

# The Bally Buzz

## Balgownie Public School *Living & Learning*

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Term 1 Week 10

Wednesday 2 April 2014

### CALENDAR

#### Term 1

Thursday	3 Apr	World of Maths
Friday	4 Apr	School History day
	4 Apr	ICAS Registration due
	4 Apr	Cross Country BBQ lunch orders due
Sunday	6 Apr	BPS 125 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
Week 11		Parent/ Teacher interviews this week
Monday	7 Apr	Cross Country Carnival
	7 Apr	Hot Cross Bun orders due
Wednesday	9 Apr	K-2 Easter Hat Parade 9am in Hall
	9 Apr	P&C Meeting 7.15pm
Thursday	10 Apr	Chess Challenge
Friday	11 Apr	Last Day of Term 1
Tuesday	29 Apr	First Day of Term 2 for students
	29 Apr	Anzac Day Ceremony 9.30am

**Thanks for the Working Bee** Yet again Bally community showed how much they care. Over seventy parents, staff and children weeded, (we all loved the 'Farmer's Friends') mulched, painted, composted and tidied. Our school looks sensational and we can be proud of the things we are doing to continually improve the school. Fantastic job everyone! A special thanks to the grounds and environment sub-committee who organised the working bee. We couldn't do it without you!

**Great Stage 3 Assembly** Well done to our Stage Three students who entertained our school with some quality items. 6L had us in stitches with some 'oldies but goodies' in the joke department, 5/6B showcased what they had learnt about Japan this term through some witty and thought provoking pictures and 4/5M demonstrated a Japanese Algorithm March. Thank you to the students and teachers from these classes who performed so confidently.

**Parent Teacher interviews** are being held this term in week 11. Notes have gone home to arrange interview times. Please make a time to speak with your child's teacher about your child's learning and progress. We hold the interviews at the end of Term One as part of our assessment and reporting cycle. This allows parents and

staff to meet early in the year to discuss our children. By working in partnership, we can maximise your children's achievements.

If you have recently had a meeting with your child's teacher, please do not feel obliged to meet with them again. Written reports will be sent home at the end of Term Two and Four as it was last year.

**Kindergarten enrolments** We are lucky enough to have a list of applications for enrolments for Kindergarten. It will be easier to make plans for 2015 if we know how many local enrolments we have. If you know of anyone, or are a parent of a child beginning school next year, please apply to enrol. We will be having an Open Day for prospective parents to promote what our school offers in June this year.

**Newsletter paperless in Term 2** Only two more paper copies of the newsletter. From the beginning of Term Two, our newsletter and P and C newsletter will be paperless. You will need to access the newsletter each Wednesday either through the website or the Skoolbag app. There will be a small number of newsletters printed and available in the office.

I urge you to prepare for this change. The app is available for iPhones, iPads, and Android smart phones and tablets through either Safari (Apple users) or Google Play for Android users. Put in Skoolbag Balgownie and you will be directed to the correct app. Download it to your device and each week you will be sent a message when the newsletter is published.

**Cake stall** Time and donations are appreciated for the cake stall!! We have a number of helpers from 11-12, but I would love some help from 12-3. If you can spare an hour, please let me know. Cake trays and supplies for packaging are available from the office. Please note that these will need to be dropped off at the canteen on SUNDAY April 6<sup>th</sup>, not before please.

#### History Day Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April Celebrate our school anniversary!

We are holding a fun 'History day' on Friday this week. Students are invited to dress up in clothes from over 100 years ago and bring a gold coin donation. Proceeds are going to our sponsor child.

Parents are welcome to take photos at the start of the day and then at 9.15 students will be in class or in the

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hall for the activities and it is a normal school day. Some of the activities that the students may be doing include:

- handwriting lesson in copperplate,
- learning from old artifacts.
- Bush dancing in the hall
- Old fashioned games led by the SRC.

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April is our anniversary which is a picnic day in the school grounds** Community are invited to come and join the fun with a tour of the school by student leaders at 11am, a cake stall, museum open day and a display in the new hall of the 'Forgotten tramway of Balgownie.' It is a chance for people to come and see how much school life has changed since they were at school. The Museum committee has been working hard coordinating this event. Thank you!

**Cross Country carnival being held Monday** Just in case we haven't had enough fun, Cross Country carnival is being held on Monday next week. We are starting with the smaller students and moving through to the older ages. We cannot tell you exactly what time each race is being held as it depends on how long the previous races take to complete.

Please put sun screen on your children at the start of the day and make sure they have a water bottle. It was really hot last time and it is important that we look after our students.

*Have a wonderful week.*  
**Aloma Stewart**

### *Joke of the week*

Q: What did the dolphin say when he bumped into the whale?

A: I didn't do it on porpoise.

### *Thought of the week*

If you walk you can dance. If you talk, you can sing. *Zimbabwean proverb*

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

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

Josh N	Lizzie W	Trae L
Zac H	James K	Vidhi G
Dylan C	Natasa Z	Harry D

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

Grace A	Zoe K	Jacob W
Zali H	Jayda P	

## ANZAC DAY ASSEMBLY

On Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> April Balgownie Public School will be holding an Anzac Day assembly. The school leaders will lead this reverent ceremony. All community members are invited to attend and pay respects to our fallen soldiers and those still currently serving.

Visitors need to be seated by 9.25am. During the assembly, please turn off all mobile phones. Seats for visitors are allocated at the back of the assembly. Please do not sit on the chairs at the side of hall, as they are used for teachers to supervise classes.

Hopefully we will see many community members attending this commemorative ceremony.

Thank you, Mrs Lewis

## ICAS REGISTRATION

ICAS Registration forms are due back by Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2014. Please note that late entries **will not** be accepted.

## The Statewide Eyesight Preschooler Screening (StEPS) - FOR KINDERGARTEN

The Statewide Eyesight Preschooler Screening (StEPS) program is an initiative of the NSW Ministry of Health and offers all Kindergarten children a **FREE** vision screening assessment.

Our school has the fantastic opportunity to participate in this screening on **WEDNESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> April - (Week 1) of next term.**

If you have a child in Kindergarten, please complete and sign the consent form and return this to school as soon as possible.

Thank you, Ms Steele



## K-2 EASTER HAT PARADE WEDNESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2014

This week the children in years K-2 have been assigned a fun Easter homework task - to design and make their own Easter hat.

Easter hats will need to be completed and brought to school for our Easter Hat Parade on

## Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 9am in our school hall.

Parents are welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing all of the colourful and creative Easter hats.

K-2 Teachers

## COMPUTER PERIPHERALS SALE

If you are at the school on Sunday for our 125<sup>th</sup> Celebrations you may wish to visit Mr Loxton at the Computer Peripherals Stall under the main COLA (in front of the blue wall). If you are after a keyboard, mouse, cables, power cords, etc, you might find what you're after at a bargain price. There will be a couple of flat screen monitors available too. Stall will open around 12:00pm.

## WORLD OF MATHS

2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2014

Numeracy is a compulsory component of our curriculum, and to make numeracy fun and relevant to our students, we have arranged for the *World of Maths* to visit our school. It is an exciting and educational presentation of hands-on, problem solving activities. The *World of Maths* is an ideal opportunity for students to see how maths is applied to real life situations.

Students will be engaged in hands-on activities that will cater for all ability levels and probe their problem solving skills. It is a highly engaging session which will show the students that Maths can be fun!

For more information and to view a video of a session in action, visit the World of Maths website: [www.worldofmaths.com](http://www.worldofmaths.com)

There will be **NO COST** to parents / caregivers for student participation.

## ETHICS UPDATE

As we near the end of term, Stage 3 are discussing Human Rights, Stage 2 are thinking about "Is Lying Wrong"? and Stage 1 are looking at self-identity with the topic "Are you same person you used to be?".

Primary Ethics requires a new Ethics teacher at Balgownie Public School to enable us to roll out this wonderful program. If you would like to learn more and are available on Tuesday mornings at 9.30, please visit the website at [www.primaryethics.com.au](http://www.primaryethics.com.au) or email Angie Newman at [angie.newman@live.co.uk](mailto:angie.newman@live.co.uk) or talk to one of our Ethics Teachers, Juan, Gabi, Yuki or Karen.

## CANTEEN ROSTER

### Week 11 Term 1

Day	Date	Name
Mon	7.4.14	Emma Kipps Alison McKillop
Tue	8.4.14	Callie Heyman Lisa Tunstall
Wed	9.4.14	Evelyn Knust Ghada Sultan
Thur	10.4.14	Catherine James Shirley Butterly Joanna Lindenau
Frid	11.4.14	Donna Guest Amanda Primmer Mary Dilber

## CANTEEN NEWS

### A Reminder

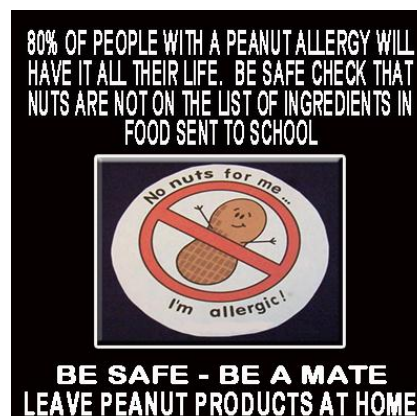
This year the P&C will be cooking a BBQ following the cross-country races on Monday 7th April. Please pre-order your BBQ lunches by Friday 4th April.

**What's cooking? \$4.00 BBQ Lunch = 1 sausage sandwich + 1 frozen treat + 1 water**

The canteen will be closed, no lunch orders or counter sales this day.

## Last week of term

For the dates Tuesday 8th - Friday 11th we will be upgrading some of the equipment in the canteen. As such the canteen will be open for counter sales only. No lunch orders on these days.



## UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

Our Uniform shop was closed this week, as we are yet to find a coordinator. Please help us continue to provide this valuable service. If you are able to assist to coordinate the uniform shop, perhaps with a friend, please let us know! The Uniform Shop Coordinator:

- Operates the uniform shop on Tuesday each week from 8:30-9:30 with the assistance of a regular group of approximately 4 volunteers
- Provides an ordering system through the school canteen for parents who are unable to attend the uniform shop
- Liaises with uniform suppliers and orders stock as needed
- Unpacks deliveries (most stock is delivered to the school) and picks up some stock from local suppliers (usually about 4 times per year)
- Issues receipts and file order forms
- Conducts stock take prior to start of summer and winter to determine amount of new season stock to order
- Report to the P&C regarding uniform shop operation

You will be given lots of assistance!!

## P&C NEWS

**THE P&C NEWSLETTER CAN BE VIEWED ON THE SKOOLBAG APP UNDER THE CATEGORY P&C**

## P&C MEETING

The next meeting of the P&C will be held at 7.15pm on Wednesday 9 April. It will incorporate some continued business from the AGM. It will also be preceded by a fete organisation meeting at 6.30pm in the library. We invite all friends of the school to attend and see what exciting things are in store.

## Working Bee

Thanks to all of the families who turned out to help tidy

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up the grounds in preparation for the 125th anniversary celebrations. We appreciate your help!

### TREASURER NEEDED URGENTLY

We have many fantastic volunteers assisting us this year, but the P&C is still without a Treasurer. The role of Treasurer is crucial to the continued operation of the P&C. If you think you can assist, please contact Amie Grierson on 0439 411 246 or email [p.and.c@hotmail.com](mailto:p.and.c@hotmail.com).

The Treasurer is responsible for:

- Receiving and depositing all monies received by the Association;
- Maintaining financial records;
- Drawing cheques;
- Presenting accounts;
- Presenting a report in the form of an income and expenditure statement together with a reconciled bank statement at each P&C Meeting;
- Preparation of a projected financial budget at the beginning of the year.

### HOT CROSS BUN DRIVE

Just a quick reminder that the last day to drop off your hot cross bun orders to the slot at the canteen will be Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April.

If you didn't receive an order form they are available in the office or go to [www.balgowniepnc.com](http://www.balgowniepnc.com) and click the P&C News tab.

We are still looking for a few more volunteers to help with the distribution of the hot cross buns on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April. If you are able to help with this please contact Catherine James on 0405 262 267.

### PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE HELP WITH BUNNINGS BBQ FUNDRAISER!

***All you can eat sausage incentive package available for volunteers***

Brad and Kimberley Elliott, on behalf of the P&C, are running the Bunnings BBQ fundraiser on Saturday, April 19 (yes, Easter weekend). If you are not going away on Easter weekend please consider helping out for 1-2 hours. Please contact Kimberley on 0422 590 988 (text or call).

Times (just a guide, one hour of your help is wonderful too!)

08:30 – 10:30 – require 2-3 more volunteers

10:30 – 12:30

12:30 – 14:30

14:30 – 16:30 – requires 3 more volunteers

We look forward to hearing from you and serving up lots of sausages!

### 2014/2015 ENTERTAINMENT BOOK

The NEW Entertainment Book will be available at school on the last day of term, Friday 11th April. There were over 100 families who purchased books last year and have enjoyed the savings and fun experiences using the

fabulous vouchers available in their current books (still valid until June 1st and the new books are valid immediately). If you would like to continue getting huge discounts on your groceries, petrol, eating out and kids holiday activities then please buy the new book and support our school! It is the same price as last year, just \$55 and contains even more local restaurants, cafes, shopping and entertainment vouchers. Every book sold raises \$11 for our school.

This year there is the option of either the same book format OR digital membership (for iPhone or Android). Also, if you pay with the attached form (please drop it into the canteen slot) or online before April 10th then you will receive a code to access 6 of your choice from a list of bonus vouchers (including a voucher for the new Al Aseel in Fairy Meadow and the Outback Steakhouse). We will also be drawing 2 names randomly on the 11th April to win a bottle of wine to take to your first discounted dinner!

For anyone who has not experienced the Entertainment Book previously, there will be opportunity to view copies next term before purchasing (however, any purchases after 10th April do not qualify for the bonus vouchers).

If you already love this book then please tell your friends and family as this will ultimately save them money and help our school at the same time!

Please see the link to Balgownie Public School's Entertainment Book payment page and further details on [www.balgowniepnc.com](http://www.balgowniepnc.com)

### SCHOOL STARTERS PLAYGROUP

It is that time of year again to start the preparations for playgroup.

The success of our school starters playgroup in previous years has not only been the great relationships between staff and parents at our school but to the dedication of an organising committee to ensure playgroup runs smoothly each week.

If you have a child starting Kindergarten in 2015 and would be interested in organising playgroup this year, we would love to hear from you. Please call Allison McKillop 0402 565 934.

### COMMUNITY NEWS

#### ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS ACTIVE CLINICS

The Dragons are conducting two clinics this April in the upcoming school holidays – go to [dragons.com.au/news](http://dragons.com.au/news) for more information.

#### UNDER-10S BASKETBALL

Balgownie Pythons are looking for a couple more players aged 7-9 to join their under-10 basketball team which plays Tuesday afternoons at the Snakepit. Games are either 4.30pm or 5.30pm. Please call Toni on 0438 325 853 if interested.





# INSIGHTS

by Michael Grose - Australia's No 1 parenting educator



## Making the most of your parent-teacher interview

***It makes sense for you as a parent to be prepared and ready to make the most of the brief time you have with teachers.***

Parent-teacher interviews provide a great opportunity for you as a parent to find out how your child is progressing at school.

Many parent-teacher interviews are tightly scheduled and can seem a little rushed. Teachers are generally highly organised so they can make the most of the time you have together.

It makes sense also for you as a parent to be prepared and ready to make the most of the brief time you have with teachers.

Here are some guidelines for to make the most of their interviews:

1. **Prepare well.** Before the interview, list any questions that you want to raise. Keep questions short and to the point.
2. **Attend with a partner or friend** particularly if you are nervous or unsure. It is easy to miss a point and often difficult to relay information to a partner.
3. **Give the teacher a chance** to make an assessment of your child's progress. This may seem obvious but some interviews never get off the ground because enthusiastic parents take over.
4. **Take notes and clarify information that you don't understand.** "What do you mean by 'he needs to spend more time reading'...?" Make sure you have a good understanding of the messages your child's teacher is giving.
5. **Be prepared to give an assessment of your child's performance.** You may be asked how you think your child is performing so give an honest, but realistic assessment.
6. **Ask how you can help your child if there are any areas that need to be strengthened.** No doubt your child's teacher will have some strategies for you to assist your child, so make sure you have a clear understanding before you leave.

If there are unresolved issues or you wish to discuss your child's difficulties in greater detail, consider asking for another interview. This is being respectful of the teacher's time and of those parents who are to follow.

Once the interview is over consider how you will discuss it with your child.

- Avoid giving generalisations or simplistic appraisals such as: *"The teacher says you are a good girl."*
- Discuss areas that need work in positive terms. Talk about strengths or successes first before discussing areas that may need more work.
- A clear message such as, *"We talked about your reading and the teacher suggested that we should try..."* is far more helpful.
- Involve your child in discussing any plans for improvement. Avoid making big plans for your child to improve in a subject area without consulting him or her. By involving children and taking notice of their ideas plans are more likely to be successful.



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