

# BELMONT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter 11 August 2011

## Principal's Comments

*Dear Parents, Families and Friends of the School,*

Welcome back and I hope you all have a very productive Term 3. This term, like all others will be busy for children, staff and families.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new families. I am very confident the school will meet your child's social and learning needs.

We have started our New Entrant room this term (Room 7) with teacher Rachel Somerville. Rachel worked as a teacher in the UK and in Cyprus. Her youngest child Aimee is in Year 2. We were fortunate to have Rachel as a teacher aide for two terms and this orientation with Jenny Harris in Room 12 was of great benefit.

This week has already been busy with our bi-annual book week. May I take this opportunity to thank all families who donated books for the school library, bought books for the home and for all the work in preparing 'book character costumes' for tomorrow's parade. The children certainly enjoy getting dressed up. Many thanks to the PTA for their support. It is greatly appreciated.

Last month a new committee was formed—the International Parents' Committee. These parents are keen to support the school. At tomorrow's assembly they will be trialling a new initiative for assemblies by serving tea, coffee and milo with some finger food, to adults only, from 8.30am. Payment by donation. I will send information home in the next newsletter regarding this committee. The group is meeting again on Tuesday 16 August at 6pm in the staff room, the purpose being to delegate and action some of these ideas. All international families are welcome to attend. Please bring a small plate to share.

Thank you, in advance, for attending the Parent Teacher Conference today. These interviews are important for you, your child and the teacher. For some families 10 minutes may not have been long enough and if this was the case, or for some reason you could not make it, please arrange another time with your child's teacher. There are many reasons which affect children's progress and achievement. I have been fortunate to be able to partake in post graduate studies over the past 4 years, specializing in Educational Leadership. Many of my post graduate papers concentrated

### TERM DATES

<b>Term 3</b>	<b>Tue 2 Aug</b> to Fri 7 Oct
<b>Term 4</b>	Tue 25 Oct to Thu 15 Dec
<b>Term 1 2012</b>	Thur 2 Feb to Thur 5 Apr
<b>Term 2</b>	Mon 23 Apr to Fri 29 June
<b>Term 3</b>	Mon 16 July to Fri 28 Sept
<b>Term 4</b>	Mon 15 Oct to Tue 18 Dec

on the theme of student achievement. I believe there is a strong tendency in New Zealand to stress the importance of "excellent" teachers. And we should do this. High quality teachers just don't 'appear;' They have many wonderful attributes and I know that our staff are high quality, so we as a community are very fortunate. Our teachers are the main influence on learning within the school. However, my readings and research have shown that social variables outside the school still remain responsible for most of the variation in educational attainment. This is you. Yes there are some exceptions to this, including our children who have special learning needs. High quality schools such as Belmont Primary School tend to have multi-faceted approaches to education – they do not achieve results simply through quality classroom practice alone, they have high parental involvement, extra curricula activities and high social skill expectations. You as parents are the main influence on your children's future, socially and academically.

Last Friday we were presented with a \$10,000 voucher from Colgate for coming in the top 5 in the Carton Collection Race. On behalf of all staff, thank you all very much for your energy and persistence. This is an amazing effort. The vouchers are for sports equipment.

The senior syndicate is undertaking a project of beautifying the concrete block planters. This project will last for a term with the services of an artist in residence, Jill Cahill. It will allow the children to develop further skills in mosaics and will enable the staff to have some PD.

Mrs Harvey's Bellbird Choir entered a competition on Monday which was for Auckland Primary Schools. 18 schools entered this choral festival and the Bellbirds received a silver award. I thoroughly enjoyed the evening at the town hall and our choir was brilliant. Thanks to Mrs Harvey and Mrs Lewis, our accompanist, for all their dedication and passion.

**Bruce Cunningham**

*PRINCIPAL*



# Book Week

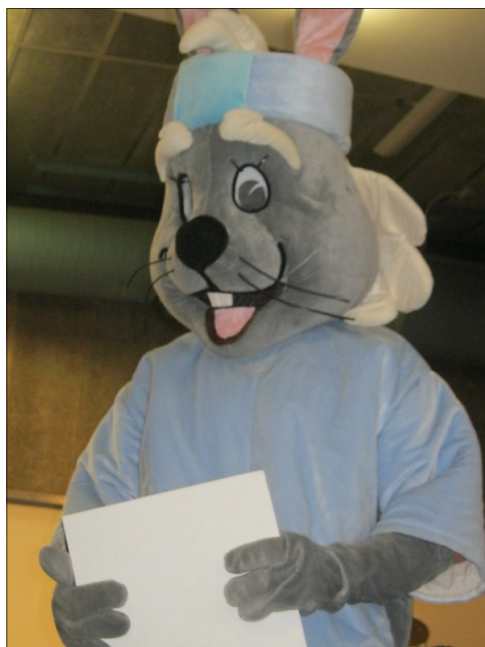


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Certificate Winners 24 June	
Room 1	Felicity Lewis
Room 2	
Room 3	Jonathan Harknett
Room 4	Rhiaan Harema
Room 5	Amber Lamont-Bennett
Room 6	Siena Green
Room 8	Georgina Shanahan
Room 9	Jonah Rees
Room 10	Hannah Oliver
Room 11	Oscar Burke
Room 12	Rachel Miller
Room 13	James Daniel
Room 14	Huntyr Peden
Room 15	Abhijit Raj
Values	Jackson Rice

## Belmont Intermediate School

We are looking for a Teacher Aide to work with an ORRS (Ongoing Reviewable Resource) funded student for 10 hours a week, during term time, in our Learning Support Centre. Applicants must have experience working with students with complex needs, be physically fit and have a great sense of humour! Hours to be negotiated. Enquiries and applications to [mbrooke@belmontint.school.nz](mailto:mbrooke@belmontint.school.nz)



*The Colgate Bunny came to visit*

## Welcome students

Welcome to our new students Sarah and Charlise Mitchell from Silverstream School, Wellington, Alex, Bella and Henry Kinnon from Riverview School, Keri Keri, Joseph French from Karaka Primary School, Isabella from Harewood School, Christchurch, Peter Bishop from St Josephs School, Fielding, Elva Choi, Suzin Oh, Ashley Lim, JiYoung Park, Hellen Hwang, Cindy Park and Ryan Um from Korea, Ryan Du Bois De Dunilac from Spain and Christopher Williams from Japan.

We also welcome the following New Entrants Kyra Richardson-Heys, Sophie Renee, Sarah Berry, Samuel Heiderich, Hettie Read, Charlotte Buchanan and Eloise Thorne.

## Phones For Starship

We are collecting old mobile phones for the Starship's Air Ambulance Service fundraising campaign. The good news is that our school gets to benefit too. Depending on how many phones our school collects, there are some exciting rewards we can claim, including interactive whiteboards, projectors, PCs, books, handycams, sports gear and cameras. Please drop off the phones in the box at the office.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Matthew Du Faur for winning a silver medal at the JudoKwai Judo competition.

Milford Judo Club has a couple of spaces available this term, so if your son or daughter is interested in learning Judo contact Nigel Bassett [Milfordjudo@windowslive.com](mailto:Milfordjudo@windowslive.com).

## New Vest Order

If you would like to purchase the new school vest, please see Robyn at the office before 18th August to place an order. Samples vests are available to be tried on, the cost is \$42.

## Community Notices

**We have a brochure display unit in the office area with a huge range of notices. Please pop into the office and have a look.**

KUMON IS NOW OPEN IN BELMONT! Using mathematics and English as a base, Kumon gives children a strong academic foundation, a positive attitude towards school work, confidence, good concentration ability, a sense of achievement, and the ability to self-learn advanced topics. To find out how your child can experience this joy of learning, contact Sylvia Wong to attend the next Parent Orientation. 09-410-2183 or 021-886-991, e-mail: [kumonbelmont@gmail.com](mailto:kumonbelmont@gmail.com).

### St John Youth:

You may already be aware that St John provides many services within local communities and that the St John Youth programme is an important part of the overall activities that St John provides. The St John Youth Programme focuses on teaching first aid, health care, leadership, self-discipline and life skills with fantastic opportunities to meet new people and experience new things, all while having fun! St John Youth is for all young people from 6 to 18 years; our Penguin Programme caters for 6 - 8 year olds, while our 8 to 18 year olds work through the Grand Priors badge, which is a royal award similar in structure to the Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Award. There are also lots of opportunities for those over 18 to become leaders. The Devonport division meets on Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm at the Devonport Scout Hall on Allenby Avenue.

## A Message from Belmont Intermediate

We are holding an **Information Evening** at Belmont Intermediate School for parents and caregivers of Year 6 students intending to come to BIS in 2012. This will be followed by an **Open Day**, when the school will operate 2 tours around the school. The school is open for students, parents and caregivers to see how BIS operates.

During September we will hold **2 enrolment evenings** at BIS for parents/caregivers to come along with their child to hand in their enrolment forms and other paperwork.

The dates are as follows:

**Information Evening** - Thursday 18 August 6.30pm in the BIS school hall

**Open Day** - Thursday 25 August – Tours at 9am and 1.45pm, BIS hall

**Enrolment Evenings** – Wednesday 7 & Thursday 8 September from 3.15pm to 7pm in the Information Centre

## Upcoming Events

Wednesday 24 August	Sausage Sizzle
Wednesday 21 September	Sausage Sizzle