Welcome to week 4!

Well what a very busy two weeks we have had. After staff discussion, we have decided to extend the publication of our newsletters from weekly to fortnightly. This will hopefully slow down the paper trail and save on printing costs. We hope that you enjoy reading your paper or emailed copy of our newsletters. If the need arises special notes will still be sent home. If you have anything that you would like placed in our school newsletter please let the office know and we will endeavour to have it placed in there to promote your event, inform the community or say thanks.

School Beautification!
With that said my first thanks I would like to extend to the mothers, fathers and children who gave up their precious Mother’s Day to have a working bee at the school. We worked like trojans and managed to move the two massive piles of mulch onto the gardens and into the playgrounds. Trees and bushes had a much needed trim or cut back and some plants found a new home. The school looks amazing and the efforts are to be congratulated. Thank you families.

ANZAC March
Another thank you must go to all students and parents who made the effort and attended the ANZAC service at Gundy. The ANZAC commemorated the 100 year centenary of the ANZAC this year, and the watching the children march, stand and sing proudly sent a few shivers up my spine. Thank you boys and girls for your perfect behaviour and thoughtful actions.

Camp
Lake Keepit camp: what a wonderful camp we had. The students loved every aspect of it. They experienced time with other students they may have met only once or twice, they worked collaboratively and with purpose. We experienced fear and conquered fear! The children went rock climbing, canoeing, kayaking, completed commando challenges and solved problems. Stuart our Scotish supervisor from camp told the staff that the children of the three small schools were the best behaved children he had seen in a long time. He mentioned that their manners were beautiful and the respect they showed to staff and other students was to be commended. Well done students at Belltrees, Blandford and Ellerston. Thank you to Mr Colin Leayr for organising the camp and Miss Laura Sidney for supervising as well.
Parent Teacher Interviews
Parent teacher interviews are again complete for another year. It was a fantastic opportunity to talk to parents about the academic and social progress of their children. We discussed the literacy and numeracy developments for each child and engaged in a ‘where to now?’ It also gave parents a great opportunity to see where we are taking the school in the next three years and what programs we will have in place. Thank you to Mrs Scott for attending the interviews with me, the collegial partnership in the classroom is great!

2015-2017 School Plan
Talking about where we are taking the school in the next three years, I have recently completed the 2015-2017 School Plan. This plan has been endorsed by Mr Mark Young, Director of Wollemi network. The new school plan is now available on the Belltrees school website for you to view. www.belltrees-p.school@nsw.edu.au. Thank you to the staff and parents who assisted in the planning process and development of this important school document.

Annual School Report
The Annual School Report (ASR) is a record of the school's self-evaluation process. It is conducted annually and is part of the ongoing cycle of school planning and evaluation. The Annual School Report is an important component of a school's accountability requirements to its parents and community, to the NSW Department of Education and Communities (DEC) and to the Commonwealth Government's Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. The main method for distribution of the Annual School Report is by publication through the Internet. However schools are required to ensure that the information in the ASR is available to parents who cannot access the Internet.

I have hard copies of the ASR here at school if you wish to read one, or you can access them on our school website. (Address as above)

NAPLAN 2015—Year 3 and 5
These tests will be conducted this week. Tuesday 12th—Language Conventions and Writing, Wednesday 13th—Reading and Thursday 14th—Numeracy.

Please make sure students are well rested and relaxed. We have been preparing in class, practicing the test format and revising class work. However going into these tests with a relaxed positive attitude and “doing your best” is most important. If your child has any anxious moments, or you have any questions about the assessment process, please don’t hesitate to let me know.

I read a letter on Facebook over the weekend. This letter was written to the children in years three and five sitting the NAPLAN tests this week. This letter struck a chord and I feel the same way with the 6 children who this week will complete these tests. The letter is attached.
Lake Keepit Camp!
To Our Dearest Students from Year 3,

Next week you will sit your first NAPLAN test. Before you take this test there is something very important for you to know:

This test does not assess all of what makes each of you exceptional and unique.

The people who score these tests don't know that some of you love to sing, are good at drawing or can teach others how to use a computer program. They have not seen the way that some of you can dance with grace or speak confidently to a large group. They do not know that your friends count on you to be there for them when they are sad. They do not know that you participate in sports, help your Mum and Dad or that play with your little brother, sister or cousins. They do not know that you are caring, thoughtful and that every day you do your best. Because these attributes cannot be tested.

The scores you get from this test will tell you how you did on that day, but they will not tell you everything. They can't tell you that you have improved on something that you once found difficult. They can't tell you that you brighten up your teacher's day. They can't tell you how amazingly special you are.

So come to school ready to do your best for the NAPLAN test and remember there is no one way to 'test' all of the wonderful things that make you, YOU!

Kind regards,

Mrs Egan, Mrs Schluter and Miss Bailey