Welcome to week 8!
Firstly my apologies on not having a newsletter last week, with the shorter week, and an excursion, time was not on my side! We have had a very busy and exciting couple of weeks here at Belltrees. Thank you to the parents who came to school for the Numeracy Parent Workshop, it was a great chance to ask questions, discuss expectations and get feedback. We discussed the new mathematics curriculum, how it fits into our program, and had an in depth look at time. (Ironic, considering I ran out of it last week)

Thursday came around and it was a bright and early start for our students as we took off to Newcastle on an educational day trip to Blackbutt Reserve. What a fabulous day we had! When we arrived we did our own self-guided bush walk, we saw many different habitats, including wombat holes, and birds’ nests. We came across some magnificent inquisitive peacocks, and some slippery, sensational snakes. We had a bite to eat and the students were looking forward to the pinnacle of the day, patting the wombat, koala and various reptiles. Matt, our tour guide was fantastic giving us some very interesting information, and the children certainly made me proud with how many questions they could answer regarding our wonderful wildlife.

Clyde the wombat was a little grumpy and Jarrah the Koala was cuddly. The students enjoyed cuddling Jarrah and were surprised at the scales on the Bearded Dragon. A fantastic day!

Thank you to Nathan Teague for driving the bus, Dorry, Mrs Cap and the students for a wonderful day. A thank you must also go to the P & C who covered the expenses for the excursion.

Friday night I was present at the Scone Arts and Crafts Centre where they had an exhibition of local students work. The exhibition also showcased the 10 school entries for the canvas work. The art work was titled ‘Endangered’ and our small school received a second place. Mr Franks from Muswellbrook Art Gallery and Mr Haydon from Haydon Hall. Mururrundi made some wonderful comments, and could not believe that we were only a school of eight. They passed on their congratulations for such a wonderful effort and hope we continue to be involved in the art exhibition.

Well done Scone Grammar on receiving first place and the other schools on some amazing artwork. Thank you to Mrs Capararo, Mrs Holmes and the students for a clever and creative art piece.

Have a great week!

Johanna Teague

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**Sports Meeting**
This afternoon we are having a meeting regarding Friday’s sports carnival. The meeting will be at school at 5pm. We will be discussing roles and responsibilities in the lead up and on the day. If you can make the meeting that would be greatly appreciated

**Belltrees Sports:**
This Friday is the annual Belltrees Sports Carnival. We are looking forward to another fantastic day of athletics a strong demonstration of sportsmanship and participation. Students need to be at the grounds at approx. 8:30am where we will then move on to the starting mark at 8:45am. We will complete the march past and then head into our events for the day. Belltrees parents will be running the BBQ and helping with the canteen on the day, selling raffle tickets and assisting in other small areas. Thank you to all parents who will be involved.

**Premiers Reading Challenge**
Congratulations to Emily, Darcy, Lachlan, Jessica and Skye who are almost half way to completing their challenge. Remember to bring in completed Premiers Reading Challenge Sheets each Wednesday, so they can be recorded online.
Finish date: 14th August

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**Dates to Remember**
20th June: Belltrees Sports
24th June Science Day at Blandford.
15th July: Students return for Term 3
**Excursion comments:**

“I will remember patting a koala for the very first time. A koala has very soft fur, and we also got to learn about a wombat”. Skye Singleton

“My favourite part was holding the bearded dragon and the blue tongue lizard, the scales on the dragon were very sharp.” Corwin Weber

“I loved to see the kookaburra. He was very big and cute and sat in the tree.” Jock Maxwell

“I liked the koala, I got to hold it and its fur was very soft.” Lachlan Carter

“Seeing Clyde the wombat was great, and Jarrah was beautiful. She had a baby koala in her pouch. I liked picking my toy at the end of the day.” Jessica Singleton

“I liked the excursion because we got to see lots of awesome animals, especially the red tailed black cockatoo. I liked Jarrah the koala, and Clyde the wombat. It was an awesome day and I had so much fun!” Emily Taylor

“My favourite part was when Matt showed us all the Australian animals. I liked patting Jarrah the koala and holding the lizards.” Darcy Taylor

“My favourite part of the day was when we got to hold the bearded dragon, and the blue tongue lizard, but my favourite part was patting Jarrah the koala, because she was cute and funny.” Edward Maxwell