



# Belmont Intermediate School

Leading Excellence in Intermediate School Education

Newsletter 1 - 9 February 2024  
Panui 1 - 9 Kohitātea 2024

[www.belmontint.school.nz](http://www.belmontint.school.nz)  
[office@belmontint.school.nz](mailto:office@belmontint.school.nz)  
[www.twitter.com/bisnewsfeed](https://www.twitter.com/bisnewsfeed)  
[www.facebook.com/belmontintermediateschool](https://www.facebook.com/belmontintermediateschool)



Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of the School,  
Tena Koutou Katoa Nga mihi nui Ki a Koutou Katoa,

Welcome back to 2024. I trust that you have been enjoying the weather and a number of long weekends to start the year. The Hill family enjoyed Christmas at our house, five days in Pauanui over the New Year holiday, and then our yearly camping trip to Ohope Beach. My golf game continues to be one of rocks and diamonds; however, I will persist. Fishing has been a little sporadic (as I don't own a boat), although our Kontiki provides a lot of fun for the family and friends.

Having our students back at school to start a new year is fantastic. Hearing laughter in the playgrounds and seeing the students reconnecting with old friends and establishing new friendships is wonderful. I have commented to many parents that our students love being back at school and it is great to see their smiles again. I would like to warmly welcome our new families this year - we are delighted you've joined the Belmont Intermediate community. A warm welcome to all our International families who started with us last week.

We are delighted to welcome a number of new staff members to the BIS family; Tanya Taylor, Jed Hagger, Chris Egan, Kaitlin Rooke, Thomas O'Rourke, David Zeitner and Josh Simpson (Sports Coordinator) have all enjoyed a thorough induction that will continue through the first two terms of the year.

All teachers have talked to the students about our Student and Parent Guide for 2024 and its contents. Can I strongly suggest that you create some time to go through this guide with your child so that they are aware of the standards and expectations of our school. A copy is available for [download here](#) (Parents A-Z). Classroom teachers will review this document regularly throughout the year, however, I would appreciate your support with the expectations and standards associated with our school. This is a much larger school than many of our Year 7 students are used to and we have a number of systems and structures in place that both students and parents need to be aware of.

## Block 5 Redevelopment

We have experienced some delays in the refurbishment of the Food Technology and Science rooms to start the year. Students will be in the food room starting Tuesday, while science is expected to be finished late in Term 1. In the meantime, students will be taught by Mr Holland in Room 21 and will be doing small experiments and theory-based lessons. The completion date for the entire project is in late June.

## Uniform

We are aware of stock issues with Birkenstocks, and some items at Yarntons are also on back order. Students will be issued with uniform passes until these items are able to be purchased. A reminder to our families that students do not wear sports uniform to school. They only do this for swimming sports, cross country, athletics days and on House Sport days.

Students are able to wear their PE uniform to school for the day when House Sport is timetabled. Students are also able to wear their PE uniform home from school when they have Team Sport scheduled in a Block 3. This flexibility came as a result of COVID-19 and the fact that we have limited changing facilities at school. You will also note in the Student and Parent Guide that students must wear their PE for sports trials and practices. This is not negotiable.

Starting a new year at intermediate school can be daunting for your child, so I would like to offer some suggestions about how you can make the transition as smooth as possible:

- Start your routines again as soon as you can. Getting back to school-day bedtime is a good place to start. Decide on a school-day routine and stick to it. Finding a quiet place to complete homework also benefits your child's learning.
- Talk about change. Whether it is a new school or a change in your family's circumstances, make time to talk about any fears or worries. A full schedule of events for Term 1 is available on our [website calendar](#) and upcoming dates are in this newsletter.

If you need to come onto school grounds to drop something off or deliver a message etc, please can I respectfully ask that you report to the office in the first instance and not go to classrooms or try and find your child yourself. This is to ensure the safety of all our tamariki and our school staff.

It has been an extremely positive start to the year. I have enjoyed visiting some classrooms, greeting students at the gate and talking to them about their aims and aspirations for the year. I am sure that 2024 is going to be an exceptional one at BIS.

Finally, our first major event of the year, School Swimming Sports, will take place next Friday, 16 February at the TGS Pool. There is limited seating for spectators, so can I suggest that you bring a seat just in case.

Enjoy your weekend.  
Ngā mihi nui



Nick Hill  
Principal/ Tumuaiki



## Upcoming Dates for Your Calendar

Monday, 12 February	Year 7 Boys Basketball Trials (1) 2:30pm - 4:00pm
Thursday, 15 February	Class and Individual School Photo Day - School Hall
Thursday, 15 February	Year 8 Camp Parent Information Evening - School Hall 6:30pm
Friday, 16 February	School Swimming Sports - further information in this newsletter
Monday, 19 February	School Board Meeting 1 - School Boardroom 6:30pm
Monday, 19 February	School Swimming Sports (save day)
Tuesday, 20 February	Year 8 Boys Basketball Trials (2) 2:30pm - 4:00pm
Wednesday, 21 February	Year 7 and 8 Girls Basketball Trials 2:30pm - 4:00pm
Thursday, 22 February	Year 7 Boys Basketball Trials (2) 2:30pm - 4:00pm
Monday, 26 February - Friday, 1 March	Year 8 Camp - Waipu Cove (Rangitoto)
Monday, 4 March - Friday, 8 March	Year 8 Camp - Waipu Cove (Motuihe)
Monday, 4 March - Friday, 8 March	Year 7 EOTC Week

# Reminders for the Start of the School Year

## Staff Carparks

Please be reminded that the staff carparks, via Gate 1 and Gate 2 on Winscombe Street, are for staff and visitors only. Please do not use these carparks or entrances to drop off or collect students before and after school. Additionally, please do not use the driveway on Lake Road (Gate 3) for dropping off or collecting. This is a safety issue, and is in place to keep all of our students safe.

## Reporting Absences

If your child is absent, parents/ caregivers are asked to notify the school by either emailing the office ([office@belmontint.school.nz](mailto:office@belmontint.school.nz)) and copy in your classroom teacher or using the HERO school app. Please do not email your classroom teacher only, without cc'ing the office. The school office will contact parents/ caregivers if there is an unexplained absence.

## Returning to School After Illness

As per the Ministry of Health guidelines, if your student has been off school due to vomiting or diarrhoea, they must have a 48-hour period from the last incident of vomiting or diarrhoea before they return to school. This is to help protect the health of our staff and students.

## Collecting Students Early

If you need to collect your student early, please let both the office and your classroom teacher know in advance where possible so we are able to remind the student to come to the office for collection. Due to the size of the school and individual timetables, locating students can not always be guaranteed by the office staff without prior notice.

## Updating Changes of Contact Details

It is vitally important that we have the most up to date information, so if any of you or your child's contact details change, please email Melissa Churches at [office@belmontint.school.nz](mailto:office@belmontint.school.nz) directly with the particular change.

## Parents/ Caregivers Coming Into School During School Hours

If you need to come to school to drop something off, get a message to your child or for any other reason, please report to the office in the first instance. Our office staff can ensure that items/ messages are passed on to your child for you. Please do not go directly to your child's classroom during school hours.

## School Cap/ Bucket Hat

All students must wear a school-branded cap or bucket hat whilst outside during Term 1 and 4.

## School Socks

An update that Yarntons will have BIS socks back in stock from next Thursday. If you haven't been able to purchase any socks, please send your child to school wearing black or navy socks (please no sports socks or socks of any other colour).

## Lost Property

Please make sure that your child's uniform is clearly labelled with their surname. When uniform is labelled, students have a much higher chance of it being returned to them. If students lose something, they are directed to check the classroom, cloak bay and the lost property bin in the hall foyer first.

Any lost property collected from around the school will be initially stored in the bin inside the hall foyer, this is the first stop for trying to find lost items. Lost property is then moved weekly to the Lost Property Room (adjacent to the School Hall) which will be open to students weekly on Tuesday lunchtimes (commencing March onwards). Lost Property is coordinated by external volunteers.

Students are encouraged to take care of their property and search independently for any lost items. BIS staff are unable to search for individual items for students.

## Medical Conditions and Allergies

If your child has any medical conditions, allergies or medication that needs to be administered at school please let [Melissa Churches](#) know via email and include the necessary [Action Plan](#) and/or [Medical Administration Form/ Short Term Medical Administration Form](#).

## Online Shop & EZ Lunch

All school payments such as the annual activity fee, donations, class trips, activities, sports and extra-curricular activities including permissions need to be made via our [Online Shop](#) facilitated by Kindo, so we encourage you to register or update your Kindo account as soon as possible. Please note that the email address held on our school system, Hero needs to match the email address used for your Kindo account. If you need to change your email address on Hero, please contact the school office.



School lunches can also be ordered from our Online Shop, the lunches are provided by Five Loaves in Devonport (Tuesday to Friday) and Pita Pit (Monday and Friday only). Log in to our online shop to view the menu for 2024.

Choose to pay-as-you-go, or add funds to your account in advance, using internet banking, POLi or Visa/Mastercard (fees apply for credit card transactions). For help and support please contact Kindo directly at [helpdesk@ezlunch.co.nz](mailto:helpdesk@ezlunch.co.nz)

### 2024 Activity Fees and Donations

Many thanks to all of our families who have already paid the 2024 Activity Fee and Donation. If you haven't managed to pay yet, both the Activity Fee and Donation have been added to your child's Kindo account and are listed under 'Fees and Donations'. Payment by instalment is welcomed through the Kindo app. If you need more information on how to pay by instalment, please contact Tammy Miles at [accounts@belmontint.school.nz](mailto:accounts@belmontint.school.nz)

### Already paid but need the tax receipt?

Kindo sends out an acknowledgement for each payment, but to print the IRD approved tax receipt, log into your Kindo account and go to 'My Orders' on the top right hand side of the page. In the Record Type, select Donations from the drop down menu. Here you should be able to see all your donations and you can download the relevant tax receipt.

### Purchases through the Online Shop

Not sure if you have already purchased lunch or registered your child for their favourite after school sport?

With so much going on at the start of the year, it's easy to forget what has been paid for and what hasn't. Rather than pay twice, you can check whether you have already paid by logging into your Kindo and clicking on 'My Orders' to review your purchases. Please note any refunds for duplicate payments may incur an administration fee.

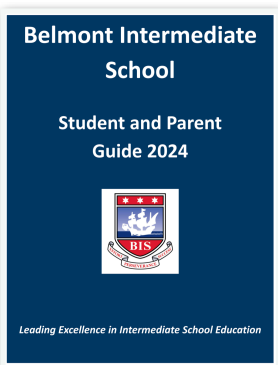
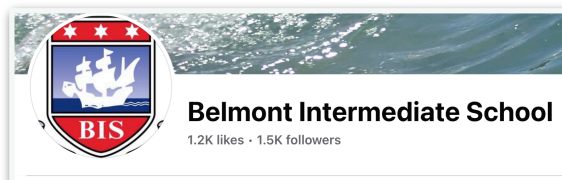


## School App - Hero, Facebook and School Website

The school communicates with parents and caregivers using a range of media with our SMS [HERO](#) being the primary method. School newsletters and other correspondence are notified via HERO. If parents/ caregivers are not receiving notifications, after checking your spam folder, please email Trudy Byrne [tbyrne@belmontint.school.nz](mailto:tbyrne@belmontint.school.nz) for assistance. You can select if you would like to receive notifications via email or push notification in

your app settings (it is defaulted to push notifications).

Belmont Intermediate School uses [Facebook](#) for 'good news stories' and updates on our students and their achievements. We also post reminders, but the main port of call is Hero for our communication system. The school website [www.belmontint.school.nz](http://www.belmontint.school.nz) also has a wealth of information for parents and caregivers.



## Student and Parent Guide 2024

Year 7 teachers will go through the Student and Parent Guide with their classes, however it is a great source of answers to many common questions and good for a refresh for Year 8's and their parents. Please find the guide at any time on our [website](#) under 'Parents A - Z'.

## Second Hand Uniform Sale

We would like to say a huge thank you to Sarah Furlong, our Learning Support Coordinator, who, for the fourth year, organised the sale during the summer holidays and raised a large sum for our hardship fund. This is such an important event for families, to help with the cost of school uniforms, but also for our hardship fund, so we are able to assist with ensuring all of our students have access to everything that Belmont Intermediate has to offer. Thank you Sarah, and her helper, Lilah Furlong, for volunteering their time and for achieving an outstanding result!

## Want to get involved at BIS?

Come and enjoy a wine and meet other committee members at our next PTA meeting on Wednesday, 21 February - 6pm in the BIS staffroom for our AGM & GBM. All welcome.

If you aren't able to make the meeting but would like to be involved please email [pta@belmontint.school.nz](mailto:pta@belmontint.school.nz). The PTA welcomes any and all help - become a PTA Member, Friend of the PTA or Volunteer Only.

## Performing Arts News

### Music and Singing Groups at BIS

For those students interested in joining the choir, orchestra or rock band, it is now possible to sign up for these activities. Please do encourage your child to sign up if they enjoy singing or play an instrument. Here are the links to the information sheets that the students have received through the Daily Dash:

[Top Notes \(BIS school choir\)](#)

[BIS orchestra](#)

[Rock Bands](#)

Later in the year, we will also offer chamber groups for students who have achieved a Grade 5 or higher on their instrument, marimba/xylophone group as a music extension, and singing masterclasses as an elective that keen singers can sign up for.

### BIS Performing Arts Site

[Click here](#) to check out our new Performing Arts Site - updated regularly as the school year progresses.

## Sports News

### School Swimming Sports

Swimming sports will be held on Friday, 16 February at the Takapuna Grammar School pool (Save Day Monday, 19 February). Please ensure your children come to school in their PE uniform (house colours) with their swimming togs underneath. Remember to pack sunscreen, goggles, towel, hat, food for the day, full water bottle and pre-order a sausage and/or ice block (details below) if they choose.

The expectation is that everyone competes in the freestyle event. Other races are optional but encouraged. Please advise your child only to enter the Butterfly or Backstroke if they are able to swim these strokes.

Some races are timed finals - not heats, therefore swimmers must swim their fastest! Spectators are warmly welcomed and advised to bring a chair as seating is limited. The event starts at approximately 9:15am and is likely to conclude around 2:30pm.

#### ORDER OF RACES

YEAR 7 GIRLS/BOYS followed by YEAR 8 GIRLS/BOYS

9:15am START

- 1 Freestyle - 1 Length Heats
- 2 Breaststroke - 1 Length Heats
- 3 Freestyle - FINALS
- 4 Backstroke - 1 Length (timed finals)
- 5 Breaststroke - FINALS
- 6 Butterfly - 1 Length (timed finals)

The following times are approximate:

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 12:00pm | Lunch and House Swims (if time permits)           |
| 12:40pm | Continue with above programme                     |
| 2:10pm  | Relays - Class, House and Staff (if time permits) |
| 2:30pm  | Clean up  |
| 2:40pm  | Return to Belmont Intermediate School             |

If you have any questions regarding these notices, please contact our Sports Coordinator, Josh Simpson [sports@belmontint.school.nz](mailto:sports@belmontint.school.nz)



## Sausage Sizzle and Ice Block Sale

The BIS PTA is hosting a Sausage Sizzle and Ice Block Sale to help celebrate the BIS Swim Sports Day - Friday, 16 February.

You can pre-order your sizzling sausage in bread and/or Juicies natural ice block for your child. Adults can also order for themselves as well if spectating.

Sausages \$2.50 each and ice blocks \$2 each!

ALL ORDERS MUST be placed through the [Online Shop](#). Limited cash sales on the day and will be subject to availability. Orders close 8pm Thursday, 15 February.

Many thanks for your support! If any parents can help on Friday, 16 February from 10:30am - 1:00pm please email [pta@belmontint.school.nz](mailto:pta@belmontint.school.nz)

## Success Outside of School

### Athletics Success

Colgate Games - National Junior Athletics

Belmont Intermediate School athletes, representing Takapuna Athletics Club, achieved some outstanding results at the Colgate Games, the country's biggest junior athletics event with over 1,000 participants from all over New Zealand.

BIS students Kate O'Connell, Jake Tuck, Arna Tripodi, Keanu Anesi, Lachlan Sara and Daniel McLiver all competed in the North Island competition held at Mt Smart stadium, Auckland in early January 2024.

Year 7 student Jake Tuck shone in the Grade 11 Boys 1500m finals coming 3rd place; and Year 8 student Kate O'Connell took home a silver medal in the Grade 11 Girls High Jump jumping a PB of 1.38m – an absolutely outstanding achievement for both students.

In the Mixed 11 Distance Medley, Arna Tripodi, Jake Tuck and Kate O'Connell placed 4th in the 11 year old finals; and in the 4x100m relay finals Keanu Anesi and Jake Tuck also placed 4th. Lachlan Sara's 4x100m team placed 3rd in the 10 year old boys final, taking home a bronze medal.

### Auckland Reps - Athletics

Four students from Belmont Intermediate were selected to represent North Auckland in an Auckland Athletics 11 year old competition held on Waitangi Day this week. Kate O'Connell, Arna Tripodi, Jake Tuck and Erik Havranek all competed in three events each against Central West Auckland and Counties. Each of our BIS athletes placed in the top 3 in their chosen track and field events against the very best in Auckland, representing North Auckland with pride. They also placed 2nd overall team on the day. Ka pai!



# Community News

## TERM 1 2024 LITTLECOOKS KIDS COOKING



### BELMONT INTERMEDIATE

DATES: February 15 - April 4  
(8 weeks)

THURSDAYS: Food Tech Room,  
Cost \$304

TO REGISTER: EMAIL TEAM@LITTLECOOKS.CO.NZ

[www.littlecooks.co.nz](http://www.littlecooks.co.nz)



### After School Music Lessons at Belmont Intermediate

Guitar/Drums/Bass/Ukulele

Group lessons are for beginners to advanced levels, focus on playing songs familiar to students, including Jam days with other students and are most of all fun and creative.

For more information please go to [heathwatsonguitar.com](http://heathwatsonguitar.com) or call me on 021 256 1308



### DRAMA - DANCE - SINGING

Accelerate Confidence and Communication Skills  
Enrol in February to be in the draw to win one of ten April Holiday programs with a bestie.

"Pform.nz classes provide the most fun of our son's week"



**There is a Pform venue in Birkenhead near you at Rawene Centre every Tuesday and advanced training at Wellesley Studios every Saturday.**

### ADVANCED PERFORMANCE TRAINING

These courses are designed for those students who want to take their education in the Performing Arts further. If you want to audition with success then these are the courses for you. You will train in a fun and challenging environment with performers who are like-minded. No previous experience is necessary but would be an advantage

Performers will have the opportunity to tour and have numerous big-stage performances. You will train at the Wellesley Street Studios each Saturday. Free Trials available for a limited time

[www.pform.nz/free-trial](http://www.pform.nz/free-trial)  
[www.pform.nz](http://www.pform.nz)   [info@pform.nz](mailto:info@pform.nz)

# TENNIS

back to tennis!



Tennis is on! All coaching starts this week at Devonport's Ngataranga Tennis Club

Bookings & enquiries [admin@tennisplus.co.nz](mailto:admin@tennisplus.co.nz)

## After School Coaching

**Tots Tennis** (3 - 4 years)  
30 mins

Tuesday 3:15pm  
Friday 3:00, 3:30pm

**Mini Tennis** (5 - 7 years)  
45 mins

Monday - Friday  
3.45pm

**Junior Tennis** (8 - 18 years)  
60 mins

Monday - Friday  
3.30, 4.30, 5.30pm

**Adult Tennis** (18+) Beginners,  
Interclub & Professionals

90 classes weekly  
Monday - Saturday

## Holiday Programs

Daily every School  
Holidays (look out  
for flyer)

## Private Coaching

Solo or small group  
private coaching

Mon - Fri 7am - 9pm  
Sat 8am - 1pm

Equipment provided

[www.clubspark.kiwi/NgatarangaTennisClub/Coaching](http://www.clubspark.kiwi/NgatarangaTennisClub/Coaching)

TENNIS  
clubspark



DEVONPORT SQUASH CLUB

## AFTER SCHOOL SQUASH PROGRAMME

### TERM 1

With Club Coach **BEN EDWARDS**  
(ex VAUXHALL / BIS / TGS)

**\$100**  
per person  
for 7 weeks

Great as introduction to squash and suitable  
for beginners and juniors  
wishing to improve and learn new skills.

- Basic skills and drills
- Fitness work and court games
- Safe, fun and secure environment
- All gear supplied (rackets/balls/eyewear)



**4 - 5 pm**  
**Every Wednesday**  
**14 February - 3 April**

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**  
**CONTACT BEN**

📞 022 177 6284

✉ [bened3000@gmail.com](mailto:bened3000@gmail.com)

**Devonport Squash Club - 69 Wairoa Road, Narrow Neck**