Welcome to week 2!

The children have certainly had a very busy week with our Intensive Swimming program in full swing. The children are really enjoying the smaller groups and working with two teachers in the pool. Cassandra Wright is doing a fantastic job with all children and thanks to Bek Taylor for coming along to help on Thursday and Friday. Our Primary children are also thoroughly enjoying their visits to the Ellerston pool. They are swimming up there twice a week to have more practice in the longer pool and be ready for our Small Schools Swimming Carnival.

I would also like to extend a thanks to the White family and Ellerston Pastoral Company for the use of the pool.

Small School Swimming Carnival
This exciting event will be happening on Monday 16th February at Mururrundi Pool. Students have all submitted their entries and we are excited to say that we will have representatives in most races. Many thanks to parents for the speedy return of notes. If you wish to come along to the carnival and cheer on our Belltrees swimmers feel free. You pay pool entry at the gate. Drinks and food can also be purchased from the pool.

Student banking:
Student banking kicked off again for 2015 and Friday is banking day, start saving little ones!
Library News:

Library is happening again this year on a Wednesday, so please ensure you send a library bag to school with your child so he/she can borrow our beautiful books.

Classroom helpers.

Do you wonder what it looks like in our 21st Century classroom? Would you like to work with children aged 5-10 years? If you answered yes, this may be for you. We are looking for some volunteers to come along and play a role in our classroom. You could help with reading, maths groups, gross motor activities etc. If you are keen we will welcome you into our school. Mums, Dads, Grandmothers, Aunts Uncles, Poppys or Nannas. If you are interested please phone the school or drop in for a visit. Your commitment does not have to be weekly, maybe if we had enough people we could do a roster!

P & C News

P & C would like to welcome our new family Scott and Bianca Dingwall and their four children to Belltrees school. There are some catering opportunities that have risen and they would love any volunteers or help. All information from Bek relating to the Moonan Campdraft can be found on the following page.

There are many ways to help your child thrive when they start 'big' school.

A great way to kick off your child's formal education is to understand the school culture and what your child is doing in the classroom. It can give you peace of mind and your child sound directions in their learning for life. Jann Farmer-Hailey, an early years expert at the NSW Department of Education and Communities, describes the period when your child is adjusting to formal schooling as a time of "translations". She says children already come to school with a bundle of skills and it's a matter of shifting that knowledge into a school context.

"Children develop knowledge in a particular environment, be it day care, preschool or at home with mum, dad, nana or a caregiver. They are now taking that learning to a different setting and it has to be translated," Jann says.

Best Start

Kindergarten children at NSW public schools undergo the Best Start Kindergarten Assessment, where the knowledge each child brings to school is gauged so the teacher can develop suitable programs. Parents receive feedback on activities and games they can do with their child at home to boost their learning. Best Start is a great conversation starter between the teacher and you about your child's learning, Jann says. However, if you have concerns about any aspect of their learning, talk to the teacher.

I would like to reiterate what Jann Farmer-Hailey has mentioned in the above article for all our students and parents. If you have any questions or concerns about your child’s learning, or social and emotional development please make an appointment time and come and see me, I will be more than happy to address any areas.
MOONAN CAMPDRAFT

14th & 15th FEBRUARY

The Belltrees P&C has been asked to run the canteen for Moonan Camp draft this year. This involves breakfast, lunch & dinner on Sat 14th, then breakfast & lunch on Sun 15th.

Organisation for the weekend is now well underway but the P&C is in need of volunteer helpers for the weekend.

Donations of cakes / slices/ cookies and lasagnes delivered to school on Fri 13th Feb would be greatly appreciated. If you or anyone you know is available to assist (even if it is only one hour) over the weekend please contact Bek Taylor on 65463162.

This is an amazing opportunity to raise a bucket load of funds to help the students of Belltrees Public School, then relax underneath the tree with a cool beverage from the bar!

Hope to see you there.