Local Schools, Local Decisions:
The Department of Education and Communities are giving teachers and principals more authority to adapt what they do and how they do it. This means giving schools greater freedom to make decisions about how to use the money we spend on public education. As part of this process parents and the community will have a greater input into the development of school policies, management plans and how and what we spend money on to benefit all of our students. As we are nearing the end of our current 3 year management plan we are looking to form a forum group to assist and have input into the next 3 year plan 2015 – 2017. We would like all interested parents and community members to be part of this planning process. Over the next few weeks I will be inviting all interested parents to nominate a suitable time to meet to discuss the future direction of Belmont Public School.

2015 Kindergarten Enrolments:
Belmont Public School is taking enrolments for Kindergarten 2015! If you have a child ready for Kindergarten, call into the Office to collect enrolment forms. See page further along in newsletter.

NAIDOC celebrations:
Belmont Public School will be celebrating NAIDOC week this Friday. Students are encouraged to come dressed in suitable red, black or yellow clothing. All students will be participating in three rotational activities where they will learn more about Aboriginal culture. We will conclude with an assembly at the hall at 10:30 am. All parents and family members are invited to attend this day that will commence at 9:30 am.

Musica Viva:
There will be a performance at our school by the Musica Viva in Schools group Sound Baroque. If you think you need a tux, binoculars and a grasp of the Italian language to appreciate opera, you haven’t seen Sounds Baroque in action. Hercules is a mini opera that combines a variety of styles to bring the familiar Greek legend to life. Through drama, song and comedy, Sounds Baroque presents a classic morality tale using authentic baroque instruments, rap, rich costuming and modern language. Hercules is bound to captivate and entertain your students with its sheer originality of concept and blend of styles.

Date: Tuesday 5th August, 2014
Place: School Hall
Cost: $5.00
Time: 9:30 – 10:30am
This performance is part of our school’s music education program and builds on preparatory work done in the classroom. We would be delighted if you could come to the performance. There is no charge for parents to come and watch. Further information will be sent home later this week.

Mr Lobston:
Congratulations to Mr Lobston who represented NSW at the Australian Surf Life Saving Championships in QLDs over the weekend. Mr Lobston was awarded with 2 Bronze medals. Well done Mr Lobston!
You Can Do It!

Getting Along

We are teaching the children all about the Foundation of Getting Along. The character “Gabby Get Along” will be introduced this week to help your child learn that getting along means:

- Working and playing with others in a nice way
- Getting what he/she wants without fighting
- Getting along by sharing and taking turns
- Behaving well towards other people- being honest, respectful, fair and caring
- Following important rules of school and home
- Doing things to make home and school a safer and cleaner place to live and learn

Some ideas that we would like you to discuss this week with your child that help develop Getting Along are:

- We are all different and we all have good things about us
- Following rules is good and helps us to be safe and happy
- It is good to help others and it is good to make things cleaner and safer.

When you catch your child getting along, give lots of praise example “You are good at helping others,” “Wow, you cleaned up everyone’s mess! Thank you for being responsible,” and “You are really getting along.”

Aboriginal Dance workshop:

On Thursday 24th July Belmont High School are having an interactive Cultural Dance Workshop for our stage 3 Aboriginal students to attend. Each of the invited students also have been able to invite a friend to go with them on the day. It is a free workshop with lunch and snacks provided. Students need to meet me at school by 9:00 am, and I will walk them to the high school. Students will then be collected at 12:30pm and walked back to school. Students need to wear sports uniform and ensured they have returned their permission note to the office.

Personalised Learning Plans:

All Aboriginal families will receive an invitation to come and meet with their child’s mentor teacher during week 5 of this term. This informal catch up will be just to learn more about your child and your goals for them. We are hoping to do these catch ups during a suitable time for you and your family and in a location that is comfortable for you. Keep an eye out for your invitation.

GATS CAMP:

Congratulations to Robbie, Thomas and Bethany who will be attending the Hunter Gifted and Talented Camp this week. Robbie will be participating in IT workshops, Thomas will be participating in mathematics and Bethany will be participating in English workshops. We hope all students enjoy this special experience.

Canberra Excursion:

Please ensure all permission notes and behaviour contracts have been returned to the office. The total amount of $414.00 needs to be finalised by next week.

Debating: Congratulations to the senior debating team who debated against Caves Beach on Monday, unfortunately the team was unsuccessful in this debate. This was their last official debate for the year.

Portfolios:

Could all portfolios please be returned to your child’s class teacher with the work samples in them, so students can start placing their term 3 samples in their folders.
Staffing:
Welcome to Aleisha Montgomery who is teaching 3/4S. Miss Montgomery completed her Internship at Floraville Public School last year and has worked previously at Belmont as a casual teacher. Miss Montgomery is our PSSA sports representative and she is very excited to be attending the Zone Athletics Carnival this term. Miss Montgomery has a lot of experience in netball and many other sports.

Dance Festival:
Best of luck to our Junior Dance group who are performing tonight at the Hunter Schools Dance Festival at Newcastle Panthers 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Also congratulations to Chelsea and Hannah who are performing at the same concert with the Hunter Junior Dance Ensemble. Both students have also been selected to perform with the Dance Ensemble in Sydney.

School Musical:
There are only a few more days before we showcase our wonderful school performance next week on Tuesday, 29th and Wednesday, 30th of July 2014 in the school hall. This year's whole school performance will take you on a musical journey through time. We will start back in the 1950's and work our way through the decades to explore love and relationships, animals and dancing! The whole school is involved in the production and all the children have been busy learning two dances with their class, plus a finale. Please try to make arrangements for your child to be at EVERY performance and have your child at school for the evening shows at 6pm, ready to change into their costumes. The evening shows are completely sold out, but there are still tickets available for the matinee show on Wednesday. There will be popcorn, lollies, cold drinks and tea and coffee for sale each evening. (Also if you would like your child to order a meal for the show whilst they wait to perform, dinner orders from a selected menu will be available.) All orders must be received before the 28th July. There will be a staff member filming the shows and taking photos, both will be available for purchase. Please be aware that you will not be able to film or take photos during the show due to privacy and copyright restrictions. Also no prams will be allowed in the hall due to WHS regulations.

High School:
Please ensure that all ghosted enrolment forms are returned directly to your high school of choice. Currently not all year 6 students have enrolled at a high school. Belmont High School will be accepting applications for its 2015 Enrichment Program up to the 25th July 2014.

P&C:
Our P&C have very generously agreed to pay for the upgrade of the infants playground. We will be able to get the infants equipment repainted and eventually a new covered sandpit installed. We hope that the infants playground will reopen in August. Thank you to the P&C for their continual support. P&C High Tea

Important Dates:
22nd July: Hunter Schools Dance Festival
22nd July: Stage 3 Personal Development Talk
23rd July: Gavin Morris Weather talk Stage 3
24th July: Aboriginal Dance Workshop Belmont High 9:30 am – 12:30 pm
25th July: NAIDOC Celebrations at school between 9:30 am – 11:10 am
28th July: Year 5 Debating at school
29th July: School Musical matinee and evening shows
30th July: School Musical evening show

Kate Foley
Acting Principal
The Great Aussie Bush Camp
Stage 2 has planned an excursion to ‘The Great Aussie Bush Camp’ (Karuah), in week three, Term 4. We are still after expressions of interest and deposits to be paid so the camp can be confirmed and student numbers finalised. The camp requires final numbers by early August. The total cost of the excursion is $260.00. This includes coach travel, accommodation, meals and activities. A $50.00 deposit is required asap, and regular payments will be required with final payment by Friday 10th October 2014.

If you have any questions please see Mr McIlvenie in 3/4M.

Canteen Roster:
Wed 23rd Jul: Alison
Thu 24th Jul: Christie, Liz
Fri 25th Jul: Jodie, Helper needed
Mon 28th Jul: Lisa, Kath S
Tue 29th Jul: Katie G
Wed 30th Jul: Sam, Naomi
Thu 31st Jul: Kath W
Fri 1st Aug: Tammy, Helper needed
Mon 4th Aug: Kate M
Tue 5th Aug: Maree

If you are unable to attend on your roster day please phone Janelle on 49454858 if you cannot swap with someone.

- Hats will be on sale from the Canteen from Monday July 28th at a cost of $10.00 per hat.

Thompson Pie Drive Reminder:
Orders will be available for pick-up from the Canteen between 12-12.30pm on Thursday. The remaining orders will be sent home with your child as we do not have storage facilities. Thank you for your support!