Welcome to the 2016 school year. I am pleased to be returning as the Relieving Principal at Belltrees for term one. I hope everyone had a restful and relaxing holiday and are revitalised and ready for the school year. The term has started with a bang with students straight into their last week of Intensive Swimming for this semester. Students have put a lot of effort into building their swimming skills with all students showing fantastic improvement and a gain in confidence. All their hard work and practice will be on show at the Small Schools Swimming Carnival in Murrurundi on Monday.

Small Schools Swimming Carnival:
This Monday, 8th February, all Belltrees students will be invited to attend the carnival. This year we will have the largest amount of entries that we have had in many years. Students turning 8 this year and older have the opportunity to participate in the events on the day. All students (except learners) will be entered into all 50m events and can then ‘scratch out’, on the day. We will nominate children into the relays and 100m events. Permission, medical notes and lunch order forms for the carnival are attached to the newsletter. Please have these returned to school by Wednesday 3rd February.
This wonderful sporting event will see us participate with Murrurundi, Blandford, Ellerston and Sandy Hollow schools.

Canteen
Menu is attached, canteen will continue this week. The canteen food meets the DEC requirements for healthy eating. The food is part of the green group of foods considered to be healthy on a regular basis. Please have lunch orders in by Thursday.

Note package:
Today you have received a package of notes. These notes include a check on your details, medical and emergency contacts, addresses and telephone numbers. It includes permission notes for media, school voluntary contributions and text book fees, along with a Working with children check declaration. This form allows you to take your children and others on day excursions. Overnight excursions require a Working with Children Check Number. Please return the permission and details as soon as possible.
If you require any financial assistance or would like to set up a payment plan that is perfectly fine and please come and see me, or visit Liz in the office.

Library:
Library day will be Wednesday. Please send along a bag for borrowing. It can be an old pillow case, recycled bag, or library bag, it is important that the books are protected whilst in the bag. No one has any overdue library books, so we are starting with a clean slate. Well done!
Panel Training:
Mr Mark Young director Public Education, Wollemi informed me over the holiday break that the position for Permanent Principal will be advertised in the coming weeks. The decision to find a suitable Principal is left to a panel. The panel consists of Mr Young, another local Principal, a teacher/staff representative and a parent/community representative. During the holidays I sent out an email asking for some parent volunteers to be trained to sit on the panel, participate in the writing of the job advertisement and participates in the interview process. Thank you parents for your participation.

Congratulations Mrs Jones:
Mrs Kate Jones, former Belltrees Public School Principal, has successfully received the new position of Assistant Principal at Merriwa. We wish Mrs Jones all the best in her new venture and would like to congratulate her on her position.

Student Banking:
Parents please note that student banking has been moved to Wednesday. This will make it easier to deposit money into the bank, as we will only be making one trip.

Staffing for 2016:
A new General Assistant (G.A) was appointed under the transfer system in 2015. Mr David Watson started last week and will be continuing on with the wonderful work from Mr Henley.

Thank you:
Mr Henley has completed some beautiful work whilst here at Belltrees and we would like to take the opportunity to thank him kindly for all his efforts and certainly going above and beyond for the beautification of our school, and the wonderful work with the Belltrees students. We wish him the very best.

Community advertising:
If you are a community organisation who is hosting a local event or you are sporting club searching for new players, feel free to phone Liz in the office, or send through a flyer with information and contact details and we would be more than happy to add into our newsletters.

Hats:
Term one, we have our NO HAT, NO PLAY rule in place. Please ensure your child/children bring their bucket hat to school every day. It may also be a good idea to add sunscreen before they come to school. We are looking to purchase some new sunscreen. If you have any particular brands that you know your child reacts to, please let us know.

BELLTREES P & C NEEDS YOU!!!

Many hands make light work!!!

Next weekend the Belltrees P & C will be catering for the Moonan Campdraft. They would love to have any offers of assistance for the canteen and any donations of cakes and slices. They will be in the canteen Friday 12th, Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th February. If you are available to help please contact Bek Taylor, or the school and we can pass details on.

Many thanks

Have a wonderful fortnight everyone!