

# *The Belltrees P.S. Bulletin*



## **Belltrees Public School — "We Give Our Best" Term 2 Week 5 2021**



It is wonderful to see the groundswell of support our school has received from local businesses who are interested in our concerted efforts to become the Greenest Little School in NSW. The generous crew at Godolphin came out to view our Regen Patch and provided the school with a donation of \$1000. We are really proud of what we have achieved and look forward to continue our effort far in to the future.

## Principal's Message:

The school is a buzz of activity this term. We have been jammed pack with exciting activities and experiences that are available to students of a uniquely small school setting. From farming and cooking to theatre and running, it has been a busy term.

It is with a great deal of excitement that we can announce the school was successful in its application for the Regional Renewal Program. This exciting initiative will see a major upgrade to the school's Covered Outdoor Learning Area. Watch this space, this is massive for our little school!

We were very proud of our two older boys, Renzy and Angus, who have been completing their NAPLAN assessments over the last two weeks. It was beautiful to witness their resilience and determination in these assessments. They were brilliant little champions in the way they took on the challenge.

We are also thankful for the kind contribution from Godolphin, who donated funding for our school paddock. These kind donations allow us to continue our journey to become Regen Renegades and build our focus to be 'the greenest little school in NSW'.

It is a truly exciting time to be at Belltrees Public School at the moment and we are looking forward to seeing what the rest of 2021 bring for our great little school.

Shane Roberts

Principal



# Introducing our New Faces in Our School



We have had the privilege to have Miss Ashlea Pritchard join us at Belltrees Public School for her teaching internship. Her enthusiasm and dedication to her role has made her a wonderful addition to our school. Ashlea will be with us until the end of the term, and we are very excited to have her and the ideas she brings to our school.



Another exciting addition to our team this semester has been Mr John Annan. Mr Annan has accepted the role of General Assistant at our school, and we couldn't be happier. His wealth of experience and general know-how is a wonderful asset to our school.

## Enhancing our leadership skills at the GRIP Conference in Tamworth





## Leaders of the West – Warrumbungles Camp:

With two pals from Murrurundi Public School, Renzy ventured out to the Warrumbungles National Park. Here, he tailored his skills to be a strong, effective leader, as well as focus on a sustainability initiative he could bring back and implement at school. This was an exceptional opportunity for our student to build skills in a different environment with new peers. Great work Renzy!



## Tocal Excursion

And away we go, off to Tocal to learn more about where our food comes from. We were very grateful to Murrurundi Public School for their invitation to be a part of this excursion. The students got to experience all elements of a working farm, including milking cattle, shearing sheep, and managing the land from a farmer's perspective.



### Making Cookies With Sofia

This week we had the absolute privilege of having Sofia from Sofia Confections come and lead our fortnightly cooking lesson. On the menu this week, COOKIES!! And my jolly didn't the students love that. It was also wonderful to hear Sofia's story, which showed her dedication and enthusiasm to this passion in her life. We were led right through her process of baking, icing, packaging and even advertising. Such a wonderful experience.



Our first storytime was a great success with 6 preschool children listening to a story, meeting our baby chickens and enjoying some art. Children participated in the "National Simultaneous Storytime", this year the story was "Give Me Space" read by NASA astronaut Shannon Walker.

Linga Longa has come on board to sponsor our Paddock to Plate/OzHarvert program, generously donating \$150 per term to make this a possibility. Our students love the opportunity to cook at our school using their own produce that they've grown. This teaches the wonderful cycle of grow, cook, compost, repeat - which the students are involved in every part of this process. Thank you again Maxine and Dan at the Linga Longa.



Getting creative was on the agenda this week with the students creating scented soaps to sell at the upcoming Variety Bash. Under the tutorage of Mrs Batterham, the students chose the colours and fragrances to create their soaps. It was a pleasure to watch them so exciting to create an everyday item from scratch.



### Harmony Day

We invited Mrs Roots as our special guest to celebrate Harmony Day and the children asked many questions about the country she grew up in and what it was like for her when she arrived in Australia as a young girl.

## Tree Planting

At the end of 2020, our school was successful in receiving funding from Upper Hunter Landcare to purchase native trees and shrubs for our paddock. These additions will play a crucial role in providing shade and vegetation to our regen patch. Mr Annan worked with the students to plan out where to plant our new trees and the students had a wonderful time getting their hands dirty.



Author Toni Brisland donated students a copy of her book "Patrick White"

This was a part of the Scone Literary Festival.



Learning about road safety on Walk to School Safely Day



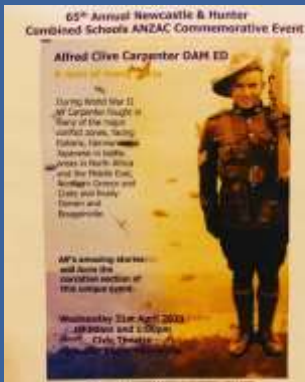
In the Classroom

With so much extra-curricular activities, it can't go past without mentioning the incredible work that is undertaken by both teachers and staff in the classroom. Over this term we have seen students strive for excellence in many facets of their learning. We had two boys create a movie for Compost Awareness week – to persuade other to take up the skill. Our young students have been working diligently to learn their sounds and blending as part of reading. And we have been exploring position in Mathematics. It is always wonderful to see how hard these students work.



## Anzac Day Service in Newcastle

One of the most important experiences that two of our students were able to attend this term was the Alfred Carpenter OAM – ANZAC commemorative event. Here, Angus and Renzy were able to hear first-hand of the experiences of a soldier in the World Wars. This opportunity gave them such greater appreciation of the sacrifice and conditions the soldiers faced. We were extraordinarily proud of how the boys represented our school at this important event.



## ANZAC DAY at Gundy



## Learning about ANZAC Day with Miss Pritchard



## Hot Wheels Visit

With the school a buzz with the Variety Bash coming, we took an chance to hear from a local basher, Danette Wallace. We listened to her explain her passion behind her involvement with Variety for many years and why it is so special in her heart. This was critical in teaching our students about appreciation and gratitude, which they consistently show in spades.



## Jack Johnson Gala Day

Capturing what agriculture looks like in the Upper Hunter is vast, but the Jack Johnson Memorial Day does a great job showcasing many elements. The students were enthralled as they toured around the displays learning a wide range of old and new skills from the land. From tasting delicious, freshly made damper, to watching art work created by chainsaws, it was all there. Such an entertaining experience for our kids.



## Art with Miss Pritchard



## Upper Inermein Cross Country

Ready, set, go! This term also saw the running of our Upper Inermein Small School Cross Country carnival. Our students, K-5, all took to the hill at Rosedale Park in Murrurundi. A track that would make many adults second guess themselves, our students gave 100% and all finished their race with a great level of commitment. Great job guys.



*Toni Brisland*

Thank you to these supporters of our small school who have assisted us over the last term.



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