Principal’s Report

Wednesday 15th July 2015 Belair Public School

New Principal

I was contacted by our school Education Director, Jenny Moody early today with the wonderful news that we have a new relieving principal for 6 months. We shall be welcoming Karin Hird to Belair PS in Week 3 this term on Monday 27th July 2015. Karin is currently the Principal at Nords Wharf PS. I emailed the staff early today to announce Karin’s success. We all look forward to meeting and working with her upon her arrival. In turn I have emailed and congratulated Karin on behalf of the school community and welcome her to Belair PS in her role as Relieving Principal. I will resume my role as teacher on KM and as Early Stage 1 Assistant Principal in Week 3. I would like to acknowledge the work of Mrs Zena Sutcliffe and sincerely thank her for teaching KM during my absence.

Traffic Conditions and Drop Off Zones

A letter from the City of Newcastle-Traffic Engineer addressed to Warwick arrived by mail yesterday 14th July 2015. The letter outlines the committee’s recommendation to extend the No Parking Zone (school times) with “Kiss and Ride” signs on the Western side of Carolyn Street. The work has been authorised and the Council will arrange implementation.

Pedestrian Access

Our GA Mr Kim Swinburn has commenced building the pathway to increase access for pedestrians from the top of Carolyn Street. This should increase access for students and families and reduce risks associated with walking past the large gates at Carolyn Street that are used by vehicles. The school is asking for $1000 to be made available for the continued construction of the access from Carolyn Street into the school.
Education and Book Week Celebrations

This year we will be combining our Education and Book Week celebrations. These celebrations are to be held in Week 7 of this term. Our 2016 Art Show will be held on the evening of Wednesday 26th August 2015. The school senior choir and band will perform on the night. All students K-6 will have an opportunity to have one piece of art on display. A running slideshow will also be a part of the night depicting the art making processes that the students use in their creative endeavours. On Friday 28th August 2016, the school will be holding a Book Week Parade. All students K-6 will be encouraged to dress up in costume depicting a book character of their choice. The girls dance groups both senior and junior will also perform. A picnic lunch and Book Fair will also operate. Families are invited to attend and join their children at these events.

Kindergarten 2016

The Kindergarten Transition to School program has begun. 2016 Local Kindergarten students were contacted by mail at the end of last term with an offer of a place in Kindergarten for 2016. At present it appears there will be 4 classes next year.

Preschool Visits

I have been invited to visit with Bronwyn Matthews at Adamstown Heights Preschool to address families on General School Readiness next Wednesday evening. I will be discussing general issues including preparing your child and your family for school. In addition I visited the Kotara Montessori Preschool last term. This term I shall also approach Belair KU Preschool and again visit with them. I feel these are important as we maintain positive relationships with our local preschool and Early Childhood centres an establish relationships with families in our community.

P&C Information

I have received an email giving information from the Federation of Parents and Citizens Association of NSW. I have made a copy of the information and will present that to the P&C for their consideration.
Strategic Plan 2015-2017

The staff has been working through the School Strategic Plan. Three learning teams were established in Term 1 and were led by the executive. The Professional learning team investigated the topics of

1. 21st Century learners
2. Effective Feedback and
3. Differentiated learning

Staff worked during professional learning times including staff meetings and in their own time to prepare and present current research that would be reflected in their teaching and in the classroom. All teams presented to the staff at the end of Term 2.

We are currently on track as we work through the milestones of the strategic plan. The milestones and the strategic plan has been discussed and presented by the executive to all staff.

Teachers have once again nominated the areas they wish to investigate for Semester 2 as part of their professional learning.

1. Metacognition
2. Creativity and Resilience
3. Explicit Criteria and
4. Assessment for learning

Again the teams will work together and present at the end of Semester 2.

Rozi Marsh
Relieving Principal