Welcome to week 6!

A welcome sight to see the wonderful rain over the weekend. It is still raining here on Monday and the children are more than happy to be playing inside at recess and lunch time! Let’s hope it makes a difference.

A second welcome to book week 2014. Each year, schools and public libraries across Australia spend a week celebrating books and Australian authors and illustrators. Classroom teachers, teacher librarians and public librarians develop activities, offer competitions and tell stories relating to a theme to highlight the importance of reading. Every year the Children’s Book Council of Australia chooses a number of short listed books written by Australian authors. This week the Belltrees boys and girls will be completing a daily book study on an awarded book. Jandamarra by Mark Greenwood and Terry Denton was our first short listed book today, and some fantastic book posters followed on.

Our book week theme is Catching the Reading Bug!
The office has been transformed into a wonderful garden filled with magical insects and bugs, gardens and trees of knowledge. There are hundreds of fantastic top quality books on display, parents and community members are all invited and can come and stock up for Christmas, or add a book to your own special collection. You can also donate to our school library by purchasing a book and having your own certificate of thanks pasted in the front of the book as a reminder for the future students of Belltrees of your kind donation.

Friday surprise!!! Last Friday the children put on a party of the Miss Lucy Johnsen as she had her last day with us as a practicum student. The students were treated to an out of uniform day, yummy party food, and some dancing music and games. A great way to end the prac for Lucy and the children were able to say thank you!

Have a great week everyone!

Johanna Teague
**Merriwa Horse Sports**

Last Monday we had two students compete at the Merriwa Horse Sports. Jock and Eddie Maxwell represented the school extremely well and rode away with a swag of trophies and ribbons between them. Both boys received the age champion trophies and Eddie was also awarded for his high efforts with the Champion Pointscore for the day. Well done boys on a fantastic day at Merriwa!

**Dates to Remember**

- **18th August**: Book Fair Week
- **21st August**: Assembly & Dress Up Day
- **24th August**: Literacy & Numeracy Week
- **29th August**: Aberdeen Horse Sports
- **9th October**: Little Mermaid Civic Theatre

**Belltrees Fun Day!!!**

We would like to invite all families and community members to our Belltrees Fun Day. This Thursday 21st August we will be hosting an afternoon of books, bugs and best dressed. Come along dressed up as a bug/insect/garden gnome or flower. The fun will begin at 12:00 with a book week parade, followed by a mid term assembly and book fair. Lunch will be served and the afternoon will see loads of fun bug games. We have certainly caught the ‘reading bug’.

**Tips and Tricks for Parents – Reading to your children!**

There are lots of ways that you can help your children develop their reading skills. Here are some simple tips and tricks:

1. Have fun reading aloud. When you read books aloud to your children, have fun with the words and the story.
2. Show your children that words are everywhere.
3. Play games with words.
4. Bring home books for your children to enjoy.

“I have a passion for teaching kids to become readers, to become comfortable with a book, not daunted. Books shouldn’t be daunting, they should be funny, exciting and wonderful; and learning to be a reader gives a terrific advantage.”

— Roald Dahl