Welcome to the first newsletter for Term Three.

I hope everyone had a relaxing and restful holiday. Our first week has come and gone and the students were as keen as mustard to get back into the swing of things here at school.

A few quick updates…

The new steer arrived before the holidays and I would like to thank all the people who came to feed, water and work with the steer over the break. We have been to visit him a number of times and we have decided on the great name ‘Samson’ or Sam for short. Thank you to Hayden for the great suggestion.

I have attached a permission note for participation in the steer program. Please return this note as soon as possible.

**Zone Athletics Carnival.**

Next Friday 31st July the Zone Athletics Carnival will be held in Scone. Permission notes have been handed out and if they could be returned as soon as possible that would be appreciated. We will be practicing for the nominated events over the next two weeks. I would like to remind everyone that transport to the event is up to individual parents.

We wish Jessica, Skye, Eddie and Emily all the very best in their events.

**Education Week.**

Next week, week three is Education Week for 2015. The theme for this year is ‘Celebrating Local Heroes’. We will have our Education Week Assembly and Commemorative Garden Opening on Thursday 30th July starting at 10:30am. We have some special guests coming along to talk to the children about the ANZAC and why this year being the centenary is so special.

Belltrees students would like to welcome parents, friends, family and community members to attend this special assembly and opening.

I would like to ask all families to provide a sweet or savoury plate for morning tea for all to share. Slices, cupcakes or scones, fruit or fingerbuns, cheese and crackers etc. Thank you.

On Thursday afternoon the official Education Week Assembly for the Upper Hunter Community of Schools will be held at Scone held at Scone High School starting at 5:00pm. During this assembly there will be many people recognised for either their contribution to education through a teaching or non-teaching role. A student for example, who has a strong work ethic, is a great school leader, is conscientious and hard working or just a genuine great all rounder. The award ceremony also acknowledges the contribution that community members or parents play in the smooth running or promotion of the school.

Our students have the opportunity to participate in the Small Schools Choir Group led by Mr Leayr and Mrs Teague. The students will be singing ‘Waltzing Matilda’ with Belltrees students accompanying with sign language, Ellerston and Blandford students will join with vocals.

Practice this week for the combined school choir is on this Wednesday here at school and next Wednesday in Scone. Details to be advised…..
Small Schools Public Speaking Competition.
The date has been set, the notes sent home and the speeches are being constructed. The classroom is buzzing at the moment with students working on their speeches. We have discussed the following things already this term….
* What is Public Speaking?
* Why do we need to do Public speaking?
* Why is a topic so important?
* What makes a great introduction?
So far the ideas are flowing and the students have made a really good start. I would encourage you to talk to your child about their speech and maybe assist them, or give them some suggestions or pointers.
This is a wonderful opportunity for your child to progress in the ‘art’ of public speaking and build self esteem and confidence. Hopefully they will all look like the 2nd photo here and not the 1st!

Before Public Speaking program  After Public Speaking program.

L3- Language, Literacy & Learning Training
L3 training begins again this Friday for Mrs Scott and myself and the students will spend the afternoon with Mrs Amanda Mamone. The training is a big commitment, but we are seeing some fantastic results with our Kindergarten students in both their reading and their writing with the implementation of the program. Feel free to come and talk to either Mrs Scott or myself if you wish to know more about it.

Gymnastics…
Sporting schools is back into play this term with Mrs Belinda Woodley, certified gymnastics coach coming on Thursdays to teach our students. The children got a small taste of it last term when we began and this term the program will be running for the first 6-7 weeks.
Please send your child to school with a change of sensible clothes, tights, tracksuit pants, and long sleeve shirt. They will then change back into their uniform.

Dates for your diary!!!

Week 3 – Education Week
Monday 27th - Book Club Orders Due
Thursday 30th - Commemorative Garden Opening @10:30am
- UHCoS Assembly @Scone High from 5pm

Friday 31st - Zone Athletics Carnival in Scone.

Week 4- Tuesday 5th August, Small Schools Public Speaking Competition @ Belltrees

Week 5
Wednesday 12th & Thursday 13th August, Hunter Interschools Public Speaking @ Singleton Heights.
Friday 14th August, Combined Small Schools Science Fun Day @ Murrurundi, (more details to come)

Week 7- Book Week

Have a great week everyone, and stay safe!