DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday 20th December
Last Day of Term 4
(Early Departure) 1.30pm

2014 Dates

Wednesday 29th January
Student’s First Day of School 2014

Monday 3rd February
Alex, Hairdresser

Monday 10th March
Labour Day Public Holiday

Friday 4th April
Last Day Term 1

Tuesday 22nd April
Term 2 Begins

Friday 25th April
Anzac Day Public Holiday

Monday 9th May
Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday

Friday 27th June
Term 2 Ends

Monday 14th July
Term 3 Begins

Friday 19th September
Term 3 Ends

Monday 6th October
Term 4 Begins

Tuesday 4th November
Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday

Friday 19th December
Term 4 Ends

Reminder

The last day of the school year school will finish early and buses will be leaving at 1:30pm. Please ensure that you have made arrangements to receive your children at home, or collect from school 2 hours earlier on Friday 20th December.

Holiday Wishes

Wishing you all a safe and peaceful holiday season.

This has been such a busy year for all of us, time to wind down, have a less hectic family routine, and catch your breath is so important.

The end of an era at Belmore has now been reached, with Joan’s well-deserved retirement.

We now look forward to having Karen as our new principal, working with her and getting to know her.

Best wishes to all of our wonderful students and their families, see you next year.

Jan Welsh
This is my last ever Belmore newsletter, so here goes...

I would like to take the opportunity to say a huge thank you to the whole Belmore School community for helping to create such a positive educational environment. The volunteers are amazingly loyal, our students are brave and determined and well behaved (on most days), parents are an inspiration and the staff are exceptional. And Paul Nicholas is the best cleaner in the Southern Hemisphere.

Bus staff
Our bus drivers and chaperones are unsung heroes. They provide the most wonderful service to our families and students. We will be inviting them to a special morning tea on the last day to recognise and thank them all.

Important stuff coming home this week
In this last week of term you will receive - reports (thank you teachers), transition packs for students (thank you Fiona), class lists for next year (collaborative effort), and The Belmore 2013 Yearbook (thanks to editor Nick).

Transitions
Quite a few students will be moving to different sections of the school next year. We have been very busy conducting handover meetings, and running training sessions so that all staff, teachers, therapists and assistants will be very professionally prepared for the start of the year.

Students will have opportunities to spend time in their new room, with their new staff this week. They will be well prepared.

Christmas Cheer!
Christmas carols during lunch. We have also had roaming visits by carol singing Room 4 students.

Staff Leaving: Last Wednesday, at the student awards Leanne Majer was recognised for her 18 years here at Belmore School. We also said goodbye to Lyn McMurdie (Assistant), Cathriona Clarke (Assistant), Grace Yao (Physiotherapist), Dianne Duryea (Assistant). They will all be missed.

Christmas Cracker
The events team turned on the most wonderful Christmas Party for students on Tuesday. There were Christmas Crackers to hang on the tree for each student, fairy lights and dancing. What a lot of fun. We haven't ever done it in such an exciting way before! Thanks to the inspired events team.

Balwyn High Carols
This was a really fabulous concert at Belmore last week. The choir sang and the instrumentalists played beautifully for us. We were very privileged to be their audience.

Best wishes
I wholeheartedly wish everyone very well for Christmas and the New Year. I know that the school is in great hands and I wish Karen Overall and Belmore School every success.

FROM JOAN ANSON’S DESK

Joan Anson
Visit to the Immigration Museum

As part of our Urban Camp we visited the Immigration Museum. For Elizabeth it was a personal experience. She showed great interest, taking over 100 photos. There was an exhibit about Burmese Refuges and she made a wish at the wish tree.

Jackson and Angus were engaged in an interactive Mock Interview of a hopeful migrant to Australia. Upon our return Jackson wrote the interview questions as the Interviewer and then answered the questions as the hopeful migrant. This is his transcript.

Why do you want to come to Australia?
   My other country is not a free country and they kill people but Australia is a free country and they don’t kill people.

What was your job?
   My job was a builder and I can help other builders.

What country do you come from?
   Afghanistan. In Afghanistan there is a war. It is very dangerous and they kill lots of people.

What do you want to do in Australia?
   I want to get a job as a builder and if I do I would like to help other people in need.

Do you want to bring other people into Australia?
   No. I have no family or friends to bring.

How long have you been living in your country?
   All of my life.

Where is your family?
   They are dead. The Afghanistan army killed them.

What did your parents do as a job?
   My dad was a teacher and my mum had no job.

How old are you?
   I am 37 years old.

How much do you want live in Australia?
   I will do anything to live in Australia.

Did you know your mum and dad well?
   I did for my mum but not my dad.

How old were you when your mum and dad got killed?
   I was 17.

Who looked after you after your mum and dad died?
   I looked after myself.
From The Yooralla Team

It has been another great year for the Yooralla team at Belmore School. One of the exciting new projects at the school has been the “CP Check Up: Providing the best service at the best time” project. Eleven families have chosen to be involved with the project and assessments have commenced and will continue in the new year.

As well as all the regular school activities and programs, Yooralla staff have also been busy with numerous Splinting and Orthotic Clinics, an Equipment Day, Speech Pathology and Occupational Therapy Week activities as well as attending School Camp just to name a few.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all students and their families a wonderful festive season and a relaxing break.

We look forward to another great year in 2014.