



Belfast School

care I share I learn I grow

Newsletter

11 February
2015

A very special welcome to our new pupils:

Nathan Sawyer, Joshua Bray, Brooke Bray, Zac Hippolite, Connor Reader, Bobbi-Jean Bailey-McDowell, Maia Harrison, Kiara Harrison, Joel Williams, Niah Williams, Hollie Abbot, Brooklyn Reynolds-Peterson, Zhibang Cheng, Naomi Strydom, Abigail Strydom, Azariah Strydom, Carlin Dilger, Cam'ron Grigg, Wiremu Raroa, Laxmi Adhikari, Isaac Oates, Kaiden Collins, Olivia Johnston, Daisy Nicolson, Isabella Eder, Zachary Clark, Ashlee Hall, Kaliah Lucas, Savarnah Hewson, Caitlin Elkington, Anna-lee Batstone, Aidan Te'evale, Sebastian Strydom, Chelsey Attwood and Harry Ralph.



Dear Parents/Caregivers

Welcome: A very warm welcome back to school for 2015. A special welcome to our new families and our new staff member, Mr Steve Ayers in Room 12. We had a lovely Powhiri to welcome Steve and our new children last week. I hope you all had a lovely relaxing summer holiday, the weather has certainly played its part this time round.

Reminders: As its been such a long and relaxing break, here are a few reminders to help you get back into 'school mode' again:

Sun Hats: Given the hot summer we are having, it is essential your child has a wide-brimmed sun hat to wear at school. Can you please ensure they have one at school every day.

School Uniform: Can you please ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform. Thanks.

Parking! Please **do not drive** into the school grounds to drop off/pick up your children. This is a safety issue for your children. With 444 children and Parents arriving/leaving at these busy times you will appreciate the need to keep your vehicles out of the grounds. Finally, please do not park on the yellow lines outside the school to drop off your children, it is illegal and you block the view for the Road Patrollers. Thank you for your co-operation.



No Dogs: Please do **not** bring your dogs into the school grounds. This is a health issue for your children. You would be shocked to know how often Kevin has to clean up "doggie poos!"

Hair Styles/Cuts: I would like to remind you that the school has a policy regarding hair cuts/styles after some children returned to school with inappropriate cuts/styles. We would appreciate any inappropriate styles being rectified asap. To read this policy visit <http://belfast.schooldocs.co.nz> Username: belfast Password: sheldon Search for the "Uniform" policy.

Lost Property Sale: Will be held **tomorrow**, Thursday, 12 February at 8.30 a.m. at the back of Room 13.



Mufti Day: is **tomorrow**, Thursday, 12 February. To acknowledge and support the Cricket World Cup Opening tomorrow night the children can come dressed to support their favourite team or a team's colour. Gold coin donation per child with proceeds going to the Senior Syndicate to help with resources.

Out of Zone Enrolments: Applications for Out of Zone enrolments are available by emailing principal@belfast.school.nz This is for enrolments for Years 1-6 between Terms 2 and 4, 2015. Applications close 4.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 18 February.



Swimming: Can you please ensure your child brings their togs to school every day, despite what the weather might be like. Swimming is part of the Curriculum and the children need to be able to partake just as they do for Reading, Writing etc. Swimming has even more importance this year due to the high number of drownings during the Christmas holidays. If your child is unwell and cannot swim for health reasons, please provide a note for the Teacher, thank you.

School Donation: If you are able to make your school donation now that would be appreciated. This year, more than any other, we are in a position where the school donation has become a very important component of our income. Whilst it is not a big component of that income, we do rely on it. With the change of our Decile rating from a 6 to a 7 we have lost \$12,000 from the Ministry of Education's Operation Grant that we receive. As schools have limited opportunities to raise 'other' funding, we have become more reliant on such income as school donations. Thank you for your support.

The yearly donation scale is: 1 child \$75.00; 2 children \$100.00; and 3+ \$125.00. A reminder too that your child's **Activity Fee** is \$15.00 per term. Payment for any of the above can be made to Donna in the Office. We provide **Eftpos** and AP facilities for payment.

House T-Shirts: Can be purchased for \$15.00 from the Office.

Scholastic Book Club: This year each child will receive 2 brochures per term which covers all ages. The closing date for first orders will close on Friday, 27 February and any cheques are to be made payable to *Belfast School*.

Absences: If your child is absent or going to be late, can you please let the school Office know before 9.00 a.m. on 323-8849 Absences option; Text 027 6364254 or email absences@belfast.school.nz Thank you.

Meet the Teacher for children Years 1-6: Will be held on **Thursday, 19 February beginning at 6.00 p.m.** with a 'bring your own' Fish & Chip OR Picnic tea in the green space by the new adventure playground. From there you will be able to go and visit your child's/children's Teacher where there will be opportunities to see your child's room and ask questions/chat to the Teacher. The evening will conclude at 7.30 p.m. You are welcome to bring your children with you.



Do you have a child turning 5 years of age this year? If you are unsure whether you have enrolled your child can you please contact Sally on 323 8849 to check. From our records we note that we have several families with children at school have a child turning 5 but are yet to receive completed Enrolment forms. We look forward to hearing from you.



Cellphones: A reminder that children who bring a cellphone to school, for whatever reason, need to hand it into the School Office (the safest option) or to their Teacher. We will not take any responsibility for a cellphone brought to school that is not handed into the Office.

Beach Education: Over the next week and a half the children will be participating in Beach Education at the New Brighton beach. On their trip day the children do not have to wear their school uniform. This programme is part of our Term 1 topic - Keeping Ourselves Safe - Sun & Water Safety along with Significance - Identity and Wellbeing. For the Year 5-8 children they will be looking at Continuity and Change and Relationships.

On-line Access: This year we are moving more into communicating with you online. It is therefore **VERY** important that we have your current email address. If this has recently changed can you please let the school Office know or email principal@belfast.school.nz However, if you do not have an email account or online access, can you also let us know as we will provide your child with paper copies of any communication, thank you.

Peter Simpson - Principal



Mr Ayers ★

There is a fantastic new teacher in Room 12 and we got the chance to ask him some questions.

1. What are three words to describe your classroom? – Fabulous, Amazing and Colourful!
2. What is your favourite animal and how many pets do you have? – Hamster and I don't have any pets because hamsters are illegal in NZ.
3. What was your first job? – Grubbing thistles on my Mum and Dad's farm.
4. What colour describes you? – Green for go!
5. What's your favourite shoe brand? – Sketchers



Mrs Taylor ★

Give a warm welcome to the exquisite Deputy Principal, Mrs Taylor. We got to ask her some questions...

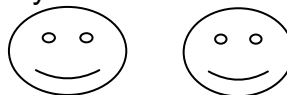
1. What is your favourite animal and how many do you have? – dogs, as they make great companions. I have a dog, cat, hens, sheep and cows.
2. Two words to describe Belfast School? – Friendly Community
3. If you were on a frozen, stranded island what 3 things would you bring? – family – chocolate (and plenty of it!) – clothes
4. What would be your dream travel destination, and why? – Vietnam, after seeing Mr Sutherland's holiday video it looks like a place that would provide me and my family with lots of new cultural experiences.

Lagan Edwards (middle)

Greetings, I am one of the spectacular Reporters for Belfast school. I am also Head Girl and that is an extraordinary experience. My hobbies include my iPod, playing netball, and my awesome dog Benji. I don't know what would be my favourite colour unless rainbow counts. My favourite subject is writing but I hate it when you get stuck in a story and you have to stop. I am looking forward to 2015 and I can't wait to see what things I accomplish.

Chloe Wooldridge (left)

Hello, my name is Chloe, I am also one of the amazing Reporters for 2015. I love animals, I like to read and I have one Siberian husky dog called Ritchie and I also have 2 cute cats. I am sporty and love to run. I have one brother called Cameron, in Room 11, he is amazing. I'm looking forward to 2015, its going to be a great year.



CAITLYN FORD# (RIGHT)

Hello, I am also one of this year's Reporters. I like animals and outdoors stuff. I have 7 birds, 1 dog and 1 cat. I have a brother in Room 12, Spencer. My hobby is horse riding and my favourite animal is a horse. My favourite subject is writing. I am looking forward to technology and camp this term.





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Principal

Peter Simpson

Board of Trustees Chairperson

David Cuniffe

Important Dates - February

Thurs. 12	Mufti Day, gold coin donation
Fri. 13	Technology starts
Mon. 16	Assembly at 2.15 p.m.
Wed. 18-Fri. 20	Seniors at Camp
Thurs. 19	Years 1-6 Meet the Teacher 6.00 p.m.
Wed. 25	Newsletter
Thurs. 26	Triathlon: UMS/SNR a.m. JNR/LMS p.m.

Community Notices

Belfast Community Network:

Girls Group for Years 7+ on Monday nights 6-8pm. Starts Monday, 16/02 at the BCN Centre in Sheldon Park. What's it about? Fun, yummy food, pampering sessions, music and girl talk. \$20.00 for 7 weeks. Ph 323 9731 to book a place.

Youth Group for Years 7+ on Friday nights 6-8pm. Starts Friday, 20/02 at the Youth Room at Belfast Community Pool. Games, activities, music, food and a place to hang with friends. \$20.00 for 6 weeks. Ph 323 9731 to book a place.

Transformation Hatha YOGA on Thursdays 9.30-11am, 12 Feb. to 19 Mar. \$72 for 6 week term. Ideal for all abilities, including beginners. Smaller class size to meet individual needs. Ph Nadine Marshall 021 689733 to register for the term.

Simply Lunch: This is a get together for anyone in the area to join where we gather to have a lunch and meet new people. Lunch is a gold coin donation, we like to encourage food sharing and book swapping. We go on outings and info will be on our website. Call 323 9731 to register.

Belfast Netball Club Registration Day:

Sunday, 22 February 2-4pm at the Belfast Netball Courts (beside Kindy) OR you can register online at www.belfastnetball.co.nz

Trial dates: U13 Wed. 11 March at 5.30pm & Sun. 15 March at 10am. U11 & 12 Sat. 21 March at 10am. Future Ferns (Y4 & 5) will be contacted regarding team placements, please register online or at the Registration Day.

Orienteering Day 2015

At the Groynes, Recreation Lakes, Johns Road on Sunday, 22 February. Walk, skip or run - suitable for individuals, groups and families. Mass starts regularly from 10.30am to 1pm. Course closes at 2pm. Visit bethere.co.nz for more details.

STREETS CHILDREN'S DAY

Sunday 1st March 2015 - 10am - 3pm



Come along and celebrate Children's Day a FREE community event at Air Force Museum at Wigram. Entry to the Park is FREE and all 40 fun filled activities are FREE. Please bring your own drinking water. For more information contact 941 8999 or check the Be There website <http://bethere.co.nz/>

Poppies Preschool at 344 Gardiners Road is now open and are holding an **Open Day** on Sat. 14 February between 10-12noon. Sausage sizzle and face painting. Hope to see you there. Visit www.poppiespreschool.co.nz or 359 4007.

Northern Bulldogs Rugby League Club

based in Kaiapoi; **Club Registration Days** Sunday 15/02 10am-12 noon; Wednesday 18 February 6-7pm and Sunday 22 February 10am-12 noon at Murphy Park, Kaiapoi. Junior and Senior players welcome. All new players to bring ID. Enquiries phone Jenny 021 1128626 or Machael 027 5651212. Visit www.northernbulldogs.org