

Belmont Primary School

Newsletter 3 December 2020



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Dear Families and Friends of Belmont Primary School,

This is the last newsletter of the year and it is a time to thank staff, parents and wish our Year 6 children all the best for their new learning adventures.

To all staff of Belmont Primary School, thank you for everything you do to support the learning of all children, and you do this in many ways. We are sad to farewell Ester Dawbin who is moving to Palmerston North and at the same time we will welcome Claudine Wallace to our school as a Year 3 teacher. All other staff are remaining which once again is fantastic for the continuity and stability of learning at our school.

Thanks to all the families who are leaving us after many years of support. Tim McAlpine and Rob and Jeni Nicholls take the "longest here" award after 12 years of wonderful service in so many ways, closely followed by three families who are leaving after 11 years - the Sweetmans, the Laings and the Andrevskis, all who have also contributed in so many ways. There are over 30 families altogether leaving our school. Thank you again for your support which took many forms and is deeply appreciated.

We sent out over 120 invites for our helpers morning tea which is amazing and many of these are new families who are now taking over the baton from our 'older' families.

To our Year 6 students, you all have been amazing in what will be a year you will remember forever. Your learning continued on an upward trajectory, your friendships got tighter and your support of each other was special. I am looking forward to celebrating your achievements at prize giving next Friday.

Our building project is just about complete (ask me in February), however over the holiday period our field is being dug up, leveled, new drains installed and then new grass. The field will be closed off to the public

over the entire break so no damage will occur. Our driveway is also being ripped up and resealed in January so once again there will be no access from 11-20 January.

As part of the Teachers Collective we must notify you of any planned Teacher Only Days at least one term in advance. The Board has asked if I could notify you of all Teacher Only Days for the 2021 year. School will be closed on 16 April, 25 June, 27 August and 19 November. Our school will also have a joint Teacher Only Day for professional development on Friday 4 June with all Peninsula Schools as part of our Community of Learning alliance. You may want to put these in your diary now and this could help with a few long weekends for your family.

We are in the middle of doing our class placements for 2021. There are many factors to consider when placing 400 students and the matrix is complicated. We take a lot of time discussing each child, looking at the class mix, friendships or who they should have a break from. Your child will bring their report home on Tuesday 15 December, along with the 2021 class placement. The children will find out on Tuesday 15 December who their new teacher is and their new classmates prior to interval. Please trust our judgements. It is very difficult to move a child as this has consequences on the friendship part of the decision and then class numbers. Please see me after the first six weeks of Term 1 if you are not happy with the class and we can have a discussion then. All our staff are excellent and offer different skills.

Finally, I wish you all a very happy Christmas with your families, enjoy spending more time together and I look forward to seeing you at the prizegivings and then next year.

Thank you again for your support.

Bruce Cunningham
PRINCIPAL