Principals Message
Welcome to Week 2,
I hope you all enjoyed your Easter break and had a lovely relaxing holiday.
Firstly a little history….. I began teaching in 2002 at Muswellbrook Public school, I was teaching year 2 and Kindergarten there until 2006, when I decided in 2007 to make the move to Blandford Public School. I was the Relief from face to face teacher there for a number of years. During this time I also completed casual work while I still had little children and Relieving Principal work here in 2011. In 2012 I was given the opportunity to return to work full time, and I had a marvellous 2/3/4 class at Willow Tree Public School. In 2013, the opportunity arose to Relieve at Ellerston where I continued to hold this position until the end of last term. This then brings me to Belltrees. My heart is certainly in small schools and the opportunities that they bring to all students who attend. Teaching is my passion and I will give my absolute best each and every day to ensure a wonderful learning environment here at Belltrees!
I would like to say thank you to all the students and staff for making my first week here as Relieving Principal a wonderful one. Everyone has been super helpful and supportive and I look forward to a wonderful term here at Belltrees.
We welcomed in the school term last week with a short 4 day week. I spent Monday at an Invermein meeting in Aberdeen where the teachers and Principals were given a refresher course on the NSW Quality Teacher Framework. The NSW Quality Teaching model provides a framework for explicit and systematic assessment, planning and teaching. A great course and great company!
We were learning last week about place value, 2D shapes and patterns in numeracy. In Literacy we looked at celebrations and sentence structure. The Kindergarten children explored ‘S’ and have been starting to segment small words. Handwriting was a hit, along with our Autumn art work. All students tried their very best and some comments about the week can be seen on the following page.
It was wonderful to begin in the classroom on Tuesday with the smiles and enthusiasm of the students truly infectious. They were all excited to be back from the holidays and sharing their stories. Having seen so much of this over the first week leads me onto the topic about happiness. Modern science defines happiness as the positive range of emotions that we feel when we are content or full of joy. Children show happiness from such a young age, from their first smile at 6 weeks through to their first giggle and laughs, and as parents and teachers; it is our responsibility to assist in the cultivation of their happiness through a variety of means. Build relationships; Friendships, family relationships, student teacher relationships, all affect a child’s happiness. Ensure they get enough rest, eat well, and get adequate exercise. These few small things can have such an impact on a child, their happiness, confidence and self-esteem. My challenge to each family this week is to participate every day in a happy hour, (not the kind we are used to at 5pm) but an hour each day where we talk to our children, play outside, get involved in their games, read a book, sing songs, stop and smell the roses. We will discuss this wonderful emotion in class and keep notes on what is making us happy!
Johanna Teague
What's on this term?

Mrs Scott will be here on Wednesday 7th May to help me with the assessments for each individual student. I will be away from school on Friday 9th May. Mr Turnbull will be teaching.

Friday 9th May tuckshop begins for the year. (No tuckshop in week 1 due to freezer being off in the holidays) Please see the menu attached to the newsletter and try to have your orders in by Wednesday of each week.

Responsible Pet Education Program: this program is an interesting and informative program provided free of charge for all Belltrees students. The program focuses on the correct care for your family pets and the dangers surrounding specific animals. This program is on Friday 16th May at 12:00. Students require no specific equipment or clothes for this program.

The date has been set for the Annual Belltrees Sports Day. Friday 20th June at Belltrees Sports ground is the date for the diary. More information to follow as the weeks progress.

Information sessions
I would like to hold some parent information sessions this term. These sessions would explore literacy and numeracy and the role their play for the academic development of a child. These sessions would be approximately 45 minutes long and will also be a time for parents to ask questions on how to best assist in the development of the learning outcomes for their child at home. These sessions will be run from 6pm. If you are interested in these sessions please fill out the slip below and return to school. (The possible dates at this early stage are 29th May and 5th June)

Parent Teacher Interviews
Parent teacher interviews will be held on Thursday 22nd May. These interviews give teachers an opportunity to discuss the changing curriculum and the work being completed in class this term. It also allows teachers to give detailed feedback on the progression of your child’s learning. Formal parent teacher interviews also give parents the opportunity to see their child’s work samples and ask specific questions, or make comments. I look forward to this process and I encourage you to make a time that is suitable for you to come to this important meeting. (If this date is not suitable for you, please phone through to make an alternative day.)
Rainforests
Last term the students had been studying Rainforests. They completed some amazing dioramas as a home project and their hard work is on display in our classroom. Below are the children with their interpretations of Rainforests, and a brief explanation of their diorama.

**Jock:** I had to glue and colour the box. I like the blue Morpheus Butterfly, and the caterpillar. I used real branches for my rainforest.

**Mrs Teague:** A fantastic effort Jock, I liked your explanation on the caterpillar and the eggs, and you have used lots of different materials. Well Done!

**Darcy:** I had to glue, decorate and paint the box. I had to write on paper the different animals and the levels of the rainforest. I had to colour in a tree, chimpanzee, a gorilla, crocodile and an elephant. I loved doing the project!

**Mrs Teague:** What a fantastic diorama Darcy, you have put in so much effort, your colouring is great and I like the range of materials that you have used, well done Darcy!

**Lachlan:** I had to glue and colour the box; I used blue, green, yellow and brown. I put in a snake, two blue butterflies, tree kangaroo, spider and green tree frog. I also added a hospital ship, this is on the beach. I also stuck in some cassowaries and the rainforest layers. I loved doing the project.

**Mrs Teague:** Lachlan what a lovely rainforest you have designed. You have used lots of different materials and it really looks like a tropical rainforest. I liked your insect and animal pictures, although the spider scares me. Well done on a fantastic effort Lachlan!

**Corwin:** My project is on a rainforest, I painted the box green, I added vines everywhere, and I made a playdoh snake hanging from the vines. I used cardboard and animal pictures to go into the rainforest and the bird is sticking to the top, so it can move around. I made a tree, frog and some plants out of playdoh as well. I loved doing the rainforest project!

**Mrs Teague:** Wow, Corwin, what an amazing project you have made. I like your animals and your creative playdoh work. Your painting is great and you have put a lot of effort into this project. Keep up the great work!

**Eddie:** I glued on green paper on the back of the box. I added the real trees and I drew pictures of the different animals that live in the rainforest. I made some bugs and a snake out of playdoh and I labelled all my pictures. I learnt that not all leopards have black spots; they can have squares or triangles shapes on their fur, depending on where they live.

**Mrs Teague:** Another creative project, it is colourful and well labelled, you have been creative in your thinking and I like many of your ideas. Well done and keep up the great work!
Emily: I started by using a shoe box, I painted the outside and inside. We cut out some pictures of some animals and then we pasted them onto cardboard to make them stronger. I made some trees using crepe paper and recycled toilet rolls. I used the hot glue gun to glue everything together. We went to the garden to get some sticks and some rocks for decorations. We made some leaves and some grass. I labelled everything and I named the different layers of a rainforest. At the end I glued some leopard paper onto the outside. I had great fun doing this project, but it took a very long time.

Mrs Teague: what a fantastic project Emily, I really like your creativity and the effort you put into making your different layers. I loved the animals you used and the way you labelled everything. The anaconda scares me a little. It is colourful and detailed. Well done, keep up the great work!

Jessica & Skye: Skye did the bottom and I did the top” said Jessica.

Jessica: I have all the Australian animals on top. I completed the emergent layer, we used wool and pom poms, and crepe paper.

Skye: I did the canopy and the understorey layers, I added a creek, vines, and different animals that live in these layers. I enjoyed doing this rainforest project.

Mrs Teague: what a marvellous effort girls, you have added lots of detail, and I like the different details in the layers of the rainforest. You have used a large variety of materials and it is all labelled and explores both the Australian flora and fauna found in our rainforests. Well done girls, keep up the fantastic work!

Anzac Day
A big thank you to Lachlan, Jock, Eddie, Emily and Darcy for representing our school at the Gundy ANZAC Day Service.

Heat Ups
On Tuesdays during Terms 2 and 3 students may bring something to heat up for lunch.

Premier’s Reading Challenge
Students will this term be participating in the Premiers reading Challenge. Students will borrow from a specific section of the library. Over the term children in K-2 will read 25 books and 3-6 will read 20 books from their section. Students will receive a reading log to write their books on. This needs to be returned to school each week in their library bag. If it is not signed by a parent the books will not be recorded. Mrs Batterham will complete each child’s record online.

There will be homework activities on some weeks about a book you have read.
PARENT RETURN SHEET

Parent/Teacher Interviews.
Yes I would like to attend an interview on Thursday 22\textsuperscript{nd} May…………………………..
No I am unable to attend an interview on Thursday 22\textsuperscript{nd} May…………………………..

Please circle times you can attend:  Approx ½ hour required for each child
9:00-9:30am  1:30-2:00pm
10:15-10:45am  2:00-3:00pm
11:00-11:30pm  3:45-4:15pm
12:00-12:30pm  4:30-5:00pm

Name:……………………………………………………………………………………..

Parent Information sessions:
Yes I am interested in attending the Literacy & Numeracy workshops………………
No I am not interested in attending the Literacy & Numeracy workshops……………

Name……………………………………………………………………………………..