Welcome to Week 4!
The weeks are starting to fly by and next week we hit the halfway mark for term one, scary I know!

**Upper Hunter Small Schools Swimming Carnival**
Our carnival on Monday was a great success with all competitors strongly demonstrating the words of our school motto, ‘*We give our best.*’ Jessica, Skye, Eddie, Emily, Keira and Hayden showed courage and determination in the pool and we came away with some great attitudes great swims and great smiles. This was also the first year in many years that Belltrees was able to field its own relay side. Skye, Jessica, Eddie and Emily swam their little hearts out and should be very proud of their efforts. Well done swimmers! Also I would like to say well done to our infant’s children who joined us on the day and were Belltrees number one supporters. You all displayed lovely manners and behaviour, well done boys and girls! Thank you to parents who were timekeeping. Your volunteer efforts make for a smooth running day.

**School Plan 2015-2017**
I have had several workshop meetings to attend over the past few weeks with various Principals and support personnel to work towards completing our draft of the new School Plan format for 2015-2017.

We had a parent meeting late last year, and I would like to present the update for this document at the P&C meeting tonight. Whilst our plan is not complete it is important for input and information to be discussed with all stakeholders in this process.

**P & C meeting and Welcome BBQ – tonight at 6pm. Hope to see you there!**
REMINDER  Upper Hunter Shire & Kia Ora Music

Camp  Wednesday 18th– Friday 20th March 2015

Enrolment forms, fact sheets and parent consent forms are available in the office for interested participants. This camp is offered to students in Year 3-6 from our school.

The closing date is February 20th (today) 2015, with early entrants gaining preferences for classes.

HOUSEKEEPING REMINDERS

♦ Please remember to sign your children in and out, in the green folder in the admin office if your children are arriving late or been picked up early. This is an important record which we are required to keep.

♦ Please reverse your vehicles towards the fences in our car park. The safety and well-being of our children is everyone’s business.

♦ Please collect your children from the COLA in the afternoon from the duty teacher.

♦ Hats are compulsory for outdoor play, PE and sport. No hat no play.

♦ Please send absence notes as close as possible to the days your child was away from school. Extended absences for illness or injury require a doctor’s certificate.

♦ We are no longer able to issue exemptions for absences for family holidays during school time. These absences will now count towards our attendance data. Please consider taking family holidays during actual school holiday breaks.

♦ Thank you for your help with these issues for the safe running of our school.

LAKE KEEPIT CAMP—Monday 27th—Wednesday 29th April 2015

Mr Leayr from Ellerston PS is organising a camp for our three small schools. Y3-6 students in Term 2 from Ellerston, Blandford and Belltrees PS are invited to attend. This will be a 3 day, 2 night camp focusing on resilience as well as the usual fun outdoor challenge and fitness activities.

Howard’s bus has been booked with Ellerston and Belltrees students meeting at Blandford school carpark around 7.30am on the Monday, returning by around 4.00pm on the Wednesday.

There will be 4 staff attending and 36 students from our three small schools. The cost per student is expected to be between $260-$270, depending on the numbers attending, which will impact on the bus costs.

Please return the expression of interest this week to enable further planning for this camp.

NB Lake Keepit will be our senior camp for this year.

*********************************************************************************

Combined Small Schools Lake Keepit Camp 27th—29th April 2015

My child/children ____________________________________________________________ will / will not be attending the fitness and resilience camp at Lake Keepit.

I enclose a $50 deposit per student to cover part of the costs. I understand that the final costings will be available later in the term.

Signed.................................................................Date..............
Recipe of the Week!

- I thought a nice idea would be to share a weekly recipe, one that we could easily cook for our own families. If you have any family favourites, please feel free to send them in and I will include them in our newsletters.

Ingredients (serves 8)

- 1 1/2 cups cooked brown rice
- 1 cup grated reduced fat cheddar cheese
- 1 large zucchini, grated
- 1 large carrot, grated
- 1/4 cup pitted black olives, chopped
- 125g tin sweet corn kernels
- 3/4 cup self-raising flour
- 4 eggs
- 1/2 cup reduced fat milk

Method:

1. Preheat oven to 180°C
2. Grease a loaf pan and line with baking paper
3. Combine rice, carrot, zucchini, corn, olives, cheese and flour in a bowl
4. Whisk eggs and milk together in a jug. Add to rice mixture. Stir to combine
5. Spread into prepared pan. Bake for 35 minutes or until lightly browned and cooked.

Variations:

Try adding tinned tuna (drain well), feta or some sundried tomato

Share & enjoy!