

Belair Public School Newsletter

Hub of Learning, Excellence and Opportunity for All

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09 April 2024

Take Just Pride

Term 1 Week 11



Term 1- 2024

April

11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSW PSSA State Swimming Carnival Aboriginal Yarn Up! Whole School ANZAC Assembly
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSW PSSA State Swimming Carnival Gold Award Lunch Last day of Term 1
13-28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Holidays
29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Term 2 Starts Staff Development Day (No Students)
30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All students return for Term 2

May

03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newcastle City PSSA Cross Country (Zone)
07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hunter PSSA Golf Trials
09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choral Fest Junior Choir Selective High School Placement Test (Year 6 students for Year 7 2025) P&C Mothers day stall and breakfast Newcastle City PSSA Football Trials

Principal's Message-

Greetings everyone,

Congratulations to staff, students and parents for an amazing term of hard work, learning and fun. So much has been achieved across curriculum, sporting, the arts and cultural areas this term with many successes to celebrate. Belair is an amazing school which we are blessed as a school community to belong to.

Congratulations to Annika R and Alexis M, who represented Belair at the Hunter Girls Touch Football Trials, and to Gabe J at the Hockey Trials. A huge congratulations to Thomas W who was selected for the Hunter Cricket Team. We are all incredibly proud of you!

We wish Sebastian C all the very best as he goes off to Sydney to represent Belair at the NSW State Swimming Carnival at the end of this week. Thank you to Mrs Flook for attending the two-day carnival and offering her expertise to assist running the event.

Last Wednesday saw several schools come together at Belair for a Premier's Debating training day. Students worked incredibly hard to



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enhance their debating skills, enjoying the opportunity to meet and work together before they face each other in debates commencing next term. Thank you to Ms Kelly for organising and hosting the day at Belair and for the huge amount of work that she does to support our debaters at Belair.

Thank you to the P&C committee and the parent helpers for the fantastic disco that was enjoyed by so many K-6 children last Thursday night. Not only was it a successful community event, a grand total of \$3696 was raised for school resources. Amazing!

The Athletics Carnival was a wonderful community event today. Students participated with sportsmanship, competitiveness, resilience and persistence. There were some outstanding achievements and personal bests whether as place getters or participants. Thank you to Mr Baker for his outstanding organisation of the carnival.

Moving into Term 2, I am taking some leave. During this time Mrs Jardine will be relieving principal. Mr Mort will take up the Assistant Principal Curriculum and Instruction position, relieving for Mrs Jardine. This position will require Mr Mort to be off class Monday to Thursday and Miss Single will teach 1M on these days. Following the outcome of an expression of interest, that will close at the end of this week, there will be a staff member relieving as Stage 1 Assistant Principal, 3 days of the week. We will be able to confirm who this is at the beginning of next term.

Have a wonderful week and enjoy the holiday break!

*Kind regards,
Kathie Colley
Principal*

Wellbeing and Community Engagement

❖ Parent Resource: The First 5 Years

We would like to share access to the Brighter Beginnings Parent and Carer Information Hub. This is a central space for government information and tools to support a child's health and development in their early years. [New hub to help parents and carers navigate the first 5 years](#)

❖ Aboriginal Education Yarn Up

The Term 1 Aboriginal Yarn Up will be on Thursday 11 April from 4:15pm. Aboriginal families should have received 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.



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❖ 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

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.nsw.gov.au/rules-and-policies-belair-public-school)

❖ Parent Information Sharing

Those parents that completed the survey will receive an email sharing contact details of parents wanting to share their email address with other parents in their child's class.



❖ Voluntary Contributions

Congratulations everyone, voluntary contributions are continuing to gradually climb.

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

To date we are sitting at \$13,257.00

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



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.

Comprehension How does comprehension contribute to reading success?

Comprehension or understanding what we read is the whole aim of reading. Good readers comprehend in different ways depending on the book, article or website they are reading. Some of the ways readers comprehend include:

- predicting before reading and as they read
- making connections between what is being read and the reader's past experiences of books, life and the world
- asking questions about what is being read. What is this character going to do in this situation? Why did that character do that?
- monitoring meaning, checking predictions, confirming them, correcting them, re-predicting and rereading
- creating a mental summary of key parts of the story or information
- creating a mental picture of characters, setting
- inferring, interpreting and reading 'between the lines'

- considering the text purpose. Why did the author write this book? How does the author intend for me to respond to this article?

Attendance

WEEK 11 SUCCESSES:

- 331 students are maintaining attendance over 90% with an average attendance rate for this group of 97.4%
- Our whole school attendance rate so far this year is 95.1% - right on target! Let's keep aiming high as we reach the end of Term 1!

Weekly attendance target = 95.1%	Weekly attendance for Week 10 = 93.2%
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Below is a table that outlines each class's percentage of attendance for **Week 10 of Term 1**. Congratulations to all classes who exceeded our attendance target this week!

KA – 91.6%	KB – 93.9%	KM – 95.8%	1A – 96.6%
1M – 92.6%	2C – 93.9%	2H – 91.5%	2/3E – 96.3%
3M – 91.9%	3/4K – 94.1%	4B – 93.5%	4F – 89.9%
5/6G – 89.8%	5/6M – 92.4%	5/6P – 93.4%	5/6W – 95.8%

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)
6	53	51%	49%	-
7	60	60%	40%	-
8	54	56%	43%	1%

9	37	43%	57%	-
10	46	61%	37%	2%

Have a fabulous week!

Kind regards,

Sarah Jardine

Assistant Principal

Selective High School and Opportunity Class Pilot

Computer based test pilot for selective high school and opportunity class placement tests

You may have heard that the selective high school and opportunity class placement tests will become computer-based tests in 2025.

The Department of Education is calling for students to participate in a pilot of the computer-based placement tests to help them prepare for this change.

It's free and **open to students in Year 3** to sit the pilot opportunity class placement test and **students in Year 5** to sit the pilot selective high school placement test.

The pilot will be held on Saturday 22 June 2024 at test centres in Sydney, Newcastle and Bathurst.

Parents of eligible students are invited to submit an expression of interest for their child to participate in the pilot at the University of Newcastle, Callaghan.

Expressions of interest are open between **26 March – 12 April 2024**.

This is a good opportunity for students to take a practice test ahead of the computer-based placement tests in 2025.

Computers will be provided at the pilot test venues for all participating students. Students cannot use their own personal computers.

As this is a pilot of the computer-based tests participating will not result in placement in a selective high school or opportunity class.

For more information contact the department's Selective Education team by email to SEpilotsupport@det.nsw.edu.au



Application for Year 7 2025 Enrichment Class at Kotara High



Kotara High School is now accepting nominations for a Year 7, 2025 Enrichment class. *Please note - These nominations are open to students residing in Kotara High School's local enrolment area only.*

Admission to the Enrichment Class will be based on parent/student completion of the nomination form, a portfolio submission and placement test results.

Students applying for the Enrichment Class should still complete an Expression of Interest form to enrol at KHS as shared in our newsletter.

Further information and a link to the Enrichment class nomination form can be found on the KHS website at [Enrolment - Kotara High School \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.kotarahighschool.nsw.gov.au)

Enrichment Class KHS Application due date: Friday 14 June 2024 (Term 2, Week 7)

Enrichment Class KHS Test date: Thursday 25 July 2024 (Term 3, Week 1)

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)

**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

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

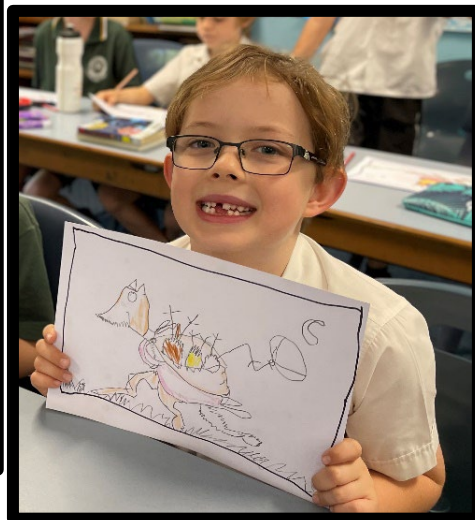
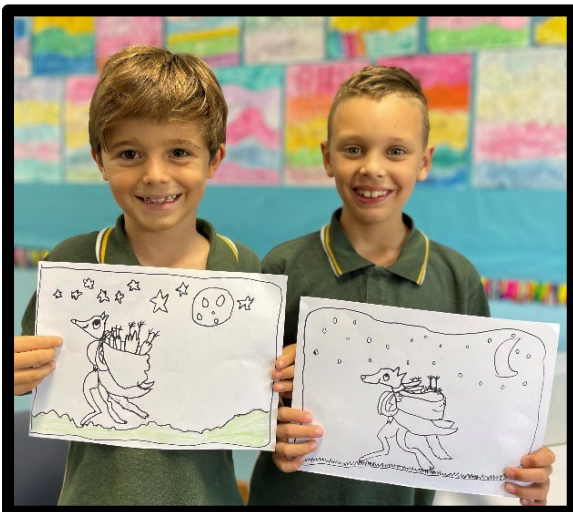


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Feature Class – 2/3E

When we finished our literacy unit on ***Fantastic Mr Fox*** this term, we completed these wonderful artworks of Mr Fox!





We had fun creating an Easter-themed collage!



We've recently been studying the books *Iceberg* and *Earth's Incredible Oceans*. We have had fantastic discussions about Antarctica, the layers of the ocean, creatures living in the ocean and global warming.



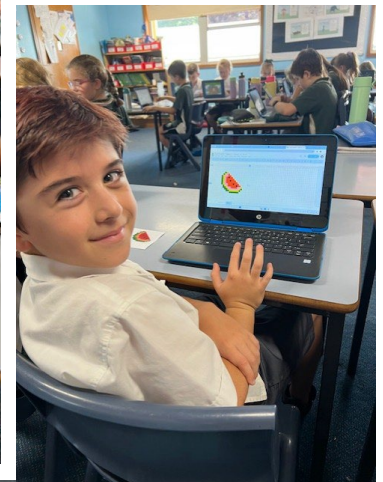
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Feature Class - 3M

This term 3M students have enjoyed experimenting with a range of different art media and techniques. As part of the learning students have explored the history and different types of digital art.

This week students had a lot of fun creating their own digital pixel artwork. Some students chose to follow a template, whilst others got creative and created their own unique design.

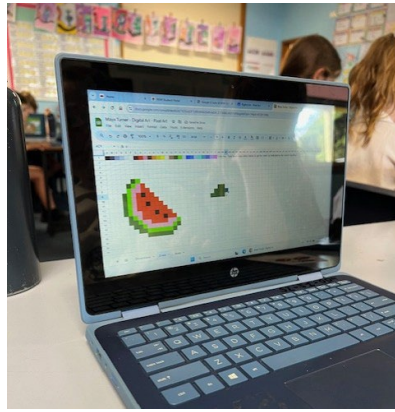


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Empowering parents to track their child's education





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Student Awards



KM	<i>Louis F, Daniella T, Nyah P, Sunny P, Eleni S, Anna K</i>	2C	<i>Eli R, Mariah A, Felix H, Griffin M</i>	5/6G	<i>Thomas B, Stella D</i>
KB	<i>Eva G, Bodhi M, Matilda M, Zoe J</i>	2/3E	<i>Leila A, Willow L, Koby W</i>	5/6P	<i>Next Week</i>
KA	<i>Arden F, Liam H, Frederic V, Alex Z</i>	3M	<i>Oscar C, Rio VDW</i>	5/6W	<i>Milla B, Marlon L</i>
1M	<i>Murphy B, Margot N, Joshua T, Louis B, Kiyon AM, Jake B</i>	3/4K	<i>Niamh B, Hannah P</i>	5/6M	<i>Hudson M, Molly J</i>
1A	<i>Zara P, Harry BD</i>	4B	<i>Makario B, Emilia J</i>		
2H	<i>Ella B, Alexander M, Vincent D, Dawson G</i>	4F	<i>Eva R, Hamish C</i>		

Gold Merit Award



Zoe M	Byron M	Patrick C
Sam E	Rex H	Lily B
Amelia B	Lana M	Maya T
Charlie A		



PSSA SPORT STATE LEVEL

Julian C (Swimming)	
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PSSA SPORT REGIONAL LEVEL

Thomas W (Cricket)		
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THE Creative WORD SHOP

KIDS' APRIL HOLIDAY WRITING WORKSHOPS

THE MAGIC DOOR: Wed 17 Apr, 10am-1pm, Jess Black (7-13)

WRITE & FILM A COMEDY SKIT: Thur 18 Apr, 10am-1pm, David Gairdner (10 -15)

PRESIDENT OF THE GALAXY: Mon, 22 Apr, 10am-1pm, Jess Baker (High School)

MERMAID MEMOIRS: Wed 24 Apr, 10am-1pm, Jess Baker (7-13)

SELECTIVE SCHOOLS WRITING PREP: Fri 26 Apr, 2-5pm & Sat 4 May, 1-4pm
Ed Wright, Yr6: \$135 (max 8 per class)

\$85 each; \$150 for two (bring a friend/sibling or do two) Eligible for Creative Kids Voucher

www.creativewordshop.com.au

3/27 Throsby St, Wickham, NSW

info@creativewordshop.com.au

or phone Ed: 0408788765



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SYDNEY ACADEMY OF CHESS
presents

2024 MAITLAND CHESS CHALLENGES

TENAMBIT COMMUNITY HALL



ONE DAY CHESS TOURNAMENTS FOR KIDS UNDER 18 WHO
WANT TO HAVE FUN AND CHALLENGE THEMSELVES!

DATES	Thursday 18 April (Autumn) Thursday 11 July (Winter) Thursday 3 October (Spring)
VENUE	Tenambit Community Hall Tyrell St nr Kenneth St, Tenambit NSW
COST	\$40 per player <i>\$50 if paid after 5:00pm the day before tournament</i>
TIME	9:15 am Registration 9:45 am Round 1 begins 12:00 pm Lunch break 1:45 pm Prize giving There are short breaks between the rounds.
FORMAT	These tournaments are individual and not team events. The tournaments are restricted to players under 18 years of age. The tournaments are 7-round 'Swiss' competitions. This means that all players play 7 games and no-one is 'knocked out' of the tournaments. The time limit is 15 minutes per player per game. These tournaments will be JCL rated.



PRIZES

Trophies will be given for:

1st Place, 2nd Place,
3rd Place

Medals will be awarded for age prizes to be decided by the arbiter on the day.

✓ All participants receive an electronic certificate of participation

Players are eligible for only one prize.

To enrol please pay online with your credit card or debit card at
www.sydneyacademyofchess.com.au/payment
enter the code **BLWPDCT25H**
and fill in the electronic form, with your child's details.