



BALGOWNIE RD, BALGOWNIE NSW 2519

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## WHAT'S ON?

Thur	21.11.13	School Starters Playgroup 9.15am
Tue	3.12.13	Volunteers Thank You Morning Tea 11.15sm in Hall
Wed	4.12.13	Stg 2 Excursion – Nan Tien Temple
Frid	6.12.13	K-2 Concert
Wed	11.12.13	Presentation Day 9.15am
Thur	12.12.13	Yr6 Graduation & morning tea

**Bunnings BBQ** Thanks to the volunteers who turned sausages, sold drinks and coerced passing customers that they really needed a sausage sandwich on Sunday! The fundraiser was a huge success and raised \$1350. Thanks so much to all the volunteers and especially the hard working organisers who made sure that the necessary supplies were ready for sale. It was a fun day.

**Thank you** to all parents who have been supporting us in our quest to have 100% students wearing school uniform hats at every break. We are however, seeing some non-uniform hats and shoes creeping in. The following needs to be more consistent across the school.

- Hats are school hats - buckets or caps. The school recommends bucket hats for sun safety. Remember that bucket/wide brimmed hats are being phased in and are mandatory in 2015, when caps will not be permitted. In 2014, both wide brimmed and caps are accepted.
- Shoes – black shoes or black joggers are acceptable. Canvas 'happy shoes' are not recommended as they are not good support for growing feet.
- Joggers are allowed for sport on Friday.

The only leniency will be for year 6 as they have 7 weeks left. We do, however, expect that they will be wearing as close as possible to school uniform. All other grades will be expected to be in full uniform.

Uniform shop is open every Tuesday morning. Come on Balgownie, let's be fabulous! If you have difficulties with uniform, please come and see me. Wearing uniform is important in displaying respect for our school and pride in attending Balgownie Public School.

20.11.13

TERM 4 – WEEK 7

**Ice Cream Day a success.** Well done to the SRC and Mr Loxton who served over 300 ice-creams last Friday. The money raised is going to support our World Vision sponsor child in India.

**Good luck to Jamie Walsh** as she performs in the grand final of Wave FM Rock Schools Breakfast on Saturday at 11am. It is at Shellharbour Square either near Woolies or Cold Rock. Go along and support her as she represents our school. Good luck Jamie, we know you will make us proud.

**Trial of lunch and recess swap is evaluated and will continue.** Staff, some student representatives and P and C have been consulted about keeping the changed time. The times that we have been using for this year will remain for 2014.

### The advantages for the change have been:

- Start and finish times don't change
- Supervised eating of 'proper food' – not snacks first. Students don't fill up on recess snacks then not want to eat their lunch.
- Possible healthier eating and perhaps then, better concentration.
- Sun safety as the students are outside for longer when it is not so hot.
- 2 x 2 hour blocks for consolidated learning with the last session being shorter when some students find more difficult to concentrate.
- More effective timetabling for support staff as we will be able to have 4 x 1hour blocks.

### The disadvantages are:

- Canteen
  - Less sales of snacks
  - Canteen roster has not been easier to fill as volunteers have other commitments.
- Students can go home being a bit hungrier as they have had main food earlier.

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

Thank you for your support to trial something new that has been effective for our children's learning and well being.

### Comprehension Skill 6 - Summarising

**Description:** Learners identify and accumulate the most important ideas and restate them in their own words.

#### Example questions/ statements.

- What things will help you summarise the text – list, mind map, note-taking annotations etc
- What are the main ideas and significant details from the reading/viewing/listening?
- If you were to tell another person about the text/read/viewed/heard in a few sentences, what would you tell them?
- What is the main theme? How is it connected to the world beyond the text?
- In what significant ways does this text relate to/ elaborate on the topic that you have been investigating?
- Can you create a metaphor for the text you have read?

**Handy hint Key Words.** Students highlight words they believe are key to understanding the passage. These words are written on post it notes and placed on the page. After reading, the students close the book and arrange the key words in an order that supports a cohesive summary.

**Composite classes – What are they and how do they work?** At the beginning of a new school year, many parents find their child in a composite class. Naturally, questions arise: for the older group - will my child be held back? For the younger group - will my child be able to keep up? In primary schools, classes are organised in a wide variety of ways. Composite classes are one such type.

**Background** Classes that are made up of children of different year levels have traditionally been called composite classes. In recent times, these classes have also been labelled multi aged or stage classes. There are two reasons why these classes are formed:

- Educational - where classes are formed on the basis of educational rationale as they are seen to have educational benefit for the student. Our teachers spend a long time working together to form classes that offer the best possible learning for all of our students. We do most of this at the end of the year and the teachers who know the students best make the decisions together.
- Administrative - this is where there is an uneven enrolment in school years and classes need to be formed across a number of school years. This occurs

in most primary schools and especially in smaller primary schools.

Composite classes have been the source of much controversy over the years, with parents often believing that their children are being disadvantaged in some way by being in one. Even within a 'straight' class (eg Year 2 class), children will be at different levels. If your child is in a class with younger children, this doesn't mean that your child is not smart nor will it hold them back in their learning.

Teachers at Balgownie PS are experienced in teaching composite classes. Our staff work in stage based teams and plan together. The formation of our classes helps consistency between classes as it facilitates team planning and children benefit from the joint expertise of staff. Stage teams often group children across classes or teach different lessons to deepen the learning of students. (eg rotational groups)

Older students are not held back in composite classes. Teachers manage different grades in the one class by grouping children according to what they already know and giving small group instruction. This is achieved through continual assessment for learning. Learning programs are 'differentiated' or made different for the different levels of student achievement by teachers extending the work of those who learn more quickly and giving more support to those who need it, through group work and individualised learning. The class then becomes outcome based and or 'differentiated'.

Children in composite classes do no better or worse academically or socially, than their peers in straight grade class. They can be more confident, can operate better as part of a group, become more independent learners and better problem-solvers. They also make friends outside of their standard age-groups.

Multi-age classes work well where both teachers and parents believe that the quality of the teaching & learning taking place is far more important than whether or not the class was formed on an age basis. Children need time to settle into their new class and get to know their new classmates and teachers.

Next year, there will be most likely thirteen classes with a number of them being composite. We have not yet formed the new classes and as you know from previous years, changes can occur in the new year if our enrolments fluctuate. Our staff work as a team to ensure that placements for all of our students are made carefully using academic, social and learning needs of children to make the decisions.

**Have a wonderful week.  
Aloma Stewart**



## LIVING AND LEARNING

**Congratulations** to the following students who have demonstrated our values of *Respect, Responsibility* and *Real Learning* and earned themselves a wrist band!  
Well done!

Zetlan Firth  
Jack Naumovski  
Tyler King  
Tahlia Nakamura-Bell  
Liam Hamilton

And well done to the following students who achieved their PBS badge!

Penelope Grierson-Brownlowe  
Alli Soldi  
Jack Rouse  
Emily Petrov

### Thought of the Week

You are much happier when you are happy than when you are not.  
-Ogden Nash

### Joke of the Week

Q: How do you spot a modern spider?  
A: He doesn't have a web, he has a website!

### BOOK COVERING HELPERS PLEASE

Due to the generosity of our P&C, the school has been able to purchase many new reading resources for our students. This means that we now have a large number of books that require covering with contact. We are currently seeking volunteers to help us out with covering. If you are able to do so please see Mrs Birchall in the Library.

### LIBRARY STOCKTAKE

It's that time of the year again! After a great year of reading and borrowing from Balgownie School Library, it is time to return all outstanding library items for our annual stocktake. Children have ceased borrowing for the year but will still continue to enjoy their library time each week. Just a reminder to all families to please return all library items.

Many thanks for everyone's support of our library service this year.

Mrs Birchall

### HOME READERS 2013

The Home Reading program will stop next week (Week 8). Please return all books and have a big search at home for any missing books. This Friday will be the last day books will be issued. Thank you to all of our helpers that changed readers this year. Any outstanding books will need to be paid for to allow the stock to be replenished.

K-2 Teachers

### YEAR 6 FAREWELL

The 2013 Year 6 Farewell dinner and disco will be held in the school hall on **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December** at 5.30pm. An invitation will be issued shortly. The contribution for year 6 students will be \$10 per person. Year 5 students are invited to the disco (free).

### Payment

Could those year 6 students attending the farewell put \$10 in an envelope marked "Year 6 Farewell" along with their name and hand this into the school office as soon as possible please?

### Helpers

We are also looking for:

1. Year 6 parents to help set up the hall during the day
2. Year 5 parents who can help on the night.

Please contact Dale ph: 0425 320750 or Jane 0415 451728.

### Year 6 Families Dinner

An informal dinner is planned during the farewell at Balgownie Hotel, 141 Balgownie Rd. All families of the current year 6ers are welcome.

### CANTEEN ROSTER

#### 2013 Week 8, Term 4

Day	Date	Name
Mon	25.11.13	Ailsa Bailey Jane Morrison Lisa Sheedy
Tues	26.11.13	Sharon O'Brien Anne Foreman Jodie McLaughlin
Wed	27.11.13	Delvene Spencer Nazneen Nowsher <b>Help needed for an hour</b>
Thurs	28.11.13	Helen Lewis Tanya Vlietstra <b>HELP NEEDED</b>
Fri	29.11.13	CLOSED



## LIVING AND LEARNING

### UNIFORM SHOP

The Uniform Shop is open on  
**TUESDAY** mornings from  
8.30am each week.

### UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

#### SUMMER DRESS ORDERS

Just a reminder that summer dress orders close **this Friday**. Order forms are available from the office or the p and c website [www.balgowniepnc.com](http://www.balgowniepnc.com). Please place your order and money (cash or cheque) in the canteen slot. The dresses will arrive in the last week of term and will be delivered to classrooms

### P&C NEWS

#### BUNNINGS BBQ

The BBQ on Sunday went extremely well despite the miserable weather! Everyone pulled together to make the day not only profitable but fun. Special thanks to **GRAZE butchers in Balgownie** for supplying the sausages and sliced onions at cost price and preparing more on the day within 10 minutes of calling-amazing effort - your generosity is overwhelming and appreciated! The total profit from the day was \$1350! We look forward to an even more successful BBQ at Bunnings in April next year and fingers crossed for better weather! To all our volunteers, we couldn't have done it without you. You gave up precious hours from your family on a Sunday and for that we thank you!

Scott Spencer  
Chris Neal  
Ray Morrison  
Shane Brown  
Nathan Grierson  
Jodie Spark  
Jane Morrison  
Hamilton Wearing  
Stuart Gaynor  
Mr Sohel  
Raff Chiaverini  
Yue Zhao  
Jacqui Birchall  
Geoff Dewar  
Alison and Mr Karema  
Aloma Stewart  
Meikell McCreadie  
Emma Kipps  
Stewart Howie  
Di Burns

80% OF PEOPLE WITH A PEANUT ALLERGY WILL  
HAVE IT ALL THEIR LIFE. BE SAFE CHECK THAT  
NUTS ARE NOT ON THE LIST OF INGREDIENTS IN  
FOOD SENT TO SCHOOL



**BE SAFE - BE A MATE  
LEAVE PEANUT PRODUCTS AT HOME**

### BALGOWNIE PUBLIC SCHOOL TENNIS COURT

**Bill Kettley - Tennis Coaching  
Vacancies on Monday afternoon at  
3pm**

You can contact Bill on 4284 9356, mob 0415  
958 700 or email [sallyk@netspace.net.au](mailto:sallyk@netspace.net.au)