

# The Bally Buzz

Balgownie Public School  
*Living & Learning*

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Term 4 Week 9

Wednesday 2 December 2015

## CALENDAR – TERM 4

Thur	3 Dec	K-2 Concert 5.45pm
Mon	7 Dec	Presentation Day 9.15am
Wed	9 Dec	Yr6 Graduation 9.15am & Morning Tea
	9 Dec	P&C Christmas Meeting at Collegians Club Balgownie 6.30pm dinner & 7.15pm meeting
Thur	10 Dec	Yr6 Farewell
Frid	11 Dec	PBS Whole School Reward Day
Mon	14 Dec	Student Reports to Parents
Wed	16 Dec	Students Last Day



The Waratah march passes through Balgownie.

**Waratah March this Sunday at Balgownie.** One hundred years ago volunteers marched from Nowra through the Illawarra to Sydney to gather recruits to fight in the Great War.

**Respect, Responsibility, Real Learning**

Principal: Aloma Stewart PO Box 192 Fairy Meadow NSW 2519 P&C: [www.balgowniepnc.com](http://www.balgowniepnc.com)

"May the Waratahs grow in strength, flourish while temporarily transplanted in foreign soil, and return to us rich in achievements for King and country no less conspicuous and brilliant than their namesake, the crimson monarch of the Australian bush." These were the words of Mr E.H. Palmer, the organising secretary of the State Recruitment Committee as 50 volunteers began their walk from Nowra to Sydney in November 1915, known as the Waratah March. Gathering military recruits along the way to fight in World War I, the March stopped at Berry, Kiama, Albion Park, Dapto, Wollongong and Wollongong's northern suburbs before heading to Sutherland, Hurstville, Kogarah. An estimated 120 men had joined the Waratah March when it arrived in Sydney three weeks after leaving Nowra.

Ten years ago the Illawarra witnessed a re-enactment of the Waratah March to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the march. The Waratah March was one of about 10 recruitment marches that took place in 1915 and 1916. The first and most successful of these was the Coo-ee March from Gilgandra.

Our students are invited to be part of this march, Sunday 6 December, meeting on Napier St (next to Collegians) at 1.15pm for a 1.30pm start. The march will go to the memorial where there will be a service held. Students can wear their school uniform or dress in period costume.

**Keira High School STEM Challenge Day.** Last Thursday, Year 5 students competed in Keira High Schools inaugural STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) challenge day. Students built bridges, designed and made catapults and bionic hands and solved a range of science- based problems involving coding, networking and design. All students reported having a great day. The level of cooperation and standard of design were both outstanding. Congratulations to our Year 5 team who finished a creditable 4<sup>th</sup> in our Community of Schools. Thanks to Mr Robson and the other Science teachers from Keira High for organizing such a great day.

Mr Loxton

**Playgroup again a success.** Thank you to the organising committee and parents who coordinated the playgroup for our families starting in 2016. It is an incredibly successful parent initiative and we are lucky to have such an involved community who value contributing to our school in many different ways.

It has been noted in the previous few years how settled our Kinder children are as they begin school. They feel much more familiar with our school setting, the other children, their buddies and the staff. We are now looking for parents of children starting in 2017 to continue the tradition. Please see Aloma if you are interested!

**Ryan Park visits the playground that he helped to fund.** Thanks also to Ryan Park and the Community Grant which helped build the playground which our children love. He spoke with the School Leaders and enjoyed swinging on the monkey bars. The \$47 000 that was donated by our local State MP added to the hard work of fund raising completed by parents for the benefit of our children. It will be a positive feature of our playground for many years to come.

The climbing wall has been delayed by the company and should be installed late this term or early next.

### **Term dates for 2016 – for students**

**Term 1** Thur 28 Jan – Fri 8 Apr for Yrs 1-6

**Kindergarten** begin on Tuesday 2 Feb 9am – 3pm

**Term 2** Wed 27 Apr – Fri 1 July

**Term 3** Tues 19 July – Fri 23 Sept

**Term 4** Mon 10 Oct – Frid 16 Dec

**Thank you Breakfast well attended.** For those of you who have helped this year to make our school a better place, our staff say thank you!! Thanks to those who came and shared a cuppa and to those who couldn't come, we say thanks to you as well! Your contributions are always appreciated.

**PBS Whole School Reward Day.** A PBS Reward Day for our

students who have worked so hard this year is being held in the school grounds on Friday 11th December. Our students were thrilled to hear that we have a WATER themed fun day with a giant water slide being hired for the event. A note will be sent home with students providing more information about the day.

**Class Resource List for 2016.** We are sending out a class resource list for next year, with your child's report. This is so you can take advantage of the sales etc to get those 'Back to School' items. We will also put this on the website and the Skoolbag app for you to refer to as needed.

**K-2 assembly on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.** All students need to be with their teachers by 5.45pm in pre-arranged clothes/costume. The concert will run from 6.00pm to approximately 7.30pm. Please leave the front area of the hall for Balgownie students only. Seating will be tight and we expect lots of people to be standing.

**Balgownie celebrates learning.** We are giving five class awards for each class at Presentation Day, Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December. This is apart from the traditional whole-school awards. We want to celebrate learning and this is one of the many strategies that we are using to acknowledge academic excellence, consistent effort (new) improvement, citizenship and a teacher's choice award.

Of course, with only five awards per class, it can be a difficult decision for teachers and I know they spend a long time deliberating over which students 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?

**Please help keep our students safe.** I have had a call from a concerned neighbour about parents parking in no parking zones to drop off & pickup children and children being in unsafe traffic areas at these times. We have been highlighting over the past weeks the need for parents to adhere to road rules for safety. **THIS IS FOR ALL OUR CHILDREN.**

**Language Classes Expression of Interest.** One of the responses from the parent survey was a request for language classes to be offered as an extra curricula activity. We have followed this suggestion and an external company, LCF Fun Languages are sending out an expression of interest today. **THIS IS NOT COMPULSORY.**

French, Spanish, German, Italian or Mandarin could be offered if there is enough interest. Please consider the EOI and send it back to

the office by Friday next week, 11 December, for us to then decide together with LCF if the classes can be held at our school. Cost is \$130.00 per child for the term.

**Mindfulness exercise to try at home.** It's that time of the year where everything is starting to get busier and busier, both professionally and in our own family lives. The end of year celebrations, Santa visits, final assemblies, Christmas functions, family gatherings....the list goes on and on.

As we rush from activity to activity and function to function, without noticing, that rushing feeling is cumulative. Many of us start to feel like we're on the constant wheel that never stops at this time of year. Yet you can begin to take control, and bring more space into your life.

- Before you leave for work, or when you arrive at work, create a few moments to sit still.
- Close your eyes; begin to breathe consciously through your nose. Begin to feel where the breath is touching you.
- Can you hear the breath?
- Can you feel the breath?
- Begin to notice, non-judgmentally what is happening within your body?
- Staying for at least three breaths, longer would be fantastic!

- Notice how you feel after?
- What is different?

Practice this technique throughout the day, when you first notice your mind starting to race.

*Have a great week!*

**Aloma Stewart**

### **Joke of week**

Q: Where do pencils go for vacation?

A: Pencil-vania.

### **Thought of the Week**

Feelings are everywhere - be gentle.

*J. Masai*

***If you have changed address or contact details, please notify the office so we can update our records.***

## **LIBRARY NEWS**

**Could families please ensure that all Library items are returned ASAP.**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Principal, Ms Stewart



for her ongoing and generous support of Balgownie School Library. I would also like to thank the staff for their support and hard work during the year. A big thank you also, to the many volunteers who have assisted with all forms of help in the library.

A great deal of gratitude goes out to our wonderful P&C who have always been so forthcoming in supporting us. But most of all, I'd like to thank the students of this school who have embraced our Library and sought enrichment and enjoyment through all of the fantastic resources that the Library has to offer. A peaceful and happy festive season to all.

Mrs Birchall.

## **TALENT QUEST**

Our much anticipated annual event "Bally has Talent!" is being run over two days on Monday 14th and Tuesday 15th of December. The Talent Quest will run on both days from 11.30-1pm. A note outlining the running order of children's performances will be sent home early next week. As per previous years, we cannot provide exact times of performances and the running order of items cannot be altered on the day.

## **P&C CHRISTMAS MEETING**

***Wednesday 9 December 2015 at the Collegians Club***

***6.30 dinner and 7.15pm meeting***

Please join us for a meal and our final P&C meeting for 2015 at the Collegians Club Balgownie. We encourage families to come along for a meal with their families, and for members or new members to stay for the meeting. Dinner from 6.30pm, meeting to start at 7.15pm.

Colliers give us great support and have offered their meeting room for our use for the evening. You are welcome to eat with your family in the Bistro, or retire to the meeting room with your meals.

What a fantastic year. So much thanks is owed to so many amazing volunteers who work hard to ensure our kids enjoy a fantastic school experience. Our heartfelt thanks for all of your help. We look forward to a fantastic 2016.

If you haven't yet come along to a meeting the Christmas meeting is a great one to come along, enjoy a meal, and hear about what we have planned for 2016.



## **BPS GIVING TREE**

Every year thousands of children do not experience an enjoyable Christmas. This year you can make a difference to a child's Christmas by brightening their day with a gift.

Please donate to the annual Shellharbour Giving Tree. Buy a gift for

a child aged 0-18 and bring it to school, **unwrapped**, and place it under the Christmas tree in the front office. All gifts will be donated to local children, through The Salvation Army.

***Thank you for your support and making a difference!***

## CANTEEN NEWS

A reminder that Uniform orders/money are to be placed in the school office drop slot - not the Canteen.

## CANTEEN ROSTER FOR TERM 4 WEEK 10

<b>Mon 7 December</b>	Jemma Mulquin Karen Rogers
<b>Tues 8 December</b>	Erin Steyger <b>HELP NEEDED</b>
<b>Wed 9 December</b>	<b>CANTEEN CLOSED UNLESS VOLUNTEERS FOUND</b>
<b>Thurs 10 December</b>	Sharon Sackett Sue Mulquin
<b>Friday 11 December</b>	Melissa Ryan Amanda Primmer Emma Kipps

If any volunteers, new or old can do a fill in during the week where help is needed please text Karen asap on 0401729778.

## CANTEEN ROSTER FOR TERM 4 WEEK 11

No canteen operations (lunches) this week, only end of year cleaning and selling of perishable items until stock runs out.

<b>Monday 14 December</b>	Wendy Myers Elissa Kohler
<b>Tuesday 15 December</b>	<b>HELP NEEDED</b>
<b>Wednesday 16 December</b>	Joanna Lindenau Jodi Hurt





## French, Spanish, German, Italian and Mandarin

LCF Fun Languages have been teaching languages to 2-12 year old children around the globe for 25 years. We are well-established at public and independent schools across Sydney and Melbourne and are now also in the Illawarra!

### Our Methodology

Children love the LCF Clubs' fun approach to language learning, which involves lots of games, songs, drama and activities to fire the imagination. You will be amazed at how quickly they learn their chosen language.

### Our Teachers

We are proud of our team of native speaking teachers. They are all fully trained and supplied with the latest language teaching resources.

### The Benefits

A second language boosts children's cognitive development and assists their overall learning capabilities. It prepares children for High School language studies and is a great asset in later life.

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### Expression of Interest

If enough interest is shown in the classes, then they will be offered at our school. THIS IS NOT A MANDATORY ACTIVITY.

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ 2015 Class \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate below your interest and which language your child would like to learn:

☐ French   ☐ Spanish   ☐ German   ☐ Italian   ☐ Mandarin  
(most popular language will be the one selected if enough interest is shown)

☐ Morning(8am-8.45am)   or   ☐ afternoon (3.15pm-4pm)

☐ Monday   ☐ Tuesday   ☐ Wednesday   ☐ Thursday   ☐ Friday

**Return this form to the office by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December.**

The Term 1 or Term 2, 2016 program would run for 7 weeks.  
Cost is \$130.00 per child for the term.

**Nicole Weber Area Manager - Illawarra Region**  
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