

# The Bally Buzz

## Balgownie Public School

*Living & Learning*

W: [www.balgownie-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.balgownie-p.schools.nsw.edu.au) T: 4284 4245 F: 4284 3462 E: [balgownie-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:balgownie-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

Term 4 Week 7

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014

### CALENDAR – TERM 4

Thur	20 Nov	Playgroup in Hall
Thur	27 Nov	Final Playgroup in Hall
Tue	2 Dec	Helper Morning Tea 11-11.30am
Wed	3 Dec	Yr7 Orientation for Public Schools
Frid	5 Dec	K-2 Concert 5.00pm
Mon	8 Dec	Presentation Day 9.15am
Wed	10 Dec	Yr6 Graduation & Morning Tea 9.15am
	10 Dec	P&C Meeting at Collegians Balgownie - dinner beforehand
Thur	11 Dec	Yr6 Farewell
Frid	12 Dec	Student's PBS Reward Day
Mon	15 Dec	Reports to Parents
Wed	17 Dec	Students last day

**Campers having fun** at Point Wolstoncroft. One group has been on the high ropes course and sailing, and the other group has enjoyed the giant swing and BMX riding. Mrs Burns reports that all campers are well and that the weather is fantastic.

**Storywheel is complete.** On the wall under the COLA, which has

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been a bit plain for a while, hangs a creative, innovative work of art which our children can use. They can write or recite their own narratives using the stimulus of characters, settings and complications. Classes have been out admiring it and the possibilities for discussion and creativity are endless.

This is part of our longer term Grounds and Environment Plan in which together with parents, we are trying to build spaces around the school to promote creativity and play. Thank you to Mrs Lynch who was the driving force behind this, Mr Swan and Mr Quinn who put it up and Belinda and Travis from Aspiration Graphics who donated the graphics!

**Library upgrade has been popular.** There is a new layout, new shelving and furniture so that the learning hub of our school has been modernized as a warm, inviting place to learn and relax. The students have been overwhelmingly positive about the new furniture, circulation desk and layout. Pop your head in and have a look at improvements for a place where all of our students can benefit.

**Sun safe hats mandatory in 2015.** All children are expected to have a 'sun safe hat' on Day One, 2015. No appropriate hat, play in the shade. Please organize your hat now and don't wait for the start of 2015 to try to buy a hat. Online ordering has made this task easier.

**Staffing** Geoff Dewar has achieved through the merit process, a permanent position at Robert Townson Public School (Campbelltown area) and will begin there next year. We wish him well for the future and thank him for the work he has done at Balgownie.

Ms Jenna Duffy will join the team for 2015 as a temporary teacher and will be teaching Kindergarten.

**Classes for 2015** We have the biggest enrolment for 2015 that we have had since I've been here and currently there are 329 for next year. This means that currently there will be thirteen classes including 2 x Kindergarten and then multi age based classes for the rest including a K/1 and a 2/3. All this can change however as numbers change between now and next year.

**Parent's Guide to Social Media** I found a website ([www.kidspot.com.au](http://www.kidspot.com.au)) which has begun a series on a parent's guide to social media. This information may be useful for some of us trying to help our children navigate the tricky social media world. As a guide, most social media sites mandate that children be over 13 years old to be part of them. This means that no child at our school should be on social media according to the guidelines set by the sites.

**Part 1 – Facebook** [www.kidspot.com.au](http://www.kidspot.com.au)

It's a brave new world out there in cyberspace. A place full of Kiks and Tweets and anonymous questions. It's also a place full of children – your children – and unfortunately, many parents don't seem to be aware of its presence, let alone its pitfalls.

## **The internet is not a child's playground**

“A large proportion of parents are not aware of the dangers of social media channels for children,” says cyber bullying expert Susan McLean of [Cyber Safety Solutions](#). “On the surface, they will have read an article, but as for really understanding it, no.” The reasons for this are manifold: they don't get the technology, they don't use it or they don't understand that children do not use social media in the same way as adults.

“You can trust your child about a whole lot of things, and they can be good kids from good schools and good families – and still have problems online,” says Susan. “The internet is not a child's playground and parents need to understand that. They need to adequately parent in cyberspace and check up on what their kids do.”

**Her first tip:** keep kids off age-restricted sites. “Get kids conforming to the right thing,” she says. For Nathalie Brown, child behaviour consultant, it's not always that easy. “We need to accept that [social media] is happening and that it's not going away,” she says. “You can't just take away all electronic devices – we need to speak to our

children more about it. The biggest problem we're seeing with kids and social media at the moment is overuse."

Forewarned is forearmed, as they say, so we've put together a guide to some of the most popular social media platforms for kids right now – including the ones you've never heard of. Let's start with Facebook.



**What is it?** The world's most popular social networking site. Originally designed for college students, it now has more than a billion users worldwide.

**How does it work?** Facebook can be as public or as private as you like. It allows users to see updates and posts from friends, as well as to follow public pages and profiles of people and subjects in which they're interested.

**Why kids like it** While latest reports suggest that tweens and teens

are turning away from Facebook because, basically, there are too many adults ruining their party, most will still have an account. “I like it because I can look at photos, keep in contact with people both near and far, and organise events for my friends,” says Danielle 14. “I use it to talk to people, to see what they’ve been doing and where they’ve been.”

## What you need to know

**Age requirements:** Facebook requires users to be 13 years or older to create an account.

With the most established name in the social media space at the moment, Facebook is often cited as a no-go area for tweens and teens. But Susan believes parents should rethink. “Most of the mobile apps are far more dangerous than Facebook has ever been,” she says. “At least with Facebook, whether you like it or not, you can have almost 100 percent safety, as long as you set your account up correctly. You can block people, prevent them from contacting you, and there are great reporting options. In an app, you’re out on a limb.”

It’s essential that parents learn the ins and outs of Facebook’s privacy options (which, users will tell you, change regularly) and ensure their kids’ accounts are set up correctly. Be aware that,

despite Facebook's large team of moderators, inappropriate content and predators still operate on Facebook.

**Don't forget the basics** In the swirl of ever-changing technology, it's easy to forget that there are some basic rules every kid needs to know before they venture online in any way.

**Be careful what you share.** Make sure kids, particularly when they're starting out, know that home addresses, phone numbers, schools and other personal information is off limits online. If they're asked for them, even at the sign-up stage for an app, they need to double-check with an adult before handing over the details.

**Age limits matter.** Most apps and social media platforms have an age minimum of 13. "This is a legal age," says Susan. "It's not decided by the app or the website, but comes out of a law in the US." That law is the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act. The App Store also imposes its own ratings – and it's worth noting the 17+ rating on Kik.

**Parents know passwords.** Keep track of your kids' account information so you can keep an eye on their profiles. Let them know that your intention is not to spy, but to keep them safe.

**No one else knows passwords.** Remind your kids that passwords and logins are not to be shared with friends, no matter how close. If other kids can log in, there's a much bigger chance of cyberbullying or other online trouble.

**Don't talk to strangers.** While many parents have this conversation about the playground, they overlook the importance of it online. Keep an eye on the profiles of those your kids are associating with online and make sure it's only people they know in real life. If you spot someone you don't know, ask about them.

*Next week' we will examine the micro-blogging site, Tumblr.*

*Have a great week!*

**Aloma Stewart**

### **Joke of the week**

Q: Why do Eskimos wash their clothes in tide?

A: Because it's too cold out tide!

### **Thought of the week**

The past has no power over the present moment. *Eckhart*



**Congratulations** to the following students who have demonstrated our values of ***Respect, Responsibility*** and ***Real Learning***.

These students have earned themselves a wrist band. Well done!

Kaylee R 3HR      Will N 3HR      Emily P 1A

Lacey P KK

And well done to the following student who achieved the PBS Badge.

Beauden H 1/2D

## P&C NEWS

The P&C's final meeting for 2015 will be held at Collegians Balgownie on Wednesday 10 December, with dinner together beforehand. More details will be advised next week. All welcome.



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## COMMUNITY NEWS

### BALGOWNIE VILLAGE COMMUNITY CENTRE CHRISTMAS MARKETS

Christmas Markets are on at Balgownie Village Community Centre on Saturday 29 November from 9am to 2pm. It's a great place to start your Christmas shopping with lots of locally handmade and unique goodies. There is also food, music and even a visit from Santa around midday.

### CARESOUTH Information Session

*Inspired to change a life? Become a CareSouth Foster Carer.*

Come and meet members from the foster care team and find out more about becoming a foster carer.

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2014 3pm - 5pm**

**CareSouth Office at 2 Matilda Way Berkeley**

**1300 554 260    [www.everydaycaresouth.org.au](http://www.everydaycaresouth.org.au)**