Welcome to term four!

I hope everyone had a restful holiday and are ready for an intensive 11 week term. There are many things happening this term here at Belltrees. We have a few different excursions, intensive swimming, basketball, presentation, Beef Bonanza, Grandparents Day and Horse Sports. This is on top of the exciting classroom programs including Paddock to Plate, healthy living, and a COGS unit based around Australian author Margaret Wild. As our academic program continues we will be still be exploring space, and learning about the solar system. We will have a thorough in depth look at chance and data in mathematics as well as continuation on our number work. Students will also be studying informative texts and spelling will continue on for the term. At the conclusion of term three, our culture unit wrapped up and the students now have a better understanding of different celebrations and religions around the world.

As we enter into a new school term, for some at the other end of their school journey, they will begin their final exams this week. It is a nervous time for many students sitting the Higher School Certificate, 13 years of schooling down with a few weeks of exams left. Minister for Education Adrian Piccoli had a very clear message for the HSC students: “My message to students is to stay focused over the next month, but to also take care of themselves - get plenty of rest, eat healthy meals, exercise and ask for help if needed. Belltrees staff and students would like to take the opportunity to say ‘good luck to past Belltrees students and local students in our area sitting the HSC exams.’

**Beef Bonanza Education Day:** Yesterday the students participated in an excursion to St Josephs High School Aberdeen where the Year 11 Primary Industries Students taught the primary children all about cattle. There were four workshops and the students were placed into two learner classes, an intermediate and a confident class. Students were shown how to wash, clip, groom and lead steers. They were also taught how to judge and place the steers. The day was well organised and the students demonstrated pride in their school with exceptional behaviour and learning attitudes. Our school also received the Beef Bonanza Education Day trophy for the year for excellent overall work on the day. Well done Belltrees students.
Presentation night: Trophy return
As we are now in 4th term we are looking down the barrel (so to speak) of presentation night.
This year Belltrees Presentation Night will be held on Friday 27th November at school at 6:30pm. In our efforts to be organised for the event we would kindly ask the recipients of last years trophies to please return them to school as soon as possible so we are able to get them engraved and ready for this years recepiants. Many thanks for your assistance with this.

School Photos:
It is nearly that time of year again for school photos. Last week you all received your photo envelope. Photo envelopes must be returned to school on Monday 26th October, ready for photos on Thursday 29th October. Please note you can purchase one class photo with your portraits, you do not need a class photo for all children.

Tuckshop:
New menu went home last week, apologies for the pricing error, however the jelly cups are $1 and the jelly and peaches cups are $2, not the other way around. Also in canteen news chicken burgers will only be sold until they have run out. We will not order any more this year.

Adult Library:
Here at Belltrees we have an extensive range of fiction novels for borrowing. There are thrillers, mysteries, love stories and more in the fiction section. We also have many non fiction books that explore raising children, helping with school and developmental stages of your child’s growth. We have placed some of the titles on our school facebook page. So if you have read all the books in your bookshelf and are looking for something new, come in and see what you can borrow.

Horse Sports
This week we received approval from the DEC to go ahead with our Belltrees Horse Sports. This event will be held on Friday 6th November, 2015 at Moonan Flat Sports and Recreation Ground. The Belltrees P & C are hoping to get the entry forms out to schools this week for student enrolment purposes. Any questions can be directed to the Horse Sports Committee, C/O Mrs Camilla Maxwell.

Facebook Page:
Belltrees Public School has an active facebook page. It gives regular updates about what is happening at our small school, and lets everyone know about upcoming events, such as Grandparents Day, Beef Bonanza etc. Photos are posted of the children (who have permission for media release) taking part in events, workshops, educational outdoors and classroom activities. If you have any community events of promotions you would like to go onto our facebook page, please contact the Belltrees Public School Office. So go ahead and like our page and share with friends and family. They will get a great insight into small school.
Change of Sports Day:
This term we have modified our timetable and our weekly sports session will be held on a Thursday. Due to the change in the timetable children are asked to wear sports uniform on Thursday rather than Friday. This term we are fortunate to have Mrs Danielle Brown coming to Belltrees to coach the students in basketball. Mrs Brown is in charge of the Scone Junior Basketball Association and has had many years coaching children. Changes begin this week.

Future Dates for the diary:

Week 3: Friday 23rd October, Upper Hunter Beef Bonanza
Week 4: Monday 26th October, K-5 excursion to Hunter Belle Cheese Factory & Cox’s Dairy.
Week 5: Friday 6th November, Belltrees Horse Sports
Week 6: Newcastle Excursion – information and details to come
Week 7: Monday 16th November, Grandparents Day
Week 8: Friday 27th November, Presentation Evening
Week 9-10: Intensive Swimming program

Photos from the Beef Bonanza Education Day!

Have a great week everyone! Mrs Johanna Teague – Relieving Principal