Welcome to week 4!

Term 4 has begun well with our children looking and feeling cool and ready to learn and play in summer uniforms. Please remember hats every day for all outdoor activities. We must ensure a strict no-hat no-play during the hottest part of our school year. As we know Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancers and melanoma in the world, with even a slight sun burn compounding skin damage in later life.

**Professional Development**

Mrs Scott and I are continuing our professional development working on the L3 literacy program with inter-school classroom visits and tutorial workshops in Muswellbrook. Emma is developing her writing, reading and spelling skills through this initiative.

I have begun a series of 10 after-school workshops learning about the new accreditation procedures for all teachers to begin in 2016. This work will be in lieu of the last staff development day of Term 4 (Friday 18th December). The children’s last day of school is Wednesday, 16th December. The staff will finish and the school will close for the summer holiday on Thursday 17.12.15.

Mrs Scott spent last Friday in Tamworth, participating in some very worthwhile professional learning based around Physical Education in Schools. She learnt how to implement physical activity in the classroom and add something different to the classroom curriculum. This morning we took to skipping and spelt our weekly words skipping each letter.

**Upper Hunter Beef Bonanza...**

Last Friday we had four students represent our school at the Annual Upper Hunter Beef Bonanza. Friday’s school competition saw Eddie and Emily participate in the parading and junior judging. For Keira and Hayden it was their first time at the Beef event and they were marvelous assistants in the preparation and continued cleanliness and organisation of the school’s steer area.

Thank you to Waverley Station for their continued participation in the Waverley steer challenge. A big thanks must also go to Kay Payne who donated Santa for the Saturday event.

A big thank you must also be extended to the parents who worked with the children in the lead up to the event and the morning, afternoon and weekend ‘checkers’.

**Dungog Horse Sports**

At the recent horse sports event we had one representative from Belltrees. Eddie Maxwell competed in the Dungog event and finished the day with an impressive 1st, 2nd, two 3rd places and a 4th place. Well done Eddie!

**Belltrees Horse Sports**

Belltrees Horse Sports is coming up on Friday 6th November. All entry forms have been handed out to schools and the nominations are now coming in. The entry forms and the risk assessments can be downloaded from the Belltrees Public School Website.

**School Photos**

Brief reminder that school photos are happening this Thursday 29th October. Students are to wear full summer uniform. (Please bring sports clothes for basketball)
Excursions

Belltrees students yesterday participated in a wonderful day of learning. As part of our Science unit this term, Paddock to Plate we visited and the Dairy Farm of Mr and Mrs Cox, from Dartbrook. There we learnt about the entire milking process, literally from the paddock to the cup. We were able to watch the milk tanker take the milk away, feed some new baby calves and drink some ‘very fresh’ (yesterday mornings) milk. We walked through the milking area and felt the suction cups used for milking. It was a wonderful excursion with students asking some amazing and higher order thinking questions.

We then made a quick trip to Muswellbrook where we went to visit Hunter Belle Cheese and owner Geoff took us on a tour through the facility. Head cheesemaker, Tim told us all about cheese and showed us some ‘fresh’ blue vein cheese (only 1 week old) and then some 3 month old ‘molded’ cheese.

We then went through the gelato and fudge room where there were a few children wishing the machine was making gelato.

We enjoyed a lovely milkshake, cupcake and some delicious camembert and brie on crackers.

The students certainly enjoyed the day and I would like to thank Sheena for assisting in the organisation of the day and the drivers.

Have a great week everyone!

Johanna Teague – Relieving Principal