

Belair Public School Newsletter

Hub of Learning, Excellence and Opportunity for All

Phone: 4952 1735, 34 Carolyn Street, Adamstown Heights NSW 2289

Email: belair-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au



26 March 2024

Take Just Pride

Term 1 Week 9



Principal's Message-

Greetings everyone,

It is difficult to believe that we are commencing Week 9 of the term.

NAPLAN tests have been completed for all students across Year 3 and 5. We are hoping to have the assessment data from these tests returned earlier than in previous years. The information that teachers utilise from these tests helps to inform individualised student learning goals and also assist in school improvement planning as we analyse our strengths and weaknesses against statistically similar groups of schools across the state.

Last Friday saw a great morning of running at the Cross Country. Congratulations to all of our students for their high levels of participation, effort and resilience. Well done to those students who will go on to the next level of competition to represent Belair: Lana M, Alexis M, Amelia B, Ted B, Edward B, Byron D, Isobel N, Stella D, Annaka R, Tainui M, Kiplin R, Thomas N, Evelyn

Term 1- 2024

March

11-28	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Parent/Teacher Goal Setting Interviews
25-26	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Hunter PSSA Boys Basketball Trials (Maitland)
27	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Hunter PSSA 12 & 11yrs Rugby League TrialsSRC Meeting
28	<ul style="list-style-type: none">P&C Easter RaffleHunter PSSA Girls Basketball TrialsHunter Boys Cricket Trials
29	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Public Holiday- Good Friday

April

1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Public Holiday- Easter Monday
2-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Parent/Teacher Goal Setting Interviews
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Newcastle City PSSA Netball TrialsPremier's Debating Training Day @ Belair PS



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C, Evelyn K, Hannah C, Harrison G, Makario B, Julian C, Xanthe M, Matilda G, Ella B, Koa B, Darcy M and Oscar B.

Congratulations to all our students who participated in PSSA Mountain Biking competition last Friday at Glenrock. From all reports it sounded like a tough competition and that Belair students shone!

Thank you to those parents that were able to join us for the P&C meeting last week. It is always lovely to have the opportunity to discuss and share school initiatives and feedback about what we do and what we can do better. One of the areas we are working on in the School Improvement Plan is strengthening connection with the community. As a staff we will work on ways to open avenues to increase that connection, and I will keep you informed on ideas we are able to brainstorm and implement heading into Term 2.



At the P&C meeting I also presented a realigned version of the School Improvement Plan as a means of consultation of this school community document. Moving into 2024 a decision has been made to realign the School Improvement Plan into two strategic directions instead of three strategic directions to refine processes and make the plan more manageable. The intention to do so, will not compromise the integrity of the initial plan which was developed in consultation with community. Strategic Direction 3 initiatives will be encompassed within Strategic Direction 1 and 2 as activities. Moving forward we will evaluate progress against the plan using the latest version of the School Excellence Framework, Version 3. I have included a table showing the changes between the original plan and the realigned version further in the Newsletter.

Thank you to all our community for your support of the Easter Raffle. At the time of publishing the newsletter, I believe the profit of the raffle is more than \$4000. That is fantastic!!

Please be aware that the Belair Facebook page is for the school to post celebrations of school success and events and community events and that it is not set up as a 2-way communication platform. The school's two sources of information are the newsletter, published weekly, and the Sentral Parent App (an avenue for parents to communicate student absences). If you wish to contact the school please email or call the office. Following directives from the Secretary of the Department of Education, Murat Dizdar, we have made amendments to the Belair Communication Protocols. These are outlined further in the newsletter.

Congratulations to Mr Pete Lohs, one of our hard-working GAs, who has received a certificate to acknowledge 20 years of service to the Department of Education. Thank you for all that you do to support the students and staff at Belair!



I would like to share a beautiful act of generosity from one of our grandparents. On Friday a substantial box of beautiful new books arrived as a donation to the library from Mr Alan Hamilton, granddad of Archer and Felix. We are so thankful for your kind gesture and the books will be greatly appreciated by our students.

Have a wonderful week!

*Kind regards,
Kathie Colley
Principal*

Wellbeing and Community Engagement

❖ Gate Access after bell

For student safety and wellbeing the Terence Street and Cynthia Street gates are closed at 9:05am each morning. Due to the need make adjustments for student needs, the Cynthia Street gates will actually be locked at 9:05. If you are running late please come to the Carolyn Street gates and sign your child in at the office. The Carolyn Street gates are the only access to the school throughout the day. Thank you for supporting the safety of our students.

❖ Communication protocols- review and update

Secretary of the Department of Education, Murat Dizdar, has issued directives to allow staff the permission to switch off from non-emergency communication outside of school operating hours to support staff wellbeing.

Four principles have been developed for all teaching staff and communities to help enable clear expectations for digital communication:

- safeguard employee wellbeing
- demonstrate leadership in relation to establishing, promoting and maintaining digital communication practices outside of school operating hours
- context matters
- promote respectful workplaces and communities.

Our current Belair Communication Protocols comply with these 4 principles, yet require a minor adjustment to the times emails are sent as set out below (from original times between 7:30am to 6:00pm):

Email

Purpose: Sharing of information, including:

- Communication for various student groups
- Financial invoices
- School Newsletter
- Parent / teacher communication



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Protocol: Staff will endeavour to respond to parent email enquiries within 48 hours (on school days and during business hours)

- Parents are requested when emailing outside the hours of **8:00am and 5:00pm**, to address the email to the school account rather than the teacher's personal departmental account. These emails will be forwarded to staff each morning.

For the full version of the Belair Communication Protocol please follow this link to the Belair Website Policy Page: [Rules and policies - Belair Public School \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.belair.nsw.gov.au/rules-and-policies)


❖ Aboriginal Education Yarn Up

The Term 1 Aboriginal Yarn Up will be on Thursday 11 April from 4:15pm. Aboriginal families will receive an invitation which will include the agenda and a survey link giving the option to suggest ideas and give feedback in case you are unable to attend the meeting.

❖ Parent Information Sharing

In past years we have provided a survey to collect contact details of parents wanting to share their email address with other parents, (in their children's class) as a means of further building community across the school. Below is a link if you are interested in providing your email address that would be distributed to other willing parents in your child's class, creating an opportunity to connect. We will leave the survey open until the end of Week 10 and distribute the spreadsheets to participating parents in Week 11. Link: [Parent Information Sharing Survey](#)

❖ School Improvement Plan Realignment

 Belair School Improvement Plan 2022- 2026			
Current School Plan Structure 2022-2026			
Strategic Direction	Strategic Direction 1: Growth and Attainment	Strategic Direction 2: Community and Opportunity	Strategic Direction 3: A Culture of Excellence
Initiatives	Initiative 1: Personalised Learning	Initiative 1: Community and Engagement	Initiative 1: Innovative Curriculum
	Initiative 2: Data and Assessment	Initiative 2: Wellbeing	Initiative 2: Leadership
Activities	Numerous activities planned against each of the 6 initiatives.		
Realignment of School Improvement Plan 2024-2026			
Strategic Direction	Strategic Direction 1: Growth and Attainment	Strategic Direction 2: Community and Opportunity	
Initiatives	Initiative: Educational Leadership and Personalised Learning	Initiative: Holistic Wellbeing	
Activities	Activities	Activities	
	Professional Learning	Community Engagement	
	Data and Assessment	Wellbeing	
	Innovative Curriculum	Partnerships (Attendance)	
	Educational Leadership		

❖ Parent Teacher Goal Setting Interviews

Goal setting interviews are scheduled across this term in weeks 7-10. Sessions have been scheduled at various times across these weeks, depending on each individual teacher's availability.

Please note that the booking system will close **24 hours prior to each individual teacher's first availability**. Please note this will be different for each class teacher, so make sure you check their availability and book before their interview sessions start. We request that you book prior to this closing date for efficiency of organisation and courtesy to teachers being able to manage their time and commitments.

If your child's interview is within school time please report to the office to sign in and you will be directed to the location of your interview. If your child's interview is either side of 9am and 3pm, please go to your child's classroom. The teachers at Belair look forward to meeting with you and talking to you about your children's learning. If you have any difficulty with the booking process please ring the school office for assistance.

❖ Voluntary Contributions

Congratulations everyone, voluntary contributions have been coming in thick and fast!!

This year the school would like to focus on brightening up our classrooms with beautifully crafted blinds.

To date we are sitting at \$12,032.00.

A sample of what the blinds could look like is below:



❖ Book Packs

Just a reminder to those parents who haven't yet paid for their child's book packs if you could do so at your earliest convenience. If you require financial support please don't hesitate to contact the office. The book packs are being utilised in the classroom including all stationary resources, electronic learning apps across many Key Learning Areas in the classroom and library and literacy resources including text books and electronic resources.

Thank you for your support to help us provide these resources for student learning.

Mrs Jardine – Assistant Principal, Curriculum and Instruction

Here is the next instalment in how parents can support the reading development of their children at home.

Phonics How does phonics contribute to reading success?

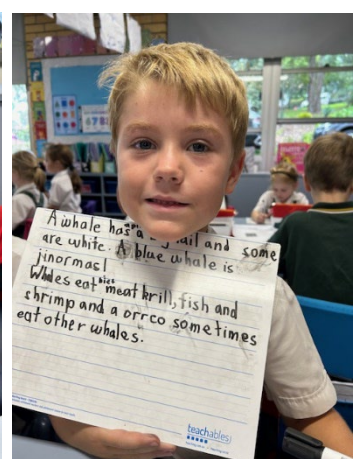
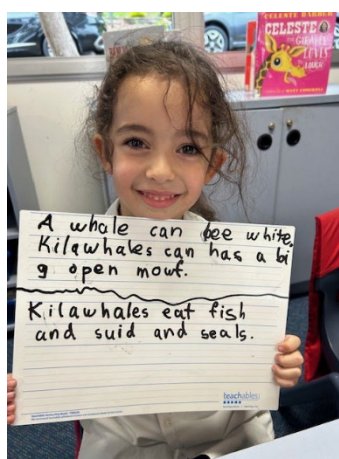
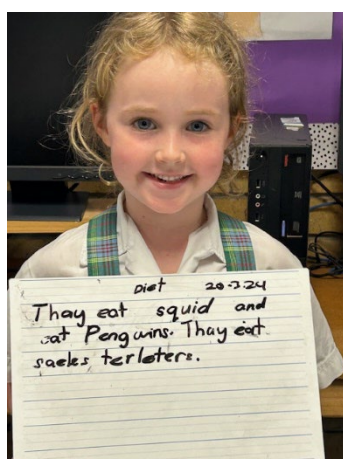
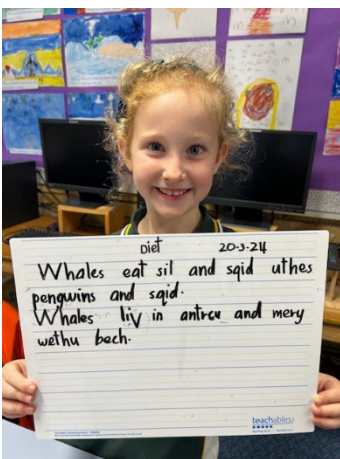
Phonics builds on phonological awareness. During phonics lessons at school, children learn to connect the sound or phoneme to the letter of the alphabet or group of letters that is used to represent it.

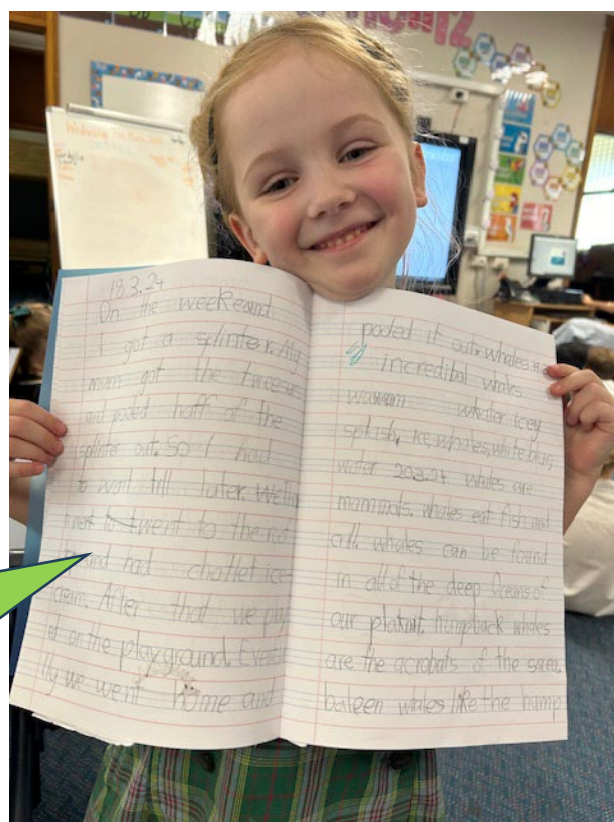
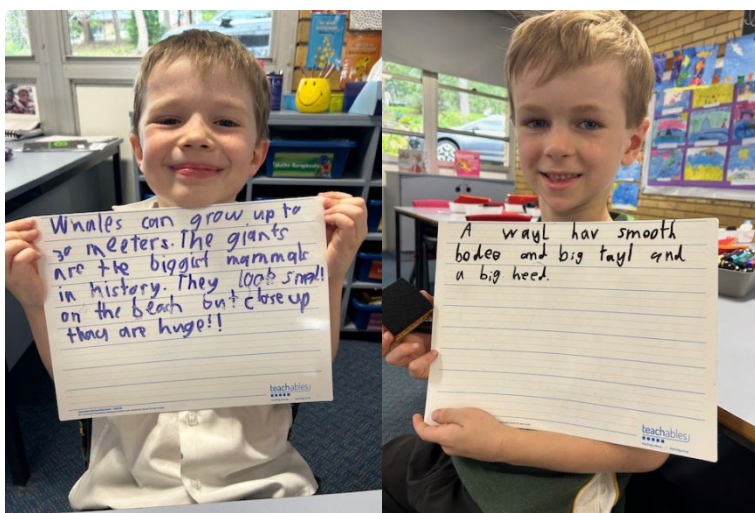
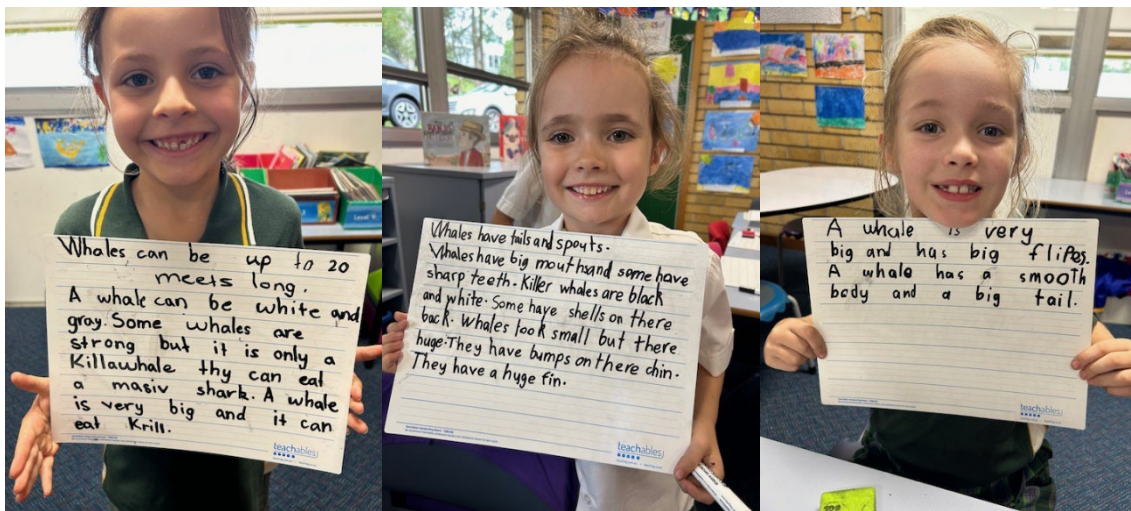
How can families help with phonics learning at home?

- Teach children to write their name. Use a capital letter at the beginning and lower case for the rest of the letters. Write it for them and let them trace it, copy it, make it from play dough or draw it in sand.
- Point out words and letters when reading together. 'There's the letter M, it says mmm for Mummy. Can you see the S that says sss for Sam?'
- Encourage children to find the letters in their name or the names of family members and in other places such as books, signs, product packaging and shop windows.
- Point out different fonts, different ways to write the same letter, when reading and in your local environment.

Class Visits

With NAPLAN taking quite a bit of my week last week, I only got to visit one classroom. What a visit it was! I continue to be blown away each and every week with the amazing learning that I get the pleasure to witness. 1A have been reading factual texts and learning how authors arrange their information so that the reader is able to comprehend what they are reading. Students had been examining texts about whales and using these as a base for their own research. The use of a scaffold encouraged students to organise their information under subheadings. 1A used the information they had read, to write their own sentences for the subheadings 'Appearance' and 'Diet'. Way to go, 1A!





Check out Lily's writing that she completed independently after reading her book about whales during her reading activities. That smile shows just how proud she was of her hard work! Go Lily!

Attendance

WEEK 8 SUCCESSES:

- 341 students are maintaining attendance over 90% with an average attendance rate for this group of 97.6%
- Just over 81% of our students are attending school 90% of the time

Weekly attendance target = 95.1%

Weekly attendance for **Week 8** = 94.5%



Below is a table that outlines each class's percentage of attendance for **Week 8 of Term 1**. Congratulations to all classes who exceeded our attendance target this week!

KA – 95.4%	★ KB – 100% ★	KM – 91.5%	1A – 98.7%
1M – 99.9%	2C – 89.9%	2H – 92.6%	2/3E – 93.2%
3M – 99.3%	3/4K – 97.1%	4B – 91.6%	4F – 91.7%
5/6G – 93.9%	5/6M – 94.4%	5/6P – 89.9%	5/6W – 95.1%

Partial Absences

Week	Total No. of Partial Absences	Sick (going home from school when unwell, medical appointment)	Unjustified (late arrival or early departure – e.g. leaving early for a holiday)	Leave (approved non-medical absence e.g. funeral)
2	40	37.5%	62.5%	-
3	36	50%	47%	3%
4	68	41%	59%	-
5	49	43%	55%	25%
6	53	51%	49%	-
7	60	60%	40%	-
8	54	56%	43%	1%

Have a fabulous week!

Kind regards,

Sarah Jardine

Assistant Principal

Transition to High School in 2025 (for current Year 6)

**Complete your form
by this date:**

Online – 10 April
(Wednesday of Week 11)

To enrol your child in Year 7 for 2025, you will need to complete an Expression of Interest for Year 6 to Year 7 transition. The Expression of Interest (EOI) lets you indicate which school(s) you would like your child to attend in Year 7.

Please note: If a child has two parents who live at different addresses the parent who is in zone for the nominated high school should complete the application eg. The parent in

zone for Kotara HS. Only one application per child please.

The EOI process is available online – **and will close very soon.** After you submit an EOI and it has been assessed, your child will be offered a place at a high school.

If your child will not be attending a NSW Government high school next year, please let us know by completing a Placement Not Required form.

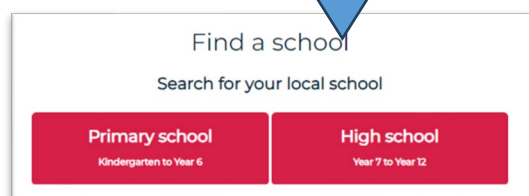
If you are unsure whether they will be attending a NSW Government school (eg. you've applied for a private school, or you are moving interstate), we ask that you still complete an EOI and follow up with your school once a decision has been made.

The online process will guide you through your options and collect the information required to make the process as smooth as possible.

**14 families
still to
complete**

LINKS:

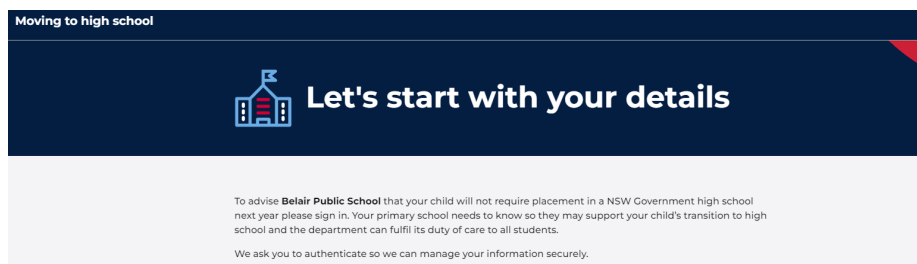
School Finder: <https://schoolfinder.education.nsw.gov.au/>



EOI - <https://year7.enrol.education.nsw.gov.au/?schoolCode=4370>



Or **PNR -** <https://year7.enrol.education.nsw.gov.au/no-placement/?schoolCode=4370>



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Year 7 – 2025: Parent Information evening at Kotara High School

Kotara High School invites Year 6 parents/carers to attend the Year 7 - 2025 Information Evening.

Event details:

Thursday 16 May 2024 at 6PM

Kotara High School – Lexington Parade, Adamstown Heights, NSW, 2289

Multi-Purpose Centre (MPC)

Additional information regarding Year 7 2025 at Kotara High School can be found on the Kotara High School website.



Year 7 - 2025

Parent Information Evening

THURSDAY 16 MAY @ 6.00PM
MULTI-PURPOSE CENTRE
KOTARA HIGH SCHOOL

Meet the Kotara High School Staff & learn about the events that support the transition from Year 6 to Year 7

PSSA Mountain Biking:

On Friday March 22 some Belair students showcased exceptional mountain biking skill and sportsmanship at the PSSA Mountain biking championships.

Despite a change in plans, with the Thursday Primary School event postponed to Friday and combined with the Secondary School event, our students rose to the occasion. The day was a whirlwind of activity, with nearly 500 riders participating from various schools. Starting bright and early at 8:30 am and concluding at 4:00 pm, it was a truly exhilarating experience for all involved.

The event featured two main competitions across different age categories: the XCO (Cross-Country) event and the Funduro event. Our Belair team demonstrated remarkable performance in both categories.

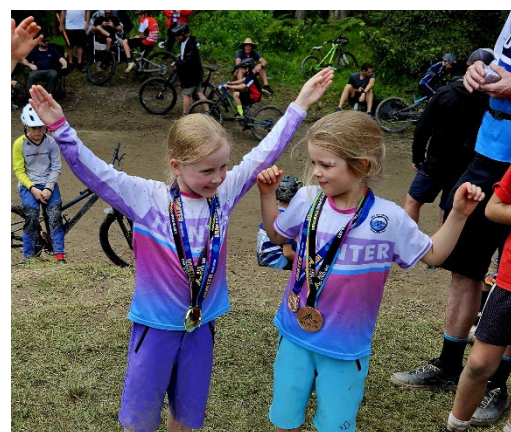


In the Cross Country event, Belair Public School secured an impressive 4th place overall, accumulating 344 points! Special congratulations are in order for Eloise A, who clinched the gold medal, and Eliza D, who secured the bronze.



Furthermore, in the Funduro event, our Belair cyclists emerged victorious, claiming 1st place overall with an astounding 444 points! Noteworthy podium finishes include Eliza D (gold), Eloise A (silver), Flynn D (silver), and Jacob G (bronze). Their outstanding performance underscores the strength and unity of our team.

A big thank you to all the parents and guardians who supported the team at this event.



Results:

- Eloise A; 1st overall, 1st PSSA in XCO, and 2nd overall in Funduro (U9 girls)
- Eliza D; 3rd overall, 3rd PSSA in XCO, and 1st overall in Funduro (U9 girls)
- Edward A; 4th overall, 2nd PSSA in XCO (U13 boys)
- Isabella W; 4th overall, 3rd PSSA in XCO (U13 girls)
- Flynn D; 2nd overall in Funduro (U7 boys)
- Jacob G; 3rd overall in Funduro (U13 boys)



Harmony Day Celebrations

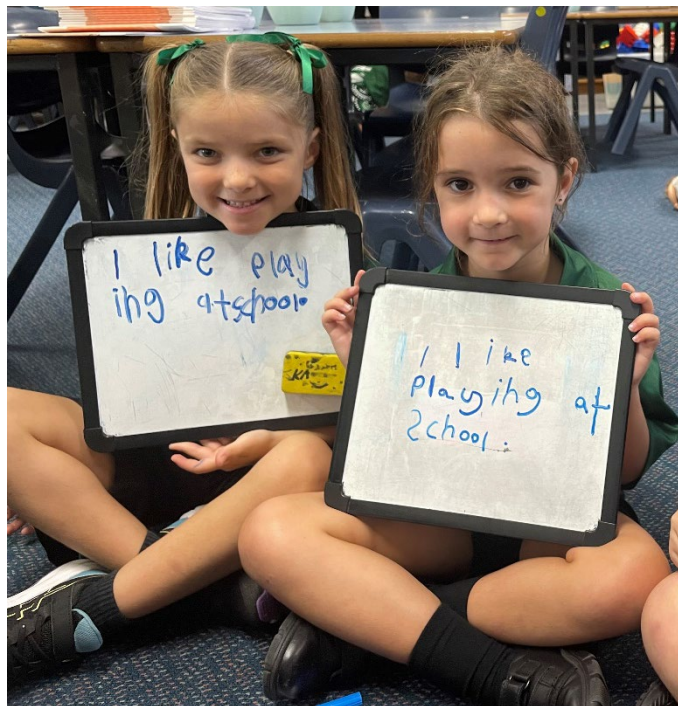
Harmony Day celebrations were fabulous! Congratulations to Choklang T, our Junior choir and school band for your spectacular performances! Thank you to Lexi M and Atticus W for your warm Acknowledgement of Country and a huge shout out to our fantastic School Captains Annaka R and Sam C who did a tremendous job leading our assembly.

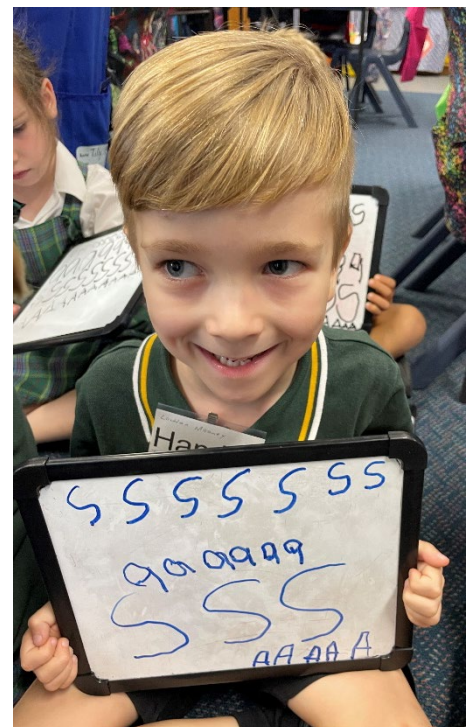
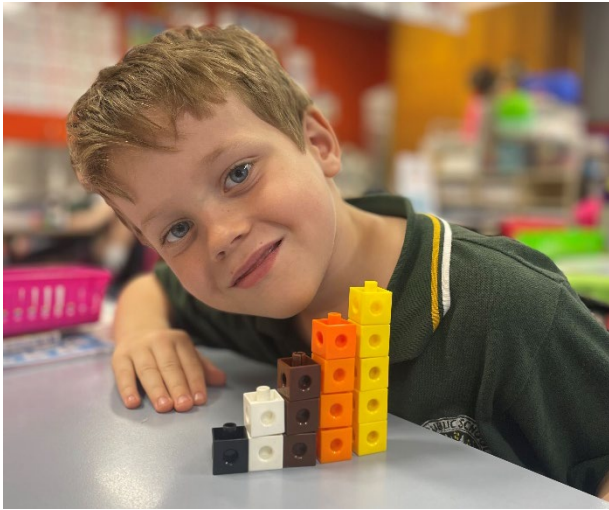
Thank you to all the parents, grandparents, carers and friends who came along to our assembly to support students and enjoy a very quick picnic afterwards. It certainly felt like a celebration with the message of Harmony day, *Everyone Belongs*, at its heart.



Feature Class - KA

KA are engaged and positive learners who strive to do their best. They have been having fun settling into big school, learning routines and participating in all aspects of school life. Check out the photos of their learning in all areas of the curriculum and the big smiles that go with it!





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Feature Class- 3/4K

What a great time we had at the cross country carnival last Friday. Thanks to Mr Moyle for organising the event and keeping the rain away!



3/4K artwork inspired by
Fantastic Mr Fox





3/4K are enjoying learning about fractions. They have been focused and interested learners!





Student Awards

KM	<i>Next Week</i>	2C	<i>Scarlett A, Finn K</i>	5/6G	<i>Matthew K, Bronte S</i>
KB	<i>Zahra C, Edward H</i>	2/3E	<i>Byron M, Matilda G</i>	5/6P	<i>Keigan H, Khye T</i>
KA	<i>Georgia M, Ada R</i>	3M	<i>Next Week</i>	5/6W	<i>Aida W, Thomas N</i>
1M	<i>Next Week</i>	3/4K	<i>Next Week</i>	5/6M	<i>Lily B, Archer H</i>
1A	<i>Cordelia W, Vincent N</i>	4B	<i>Next Week</i>		
2H	<i>Isabelle M, Rex H, Samar R</i>	4F	<i>Elijah G, Harrison G</i>		

Kid's Care Award

Koby W



Canteen News

Hello wonderful Parents and Carers of Belair,

Just a reminder to be aware of what break you are putting in for your child's order. I've had some orders put in for break 1, when it should have been for break 2. I hope everyone has a wonderful and safe Easter Break.

Nanny Robyn

Belair P&C News

Easter Raffle

Ticket sales close on **26 March 2024** and will be drawn on the **27th of March 2024** at 9am.

Winners will be notified and will collect their prizes from the school on 27th and 28th March.

Tickets are \$2 each, 6 for \$10, 10 for \$15, or 15 for \$20. Buy your tickets now (and share the link with family and friends!) - <https://rafflelink.com.au/bpseaster24>

A promotional banner for the Belair P&C Easter Raffle. The banner has a green border and a decorative top edge with a string of colorful Easter eggs. On the left, it says "belair p&c" in a small font, followed by "easter raffle" in large, bold, green letters. Below this, it says "RAFFLE TICKETS ON SALE NOW:" and provides the URL "https://rafflelink.com.au/bpseaster24". In the center, there is a QR code. On the right, there is an illustration of a brown rabbit sitting next to a wicker basket filled with colorful Easter eggs and yellow flowers.

belair p&c

easter raffle

RAFFLE TICKETS ON SALE NOW:
<https://rafflelink.com.au/bpseaster24>





Selective education computer-based test pilot

Is your child in Year 3 or Year 5? Express your interest now to participate in our computer-based test pilot

The department is moving from paper to computer-based tests in 2025 for selective high school and opportunity class entry in 2026.

To help with the change we are testing the use of computers in a test 'pilot'. We are seeking **expressions of interest** from parents and carers for their child to participate.

When is the pilot?

Saturday 22 June 2024

- Pilot opportunity class test:
7:30 am – 11:00 am
- Pilot selective high school test:
12:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Where are the test locations?

- International Convention Centre, Sydney
- University of Newcastle, Callaghan
- Mount Panorama, Bathurst

Participating students get to experience sitting the computer-based test under test conditions

Important: Participation in the pilot will not result in placement in a selective high school or opportunity class.

Year 3 students will sit a **pilot** Opportunity Class Placement Test. Year 5 students will sit a **pilot** Selective High School Placement Test.

Places are limited so express your interest by 12 April 2024 using the link below. There are no fees or charges for the pilot.

Express your interest now

Visit: edu.nsw.link/sepilot



For more information regarding the pilot visit: edu.nsw.link/cbtpilot



NSW
POLICE
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BOATING
SAFETY



SCHOOL
BUS
SAFETY



Child Safety HANDBOOK

A RESOURCE FOR PARENTS,
CARERS AND TEACHERS

You're **2** times more likely
to **survive** a car crash if
you're wearing a **seatbelt**



SEAT BELT
SAFETY



Children can fall out of a
window which is open
more than 12.5cm, even if
a fly screen is present.

MARCH 2024 UPDATE



HOME
FIRE
SAFETY



BEACH
& SUN
SAFETY



Education
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Empowering parents to track their child's education



Easter long weekend and autumn school holidays newsletter



March 2024

The Easter long weekend and autumn school holidays are always a popular time for visiting family and friends, with more traffic than usual on NSW roads. With the addition of the Anzac Day public holiday on 25 April, heavier traffic is expected on the last weekend of the school holidays. Let us help you plan your trip to ensure you experience fewer traffic delays on your journey.



Planning to travel outside Sydney?

To avoid delays, visit the **Journey Planner** to understand predicted traffic pinch points across NSW.



Get real-time updates with Live Traffic NSW

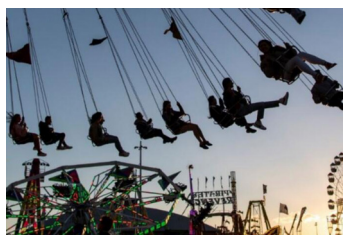
Download the **Live Traffic NSW app** or scan the **QR code** for real-time information about roads and changed traffic conditions. You can save your trip and receive notifications if any traffic incidents occur on route to your holiday destination.



Heading to Sydney Airport?

Easter is one of the busiest periods for Sydney Airport. Allow extra travel time and plan ahead.

To avoid delays, consider catching the train instead. Download the **Opal app** to keep informed of any public transport changes and alerts. If you are driving to the airport, check **Live Traffic NSW** before you leave home.



Visiting the Royal Easter Show?

Consider using public transport instead of driving. Allow extra travel time and plan ahead.

Extra trains and major event buses will run daily. Simply present your show ticket for free travel within Greater Sydney. Plan your trip at **transportnsw.info**. If you need to drive, it's essential you **pre-book parking online**.



Keep safe these holidays

Use these **road trip tools** to help you identify your rest stops, calculate tolls, vehicle load restrictions, and information on available vehicle ferries.



Allow extra travel time

Upgrade works continue across the NSW roads and public transport networks. **Plan ahead**, stay alert, and follow signs and speed limits.







Screen habits to improve sleep

Did you know?

School aged children need between 9 & 11 hours of sleep each night to help them play and learn during the day.

Using screens can affect the quality of sleep and the time it takes for your child to fall asleep.

Try these tips to reduce the negative effects of screens on your child's sleep:

-  Avoid using screens for at least one hour before bedtime. Wind down by reading or playing quiet games
-  Keep tablets, mobile phones and other screen devices in a dedicated place outside of the bedroom every night
-  Encourage your child to connect with friends during the day, rather than messaging or playing games at night
-  Encourage active play outside, rather than using screens after school



GO 4 FUN[®]

HEALTHY ACTIVE HAPPY KIDS

GO4FUN.COM.AU | 1800 780 900

Revolution Maryville

WEDNESDAYS 4PM-6PM

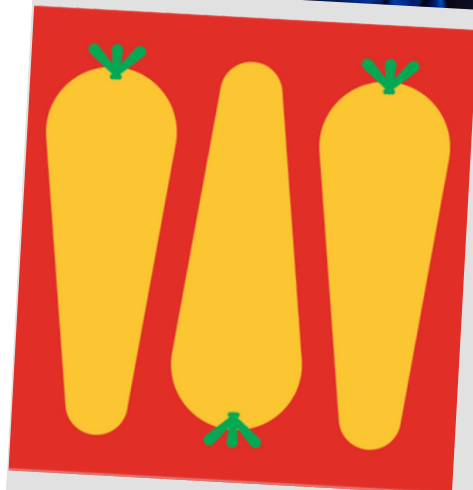
STARTS 01/05/2024

KIDS AGED 7-13 YEARS
AND THEIR FAMILIES

- Register now for term 2!
- Call 1800 780 900 to register
- Make new friends.
- Kids play active games.
- All sessions are FREE!
- FREE T-Shirt, drink bottle and backpack for every child.
- Come along and have some FUN!



HEALTHYEATING
ACTIVE LIVING



GO 4 FUN[®]

HEALTHY ACTIVE HAPPY KIDS

Springloaded
Gateshead
Mondays 4pm-6pm
FREE to all families
with children aged
7-13 years.
Starts 29/4/24

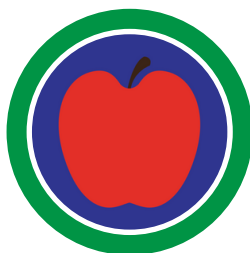
Join us in Term 2!



GET ACTIVE



MAKE FRIENDS



GROW STRONG



HEALTHY EATING
ACTIVE LIVING

Call 1800 780 900 to register or
SMS 0409 745 645 for a call back