school’s support of learning and behaviour.

The survey will ask parents questions about:

- Parents feel welcome
- Parents are informed
- Parents support learning at home
- Parents participation at school
- School supports positive behaviour
- Safety
- Inclusion
- School supports learning

3. How have schools been selected to take part?

The survey is open for all NSW government schools to participate in at no cost to them. Your school has taken up this offer.

4. How will taking part in this survey benefit my child’s school?

The parent survey provides school principals and school leaders with parents’ perspective on their school as well as learning at home. Communication between parents and staff, activities and practices at home, and parent views on the school’s support of learning and behaviour all help build an accurate and timely picture that schools can use for practical improvements.

Data collected from the survey responses are quickly compiled into reports for school leaders. Principals can then use this information to help them identify emerging issues and plan for school improvement.

5. How does the parent survey relate to the student survey?

The parent survey is complementary to the Tell Them From Me student survey that your child may have been asked to participate in. These surveys are offered (along with a teacher survey) to ensure schools can capture the views of students, teachers and parents.

For more detail on each of the surveys, see the survey website: http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/

6. What do I need to do to participate in the survey?

The survey typically takes 15 minutes and is conducted entirely online through a secure website operated by the survey developers, The Learning Bar. You will be provided with a link to complete the survey at home or your school may make computers available so that you can complete the survey during school hours.

7. Do I need to participate?

No, participation in the survey is optional. Whilst your responses are very much appreciated, if during the survey, you feel uncomfortable, you can stop the survey at any time. The majority of questions in the survey can be skipped.
8. Will the school be able to identify me or my child from my responses?

Staff in schools will not be able to identify individual parents or students from parent responses. To ensure confidentiality, schools will be provided with a single username and password for all survey users. Where fewer than five parents respond to a question, the results will not be made available.

9. What sort of analysis will be done on the survey data?

Once the surveys are completed, reports are prepared and in most cases are available to schools within three business days. School leaders may use the data to better understand the experiences and views of parents at their school.

CESE will undertake state-wide analysis of the survey data in conjunction with existing student data held by the Department, including performance data. The results will help all schools better understand the relationship between parents and student’s engagement and wellbeing, effective teaching and student learning. Results from CESE’s analysis of this data will also help teachers and principals discuss what works to improve student outcomes. This supports the Department’s continuing focus on quality teaching and leadership. The data will be retained for future analysis to help us better understand the nature of student engagement and wellbeing over time.

10. When will the Partners in Learning survey happen?

The surveys will be conducted in all participating schools between Monday 17th August (Week 6, Term 3) and Friday 16th October 2015 (Week 2, Term 4).

What is CESE?

The Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE) is part of the Department of Education and Communities, within the Office of Education.

CESE has been established to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of education in New South Wales. CESE will identify and share what works, creating new opportunities to improve teaching and learning across all of education.

More information about CESE is available at: www.cese.nsw.gov.au

What is The Learning Bar?

The Learning Bar is a Canadian education company that specialises in school surveys for both primary and secondary students. Its survey, Tell Them From Me, is the largest national school survey in Canada, used in nine of Canada’s ten provinces. More than 2,600 schools and 1.7 million Canadian students have participated in the survey over the last nine years.

The Learning Bar is led by Dr J Douglas Willms. Dr Willms is a Professor and Director of the Canadian Research Institute for Social Policy at the University of New Brunswick, and holds the Canada Research Chair in Literacy and Human Development. Dr Willms led the development of questions on student engagement for the OECD’s Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).

More information about The Learning Bar is available at: www.thelearningbar.com

If you have any questions about the parent survey, please contact CESE via email: TTFM@det.nsw.edu.au or by telephone: 9561 8688 /9561 8331 /9561 8370.