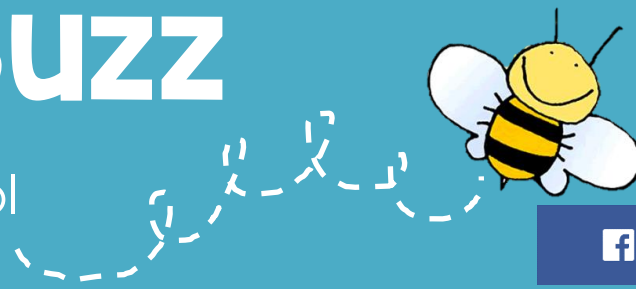


The Bally Buzz



Balgownie Public School



T: 4284 4245 F:4284 3462 E:balgownie-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Term 1 - Week 3

Monday 9th February 2021

Calendar Term 1 - 2021

| | | |
|-------|--------|-------------------------------------|
| Tues | 9 Feb | BPS Swimming Carnival |
| Thurs | 18 Feb | District Swimming Carnival |
| Wed | 10 Mar | South Coast Swimming Carnival |
| Tue | 16 Mar | School Photo Day |
| Wed | 17 Mar | BPS Cross Country |
| Fri | 19 Mar | District Boys Touch Football Trials |

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Welcome

Welcome back to another year of learning together at Balgownie Public School! To our new families, WELCOME!! It has been wonderful standing at the gate and watching all of our beautiful Bally students walk in ready to be learners. I have enjoyed meeting our new families, and having the special 'treat' of inviting parents – if only for a couple of days and for a couple of grades – into the school grounds once again. I am hoping that as the year goes on, we can continue to have our community participate in more and more activities!

In 2021 we have formed 14 classes. This is always a very complex task, in a smaller school, as we are under strict guidelines by the Department to ensure student/teacher ratios are compliant. This often results in many 'composite' or 'multi-age' classes. Although this may appear not ideal for some families, the way we teach students at Balgownie Public School, means that we are accommodating for individual student learning goals, regardless of age or class. This means that

your child will learn the parts of the curriculum that they are ready for. For example, a 6-year-old in Year 1, may have learning goals in Literacy at a Stage 1 level and learning goals in Numeracy at Stage 2 level. My teachers are working hard to get to know your children and where their learning is at. They will be working with your children on setting their learning goals. In a few weeks (you will be notified once the date has been set), we will hold a 10-minute parent/student/teacher goal setting conference. During this time, you will be able to support your child and their teacher in providing further information on your child and also discuss the goals identified by the teacher in consultation with your child. This will ensure we are all working together on your child's education. The teachers will also be sending home notes that outline what happens each day in the classroom and what general learning activities will look like for your child. Our purpose is to ensure we know your child the very best we can so we can assist them in being the very best they can be!

Evacuation

As you are aware, yesterday we had to conduct an evacuation due to an external threat to the school. Although this was precautionary, the students and staff were amazing in the way they exited the school and moved to the planned, offsite locations. I would like to thank the staff for their extraordinary efforts in ensuring all students felt safe while they undertook this process. I would also like to thank the emergency services who arrived and supported us. I would also like to acknowledge the support of Collegians who provided a place for the staff and students to wait while the school was declared safe to return. Thank you for ensuring water and toilets were available.

Finally I would like to thank our community who followed our instructions and responded with

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Donna Barton - Principal PO Box 192 Fairy Meadow NSW 2519 P&C: www.balgowniepnc.com

messages of support. Your support in this way, ensured I was able to keep all 336 students and 27 staff, safe and accounted for. I could not have done this without you.

Contacting the school

Last year was very difficult for both families and teachers to maintain an optimum level of communication. We accept that sometimes we can improve in this space. If you have any suggestions on how we can improve, we would love to hear from you. Our goal is to ensure that we can communicate openly and freely with every family, for every student. If at any time you wish to contact the school please feel free to send an email – Balgownie-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au This will be forwarded onto the class teacher, the Supervisor for each grade and myself. You can phone – 4284 4245. Sometimes you will be required to leave a message. These messages will be emailed through to the recipient and returned as soon as possible. Many teachers are in the process of setting up class Dojo. Once completed, you will be able to message through this platform. You can also write a note, if this is more convenient. We have no preference as to how you reach out to us, just as long as you do!

Crossing the road safely



It has come to the attention of staff and our crossing supervisor that some families are not using the crossing to cross the road. Sometimes it may be a parking thing. Sometimes it may be a time thing. Sometimes it may be a convenience thing. Every time, it **IS** a learning thing, and sadly it is telling our children that they don't need to use the crossing... Please be mindful that we are teachers of all of the children at Balgownie PS, as children learn what they see. Please help keep our children safe by always using the pedestrian crossing, even if you are on your own.

School uniform

Please refer to the school uniform policy on the website for any questions, or call the office, if you are unsure on any aspect of the school uniform.



Mobile phone and device policy

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we are in the process of finalising our new mobile phone and device policy. I discussed this at the



P&C meeting last year and will take the finalised policy to the next meeting. An important aspect of this policy, is that students will need to apply for an exemption to bring their phone or device (including smart watches) to school. If the exemption is granted, they will be required to turn off the device and then hand it in to the front office, where it will be stored safely and securely until 3pm, when they can come back and collect it. Our purpose is to ensure all students are focussed on their learning and are safe at all times. I look forward to working with all families in this space.

Swimming Carnival



Our school swimming carnival is being held today. We are very excited this year as all students in Years 3 to 6, (plus competitive swimmers who are 8 years old in year 2) are expected to attend the event. It will be considered a school day. This is the first time, for a long time that this has been the case. We believe that all students should have the opportunity to compete, if they wish, and for our non-confident swimmers, we are providing learning opportunities through novelty events. As mentioned, all students 3-6 are expected to attend and therefore all teachers in the primary are attending. There will only be K-2 teachers and students onsite, at school, on this day. The second exciting piece of information is that we are reinstating our sports houses – Kembla (blue), Keira (red), Huntley (green) and Nebo (yellow). The children will be meeting in their house groups and electing house captains. Students will not be required to wear house colours but can use zinc to show their support. The pool has requested no streamers or crepe paper.

Due to current COVID restrictions and COVID safety plans, and given that all students 3-6 will be attending, we will not be able to have parent

spectators this year, due to a maximum number of people per venue. I appreciate how very disappointing it is that you may not be able to attend certain activities to watch and support your child due to the restrictions. Every decision we make, is to ensure that our children get every opportunity possible. I am very much looking forward to the day when we can welcome our community to every event. Until that time, however, I truly appreciate your understanding and support of our decisions. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those parents who have volunteered their time to support the running of the carnival. Due to the number of staff attending, we do not require volunteers for this event. On behalf of our teachers and myself I would like to acknowledge our amazing community!!!

We are looking forward to working with you for another year of living and learning through high expectations, perseverance and kindness!!

Kind regards,
Donna Barton
Principal

Uniform Shop

The uniform shop hours have now changed. All online orders will be delivered to students in their classrooms on a THURSDAY. The uniform shop remains **by appointment only**. Should you wish to peruse the second hand clothing pool or purchase a uniform in person please email the uniform shop to arrange a mutually convenient time.

Out of stock items. There are a number of items out of stock in the online store presently. The sports shirts are delayed due to Chinese New Year celebrations but should be available in late March. Boy's cargo shorts are significantly delayed. Those parents who have placed an order for these cargo shorts have been contacted with further details. We have explored numerous options but unfortunately the state of many manufacturers is the same and we are hopeful the items may arrive earlier than May/June/July dates provided.

Summer Dress orders from 2020. If you placed an order in Term 4 2020 for a Summer Dress and your dress/collar is now pink, can you please contact the uniform shop by 9am FRIDAY 12TH FEBRUARY. Please include a picture of the affected dress, and the size. The dresses will need to be replaced and the suppliers requires this information ASAP. Please note should you have this issue and not notify the uniform shop by the 12th you may not have a replacement dress in time for the school photos.

Double Deal - Helping your school & the environment!


You probably know about Return & Earn? What you may not know is that you can contribute Return & Earn money to Balgownie Public School! Return & Earn works for those small single serve plastic bottles (eg.gatorade), cans or glass bottles. Milk cartons or big juice cartons etc are not accepted, you can recycle them in your yellow bin at home.

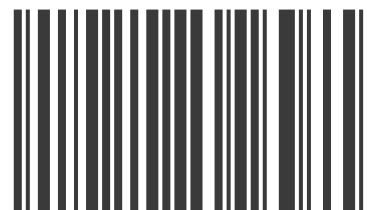
Where is Return & Earn located?

The automatic deposit machine is located at the back of the Fraternity Club in Fairy Meadow.

When you get to the Return & Earn collection point, simply scan the barcode below and start feeding your bottles down the chute. This money is then sent to the P & C's PayPal account which will help us raise money throughout the year. Every little bit helps and your children are always the recipients of material bought with the money raised for the school.

Of course recycling in any way is better than it going to landfill, so you can involve your children in Return & Earn where they can earn some pocket money, or you can choose to donate it to one of the charities or organisations listed. Happy bottle & can collecting!

 app.mytomra.com.au



Scan your barcode at the machine



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