Dear Parents/Caregivers,

It has been a week of great loss at Belmont Public. Our Counsellor Mrs Cathie Pitkin passed away on Saturday 16th May from cancer. We are very thankful for everything that she did for our students, families and the wider community. She will be dearly missed and we are thinking of her family during this difficult time.

On Wednesday night, our General Assistant Mr Phil Simpson passed away. His funeral will be on Friday 10am at Ryhope. Mr Simpson was well liked by all of our students and school community. He was a very generous and helpful staff member who was only too happy to help everyone.

Due to nearly all of our staff attending the funeral normal classes will commence at 12:30pm on Friday. There will be limited supervision at school before this time.

Also on Friday our soccer and netball teams won’t be playing due to Mr Simpsons funeral.

**Grip Leadership**

I had the privilege to attend the student leadership day last Monday with our six student leaders. All students learnt important qualities of a leader and how to lead and inspire others.

**NCCD**

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (the national data collection) is an annual collection that counts the number of school students with disability and the level of reasonable educational adjustment they are provided with. The national data collection will count students who have been identified as receiving an adjustment to address a disability under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (the DDA). The DDA can be accessed from the website at [www.comlaw.gov.au](http://www.comlaw.gov.au). If you don’t want data on your child to be collected please see Miss Foley.

**Appropriate behaviour**

This term we are focusing on appropriate play, especially in the playground. This has led to no footballs on the oval for the rest of the term due to tackling and rough play. Please make sure that students don’t bring footballs, soccer balls, netballs or basketballs to school. All staff are reminding our students to play appropriately: no rough play, no hitting, kicking, wrestling or tackling. Anti-bullying lessons through our You Can Do It program have been happening in all rooms, highlighting to our students that verbal and physical bullying will not be tolerated.
Year 6 fundraiser
This Wednesday 27th May the year 6 students will be organising an out of uniform day with a “State of Origin” theme. Students are encouraged to dress in red or blue to support either QLD or NSW and to bring in a gold coin donation.

Walk Safely to school Day
Well done to all of the students and parents who braved the wet weather on Friday morning to walk to school. Miss McNamara was pleased with your road safety and strongly encourages all students to cross safely at the appropriate crossings.

Bike Safety Day
Congratulations to Miss McNamara for organising a fun and exciting day. All students who participated learnt how to ride bikes, ride safely, apply road rules and learn how to keep themselves safe on the road.

Bathurst Excursion
The Stage 3 excursion to Bathurst from the 21st – 23rd October is getting closer. All students need to have paid a total of $200 (this includes the $50.00 deposit). The total cost for the excursion is $375.

School Reports
Staff are busy writing students reports. The reports will be sent home during the last week of school along with the student’s portfolios. If you have not yet paid for your child’s portfolio please see the office ASAP.

Starstruck
We wish the Starstruck dancers all the best with their rehearsal this week. Tickets are available for purchase from Ticketek. Students can wear their sports shirt or Starstruck t-shirt and comfortable pants.

Junior Dance Group
Our Junior Dance Group has been invited to perform at the Hunter Schools Dance Festival on the 20th July. This is a wonderful opportunity for these talented students.

Friday Sport
Please ensure that all teams have returned their parent/spectator code of conduct sheets.

CANTEEN WILL BE CLOSED THIS FRIDAY 29TH MAY 2015
Softball: Congratulations to the Senior Girls softball team who defeated Floraville Public last week. Mr Wrixon and I were very proud of the student’s efforts. The teams’ next game will be against Caves Beach on Tuesday 9th June at 1pm.

Football: Mr Lobston took the senior football team to Raymond Terrace last week to compete in the Knights Knockout competition. All students represented the school proudly.

Belmont Public School Athletics Champions 2015:
Junior Girl: Tamika Williams
Junior Boy: Ty-James Dates
11 Years Girl: Sam Tresidder
11 Years Boy: Braesen Moroney
Senior Girl: Nyah Bradley & Brianna Williams
Senior Boy: Kyle Malcolm

Multicultural Public Speaking Competition:
Congratulations to our Stage 2 and 3 finalists who presented their speeches yesterday. Well done to Brianna and Jessica who were selected to represent our School at the Zone finals later this term.

Is your child making friends at school?
Kids who get on at school tend to be more engaged in learning. Here are some ideas on how to help your child with social skills

Mastering spelling
Are you checking your child’s weekly spelling homework? Try talking to your child about how you spell, and what you do when you don’t know how to spell a word. Here’s some advice about how to help your child master spelling.

Kate Foley
Principal
Canteen Roster:

Wed 27th May: Allison B
Thu 28th May: Janet, Janice
Fri 28th May: CANTOEN CLOSED
Mon 1st Jun: Dianne
Tue 2nd June: Mark W, Sally
Wed 3rd June: Margaret, Naomi
Thu 4th June: Kath W, Christie A
Fri 5th June: Victoria, Jody
Mon 8th Jun: PUBLIC HOLIDAY – CANTOEN CLOSED
Tue 9th Jun: Rebecca, Hillary

Canteen Sub-Committee News:
There is now a Canteen Sub Committee operating and we will be having regular meetings with the next one being on Wednesday 10th June at 9.30am. We are looking for new members to come along and join us in supporting our Canteen. A cuppa will be available before we begin our meetings and it is a great way to make new friends and help our school at the same time!

Some fundraisers coming up are our Pie Drive with forms being sent home on Thursday May 28th with orders and money to be returned to the Canteen by Friday 19th June. Pick up will be Wednesday 24th June. We are also planning a Cupcake Day in Term 3 and we are going to publish a Cook Book in time for Christmas! So please share your favourite recipes with us and help us to achieve this goal. Looking forward to meeting you at our next meeting!

Canteen Sub Committee.