

The Bally Buzz

Balgownie Public School

Living & Learning

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Term 1 Week 9

Wednesday 25th March 2015

CALENDAR – TERM 1

Thu	26 March	BPS Cross Country 12.00pm
Wed	1 April	Jack Flash & the Jumping Beanstalk performance
Thu	2 April	Canteen Closed
	2 April	Last day of Term 1
Tue	21 April	Start of Term 2 for students

Save the date – 2nd May 2015 for working bee 1.30 - 4.30pm

Stage 3 assembly What a great assembly! We learnt something about science, were entertained by drama, heard some music composed by students and listened to some excellent stories with illustrations. It was funny, thought provoking and showed some of the learning that has happened in Years 5 and 6.

Thanks to the students and Mr Loxton, Mr Barrett, Mrs Burns and Ms Burrows for their hard work putting the production together.

Parent Teacher interviews are being held this week and next. 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

Respect, Responsibility, Real Learning

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sent home at the end of Terms Two and Four as it was last year.

Good luck to our chess challenge team who will be representing our school at Edmund Rice College all day on Thursday. Our team is: *Lance K, Kye S, Kaled B, Ewan C, Levi M, Jack N, Mason F, Hannah D, Thomas A and Daniel P.*

Thanks to those parents and carers who have paid for the subscription to Reading Eggs and School Magazines and those who have also paid their voluntary school contributions. It makes a big difference to our school. If you have not yet paid, please do so as soon as possible. We have Eftpos to make it easier for you!

Making the most of your parent-teacher interview by Michael Grose

It makes sense for you as a parent to be prepared and ready to make the most of the 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 to make the most of the 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.

Have a great week!

Aloma Stewart

Joke of the week

Q: What stays in the corner and travels all over the world?

A: A stamp.

Thought of the week

Malcolm Fraser Quoting Back to Methuselah by George Bernard Shaw

"Life wasn't meant to be easy, my child, but take courage: it can be delightful."





AT BALGOWNIE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Wednesday 6th May

Come and buy a gift for your wonderful Mum at the Mother's Day stall. Prices from \$0.50 to \$10.00 with something for all Mums.

CANTEEN NEWS

Canteen Roster for next week

Monday 30 March: Faye Southcombe, **HELP NEEDED**

Tuesday 31 March: Mary Papakosmas, Jo Mortimer, Mandy Fanning

Wednesday 1 April: Ljuba Rodic, Fahmiya Haniffa

Thursday 2 April: **CANTEEN CLOSED FOR CLEANING** – Julie Gallan, Chantal Sproates, Tanya Vliestra

A reminder to all families that the **last day for canteen this term will be next Wednesday 1 April**. Please pack lunches for your children on the last day of Term 1, Thursday 2 April.

UNIFORM SHOP

WINTER TUNIC PRE-ORDER

LAST DAYS - Orders must be placed and paid by the 25th March. We do not keep Winter Tunics in Stock, so if you don't pre-order you will miss out!

Due to postage costs the Uniform Shop can only order tunics after a sufficient number of requests have been placed. Any order received after the 25th March will be held until this minimum level has been reached and a second order can be placed.

Place your orders online at <http://balgowniepnc.com/ourschool/> or via the canteen slot (paper orders can be downloaded from the website or the school bag app or there are printed copies in the school office).

BALGOWNIE HERITAGE SCHOOL MUSEUM

BALGOWNIE REMEMBERS

SOLDIERS OF WW1

Invitation to come and share your stories
and photos's

Sunday May 3rd 2015
10am to 4pm