Dear Parents/Caregivers,

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we have many new staff this term. In each newsletter we will feature a staff member, so you can get to know them a little better. This week Miss McNamara is our STAR STAFF member. Miss McNamara teaches KK. She completed her internship last year at our school under the guidance of Miss Young. She is very excited about teaching Kindergarten. Miss McNamara also runs other programs at school. She works with Miss Peace on the Climate Clever Project and she is organising our Walk to School Safely Day. Miss McNamara also performed in the Nursery Rhyme Parade and is undertaking the L3 training. Miss McNamara hopes to form another Junior Dance Group at school later this year. Miss McNamara enjoys the outdoors and recently climbed Mt Everest to base camp.

**Uniform:** As the weather is getting colder we are seeing more jumpers and pants that are not school uniform. Please ensure that you have the correct uniform. If you require assistance please see the office staff. We have many second hand items and the uniform shop is open each Friday morning.

**Playground:** This term the Infants playground is undergoing repairs and maintenance. We have had new turf laid to cover the tree roots and the shade cloth cover over the equipment is being cleaned and repaired. As the ground is too wet to play on we are allowing the infants students to play on the larger oval as long as they have a hat.

**SCHOOL PHOTOS**
Student Leaders and House Captain photos are now on display in the School Administration office. To order please use the following instructions: Log on to [www.newcastleschoolportraits.com](http://www.newcastleschoolportraits.com) then order from “past shoot page” with our school code 32580AP for both the username and password.

**SOFTBALL**
The Senior Girls Softball Team will be playing on Thursday 22nd May at 9:00am at Marks Oval Floraville. Miss Williams and Mr Wrixon will accompany the girls. All players need to wear their full sports uniform, have shin pads and mouth guards. Parents will be required to help transport the girls to and from the game. We wish the girls all the best and hope that they enjoy themselves.
NAPLAN 2014: NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling and numeracy. NAPLAN tests skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time through the school curriculum from Kindergarten to Year 9. NAPLAN is made up of tests in the four areas (or ‘domains’) of:

- reading
- writing
- language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation)
- numeracy.

NAPLAN tests skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time through the school curriculum from Kindergarten to Year 9.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday 13 May 2014</th>
<th>Wednesday 14 May 2014</th>
<th>Thursday 15 May 2014</th>
<th>Friday 16th May</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Conventions &amp; Writing tests</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Numeracy</td>
<td>Catch up day for any student who was absent during the tests.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Canberra Excursion:
The Stage 3 excursion to Canberra from the 19th – 22nd August is getting closer. All students need to have paid a total of $200 (this includes the $50.00 deposit) and returned their behaviour contract by the 6th June.

Junior Dance Ensemble: Congratulations to Chelsea Burge and Hannah Cutts who have been selected to perform as part of the Junior Dance Ensemble. The girls will perform at the Hunter Schools Dance Festival in July. The ensemble consists of 30 students from the Hunter area schools.

Starstruck: The next rehearsal for our Starstruck dancers is on Monday the 19th May. We hope all of the students enjoy themselves and represent our school proudly. If you would like to purchase tickets for the show they are available at Ticketek.

Walk Safely to School Day: On Friday 23rd May we are encouraging students to walk to school. We would like to invite students and parents to meet at Barton Oval at 8:40am on Friday 23rd of May. Teachers will be walking with the students to school from Barton Oval to promote road safety. More details will be sent home next week.

Road Safety: Please ensure that if your child is crossing the road at the front or back of the school they should wait until the crossing officer directs them to cross the road. Please don’t follow the crossing officer out onto the road. This term we are focusing on road safety. At each assembly a child who has displayed excellent road safety will receive a special award. This includes bike riders, students walking, bus catchers and students who also travel by car.

Mental Maths Strategies
We teach children a range of different strategies to add and subtract numbers. By showing them several methods for solving maths questions, we’re helping them to look for patterns. All this builds a good sense of “number” which means they understand the relationships between different numbers and why different ways to add and subtract work well. The goal is that your child will understand many ways to approach a maths problem and will be able to choose a way that makes the most sense to them. School A to Z has a lot of resources, including help sheets on mental maths strategies, here: [www.bit.ly/JkiUsY](http://www.bit.ly/JkiUsY)

P&C Meeting: The next P&C meeting will be on Tuesday 20th May at 6:30 pm in the staff room. All parents/guardians are invited to attend.
Assemblies: Unfortunately we won't be having our whole school assembly next Tuesday 20th May due to other activities happening at school during the day. We are sorry of any inconvenience this may cause. The next assembly will be on the 3rd June at 9:20 in the hall.

Too sick for school?
As the cold weather hits, so do the winter bugs. It’s often hard to know whether to send your child to school or let them stay home to recover, especially when that means an adult cancelling work. For safety’s sake, if your child seems unwell you should always keep them home from school and seek medical advice. School A to Z and the NSW Health have created an at-a-glance chart to help answer your questions about common childhood illness and how long sick kids need to miss school. Find it by typing this link into your web browser www.bit.ly/1hytn2E

2014 Athletics Carnival Champions: Congratulations to the 2014 Athletics Champions

Junior Girl: Sam Tresidder  Junior Boy: Ty-James Dates
11Years Girl: Brianna Williams  11 Year Boy: Kyle Malcolm
Senior Girl: Chelsea Burge  Senior Boy: Kyle Cant

Important Dates:
19th May: Starstruck Rehearsal
20th May: Senior debating team v’s Eleebana at Belmont P S & ICAS Computer Skills Test
21st May: Grip Leadership Training Day for the school Leaders
22nd May: Senior Girls Softball v’s Floraville and Year 5 Debating training day.
23rd May: Walk Safely to School Day

Kate Foley
Acting Principal

Climate Clever Energy Saver Day
On Wednesday 7th May Peter and Trish from the Hunter Wetlands came to Belmont Public School for a fabulous day of fun. Children from all classes learnt how energy is produced from a variety of sources and were involved in a range of activities. Check out the photos from the day.
Belmont Public School is participating in Operation Art 2014. Four fabulous artworks from our school have been chosen to be professionally framed and exhibited at the Armory Gallery Sydney Olympic Park opening on Saturday 6th September. 50 artworks will then be selected to become part of the permanent art collection of The Children's Hospital at Westmead. Congratulations to Cahn Sullivan (1M), Charli Browne (2/3P), Abbey Matthews (3/4M) and Emily May (5/6F) who have been chosen to represent our school.

Miss Peace
Operation Art Coordinator

School Banking Day is Friday!
For your chance to win a share of exciting prizes, simply make three or more deposits at school during Term 2 and you'll be automatically entered into the competition.

Major Prize.
- Five nights' accommodation at the Sea World Resort & Water Park on the Gold Coast;
- VIP Passes for two adults and three kids to Sea World, Warner Bros. Movie World and Wet 'n' Wild Gold Coast;
- A Dolphin Family Aqua Adventure; and
- A $3000 travel gift card to get you there.

Runner up Prizes.
130 Toys “R” Us Gift Cards to the value of $250 each to spend on your favourite toys.
PLUS, a separate draw of $1000 cash for one school in each state/territory.

So come on, let's get saving and remember your deposit can be as little as twenty cents just as long as you make 3 deposits!

Canteen Roster:

Wed 14th May: Helpers needed
Thu 15th May: Janet, Janice
Fri 16th May: Tammy, Helpers needed
Mon 19th May: Ian
Tue 20th May: Rebecca, Tim
Wed 21st May: Helper needed
Thu 22nd May: Janelle, Cheryl
Fri 23rd May: Patrice, Helper needed
Mon 26th May: Tammy, Rachel
Tue 27th May: Maree, Tara

If you are unable to do your rostered day and cannot swap with someone then please phone Janelle, the Canteen Supervisor on 49454858

Reforms to P&C Federation
The NSW Parliament has introduced legislation to reform the NSW Federation of Parent and Citizens Associations, which has suspended operation pending Supreme Court action. While these reforms will not affect the day-to-day operation of individual school P&Cs, they will introduce a new executive structure which will ensure the Federation operates as a modern and representative body on behalf of school P&C Associations. Each school’s P&C Association will be asked to vote for councillors and delegates who will represent their electorate at the Federation’s Annual General Meeting and councillors who will serve on the Federation’s Board of Management. More information will be available on the Department’s website at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/gotoschool/a-z/involvement.php