



# THE BALLYBUZZ

LIVING & LEARNING

BALGOWNIE RD, BALGOWNIE NSW 2519

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## WHAT'S ON?

Frid	7.12.12	K-2 Concert 5.30pm
Thur	13.12.12	Yr6 Graduation 9.15am Yr6 Farewell 5.30pm
Frid	14.12.12	BPS – PJ Mufti Reward Day – all students
Mon	17.12.12	Reports to parents Talent Quest Yr4-6 9.15am-11am
Tue	18.12.12	Presentation Day 9.15am Talent Quest K-Yr3 11.30am-1pm
Wed	19.12.12	LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS Yr6 'Ringing of the Bell' commences at 2.30pm

**Parent Helper Morning Tea** Over thirty people came to morning tea provided by our staff and it was lovely to be able to share a cuppa and a chat and say thanks to community members who have given of their time and energy to make Balgownie a unique place. For those of you who could not make it, thank you for your help and support in 2012. You were missed at the morning tea and maybe you can come in 2013!

**Congratulations** to Alexia Chiaverini, Sam Rolfe, Kira Sargeson, Kaled Baghadi, Damian Luzaic, Holly Galvin and Curtis Heyman who have achieved wrist bands in PBS – well done! These children continually demonstrate our school values of Respect, Responsibility and Real Learning.

**Congratulations** to Jamie Walsh who has made the Southern Stars Primary Vocal Company for 2013! Jamie auditioned and is now part of a select group of students who take lead roles in the Southern Stars production. It is a testimony to her talent, dedication and hard work to achieve this honour. I apologise to Jamie as I missed her name last week. We are proud of you.

**Kinder – Year 2 Concert** Parents and friends are invited to the K-2 performance in the hall this Friday evening, commencing at 5.30pm. It is sure to be an evening of great entertainment and fun.

05/12/12

TERM 4 – WEEK 9

**Good Luck Commando Connectors!** This Saturday, the Commando Connectors will be competing in our FIRST LEGO League Competition at Macquarie University. We have been hard at work building and programming our robot to complete all the challenges we will face. It has been a fun time over the last few months, working together and embracing many of the FLL Core Values such as Gracious Professionalism and Working as a Team. We have also finalised our Infomercial Skit promoting our Seniors Solution. Our innovative end product is the COMMANDO CONNECTORS PORTABLE DETACHABLE GECKO TAPE HANDLE!! This handle uses Gecko-like synthetic fibres to provide an adhesive to stick to any surface. Seniors can use this to help them keep mobile and stay connected to the community.

Wish us luck for Saturday.

Max, Kye, Bella, Lachlan M and Lachlan C  
The Commando Connectors

*PS Thanks to the coaches of our team. Good Luck on Saturday!*

**Balgownie celebrates learning.** We are giving four class awards for each class at Presentation Day, Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December. This is apart from the traditional whole school and sports awards. We want to celebrate learning and this is one of the many strategies that we are using to acknowledge academic excellence, improvement, citizenship and a teacher's choice award.

Of course, with only four awards per class, it can be a difficult decision for teachers and I know they spend a long time deliberating over which student that they believe to be the most deserving. Help your child learn from this experience, to celebrate with their friends (or themselves) if they are the student awarded with a certificate, and to be gracious and resilient if they do not get an award this time. Who knows what will happen next year?

**School Reports** are being finalised in the next two weeks and will be given out on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December.

Email: [balgownie-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:balgownie-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

[www.balgownie-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.balgownie-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)

P&C: [www.balgowniepnc.com](http://www.balgowniepnc.com)



## LIVING AND LEARNING

The teachers have worked hard, both individually and in teams to ensure consistency with each other and against syllabus standards. This is another time to celebrate the learning and progress that your children have made this year. If you have any questions about your child's report, please see your class teacher.

**Effort ticks** for reports are consistent across our school. When you are reading your child's report, the effort ratings for your child have been assessed using the following common understandings. Please keep this to discuss the effort ticks with your child when your reports come home.

### Effort Rating for Reports

1. Minimal effort. Rarely completes work, even with encouragement.
2. Inconsistent effort. Does some work when encouraged or work is not of standard expected of the student's ability.
3. Completes required tasks to student's own ability at expected level most of the time.
4. Completes required tasks to student's own ability to expected level all of the time. May or may not complete extra work.
5. Completes tasks to expected level all the time. Does extra work and shows initiative.

### **Remember:**

- Teachers plan teaching and learning programs using syllabuses developed by the Board of Studies.
- The syllabuses describe standards that apply across the state for each learning area.
- Your child's teacher uses their knowledge of syllabuses and knowledge of the children in their class to plan their teaching and learning programs.
- Teachers use their professional judgement, internal and external data gathering about each child's achievement against the statewide standards to award the grade.
- If your child has achieved a Sound on their report then he/she has achieved what is generally expected. If your child has achieved an Outstanding or High then he/she has achieved more than is generally expected. If your child has achieved a Basic or a Limited, then he or she has not yet achieved what is generally expected compared to other children of a similar age.

**Classes in 2013.** Currently we are just over 13 classes by a very small margin. Hopefully, we will maintain our school numbers and we will be starting next year with 13 classes and not 12 very full ones. Not only does it affect our class numbers but other allocations as well. If you know any family who is considering our school, and is in our local school area, please encourage them to make an appointment so that we can show what our school has to offer.

Thus, at the start of 2013, our students will be going back into their classes from this year for at least the first day, possibly a few days. By placing our students into their classes from this year, while we determine class numbers, hopefully will minimise changes that may need to be made to classes further into the term. Thank you in anticipation for your patience in this matter.

Three of our staff will be conducting the Best Start assessments with our new Kindergarten students for the first few days, and Kindergarten will start on Monday of Week 2.

**Spelling continues to grow at Balgownie Public.** We have been using a program called Sound waves for the past two years as a whole school approach to spelling.

We used the text books this year in class, but next year have decided to continue the program but without the textbook. The spelling program at our school is driven by the syllabus and this is a way of supporting what is a cohesive approach for delivering the curriculum.

**'Textbooks' for 2013** Our Kinder to Year 2 students will be asked to purchase a Soundwaves sound chart at approximately \$6 to be used in class in 2013.

In 2013, our Year 3-6 classes will be receiving ten school magazines to help with reading different texts. We will be asking parents to pay for these at approximately \$13 per student for the whole year. After they have been used in class, the students will be able to take them home to use to practice their reading skills.

Our Kinder to Year 6 students will be accessing Reading Eggs and Reading Express 24/7 (the version of Reading Eggs for older students). This subscription if bought by individual families is over \$70 per student. We will be asking parents to pay approximately \$15 per student which will mean that they can access it at school and at home. This is the way of the future where traditional textbooks may not be the only way forward and that subscriptions to websites etc are a more engaging,



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## LIVING AND LEARNING

interactive way to help students both at home and at school. More information about these costs, and our voluntary school contributions at the beginning of 2013.

Thank you to all who paid the voluntary school contribution. We had the biggest percentage of families paying yet and the money has gone towards ongoing costs to the school. The money donated to the school helps us to ensure that our school can continue to function and provide a quality education to our students.

*Have a great week.*  
**Aloma Stewart**

### Thought of the Week

*Aim for success, not perfection. Never give up your right to be wrong, because you will lose the ability to learn new things and move forward with your life.—David Burns*

### Joke of the Week

Why was Shaun the sheep unpopular with the rest of the flock?  
*He had a baa'd attitude.*

## CHICKENPOX

We have had a recent case of chickenpox in our school. Please be aware of the following information should your child be unwell.

Time from exposure to illness is 2 to 3 weeks.

Symptoms include slight fever, runny nose and a rash that begins as raised pink spots that blister and scab.

Do I need to keep my child home? Yes, for 5 days after the rash first appears and until the blisters have all scabbed over.

## YEAR 6 FAREWELL AND GRADUATION CEREMONY

This year's Year 6 Graduation Ceremony and the Year 6 Farewell Dinner/Disco will be held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December. The graduation ceremony will commence at 9.15am in the new school hall. At the ceremony, students will be given their graduation certificates and will share in the viewing of the official Year 6 farewell DVD. Year 5 students will be invited to attend the ceremony as well as all year 6 siblings. The ceremony will conclude at approximately 11am with families being invited to stay on for morning tea. All those attending are asked to bring a plate to share for the occasion.

The Year 6 Farewell Dinner/Disco will be held on the evening of Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December. The evening will begin at 5.30pm and conclude at 9pm. Year 6 students will arrive at the school for photos at 5.30pm and will be seated for dinner from 6-7pm. Year 5 students are invited to join in for the disco from 7-9pm. The theme for this year's farewell is a Party theme.

## TALENT QUEST 2012

Many of our students are currently rehearsing for their performances in this year's end of year talent quest. As usual, the spirit of participation is running high at Balgownie and we have so many talented artists wanting to perform this year that we will be running the talent quest over two days.

- **The yrs 4-6 talent quest will be held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December from 9.15-11am.**
- **The K-yr3 Talent Quest will be held on Tuesday 18th December from 11.30-1pm.**

**Please note: Although performance are split over two days – this is a whole school event and all students will attend both performances.**

For various reasons some students will be performing outside of their year group – please check with your child for the day of their performance or see the performance schedule which will be mounted for viewing on one of the library windows.

Talent Quest days are NOT mufti days and students will be expected to attend wearing school uniform. Children who are performing may change into their performance outfits and makeup before each talent quest.

The talent quest is traditionally a school event that is designed both for fun and giving our students an opportunity to showcase their many talents. While parents are always welcome to join us for this event, please do not feel under pressure to attend as there can be no guarantees as to the timing of your child's performance. Unfortunately the performance schedule cannot be changed on the day.

Thank you to all of those students who have entered this event with so much enthusiasm. You are such a pleasure to work with. Well done and best of luck with your performances.

Mrs Birchall

## LIBRARY NEWS

A reminder that stocktake of our library resources has now commenced. Could families please assist students in returning any overdue library items immediately. Thank you.



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**CANTEEN ROSTER**  
**2012 Week 10, Term 4**

Day	Date	Name
<b>Mon</b>	10.12.12	<b>HELP WANTED</b>
<b>Tues</b>	11.12.12	Callie Heyman Megan Hill
<b>Wed</b>	12.12.12	Elissa Kohler Lisa Tunstall
<b>Thurs</b>	13.12.12	Yuki Nakamura-Bell Mary Dilber <b>LAST DAY OF CANTEEN</b>
<b>Fri</b>	14.12.12	<b>CLOSED TILL 2013</b>

**FREE Children's Dance Classes**  
**Term 1 2013**

Dance World is offering one term of free dance classes. Select from:

- Jazz
  - Ballet
  - Hip Hop
  - Tap or
  - Ballroom
- (New students only)



[www.danceworld.com.au](http://www.danceworld.com.au)

[doug@danceworld.com.au](mailto:doug@danceworld.com.au)

mob: 0421 712 749

**CANTEEN NEWS**

**LAST DAY OF CANTEEN TERM 4**  
**THURSDAY 13/12/2012**

There will be **NO CANTEEN SERVICE** in the last week of Term 4. Thank you for your cooperation.

**NO MORE CHEESE & BACON BUN**

There will be NO MORE Cheese & Bacon Bun available at the canteen.

We decided to take it off from the menu as they had quite a few additives in the ingredients and they were a slow seller. Thank you for your understanding :)

**POSITION VACANCIES**

We are seeking new committee members to fill in the following positions:

- **Canteen Sub Committee Convenor**
- **Canteen Roster Coordinator**

Looking forward to hearing many interests from YOU to keep our friendly and resourceful canteen up and running!!!

**CLOTHING POOL**

The Clothing Pool is now open on  
TUESDAY mornings from  
8.30am each week.



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