

The Belltrees P.S. Bulletin



Belltrees Public School — "We Give Our Best" **Term 3 2020**

Principal's Message:

Another term has passed and it is time to reflect on our achievements. Moving forward the school has decided to showcase our activities and achievements to the community in 5-weekly bulletins. We hope you enjoy.

This term has been unique in many ways but that doesn't mean we weren't busy. Our students continue to grow into tremendous young citizens, building their academic and social/emotional knowledge, continually impressing their teachers. Each and everyone of them should be extremely proud of themselves.

The students have participated in a range of academic activities. The school has updated its STEM resources and the kids are impressed. Students participated in a state-wide chess tournament against over 70 other students with Riley coming second in the competition. We were visited by our friends up the road for Healthy Harold and other activities. Overall, it has been a very busy term.

Getting back to nature - with excursions on the not permitted list, we got to work on our own backyard. Our gardens are flourishing with produce. The school's chooks are beginning to lay some eggcellent eggs and the paddock WOW!

This term our paddock has exploded with activity. With support from Scone Toyota and our 'Sponsor a Tree' initiative the school has created an orchard with a wide variety of fruit trees which will feed the school for many years to come. The community came together to support the school in establishing our ponds and update our paddock layout/fencing to enhance the school's focus on regenerative agriculture. Local beef station, Balarang and Crawley donated sheep to the school's program making our enrolments 10 students, 8 sheep and 17 chooks. It has truly been a hype of enthusiasm to bring this project together and the result is magnificent. Thank you to all who have supported these efforts.

Finally the school completed our External Validation. This process reflects on the school progress and achievements by external department staff. This process allowed the school to evaluate and showcase its activities and performance in reference to the School Excellence Framework. From the feedback from this process, we were very pleased to see that our school is achieving highly across all areas of this framework.

That ties up my quick reflection of this term. I hope our families and students have a well deserved break over the holidays. Keep healthy and enjoy living in our beautiful part of the world.





One of the school's proudest achievements is our Paddock to Plate program. With school lunches on hold, our student were able to take home their fruit of their labour. Each family were provided a range of school grown produce and eggs to enjoy. It was wonderful to see the excitement of students harvesting their crops. Well done guys!



Chloe Reeves
I'm very jealous! 🍷 ...

Like · Reply · Message · 11w

↳ 1 Reply.



Tony Mason
Susanna Bartlett ...

Like · Reply · Message · 11w



Tony Mason
This is a fantastic school led by fantastic teachers well done all ...

Like · Reply · Message · 11w



Sallina Crowe
Great job ...

Like · Reply · Message · 11w



Lucinda Scott
Thank you! 🍷 ...

Like · Reply · Message · 11w



Trish Ferguson
Well done to team Belltrees ...
Enjoy the break

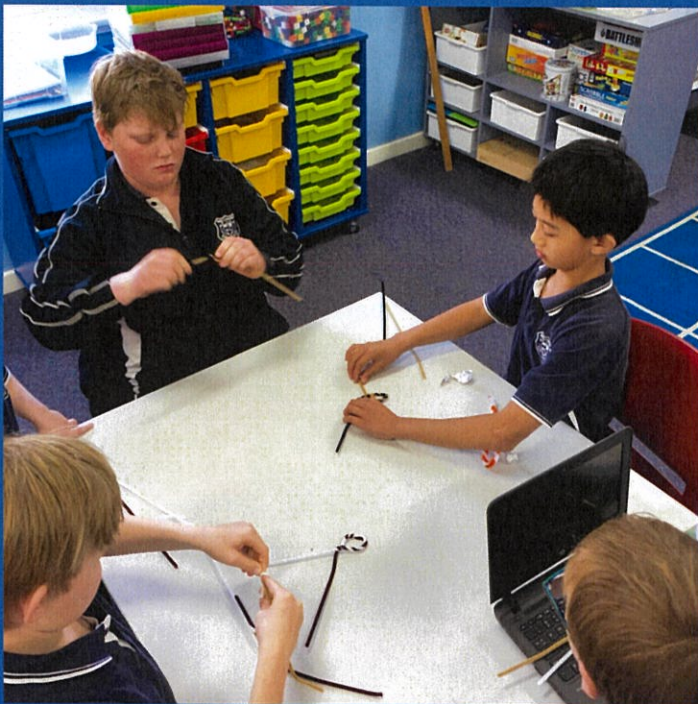
Like · Reply · Message · 11w



Bek Taylor
Beautiful! Thanks 🍷 ...



Our new recycling bins keep everyone accountable for how much rubbish we are putting into landfill. This term we have been able to reduce the number of rubbish bins the council picks up each week from 3 bins to 1 bin.



The students took inspiration from The Art Gallery of New South Wales sculpture collection. We studied the human form and shape, looking at how the sculpture was frozen in time but still showing movement. The students created a variety of action poses with great results.





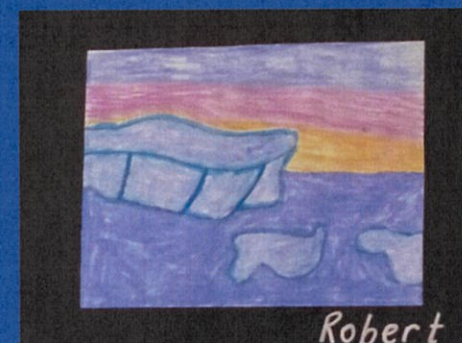
The students viewed the Sunflower series by Vincent Van Gogh and looked at the overlapping patterns made by the petals of a sunflower. Using collage techniques, oil pastels and lots of glitter the students created their own beautiful pieces of sunflower art.

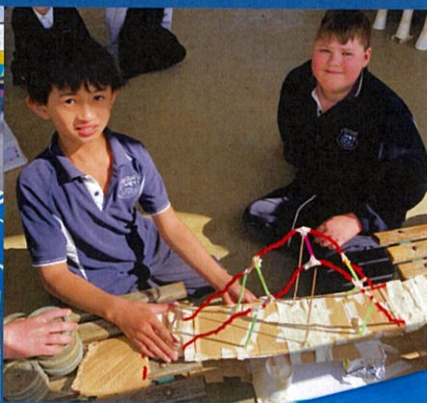
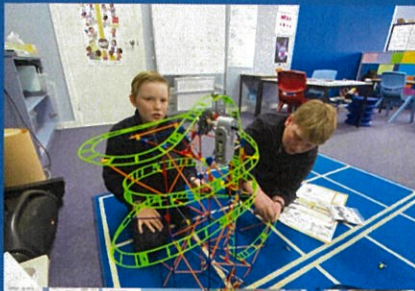


Oil pastels and an Antarctic ice shelf was the inspiration for this activity. Students discussed the perspective, form and colours of the ice shelf before creating their pieces. They sketched from a photo and then used oil pastels to add colour and texture.



In this art activity the students looked at the colourful chameleon for inspiration. We used special watercolour paper and created tones within the one colour. The students learnt about the different techniques to apply when using watercolours, like bleeding, washing out and dripping.





The Students worked in pairs to research different bridge structures and the engineering involved. They were then given the task of picking a structure from their research to create a bridge only using the materials provided. The aim of the activity was to see how much weight each bridge could hold. There was a lot of redesigning, negotiating and testing before the final weights were put on each bridge. We had a few epic crashes and one left standing.



One great activity the students have been participating in for sport and PE is the Ninja Line. The kids love challenging themselves to reach the other side of the obstacle course. One of these kids, will definitely be the next Ninja Warrior.



Probably the most ambitious effort for the school this term was the establishment of the ponds. From years of no rain = no water and when the school received rain it meaning our school's shed and grounds being dumped with top soil and flooding, a new plan was developed. From our learning at our Regen Ag excursion and through a major community effort, we developed contours and the ponds to 'flow the flow' and redirect the water. This process meant we were able to achieve many of our goals; stop the flow, rehydrate our paddocks and filter the water before it reaches the Hunter River. This achievement could not have been possible without the generous support from many local businesses – Bernie Wood Singleton Earthmoving, CEO Chris Bennet and dozer driver Leon Turner, Merrimuka Pastoral and Farm Easy. Our gratitude to these companies cannot be overstated as the potential of this project is limitless. Thank you.





It was a wonderful display of community support when Balarang and Crawney not only assisted with fixing the paddock fencing but also donated a herd of sheep to contribute to our regenerative agriculture program



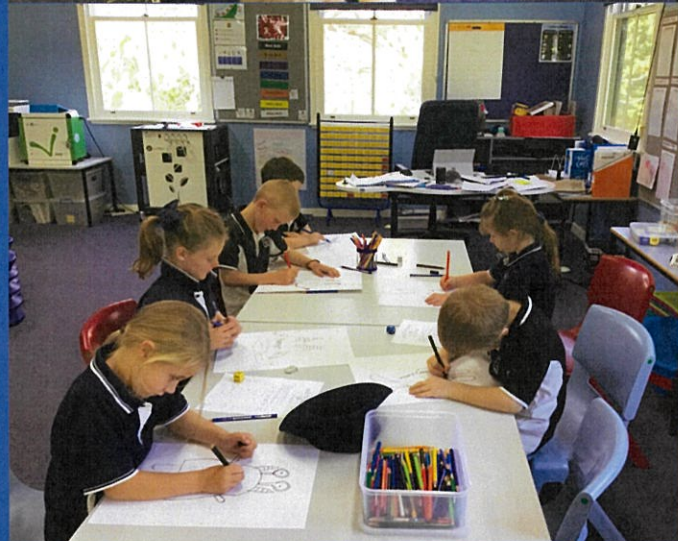
In Science with Mrs Scott we learnt all about different types of rocks. We also investigated what plants are growing in our paddock and wonder how they might change over time.



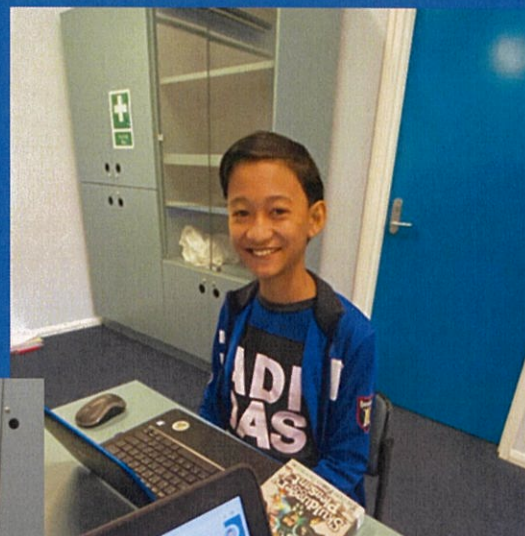


Life Education

This week we were fortunate to have our friends from Ellerston Public School visit and participate in Life ed—Healthy Harold. The day was spent learning about friendship, undertaking STEM tasks and creating art. Great day for all involved



On 31st July, our student experienced a new first - Online Chess Tournament. Up against over 70 students from other schools, our students battled their wits against their peers. Each playing 6 games and demonstrating skills and strategies that would put Mr Roberts to the sword. Each of our students performed well but special recognition to Riley who finished the competition in second place.



Our classroom and library have become great learning areas for small groups or the whole class. All students are enjoying the current reading challenge (Belltrees Blitz) and enthusiastically borrowing novels to read over the holidays





As part of Planet Ark's School Tree Day our school had the ambitious goal to go big and install an orchard in our paddock. So on 31st July, we did it. With a generous donation from Scone Toyota of \$500 and supported by Plants on Main, the kids got busy planting 16 fruit trees. It took a gallant effort of digging, preparing soil, watering and mulching but the end result is a testament to these little guys commitment to the environment. The orchard will supply the school with fresh fruit for many years to come. Thank you to Scone Toyota, Plants on Main and the kids for bringing this project together. But, a massive thank you must be given to Mr Troy Van Balen who was our commander in chief for this activity, planning, guiding and teaching us all about the best processes for planting tree to ensure they flourish.



One other feature of our school's sustainability project is our greenhouse space. This will allow us to propagate even more produce for our school garden.



The students have undertaken a wide variety of lunchtime sport activities including obstacle courses, table tennis and circus activities.



Thank you to our supporters of this small school



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