A Happy New Year and welcome back to school for 2015!

Firstly I would like to welcome our new family to Belltrees Public School, Scott, Bianca and their four lovely children, Keira, Hayden, Dean and Aren. It is fantastic to have you here and we are thrilled to have you all as part of our school community. Welcome must also be extended to Emma Carter who started Kindergarten yesterday. Emma had a few first day nerves, however she had a wonderful day and we are excited to have her here with us!

Also, welcome back to Jessica and Skye our 2015 school captains, Eddie, Emily, Jock, Darcy and Lachie. Our school and classroom look fantastic with so many students!

Staffing: 2015 has seen a few changes in regards to staffing. I will be continuing in my role as Relieving Principal until further notice. Liz Batterham is Senior Administration Manager and Michelle Singleton is still here on Friday in the SAM role. Dorry is here in her SLSO role and John as G.A. Unfortunately Mrs Cap will not be continuing in her role on Thursday as she is wanting to ease back with work. Mrs Campbell will also not be continuing in her role as LaST teacher due to her role at Ellerston.

We have welcomed Mrs Lucy Scott to our teaching team. Lucy completed a number of casual days here last year and enjoys teaching in small schools. Her experience extends from large schools such as Muswellbrook Public and Denman Public through to small ones such as Murrurundi. Mrs Scott will be teaching on Thursday whilst I am in the office and one Friday will be spent on LaST whilst the alternative Friday will be spent team teaching with myself. We all look forward to a wonderful teaching and professional partnership.

Notes: I apologise in advance for the large amount of notes that will reach you this afternoon. These notes are important for the smooth operations and running of our school.

I have also added some new ones regarding Parent/Community helpers for 2015, news groups, text book levy and voluntary contributions, swimming and Internet and email permission. If you could please read through and return these notes at your earliest convenience that would be greatly appreciated.

Term One Timetable: I have also attached a term one timetable for the fridge. As events arise at school they can be added to the timetable. Please note newsletters will be sent home Friday this year!
New Kindergarten Student – Emma Carter

Rain, Rain, Rain

I hope everyone has been receiving the beautiful rain that has fallen here over the last month or two. We had an amazing storm on Tuesday afternoon and we had some flash flooding here at school. The volume of water was unbelievable.

An insight into the learning at Belltrees

Kindergarten – Year 6 Curriculum

Primary learning includes whole-class, group and individual activities designed to develop an inquiring mind and teach basic learning skills needed for schooling and later life. Literacy and numeracy are the building blocks of learning and that is why English and mathematics take up half of students' learning time in primary school.

Kindergarten to Year 6 focuses on six key learning areas:

- **English**
- **mathematics**
- **science and technology**
- **human society and its environment**
- **personal development, health and physical education**
- **creative arts**
- **languages**.

Primary school in NSW follows a curriculum based on stages of learning. Each stage is approximately equivalent to two school years. For each learning stage there are skills, knowledge and a level of understanding that each student should develop.

**Early Stage 1** refers to Kindergarten.

**Stage 1** includes Years 1 and 2
**Stage 2** includes Years 3 and 4
**Stage 3** includes Years 5 and 6

The Board of Studies develops a syllabus for each of the learning areas. Along with a defined aim, each syllabus has a set of objectives and outcomes, expressed in terms of knowledge and understandings, skills, values and attitudes.

If you have any questions about the curriculum please don’t hesitate to ask!

Have a lovely week!
Johanna Teague