



# THE BALLYBUZZ

## LIVING & LEARNING



BALGOWNIE RD, BALGOWNIE NSW 2519

PH: (02) 4284 4245 FAX: (02) 4284 3462

### WHAT'S ON?

Thu	1.8.13	Whole School performance – Great Galaxies in Hall
Mon	5.8.13	Sth Stars rehearsal @ Croome Rd
Thu	8.8.13	School Starters Playgroup in Hall
		Brokers Athletics @ Beaton Park
Wed	14.8.13	P&C Meeting in Library 7.15pm

**Choir were wonderful** I joined many families from our school who were extremely proud of our students who sang beautifully at the 59<sup>th</sup> Northern Illawarra Music Festival. The whole festival was wonderful with four schools performing individual and mass choir items. Our school was sensational as they sang "I'm on my Way" with quirky black glasses on, reminiscent of the Proclaimers who made this song famous and the "Cup of Life" song.

Thanks to Mrs Lynch, and the Stage Two team for their hard work with the choir and to the ladies in the office for their work with the tickets! A special congratulations for our star conductor Mrs Lynch. Great work to all students and staff!



31.7.13

TERM 3 – WEEK 3

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

Romey Fanning  
Chelsea McGarry  
Sam Whalan  
Gracie Neal  
Joel Hammersly  
Yasmin Bahgdadi

The following students received their 3rd wrist band and achieved their PBS Badge:

Curtis Heyman  
Teagan Myers  
Sarah Koschny

**Fabulous attendance** at our School starters playgroup last Thursday! 14 families attended the first of the playgroup sessions being held at the hall. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to make friends and to familiarise themselves with the environment. Our school prides itself on the sense of community and it is also a great time for parents to meet each other. Thanks to the organisers!

**International students to visit next Tuesday** Our school has been selected to be part of a cultural visit by thirty, ten to fourteen year old Chinese students on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August. The students will have time in classrooms, a tour of the school and then spend some time with our students at lunchtime playing sports. It is a wonderful experience for our children and the visiting students.

**Education Week 2013. We had a wonderful Open day with many visitors to our celebrations.** Thank you for coming to celebrate learning at our school and to see the

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

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



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fantastic things that are happening every day. Thanks to Mrs Birchall for her organisation of Book Week.

In our classrooms there are fabulous exciting learning and teaching opportunities on a daily basis. I have seen book making, seed head design and make, technology usage to make learning exciting just as a few examples of in class fun. Maths, reading, writing and spelling are made enjoyable by our talented professional teachers who ensure that learning matches our students' needs and who know our children as both learners and people.

The diversity of experiences can be shown at Balgownie Public School in these first 4 weeks of school. The range of learning includes sport and the arts.

- NAIDOC week and all students have printed their hands on the values poles and learned about reconciliation through the Dharawal story about the lyrebird.
- Southern Stars rehearsals ready for the show in Week 7.
- Touch Football, netball, basketball and Brokers Athletics
- Choral festival all day rehearsal and performance
- School Starters Playgroup
- Stage 3 theatre visit to the IPAC.
- ICAS exam for English
- Whole School Performance for science – Great Galaxies
- Staff professional learning and engagement in the Australian Curriculum and lesson studies in numeracy
- Mrs Phillis receiving an Excellence in Teaching award for the Illawarra South East Region
- Chinese students ½ day visit to our school

This is a pretty impressive list and the term isn't even half over! This learning engages our students and makes connections between learning in class and how it applies to the wider world. These experiences challenge children's thinking and allow for meaningful application of the skills we teach. It makes our school rich and diverse.

**Uniforms** At our next P and C meeting, we will be reviewing our uniform. If you would like to be part of the discussion, please come along!

### Vocabulary Development Game Two.

**Narratives.** Ask the student to verbally tell their favourite story, whether it be personal or from another source. Next, give them a list of vocabulary words and ask them to re-tell the story in writing or talking, incorporating every word from the vocabulary list at least once before the end

of the story. Review it to make sure that all words are used in their proper context. You might use their spelling words for this exercise!

Remember Vocabulary knowledge is a key skill to a student's success and is one determinant how well students will be able to comprehend the texts they read. A strong vocabulary aids in improving reading and writing. For primary school children, vocabulary games are an effective way to help build their vocabulary while having fun at the same time. There is a wonderful website for finding word lists for both children and adults called [What is Vocabulary.com?](http://What is Vocabulary.com?)

**Have a wonderful week.**

**Aloma Stewart**

### Thought of the Week

We are not going to be able to operate our Spaceship Earth successfully much longer unless we see it as a whole spaceship and our fate as common. It is everybody or nobody.

-R Buckminster Fuller

### Joke of the Week

Why are boars bores?

*They hog the conversation.*

### REMINDER

Please ensure that all notes and money envelopes handed into the office are clearly marked with your child's name, class and payment details. Thank you.

### GREAT GALAXIES – Final Reminder

Permission notes and payment for the Great Galaxies science show on **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August, are due now.**

### “MY GIRRAGUNGDI”

On Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> July, Balgownie Public School Stage 3 students went to see the play “My Girragungdgi” at the IPAC in Wollongong. The play was about how Girragungdgi (green tree frog) helped a young Aboriginal boy to overcome his fears of a bad spirit called the hairy man.

All Stage 3 thought it was a great experience and everyone could connect to the story.



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Thank you Stage 3 teachers for taking us there to watch it.

*By Tamsyn Peel & Zara Webster*

### BOYS' TOUCH FOOTBALL

Last Friday 26.7.13, our Senior Boys' Touch Football Team played against Mt Ousley at Guest Park, Fairy Meadow. Most of the boys are soccer players and subsequently they struggled a little with the different positional play involved in touch. They soon adjusted, however, and were only a try behind at half time. The boys dug deep in defence with a couple of great last grasp touches. Unfortunately they came up a try short, going down 3-2. A big thanks to the boys for their positive attitudes and sportsmanship and to the parent supporters on the sidelines. It was a great experience from a coach's point of view as the boys improved greatly from their first training session.

*Mr Loxton*

### BALLY GIRLS' CHANNEL STATE OF ORIGIN

Last Friday morning the senior Balgownie touch football team played against Mount Ousley Senior Girls' team at Guest Park. The game had some fabulous moments of determination, sporting prowess, humour and sportsmanship.

The girls were locked at 1 all at half time until super coach Burns used the state of origin playbook and advised the girls to stack the right hand side and on our first possession to pass right, head up the wing and ground the ball. Low and behold the girls did and we were up 2-1. A streaker was suggested as a diversionary tactic but after careful deliberation the idea was dismissed. Mount Ousley was next to score and then in the dying seconds they grounded again over the try line ending the game with a 3-2 loss to our girls.

Congratulations to our 2 try scorers, Zara Webster and Hayley Bannerman. The other team members were; Zarah Yagmur, Chloe Heyman, Claudia Konza, Tamsyn Peel, Nyssa Shipton, Andrea Hayes, Jasmine Szalai-Hurt, Molly West, Mackenzie Hill. Thanks girls for your participation.

*Mrs Burns.*

### STAGE 2 CHORAL FESTIVAL

*\*Heavy sigh\** Well Choral Festival is over for another year and once again, I cannot express how utterly overwhelmed I am with every Balgownie Public School student who performed on the night. To say that I am proud of these kids is an understatement. Every single member of the Stage 2 Choir demonstrated professionalism, passion and above all perseverance.

Not only should each child and family be proud of their performance on the night, but more importantly, with their commitment. These kids truly shone on the night because of their hard work and dedication during every rehearsal leading up to our performance. The feedback I have received from both within the school community and outside has been overwhelmingly positive and I'd personally like to say that these kids are amazing!! Thank you Stage 2!!

*Mrs Lynch*

### CANTEEN ROSTER

#### 2013 Week 4, Term 3

Day	Date	Name
Mon	5.8.13	Martha Newman Alison McKillop Hazel Merola
Tues	6.8.13	Sharon O'Brien Rachel McGarry <b>Help for an hour needed</b>
Wed	7.8.13	Delvene Spencer Jade Firth <b>Help for an hour needed</b>
Thurs	8.8.13	Michelle Hodge Corina Firpo <b>Help for an hour needed</b>
Fri	9.8.13	CLOSED

### CANTEEN NEWS

We are running very low on canteen volunteers. We desperately need **YOU!** A lot of our parents either work full time or have young children at home and are not in a situation as yet to help out. But if your situation has changed and you can volunteer once a month it would be greatly appreciated! We have lost 7 valuable volunteers in the last month alone, and without more help, our kids won't be able to order fresh lunches and yummy snacks. Please contact Delvene if you can help in any capacity.  
[ballycanteen@gmail.com](mailto:ballycanteen@gmail.com) Delvene - 0411 286 361

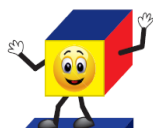
### P&C NEWS

#### Next meeting of the P&C

The next meeting of the P&C will be held at 7.15pm on Wednesday 14th August, in the school library.

#### P&C vacancy

The role of secretary of the P&C will shortly become



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vacant and we need a volunteer to fill this role. This position will be voted upon at the September P&C meeting. Nominations will close at 5pm on August 21st. If you are interested in the role and would like to know more about what is involved, please call Carol on 0418968810. If you would like to nominate for the role, please email [p.and.c@hotmail.com](mailto:p.and.c@hotmail.com) by the cut off date.

### Mobile phone recycling

Donate your unwanted old mobile phones and raise money for environmental initiatives at the school. Drop them into the marked box in the school library.

### Balgownie P.S Trivia Night!

The P&C fundraising committee has decided to organise a trivia night early in Term 4. We will be having many prizes and give-aways on the night, so if you have anything to donate to the school (such as a voucher to a local business, a new toaster, steak knives or bottles of wine) please contact Delvene Spencer on 0411 286 361. Likewise if you would like to be involved in the organisation of this wonderful fun-filled event, we will be putting together a sub-committee and meeting on Thursday 15th August. All contributions and ideas will be welcomed. Contact Delv for more details.

## UNIFORM SHOP

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

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

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### SHINE ILLAWARRA – Our Town. Our Children. Fundraising evening August 16<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm at the Fraternity Club Fairy Meadow

Our Town Our Children is working towards achieving overall world class children's health standards. Join over 500 people for a fantastic evening raising funds for the health of our regions children, supporting our local hospital's and doctor's. For bookings or more information please contact Narelle Wood on 0432 569829 or [narellewd@bigpond.com.au](mailto:narellewd@bigpond.com.au)

### BALGOWNIE JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB TRIVIA NIGHT

**Saturday 24th of August 2013, 7pm at Fairy Meadow Surf Club.**

**Tickets \$10.00**

If you would like to attend please email numbers attending to [events@balgowniejuniors.com.au](mailto:events@balgowniejuniors.com.au)  
(A huge part of the success of this night depends upon the donations we receive for this event. If you are able to assist, please drop off your donation at the Balgownie Football Club house by the 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2013)

### PCYC WOLLONGONG

*New programs at Wollongong PCYC:*

**Yoga** – Beginner Yoga, classes start Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August 5.30-6.45pm. Please phone PCYC Wollongong for cost and details.

**Performing Arts** – Singing, dancing and acting for all ages. Please phone PCYC Wollongong for cost and details.



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Principal: Aloma Stewart

31 July 2013

Dear Parent/Carer

### ***Personalised Learning and Support Signposting Tool (PLASST) – 2013 Trial***

I am pleased to advise that during the next few weeks our school, along with other public schools in the area, will be participating in the trial of a new tool for teachers to identify the learning and support needs of students. PLASST stands for Personalised Learning and Support Signposting Tool.

This trial is focussed on the development of a sound and reliable online tool that, when finalised, can be used by teachers in collaboration with parents and carers to identify the strengths and educational needs of students with additional learning and support needs. This information will assist schools in planning and personalising learning and support for individual students who require adjustments in their day to day learning.

To assist with the delivery of the trial, the Department of Education and Communities has contracted an independent analytics and program management provider, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). PwC will also analyse the data collected from the trial and recommend adjustments to the tool before it is made available to all NSW public schools in 2014. The trial will take place between July and September 2013 and involve up to 550 selected schools.

Teachers will complete a questionnaire about the educational needs of some of their students and submit their responses online. All data will be held in a secure web database designed specifically by PwC for the trial. The data supplied to PwC through the trial will not provide any names of individual students.

Students will not be required to complete any additional work or be formally assessed during the trial. This trial will not impact on students' education provisions.

If you have any questions about the PLASST trial, would like to discuss your child's possible involvement or would prefer that your child does not participate, please telephone the school.

If you need help with English to make an enquiry contact the Telephone Interpreter Service on 131 450 and ask for an interpreter in your language. The operator will call the number you provide and get an interpreter on the line to assist you with your conversation. You will not be charged for this service.

Yours sincerely

Aloma Stewart  
Principal

The Department of Education and Communities follows the requirements of the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* in the collection, storage, use, and disclosure of personal information.



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Principal: Aloma Stewart

### Parent/Carer Satisfaction Survey.

Please complete the five minute survey for parent satisfaction and review the findings from last year's surveys. Please return to the office as soon as possible.

Last year, your responses from the survey were:

**Strengths** that were identified were:

- Excellent teaching
- Approachable, caring, committed, knowledgeable staff
- Positive values and welfare programs
- Inclusive, welcoming sense of community
- Pride in the school grounds

**Recommendations** for improvement were:

- A greater variety of communication methods are needed.
- More information evenings to learn about various aspects of school life.

From the recommendations we:

- introduced a School App, and whiteboards in the playground
- reviewed our notes, newsletters and our website.
- Held 3 information sessions, one per term for ½ hour before the P and C meeting. The topics covered so far have been school direction, antibullying and numeracy. This term, the topic will be technology.

What do we do well at Balgownie Public School?

What are some recommendations for improvement?

Thank you for your time.  
Regards Aloma Stewart



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