Welcome to week 4!

The last two weeks have seen Belltrees students and staff busy, busy, busy! Last Monday our students competed at the Small Schools Swimming Carnival held in Murrurundi. Belltrees students competed in the pool against students from Ellerston, Blandford, Murrurundi and two keen swimmers from Sandy Hollow. The students made me so proud. Their efforts, enthusiasm, ‘try their best’ attitude and sportsmanship were outstanding. Thank you to Mrs Batterham who helped with the recording, parents for your assistance with time keeping, supporting and encouraging your children. Finally to Murrurundi staff Mrs Wilson and Mrs Druitt for organising such a fantastic event.

As a result of this carnival we have a 4x50m relay team who will swim this Thursday in Muswellbrook. The team consists of Jessica Singleton, Skye Singleton, Emily Taylor and Eddie Maxwell with Darcy Taylor as a reserve. The team will no doubt swim their hearts out and make our Small School proud.

Good Luck Relay Team!
Newsletter apologies:
Yesterday we were thrilled to have two new printers arrive at our school. The new printers in the classroom and the office will allow us to print A3 in colour and scan in colour, (something we were unable to do before hand). The introduction of these new printers was fantastic, although they have not yet been connected to our network, so I was unable to print any newsletters. If you would like to have a hard copy, please let us know and we will print one for you as soon as we are able to. Alternatively you can get one from the school website.

Say Cheese!!!
Moonan Campdraft
Thank you to all the parents and community members for your invaluable assistance with the campdraft on the weekend. Your help in the canteen, cooking cakes or making salads is invaluable for our hard working P & C and as the old saying goes, 'many hands make light work'. The P & C willingly support many of the educational, sporting and cultural opportunities for the Belltrees students and provide funds to help with many school based programs. So from the staff and students at Belltrees Public School....... Thank you!

Upper Hunter Community of Schools
Belltrees School is a proud member of the Upper Hunter Community of Schools. Every term the Principals from Scone, Aberdeen, Blandford, Merriwa, Murrurundi, Sandy Hollow, Cassilis, Ellerston and Martindale meet to discuss what is happening in our schools, the DEC educational reforms, School Planning, Milestones, Annual Reports and Accreditation. The meeting was held in Scone last Thursday and together we covered a mountain of information with the main discussions surrounding the new format for the Annual Report. This public document will be presented at a P & C meeting and will be available on the school website at the end of term 1. These days are invaluable professional development and learning days for the Principal and enable strong collegiality and networking amongst the schools.

Kia Ora
Five of our students have indicated interest in the upcoming annual Kia Ora. This cultural event offers expertise in many areas of music, dance, choir and performance. If your child is interested in attending and is aged 8 or above please ensure you register them through the Upper Hunter Shire Council. This event will take place on Wednesday 16th- Friday 18th March.

Swimming training thank you
I would like to take the opportunity to thank Cassandra Wright for her invaluable assistance in training the relay team for the upcoming Zone Carnival. Cassandra has given up her own free time to coach the children for free and assist with transport. Thank you Cassandra!

Pool thank you
Finally I would like to thank Peter and Serena White from Belltrees who have allowed the students to have full access to their pool facilities at their private home. This has enabled students to have three weeks of Intensive Swimming without the expensive costs of having to take a bus to Scone or relying on parents for help. Serena kindly kept the pool beautiful and clean and would often come down to say hello and have a chat to the children. Thank you!

Book Club
Book club has closed and will be arriving at the school in the next two weeks.

Keep an eye out!!!
Monday 14th March - Belltrees students will travel to Murrurundi for an Aboriginal education Day with the fantastic inclusion of a workshop from Australian Comedian, Adam Hill. More details as they arise!

Have a fantastic fortnight everyone! - Johanna Teague