Dear Parents/Caregivers,

WELCOME BACK
I would like to warmly welcome all our children, parents and staff either as first timers or continuing your association with our school. It has been a very settled start across the school. The children were placed in their classes from Year 1 to Year 6 on Friday and the kindergarten children started in their classes yesterday. Walking around the school I am very pleased with the work that I am seeing taking place in all the classrooms. A full list of all staff at school will be included in our next newsletter.

ATTENDANCE
At this time of the year attendance is usually not an issue but during the course of the year, the attendance patterns can cause concerns for teachers. It is important that children are here on time every day to ensure they get the maximum benefit of the education our school provides. The table below shows the impact that missing a few minutes a day can have on your children’s education.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If he/she is only missing just.....</th>
<th>That equals.....</th>
<th>Which is......</th>
<th>And over 13 years of schooling that’s ......</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 minutes per day</td>
<td>50 minutes per week</td>
<td>Nearly 1.5 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly Half a Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 minutes per day</td>
<td>1 hour 40 minutes per week</td>
<td>Over 2.5 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1 Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half an hour per day</td>
<td>Half a day a week</td>
<td>4 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1 and a Half years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 hour per day</td>
<td>1 day per week</td>
<td>8 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 2 and a half years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BEHAVIOUR
At our school we encourage and reward great behaviour in both the classroom and playground. The message that we reinforce in class and assemblies is that we are a no-touch school. When children are in the playground they are not to play games that include physical contact such as tackling or wrestling each other. Children will receive a warning if this happens. If the children repeat this type of behaviour then they will be excluded from the playground for a period of time. We expect all children to be able to enjoy their play times in a safe and happy environment.

If there are issues with children’s behaviour either in the classroom or playground, the class teacher will contact parents in the first instance.
WEBSITE
We are currently updating our website for 2014. There are new class pages that will be completed over the next few weeks. The newsletter is placed on the website each fortnight and major permission notes are also included on the website. There is a link on the website at the moment that we would like parents to follow and complete a brief satisfaction survey.

PASSPORT TO PLAY
I have talked to the children about their “passport to play” in our school playground. A wide brimmed hat is the “passport”. It is now Department of Education and Communities policy for children to wear a wide brimmed hat at school when doing activities in the sun. All children who have enrolled at our school in kindergarten over the last two years have been supplied with a hat. Hats are available from the uniform shop for $10. (The Office has some sizes available too)

Thomas Kelly
Principal

Parent Satisfaction Survey:
At Belmont Public we value your comments and strongly encourage all parents/guardians to complete the on-line parent satisfaction survey. This information will allow us to continually make improvements to our school. To access the survey you simply need to visit our school website http://www.belmont-p.schools.nsw.edu.au and click on the link Parent Survey that is found on the front page.

Belmont Public School P&C Facebook page:
The P&C has a Facebook page that is regularly updated with important information, dates and reminders. Please like this page to keep updated. Be sure to like the actual P&C Facebook page. The next P&C meeting is on the 25th Feb at 6pm in the school staff room. All parents and guardians are invited to attend.

HOUSE CAPTAINS:
Congratulations to the following children who have been selected as Captains of their Sport House for 2014.
ARUNTA     Bonnie B and Harrison C
AWABAKAL   Erin H and Robert G
BAHTAHBAH  Sarah M and Thomas M
PINTABU     Reyana P and Mitchell S

SWIMMING CARNIVAL:
A reminder that our School Swimming Carnival for 2014 is on next Monday 10th February at Swansea Pool. Please return your permission notes and money to the Office asap.
NB: Sailing still has a few vacancies, if your child (Yrs3-6 only) is interested please return the expression of interest form to the Office.

CANTEEN:
The school canteen will be closed on Monday 10th February due to the swimming carnival. If there are any parents who would like to volunteer to work in the canteen during this term could you please let the office staff know.

INDUCTION ASSEMBLY:
The Leaders Induction Assembly will be held next Tuesday the 11th February at 9:30am in the hall. Our School leaders will be presented with their badges. This will be the first whole school assembly for the year, however class items and class awards won’t be part of this special assembly. Parents and friends are invited to attend.
PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS:
During Week 4 Kindergarten parents will be invited to attend an interview with their child’s class teacher. This is an important time for parents and teachers as the Best Start results will be discussed and how your child has settled into Kindergarten. More information about the interview times will be sent home with your child closer to the date. During week 4, on the 18th of February the Year 1 – 6 class teachers will be holding information sessions after school. This is a great time for you to meet your child’s teacher and to find out what activities, excursions, routines and units of work will be taught during the year. These sessions will be held in Stages:
Stage 1  (Years 1 & 2) 4:00 - 4:30 pm in Mr Lobston’s room.
Stage 2  (Years 3 & 4 ) 4:45 - 5:15pm in Mr McIlvenie’s room
Stage 3  (Years 5 & 6) 5:30 - 6:00pm in Miss Foley’s room.

KINDERGARTEN PHOTOS: Kindergarten students will have their photos taken by Newcastle School Portraits on the 10th February. These photos are to celebrate the beginning of Primary School, there will be no cost for these photos.

School Leaders 2014

Sport House Captains