



Hello parents, carers and children

The past few weeks have been a whirlwind of activity for all staff as we wind up the current year and prepare for the 2021 school year. NSW and the other Australian states are making good progress in keeping COVID-19 infections low and I know we are all looking forward to further easing of restrictions especially those related to school operations.

Staff Updates

A number of staff changes will take place next year. I thank all the staff who have been temporarily working at the school for their dedication and positive contribution to the children's academic progress and wellbeing. Mrs Pelesasa, our previous instructional leader is returning to her substantive position and is replaced by Mrs Kellie Newey. Mrs Fraser will be working in the 1 day per week instructional leader position. I thank Mrs Austin for her positive contribution to the children's learning while she has been in the instructional leader position for one day per week over the past several years.

class in 2021.

Ms Jeffrey is returning to her substantive position. I thank Ms Jeffrey for her tireless work as assistant principal on Stage 3 and wish her well in her future leadership positions. Mrs Spoljar continues to take leave for 2021 and is replaced as assistant principal on Stage 3 by Mr Daniel Gleaves.

The assistant principal on Stage 2 for 2021 is Ms Lizzie (Elizabeth) Mittiga. Ms Kim will be working on a casual basis at the school and I thank her for her work with the students in small groups and with individual support. Mrs Macky is continuing to work as relieving assistant principal at another school during 2021. Ms Mantilla who replaced Mrs Macky this year will be working at a different school next year. In 2021, Ms Natalie Sousa will be replacing Mrs Macky as class teacher in the support unit.



Full details of staff and their roles will be provided next year.

Please remember that students in grades 1-6 return on Friday 29 January in 2021. All staff will be participating in

will be sent informing parents of the time for their child to start.

Providing children with their own learning tools is a strong incentive for children to see themselves as learners and students. When your children return in 2021 please ensure they bring a pencil case with the basic equipment for learning such as lead pencils, eraser, pencil sharpener, glue stick etc. This encourages children to take pride in their learning and start school each day with the mind-set of a learner.

Please also label all your children's items including jumpers, hats and food and drink containers so that we can easily return them if mislaid.



2021 will be an exciting year for the school community as we implement our new *Strategic Improvement Plan*. We will focus our improvement efforts in 3 strategic directions: *Student Growth and Attainment*, *Student Wellbeing and Effective Classroom Practice*. Within each strategic direction we will implement 2 *initiatives* (projects) and details of these will be communicated once they receive approval from the

I wish all families a relaxing holiday and thank you all as our Belmore North community for your support during a challenging year as we work in partnership with you to achieve the best for your children. For those who celebrate Christmas I wish you an enjoyable festive time with your family and friends.

I look forward to seeing you in 2021.

Sincerely

Janet Burling
Principal

Rote to success in the numbers game



Belmore North students Makayla Van Der Walke, Kelsey Guirguis, Ashita Shraya, Wajahath Ali Khan and Erik Crichton learn their tables. Picture: Brett Costello

CHRISTOPHER HARRIS

A PRIMARY school principal has warned children to embrace old fashioned memorisation and learn their times tables by heart before they enter high school.

Belmore North Public School principal Janet Burling's advice has the backing of celebrity maths teacher Eddie Woo, who said rote

wise they would fall behind in high school.

"I recently contacted a high school teacher from Belmore Boys' High School who said it is critically important that students in Year 7 know their times tables," she said.

"Not knowing these simple number facts prevents students from making the progress they need in high school.

"It is never too early to

of the internet, smartphones and technology had meant committing factual information to memory seemed less important, it was still vitally important for learning.

"Memorising times tables assists in developing students' memory 'muscle' and also facilitates their ability to quickly and fluently use mental computation strategies," she said. "Knowing their

artment super teacher, backed Ms Burling's call.

"Being able to recall facts really quickly is a foundation for deeper thinking," he said.

"When students encounter fractions and decimals and percentages which require times tables, they don't have to go back and say, 'wait, what is four times seven again?'".

When quizzed by The Daily Telegraph what 16

16s onto that which gives me 288. That flexible thinking is what we do want but I couldn't do that without some baseline memorisation."

NSW Mathematics Association President Karen McDaid said while kids had calculators "we need to be able to recognise when something is instantly wrong".

Belmore North Year Six student Ashita Shraya, 11, said

Belmore North Public School would like to wish our parents, carers and students a wonderful and safe holiday break!

Every student will receive a 'COVID – safe summer pack' containing wipes and hand sanitiser for the holidays. More information can be found at the back of this newsletter.



School returns from 29th January 2021!

**Kindy
2021 now!**

Kindergarten Enrolments 2021

We are now accepting enrolments for kindergarten for 2021. Please see the front office for any enquiries and enrolment forms.



facebook.com/
belmorenorthps

To stay up to date with all the latest news and events

at

Belmore North P.S.

Term 4—2020 Calendar

Wednesday 16th December— Last day of term 4

Thursday 29th January, 2021—First day term 1 for students in years 1

Monday 1st February— First day term 1 for Kindergarten students

During school holidays it's natural for kids to want more screen time, and let's be honest - it's a difficult issue for parents to manage at home. At ySafe we know all screen time isn't created equal. Rather than talking about it being good and bad, it's important to focus on balance and quality.

This **ABC model** is designed to help parents bring balance to their children's digital device use and ensure kids are safe online at home these school holidays.

WHAT DOES ABC STAND FOR?



Quick wins

QUICK SCREEN TIME WINS

- Turn off all screens during family meals and outings.
- Keep devices in public areas (rather than in the bedroom).

HOLIDAYS PROGRAM

FULL-DAY WORKSHOPS
CODING, ROBOTICS, 3D PRINTING & DESIGN



Be Creative, Be Innovative

- ✓ Scratch
- ✓ Robotics
- ✓ Html
- ✓ Python
- ✓ Tynker



ENROLL NOW
CODING & ROBOTICS

**DEC/JAN HOLIDAYS
PROGRAM**

☎ 02 8467 2385, 0400213350

COVID-safe summer pack

**Congratulations for
another successful
year of learning
and growing**

As we come to the end of the school year,
we'd like to remind you to stay COVID-safe
during the summer holidays.

Here are some tips for you:



Use the contents of this
pack to help you stay
COVID-safe.



Meet outdoors whenever
possible and wear sunscreen.



Meet in small groups.



Practice good hand hygiene
and remember to cough and
sneeze into your elbow.

Enjoy your well-earned break.
Rest, relax and recharge and
we'll see you in 2021.

