Thursday 22nd December End Term 4
Buses will depart at 1.30pm

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URGENT REMINDER FOR
EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE
Please return completed forms to the office by MONDAY 19th DECEMBER
as there is a cut off date for us to enter and apply for them.

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Bus Times for 2012
Currently, I do not have any information regarding times for 2012, but I will distribute notices as soon as they become available. Jan Welsh
This is the last newsletter for 2011 and I would like to remind you that buses will be departing school at 1.30 on the last day of term, next Thursday 22\textsuperscript{nd} December. Students will be arriving home earlier than usual.

I hope that everyone in the Belmore Community has a safe and wonderful holiday season.

\textit{Awards morning}

Thankyou to everyone who came to our awards morning to help to celebrate the achievements of Belmore Students.

All students work hard all year. Sometimes their progress is in small steps, but we are very proud of their efforts.

\textit{BBQ}

Thanks so much to School Council members Michael Havekotte and Andrew Jeffery for organising the BBQ on Tuesday.

\textit{Donation to School.}

Sam Doran, from Aquanita Management Services, came to awards day yesterday and presented us with a cheque for $5500. We are very grateful to Sam and his team, who organised a golf day, with the proceeds coming to Belmore.

\textit{Staff leaving this year}

We are very sorry to say goodbye to the following people who have made a wonderful contribution to our school

Maria Glaubitz, Sue O’Meara, Farah Irani, Emma Kidd, Ryan Green, Connie Stewart, Julie MacKrill and Geppie Bajema

Maria, Sue and Geppie have been with Belmore for about 40 years between them and have each exemplified the Belmore spirit. They have done whatever it takes to meet the complex needs of Belmore students. This has always been above and beyond what might normally be expected. They have dedicated themselves with extraordinary enthusiasm and skill. They are fantastic team workers. They are well nigh irreplaceable.

We wish all these staff well for the future and will miss them very much.

\textit{Joan Anson}
ANNUAL STUDENT AWARDS

Junior Student Awards
Junior Boy Student Award — Joshua Posumah
Junior Girl Student Award — Angela Motherwell
Art Award — Zara Ferguson
Communication Award — Shevaun Bateman
Communication Education Award boy — Henry Wallwork
Conductive Education Award girl — Zoe Innocenzi
"You Can Do It" — Tom Alcock
Hydrotherapy Award — Rhiley Grydzyn
Physical Education Award — Abbey Toomey
Gross Motor Award — Nathan Appleby
Technology Award — Jack Woolhouse
Music Award girl — Maddison Williams
Music Award boy — Jed Shelley

Senior Student Awards
Art Award boy — Joshua Lenowry
Art Award girl — Shayla Meredith
General Improvement Award boy — Jake Farrelly
General Improvement Award Girl — Stephanie-Ann Clifford
Hydrotherapy Award — Tom Lock
Conductive Education — Glenn Rinderer
Communication — Max Petruccelli
"You Can Do It" Boy — Joshua Steer
"You Can Do It" Girl — Rebecca Agisilaou
Intensive Interaction girl — Molly Curtis
Intensive Interaction boy — Mark De Jong
Music — Megan Clements
Community — Baruch Rosenfeld
Technology — Renee Hurley
Gross Motor — Andrew Prentice
Gross Motor — Anthony Bradstreet
Sport Award — Ibrahim Mahdi
2011 Junior School Graduate

Congratulations to
Shevaun Bateman

For your successful completion of your Junior years at Belmore School.

Belmore School Staff 2011
2011 Senior Graduates

Congratulations to you all on your Graduation from Belmore School.

Stephanie-Ann Clifford
Mark De Jong
Renee Hurley
Ibrahim Mahdi
and Baruch Rosenfeld

We wish you well in your new Adult Placement
News from the Art Room

Fourth Term has been very busy in the Art Room. All Belmore students who participate in the Visual Arts Programme have been exploring clay and they have made a decorated ceramic bowl and other festive decorations with cookie-cutters and clay. The old kiln that was found in the pre renovation clean-up has been serviced and is now up and running. I have found that all students have really engaged in clay work. Children are naturally drawn to the sensory nature of clay. We had lots of discussions about clay too, such as; What is clay? (it is decomposed rock). Where does clay come from? (it is dug up from under the earth). What does it feel like? (it can be cold, wet and soft, and, sometimes, when it is dried up it can feel hard too). Students explored lots of different tools to play with the clay, such as rolling pins, cutting tools, various objects to make different textures into the clay (e.g. rope, straws, special textured rolling pins, seeds etc). It has been good fun and we have learned a lot together.
We had two RMIT pre-service teachers complete their teacher training in the Art Room this year. I wish Daniella Tripoli and Libby Downey all my best wishes for their future as teachers. They both worked very hard at Belmore School and took their time to get to know our students through the Visual Arts Programme. Also this year I had the great pleasure of being mentor to Jenny Chiang who came to Belmore School to work as a music therapist, as a replacement for Dewi. Jenny worked quickly to get to know our students and used her keen observational skills and gentle nature to create good working relationships with the students. Thank you Jenny and best wishes for your future music therapist positions.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the ES staff who work with dedication and goodwill to help Belmore students participate in the Visual Arts Programme. A huge thank you to you all. I would also like to thank Belmore students for always coming to the Visual Arts Programme with a fantastic attitude to explore, try new things, communicate and grow. Well done all!! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all Belmore students, their families and all Belmore and Yooralla staff. Look forward to another great year in 2012.

Sandy Angliss  Art Teacher
WEARING YOUR HAND SPLINTS OVER THE SUMMER!!!

Avoid contractures and wrists and fingers becoming tight ...if your child is having a growth spurt...or even just a bit more relaxed,

**CONTRACTURES CAN HAPPEN QUICKLY.**

*If wrist and fingers become tight and fixed they can be painful and make using your hands, and daily activities such as dressing more difficult*

Take some time out of your day to give your child’s hands a stretch and help keep his/her hands open, straight and ready for action when school starts... SO....

**WEAR YOUR HAND SPLINTS!!!! (if you have them)**

Please contact your OT or classroom teacher if you would like more information and to have splints sent home over the summer holidays.
BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT UPPER LIMB SPLINTING

How are splints made?
Hand Splints can be made occupational Therapists out of thermoplastic materials. This is a special plastic that when heated in water is able to be moulded to fit to the child’s hand. They can also be made out of lycra or wetsuit materials.

Why do children need to wear Splints?
To decrease the tightness in the hand and forearm muscles so as to maintain range of movement and reduce the risk of contractures and deformities occurring.
- To improve function
- To minimise contractures
- To promote hygiene

How do I look after splints?
- Wash splints in warm soapy water. Do not wash in hot water (As they will melt). They can get smelly when worn for long periods.
- The sticky velcro tends to peel off after a while. Stick it back down with super-glue or contact adhesive.

When is it best for children to wear resting splints?
The splints are called ‘resting’ splints as they do not allow any function. They are designed to eventually be worn all night and not during the day when the child is ‘doing’. The child should wear them at times when they are still- e.g. watching TV, on the bus.

When is it best for children to wear active splints?
During activity! These splints are often made with more flexible material (either neoprene, lycra or thermoplastic) so that a child’s hand is held in good alignment whilst still allowing function. These are often given to children to help keep their thumbs out from their palms by providing support in the thumb webspace.

What else should I know?
Your child’s OT will have developed a protocol around how long your child should be wearing his/ her splints. This will be individual to your child and may be at night or during the day (or both)

Check forearms & hands thoroughly each time the splints are taken off. If there are very red, sore looking areas discontinue wearing splint until you have contacted your Occupational Therapist.

Leah Picking, Kelly Dang and Dikla Baram
Cerebral Palsy Support network
new contact details

To provide you with continuous and ongoing improvement of our services and programs, Cerebral Palsy Support Network is pleased to announce we are moving to our new premises to the following address.

New Office/ RECEIVING Address:
3 Ethel Street, Thornbury 3071

New Phone and Fax Number:  Ph: 03 9484 5326
Fax: 03 9015 6439

You can still call us on 1300 277 600 (1300 CPSN00) as per normal any time.

This will be effective from 23rd December 2011. The CPSN office will be closed from 23rd Dec 2011 and will re open on the 3rd January 2012.

On behalf of the CPSN I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry and safe festive season.
As this is our final newsletter for 2011, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy, safe and prosperous New Year.

Fiona Allen