

# The Bally Buzz



Balgownie Public School

Living & Learning

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Term 4 Week 10

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2016

## CALENDAR - TERM 4

Wed	14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	K-6 PBS Reward Day P & C Meeting + dinner @ Collegians
Thur	15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>*TALENT QUEST*</b> REPORTS to Parents
Fri	16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Students last day 2016 Year 6 Ringing of the Bell at 2.40pm
Mon	30 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2017	Students in Years 1-6 Return to School 2017
Wed	1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	BPS Swimming Carnival @ University Pool
Fri	3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	Soccajoeys K-2



*A final message from  
the 2016 Relieving  
Principal...*

When I reflect on my time as Principal this year, of what I consider to be a wonderful school, I have many fond and proud memories. Being new to this role, the road has had bumps and many challenges along the way, however the rewards have far outweighed the challenges.

I would like to begin by acknowledging the contribution of staff, parents and students to Balgownie PS in 2016.

Walt Disney once said:

*'You can dream, create, design and build the most wonderful ideas in the world, but it requires people to make the dream a reality.'*

The reality is that the learning experiences and projects that have taken place this year could not have happened without a great deal of commitment and support from the staff, parents and students.

This year we have celebrated many wonderful school events such as our very successful Big Screen SUNSET Movie Night and most recently, our amazing school fete. Both events attracted large crowds and were well supported by our community. Our active P&C worked tirelessly to make it a great success in fun and fundraising. Thank you to our P&C, we cannot thank you enough!

## Year 6 Farewell

Last night the Year Six Farewell was held in our school hall. Students, dressed beautifully, enjoyed a meal and some dance time.

Once again, a BIG thank you must go to the parents for organising the catering and setting up the hall so beautifully. The students absolutely loved it!



**Respect, Responsibility, Real Learning**

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

In 2016 our students had the opportunity to engage in a range of major extracurricular activities.

- Our Seniors participated in Southern Stars and enjoyed a week at the Great Aussie Bush Camp on the Central Coast,
- Our Stage 2 students enjoyed participating in the Choral Festival
- AND our K-2 students most recently performed on the stage at the end of year Christmas concert extravaganza.

2016 also saw our school enter the 2nd Year phase of our 3 Year School Plan. As part of our curriculum we introduced the 'ScopeIT Coding program' throughout Years K-6. This program focused on higher order thinking and proved to be highly engaging for our students.

Miss Scott also delivered Mindfulness lessons with our students, to help build individual mental health and wellbeing.

Our teachers have had a big year of learning too. Balgownie PS teachers are lifelong learners - we know that we can improve to make sure that we are learning the best strategies for teaching your children for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Teachers have been involved in major projects this year including - Focus on Reading, L3, Assessment for Learning, Trauma Informed Classroom Practice, Coding, Visible Learning, the introduction of new syllabus documents in History and Geography, as well as many other short courses. You can be assured that your children will continue to receive the best education possible.

Teachers and support staff, thank-you for your energy, passion and enthusiasm.

And how could I forget our delightful students?

We are privileged each day to participate in your academic journey. We recognise and applaud just how hard you try. We celebrate your achievements, whether they be great or small, and share pride in the progress you make in your learning. Congratulations and thank you for all your hard work this year. To our wonderful Year 6 students, transitioning to high school, we also wish you a bright, happy and successful future.

I'd sincerely like to thank everyone for supporting me this year in my role as Principal. What an honor and privilege it has been to lead this school. I am so proud to be part of this community.

I'd like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe holiday break. Relax and enjoy precious time spent with family and friends. I look forward to seeing you all in 2017.



Relieving Principal  
*Sarah Steele*

## Retirement of Mrs Jenny Lewis

This week we wish to say thank you and goodbye to a dear colleague – Mrs Jenny Lewis will retire from teaching at the end of the school year. Mrs Lewis is a much loved colleague and teacher. She has an amazing passion for inspiring students and leaves a lasting legacy over generations. Mrs Lewis we will miss you and wish you all the very best with your next adventure.

## So where does 2017 take us?

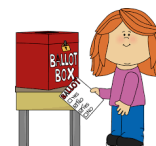
Onward and upward! In 2017 Mrs Lesley Matthews will lead our school as the Principal and I will return to my role as Assistant Principal in K-2. Mrs Lynch will also return to her classroom teacher role. Mrs Monique Moore will take up a Relieving Assistant Principal role at Bellambi PS for 2017.

Carly Rice will join the team for 2017 as a temporary teacher, as will Miss Duffy, Miss Burrows and Miss Grant. Some other staffing is still being finalised.

### Classes for 2017

- Currently our total school numbers are fluctuating! Our enrolments for 2017 change on a daily basis. At this stage we will drop from 14 classes to 13 very full classes.
- Our current planning is for 2 x Kindergarten and then stage based classes for the rest of the school. However, all of this can change! We all want classes to be established and settled for our students and staff, however, please be aware that that we could have some unavoidable movement early in the term.

## 2017 Leaders Announced



The exciting announcement of our new School Leaders for 2017 was held at our Presentation Day last Thursday. Our leaders for 2017 are: William, Sam, Teagan and Helena. Congratulations! We look forward to watching you flourish over the year and develop your skills and confidence.

## P&C Christmas Meeting

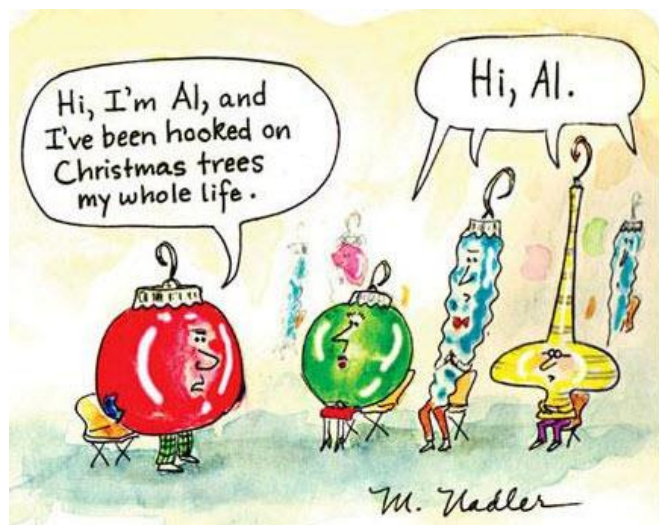


**TONIGHT**.....Wednesday 14 December 2016 at the Collegians Club 6.30pm dinner and 7.15pm meeting. Please join us for a meal and our final P&C meeting for 2016 tonight at the Collegians Club Balgownie. We encourage families to come along for a meal with their families, and for members or new members 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 2017.

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 2017.



## Joke Of The Week:

## Library Notice

Thank you to all who have supported and enjoyed our wonderful school library in 2016. Please ensure that all library items are located and returned as soon as possible. Happy and safe Festive Season to all.

*Mrs Birchall*

## Home Reading

All K-2 Home Reading will finish this Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> December. Please send all Home Readers into the school from now until next Wednesday.

If you have misplaced a book send \$5.00 to the office to replace the missing book.

Thank you

*K-2 Staff*

## Uniform Shop

**The Uniform shop will re-open on Wednesday 1st February 2017.**



## Play Football

Balgownie Junior Football Club is one of the largest Junior Clubs in the Illawarra, as well as one being affiliated with the oldest club in Australia. We welcome all players - boys and girls - of all abilities.

Players will enjoy a healthy outdoor sport in a family friendly Club where they can improve their skills, increase their fitness and learn important life-skills.

Online registrations open on January 3 with registrations at the Clubhouse in Para Street Balgownie on Saturday 28 January 2017.

For more information, go to the Bally website:  
[www.balgowniejuniors.com.au](http://www.balgowniejuniors.com.au)

## Making The Most Of These Holidays

by Michael Grose –  
Australia's No 1 parenting  
educator



The holiday season can be stressful. For many parents the prospect of keeping children occupied for up to six weeks can be daunting. Kids who kept busy with school, after school activities and weekend sport suddenly have time on their hands and look to you to keep them busy. Here are some guidelines that will help.

Often family differences are contained during the year but spill over when normal routines cease over the holiday period.

You don't need an instruction manual to make the most of the school holidays. After all, holidays are about kicking your feet up, relaxing and getting away from the usual routines. Right?

But the holiday season can be stressful. For many parents the prospect of keeping children occupied for up to six weeks can be daunting. Kids who kept busy with school, after school activities and weekend sport suddenly have time on their hands and look to you to keep them busy.

Christmas can also be a difficult and lonely time for some. Sole parents and step-parents usually experience particular challenges at this time of the year as family catch-ups cause conflict, and disputes can arise over who children spend their time with.

Often family differences are contained during the year but spill over when normal routines cease over the holiday period. High maintenance children who's behaviour is bearable when they are at school can suddenly seem very challenging indeed when you spend 24/7 time with them.

Here are some ways to help reduce tension over the festive season and make the holidays enjoyable and fruitful for all.

1. Be creative with how festivities are organised For instance, two or more Christmas dinners may be needed so everyone is included. If you are flexible with your arrangements as well as your thinking then the potentially tricky times will flow more easily.

2. Mix up the routines The best part about holidays is the move away from the routines of school-life. Some kids feel comfortable with the routines of school-life and can feel a little lost until the new holiday routine kicks in. Be patient with these routine-junkies! Also make sure you begin adjusting the routine as a return to school comes closer so kids are prepared for going to bed and getting up at earlier times.

3. Mix 'me' time with 'them' time Plan a mixture of outdoor activities or trips with quiet at-home activities where you can relax and recharge your own batteries. The holidays are chance to spend time as

a family but you also need to take some time for yourself each day. It helps to let your kids know that you are having some timeout too.

4. Resist being your child's home entertainment machine Give children opportunities to keep themselves occupied or think of inexpensive, fun ways to keep themselves amused. "I'm bored" is an invitation for kids to keep themselves occupied rather than for you to keep them amused.

5. Team up with other families. Whether it is sharing celebrations with other families or just holidaying with friends, holidays offer the chance to broaden your child's social circle. Create opportunities to spend time with other families preferably with children the same age as yours.

Make sure you provide the three types of activities that children want with their parents – i.e. rituals and celebrations, including family mealtimes; one-on-one activities where you spend some time alone with each child; and unstructured, impromptu activities such as playing simple games, story-telling and walks around the neighbourhood. These are important relationship-building activities that bind families together and enable you to build up emotional collateral with kids as they move into adolescence.

