

Belmont Primary School

Newsletter 15 February 2019



Principal's Comments:

Dear Families and Friends,
A warm welcome back to all our parents and students for 2019 and a special welcome to our 37 new families who joined us at the beginning of the school year. We also have 10 International Students which is wonderful. Our total roll is 389.

For our new families, I send a newsletter out every fortnight, on the Thursday of even school weeks, which is then followed by an assembly on the Friday at 9.00am. Parents are encouraged to attend these assemblies. Tomorrow, Room 16 will present their class item.

A reminder that children should be at school after 8.30am, no sooner and before 8.50am. These times are important as it allows teachers to finalise their planning and it also assists with social development. I have found that children that consistently arrive late struggle with friendships.

Thank you to all the families that used the Online Shop to buy uniform, a first for us. It has appeared this new way of purchasing has been seamless, which is good. We still sell caps/bucket hats at school. If during the year you need to purchase uniform please log onto our website, www.belmont.school.nz and click on Online Shop.

On **Wednesday 27 February we will have our first Parent Teacher Conference. School will close at 12.30pm.** Please ensure you make arrangements for the collection of your child. Mrs Bioletti will be sending out the electronic booking forms on Monday.

As our current families know we are endeavoring to reduce waste at school and are asking all lunch waste to go home and think of other ways to wrap food, yet keep it fresh.

Our second initiative from last year was to encourage self regulatory behaviours which include encouraging children

to walk, bike or scooter to school.

As you are probably aware the Government has announced a review of the current education system which has been in place for 30 years. The staff are currently reviewing and discussing the 32 recommendations. My personal view is that we need a review. Thirty years is a long time to let educational frameworks pass without a review. I am a strong advocate for equity in education. Every school in New Zealand should have strong leadership, fabulous teachers and should be well resourced. Whichever school a child goes to, they should expect high quality education. The reality is this is not so. The Principal could be inadequate, the staff may not be of quality and the Board may not have spent wisely on property maintenance, upgrades or resources. Two of the recommendations I do not agree with include the use of Hubs, which is a bureaucratic organisation which will sit between schools and the Ministry of Education and support all 125 schools on the North Shore. They will be busy!! Our community is fortunate that we have strong Boards with skilled people and they know our community and we know the children. I do not agree with Principals moving to new schools every five years, which the reviewers think will stop competition and choice.

Please take time to read this document and form an opinion and submit a submission.

<https://conversation.education.govt.nz/assets/TSR/Tomorrows-Schools-Review-Report-Dec2018.PDF>

It is Board election year this year and the elections will take place on 8 June. More information will be sent home soon. We have 5 elected Board members who are all parents, 1 elected staff member and the Principal. The current 5 parents have indicated they would like to stand again for another 3 years, however, this does not stop someone else wanting to stand. It is a democratic process. If you would like to know anything about Governance please ask me.

Finally, it is good to be back and seeing all the children engaged, happy and wanting to learn. Thank you.

Bruce Cunningham
PRINCIPAL

Welcome to all our new students



TERM DATES 2018

Term 1 2019 Mon 4 Feb - Fri 12 April
Term 2 2019 Mon 29 Apr - Fri 5 Jul
Term 3 2019 Mon 22 Jul - Fri 27 Sep
Term 4 2019 Mon 14 Oct - Wed 18 Dec

Belmont Senior Music Groups

This week we have invited students to sign up for some of our music groups, and groups start meeting in Week 3. These groups meet before school each, and include Marimba Bands on Tuesday and Thursday at 8.00am, and Bellbirds Senior Choir on Wednesday at 8.15am. The Rock Band is for experienced musicians and auditions start on Friday. All other groups are open to all year 4 - 6 pupils.

If you have any questions about our senior music groups please email kerrya@belmont.school.nz



Kitchen Garden

The kitchen is blossoming. We would like to thank Arlo and Phoenix and their parents (Natalie Denton, Briar and Daniel Collins) for watering the garden over Christmas.

We are looking for volunteers to help with the garden. We especially need someone who could care for the fruit trees.

Please email Ms Harris (jennyh@belmont.school.nz) if you would like to help.

Upcoming Events

Friday 16 February	Assembly with Room
Tuesday 26 February	Discussion sheets sent home
Wednesday 27 February	Parent Teacher Conferences. School closes at 12.30
Wednesday 27 February	Parents puberty talk 4.00 -5.30pm
Saturday 2 March	School Fair
4-7 March	Year 6 Camp
Friday 15 March	Middle and Senior School Swimming Sports
Tuesday 19 March	Interschool Swimming
Friday 29 March	Assembly
Sunday 31 March	Shore to Shore

PTA Update

Hi everyone,

Not long 'til this year's Fun Fair... and we need your help to make it a success!

Just like last year, our 2019 Fair will be all about the kids. There will be loads of games, a Children's Art Exhibition, Kids' Pre-loved Toys & Books Stall (plus some books for grown ups too!), lots of yummy food and of course the annual Battle of the Schools competition.

How you can help before the fair

A list was sent home and shows how you can help in the lead up to the fair. Your child will also get a printed copy of this in their book bag this week - so pop it up on

your fridge as a reminder of what you need to do.

We need your help on the day!

Your child's class has been allocated a stall and you can sign up online to help out. Go to www.belmont.school.nz/online-shop.html and click on 'PTA Signup Rosters' to sign up.

Thanks so much for your support!

The Belmont Primary School PTA

If you have any questions contact Nissa Jameson at

nissa.jameson@yahoo.co.nz

021 107 5942

Wanted To buy - a bike with training wheels for a 3 year old. In good condition. Contact no 021630260 Pat Holdich

Don't forget to check out our website for Photos, Holiday programmes and Community Notices

<http://www.belmont.school.nz/>