Dear Parents/Caregivers,

TERM 2 INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS
I wish to inform our school community that interim arrangements for term two have been determined as follows.
Miss Kate Foley will take on the role of acting principal of Belmont Public School during Term 2 2014.
Miss Emma Williams will teach class 5/6F during term two 2014 following the return of Mrs Spicer to class 3/4S.
Mrs Amy Williamson will be relieving Assistant Principal for term two for Miss Foley.
These interim arrangements have been made by Mrs Kay Peno, Director NSW Public Schools and were also the preferred arrangements as discussed at the most recent P & C meeting.
These arrangements will commence from Monday 28th April 2014.

FAREWELL
As this is the last newsletter I will be writing from Belmont Public School, I would like to wish everyone all the best for the future years. I take nothing but great memories from our school and will always look back on my time here as very rewarding. I have seen some wonderful changes across many areas of the school over the last six years and one term. I will always talk about Belmont Public School in very positive terms - something our whole school community should do because we really have a great school here.

ANZAC MARCH
The ANZAC day march will take place on Friday 25th April this is the last Friday of the holidays). Children are asked to assemble in the post office mall around 8.50am. The march will go from the mall to the park opposite the Gunyah Hotel where the new cenotaph has been erected. Children are asked to wear full school uniform, including hats.

DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS
We seem to have an ever increasing number of dogs that are being brought on the school site. As can be seen from the animal companion act (excerpt below), dogs are actually not allowed on school grounds. Apart from this, we actually have a few children who have been attacked by dogs and are very uncomfortable around them.

Section 14 Companion Animals Act 1998 No 87
Part 3 Responsibilities of owners of dogs
Division 1
14 Dogs prohibited in some public places
(1) Dogs are prohibited in the following places (whether or not they are leashed or otherwise controlled):
(e) School grounds (meaning any property occupied or used for a purpose connected with the conduct of a government school or non-government school under the Education Act 1990. other than any property used for a residence or the curtilage of a residence).
TREE SAFETY
Our trees that have been marked as extreme are in the process of being removed. It has been a bit of a nuisance having the main entrance to the school blocked off but this should only now be for a little while longer. Thank you for your co-operation.

P & C NEWS
I would like to congratulate the new P & C executives who were elected at the last P & C meeting. 
Mrs Cheryl Cheers – President  
Mrs. Vicky Mettham – Secretary  
Mrs Katie Walkerden – Treasurer  
Mrs Louise Hitchcock – Vice President  
Mrs Cassie Ruming - Vice President

ICAS TESTS
A note in regards to these tests has been attached to the newsletter. The tests are for students from Year 3 to Year 6 in all categories and for Year 2 children for mathematics and English. The cost per test is indicated on the sheet. If you believe that your student has a particular talent in any of the categories, you could enter them in such.

Thomas Kelly
Principal

Miss Foley’s News:

SRC Fundraiser
Thank you to everyone who supported the Farmers Fundraiser last Friday. Students raised $270.00. This money will go towards helping the struggling farmers.

Athletics carnival 10th April
All students K-6 will able to participate in the whole school athletics carnival later this term. As previously mentioned we will be going to the Hunter Sports Centre at Glendale. Students need to pay $8.00 and return their permission notes by the end of this week. Parents are invited to attend and be part of this great day. There is no entry fee for parents. There will be a canteen available on the day for snacks and drinks only. **Lunches will need to be packed on this day.** Students are to wear their full sports uniform but may choose to wear a coloured t-shirt to represent their sporting house. **No coloured hairspray, glitter, feathers etc are permitted.** No supervision will be available at School for students who do not attend the Athletics Carnival.

Easter Hat Parade
Parents are invited to assist in the making of students Easter hats on Monday 7th April. Each class will allocate a time where you can come in to the classrooms and help create spectacular hats. Donations of craft items can be sent in to your child’s teacher.
We will celebrate Easter on the last day of term Friday 11th April. The annual Easter hat parade in the hall and the drawing of the Easter egg raffle prizes will start at 9:30 am in the hall. Following the parade and assembly we will have a farewell BBQ for Mr Kelly. Parents, families and friends are invited to attend this special day and farewell our great Principal, Mr Kelly.
Netball Gala Day
Twenty students participated in a NSW Netball coaching clinic and Gala Day on Monday. The students learnt shooting techniques, ball work, defensive drills and fancy footwork. Well done to all students involved for your positive attitudes and great participation.
Students attended the NSW Netball coaching clinic on Monday 31st March 2014 at Belmont Netball Complex.

Term 2 Staff Development Day
For the term 2 Staff Development Day (28th April) the entire staff will be participating in an Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training day. The Ngurra Bu Aboriginal Corporation group will be running this day. Staff will visit culturally significant areas around Newcastle and the Lake Macquarie area. We would like to invite our Aboriginal parents to participate in this training with the staff. There is no cost involved for the training. Please send back your invitation or see the office if you are interested in coming.

NAPLAN 2014 Equating Study
Belmont Public School has been selected to participate in the NAPLAN 2014 Equating Study by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority. These tests are administered so that the difficulty of the 2014 tests can be adjusted. The year 5 students from Mr Smith’s and Miss Foley’s class will sit a maths test as will Mr Mcllvenie’s year 3 students. These tests will take place in Week 1 Term 3.
CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS – Champions

8/9 Yr boys       Tye W
8/9 Yr Girls      Jessica D
10 Yr Boys        Zach P
10 Yr Girls       Tia M
11 Yr Boys        Jacob B
11 Yr Girls       Brianna W
12/13 Yr Boys     Kyle C
12/13 Yr Girls    Chelsea B
Champion House    Pintabu

Congratulations to all the children who participated in the School Cross Country. It is a credit to you for participating and doing your best to finish either the 2 or 3 km distances. Thank you to the parents who helped out on the day, your efforts were very much appreciated.
The Zone Cross Country Carnival will be held at the same location on Friday 2nd May which is the end of Week 1 in Term 2. Those children who have made it through to the Zone Carnival will be notified in the near future

Cameron Smith
Sports CoOrdinator

Vegetable Patch April Update
The recent rain has provided us with good soil moisture and we prepared the garden well by weeding all the beds, adding some worm castings from our worm farms and turning them into the soil and raking the beds level. It’s been an unusually long summer but finally we have the weather allowing us to get broccoli, spinach and silver beet seedlings in and we are doing what we can to help them survive these crucial 1st few weeks (from snails and sunburn). It’s best to plant seedlings mid to late afternoon at this time of the year because the sun is still quite strong. At the moment our garden has a problem with snails eating the young seedlings but we are working through this. We have also planted some peas from seed and broad beans will be planted next week. We have in a few rows of garlic and some blueberry tomatoes. If we have a mild winter we’ll get some tomatoes. I hope so. They are a rare variety I’ve never grown before.
Some new gardeners have emerged this year showing a great deal of enthusiasm and initiative so they have been appointed as “head gardeners”, with another 20 students who make up the Gardening Team.

John Carey – Gardening Team Coordinator

Canteen Roster:

Wed 2nd April:  Alison
Thu 3rd April:  Christie, Liz
Fri 4th April:  Janet
Mon 7th April:  Lisa, Kath
Tue 8th April:  Katie
Wed 9th April:  Sam B
Thu 10th April:  CANTEEN CLOSED
Fri 11th April:  CANTEEN CLOSED
Visit the Wetlands in the Holidays
During the school holidays the Hunter Wetlands Centre at Shortland is offering fun activities for kids and families. Kids can learn bush skills, go on a bike safari, make bush perfume or join Tantrum Theatre drama workshops and participate in the creation and performance of ‘Reptilia’. Booking is essential for school holiday activities - go to www.wetlands.org.au for dates, times and costs.
For families there are walking trails, a discovery playground, dip-netting, reptile talks, bike and canoe hire. Bring a picnic or enjoy a fresh and delicious lunch at the Spoonbill Cafe.
Easter Saturday is great time to visit for a fun filled morning with craft, face painting, games, BBQ and a special treasure hunt.
Note: the Centre will be closed Good Friday and Easter Monday.
All entry $5, school holiday special - children 3-12 yrs only $2.
Hunter Wetlands Centre
Off the roundabout, Sandgate Rd
Shortland NSW 2307
Ph 02 4951 6466