Dear Parents/Caregivers,

**Approaching Staff:** We strongly encourage parent participation and involvement at our school. If you need to speak to a teacher or staff member please try and make an appointment with them. Our staff are very giving and only too happy to discuss your concerns. However, our staff are very busy just before the bell in the morning and may not be able to discuss your concerns during this time. Please see the office to make an appointment.

**Staffing:** Mrs Spicer will remain on leave this term. Miss Elleise Bell will continue teaching 3/4S.

**Miss McDonald:** This week Miss McDonald is our STAR STAFF member. She is teaching 1M this year. Miss McDonald has taught at numerous schools in Newcastle and overseas in London. She also worked at a Summer Camp in America. She is very passionate about teaching at Belmont Public School. Miss McDonald is planning a new and exciting excursion for Stage 1 later this year.

**GRIP LEADERSHIP:** Last week I had the pleasure of taking our six school leaders to the Grip Leadership training. The students learnt what makes a good leader and represented our school proudly.

**11 Years Boys Athletics Champion:** Apologies for the mistake in the last newsletter. 11 years boy athletic champion was Kyle Malcolm. Congratulations Kyle.

**SOFTBALL**
Congratulations to the Senior Girls Softball Team for their great sportsmanship that they displayed last week. Mr Wrixon and Miss Williams were very proud of you all. Special thanks to Mr Wrixon for giving up his own time to coach the girls.

**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 Group:** Congratulations to the Junior Dance Group who have successfully been offered a place at the Hunter Schools Dance Festival. The dance group will perform on the 22nd July at Newcastle Panthers.
Kindergarten Excursion: Our Kindergarten students are very excited about their big excursion to the Reptile Park on Thursday. Students will be leaving school at 9:00 am. Students need to wear their full sports uniform and have lots of food and drinks packed for the excursion. Please be at school by 8.45am.

Starstruck: The next rehearsal for our Starstruck dancers is on Thursday the 29th May. Students will depart school 7:20am. Dancers need to wear a green shirt and comfortable shorts or leggings.

Home readers: Thank you to our generous P&C for purchasing the infants new home readers. These readers are now ready to be borrowed to take home. They will be kept in a new area in the classrooms for our students who borrow regularly each night.

Walk Safely to School Day: Thank you to all of the students, parents, pets and staff who participated in the Walk Safely to School day last Friday. It was encouraging to see students obeying the road rules.

State Of Origin: Please remember that the Year 6 fundraiser will be on Wednesday. Students are encouraged to wear red or blue to support their favourite origin team. Students need to bring in a gold coin donation.

Knights Knockout Competition: Mr Smith will be taking the Junior Rugby League team to Lambton this Thursday 29th May to participate in the Knights Knockout competition. All players need to return their permission note. Please remember that it is a privilege to represent the school and any player who cannot follow the school rules will not be allowed to play.

PSSA Netball Knockout Competition Day: The Senior netball team will be participating in the first 3 rounds of the PSSA competition on the 5th June at Cardiff. We wish the girls all the best.

Important Dates:
28th May: State Of Origin Year 6 Fundraiser
29th May: Kindergarten Excursion
29th May: Knights Knockout Competition – Junior team competing
29th May: Starstruck rehearsal

Kate Foley
Acting Principal

NSW Premier’s Debating Challenge

On Tuesday 20th May Belmont Public School hosted a thrilling debate between the Belmont Public Stars and Eleebana Public Blues. The topic was ‘*That primary schools should have longer holidays*’. Our Belmont Public Stars argued for the negative and won their first round of the debating challenge. Congratulations to team members Maddison, Thomas, Bethany and Robbie.
National Reconciliation Week
This week is National Reconciliation Week and it is celebrated across Australia each year between 27 May and 3 June. The dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey—the anniversaries of the successful 1967 referendum and the High Court Mabo decision. The theme for 2014 is Let’s Walk the Talk. This year’s theme aims to encourage everyone to get involved in the reconciliation journey. It is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements and to explore how each of us can join the national reconciliation effort. Classes will be discussing this message during the week, with whole school celebrations to follow in the coming weeks.

Mrs Denz says Thank You!
A group of parents answered the call to help sort out costumes last Thursday. Thank you so much to Amelia Bailey, Naomi Scorringe, Jacqui Morgan, Kath Worell, Vicki Mettam and Christine Pennifold (Mrs Denz’ mum). A big thank you to Janice Lannoy for not only helping to sort out costumes but for volunteering to wash a few grotty items and also making a number of little dresses for the musical! Great job ladies! Also Kylie Malcolm and her sewing team have done a beautiful job in helping to make costumes for the musical and StarStruck costumes for Miss Young’s performance group! THANK YOU SO MUCH, your help is really appreciated.

Parents Picking up Children
Parents please do not wait outside classrooms when picking up your children at the end of the school day. The COLA’S are areas you may wait or there are a few seats up near the front gate. It is very distracting to students and teachers when parents are engaging in loud conversations just outside doors and windows of the classrooms.

Entertainment Books are still available from the School Office at a cost of $60. Get yours today!

Canteen Roster:
Wed 28th May: Alison
Thu 29th May: Christie, Liz
Fri 30th May: Helpers needed
Mon 2nd Jun: Lisa, Kath S
Tue 3rd Jun: Katie
Wed 4th Jun: Sam
Thu 5th Jun: Naomi, Kath W
Fri 5th Jun: Tammy, Helper needed
Mon 9th Jun: Public Holiday
Tue 10th Jun: Maree

Crunch & Sip fruit is now 80c.
Thank you to all our parent volunteers who help us implement health and hygiene practices in our Canteen each day. The Health Inspector gave us all a big thumbs up!

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