Welcome to week 8, the countdown certainly is on!

The children have had a busy two weeks with excursions to Newcastle, presentation practice and the continuation of basketball.
As the year is winding down the children are all tired and exhausted, but they are ploughing through.

Newcastle Sporting Excursion

Last week our students took a trip to Newcastle. We went on an excursion dedicated to sport and physical exercise.

Ice Skating: We began our trip with a visit to the Hunter Ice Skating Rink, here the children were nervous but excited and could not get over how cold it was inside the stadium.
The children were able to use A frames to guide them around the ice. To start with it was their security blanket but then in no time at all, the frames dissapeared and the children were skating on their own. The students were able to ice skate a lot quicker than the adults.

“Ice skating was lots of fun and very cold. I ended up with ice all over my pants” Darcy Taylor.

Putt Putt: Our next activity was Putt Putt Golf. The students were all excited to get into teams and see who could get a hole in one! The teachers had a game as well with Scott Dingwall coming out as the best golfer.

“The holes were easy at first and then got harder along the way” Lily O’Shea.

Bowling & Lasertag: Everyone was looking forward to the evening activities with ten pin bowling and laser tag. We organised ourselves into two teams and put on our laser jackets. There were lots of obstacles and running around in the dark was a little tricky.

“We had two teams and I was in the green team, it was very hot in there” Emma Carter.

Day Two: Surfing: Surfing was in store today, with perfect weather and some very excited children. Dan and Chris were our leaders and they taught the children how to jump up on three and then took them two at a time into the waves.
We stopped at 11:00am for a minute silence on the beach to commemorate Remembrance Day which was a solemn and reflective moment. It was lovely. The children all had a go and managed to stand up and surf the waves.

“Surfing was so much fun, it was great to stand up and surf. It was fantastic!” Aren Dingwall.

Spring loaded: This was our last activity for the excursion. We did have to share the trampolines with two other Newcastle high schools, however they were all very polite and considerate of the little people. It was exciting to bounce on the trampolines and jump into the foam pit. As the children continued to explore, they decided to start with some front flips and spins into the foam pits. There were plenty of laughs and giggles.

“There were 4 foam pits, 3 trampolines and 3 dodge ball sections. It was fantastic fun!” Lachlan Carter.

Presentation Evening: Last week you all received your invitation to our annual Belltrees Presentation and Performance Evening. It will be held next Tuesday 1st December at 6:30pm in the school grounds. The children have been working super hard on their performances and hopefully the nerves of a big crowd will not get in the way on the night.

Costumes: If possible can we please have boys in board shorts and a singlet top or rashie shirt that can be hidden under their school clothes?
Can I have girls in swimmers and a light summer dress that can be hidden under their school uniform? I will provide the props and other costume pieces.

Food & Drinks: Please bring along your own cold drinks and plate to share.
Bring along grandparents, friends and family!

I look forward to seeing you all there!

AFS: November 30th is fast approaching and that means it is the annual financial rollover for schools. If you have a school cheque that is unpresented could you kindly present the cheque to your bank by the 29th November. This makes it easier for finance on November 30th. Thank you for your assistance.

Swimming: Once again the children will be completing two weeks of intensive swimming beginning next Monday. Swimming will run for two weeks except for next Tuesday due to presentation night. A permission note will be sent home tomorrow. It is fully subsided by the school.
Basketball: We have another two weeks left of our basketball program here at Belltrees. Coach Danielle and teachers have seen some amazing skill development amongst the students with all learning the skills specific to the game. They enjoy the playing a competitive game at the end and there is always laughter to be heard. This is a wonderful opportunity the Belltrees students get. With the Sporting Schools Program making it free for parents.

We are now beginning to talk to the students about a new sport for term one, 2016. There are many new ones on the table, so discussions will be in place over the next few weeks with something cemented in before the New School Year!

Invermein: Last Thursday I was present at the final Invermein Principals meeting for 2015. This was a very interesting day with many guest speakers who spoke on a range of topics. Jayne Schmarr, former Murrurundi Principal spoke to the group about the Accreditation process and the requirements for highly Accomplished and Lead Teachers. Simon Mulready, Principal at Singleton Heights Public School spoke to the group about the Systems Leadership Grant that the Invermein group and the Singleton Learning Community Group received for Quality Teaching Rounds in 2016. This is a wonderful program which all the Small Schools in the area are a part of. Teachers will be involved in quality teaching rounds, watching other teachers lessons and teaching skills and providing quality feedback and report against the Australian Teaching Standards.

It was a wonderful day of professional learning and important for our small school to keep with with changing reforms and progress within teaching and public education.

Have a great week everyone!

Some more from the excursion!