

# The Bally Buzz



Balgownie Public School

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Term 2 - Week 4

Thursday 18 May 2023

## Calendar - Term 2

Friday	19 May	Mufti Day (Black & Yellow) for World Bee Day – gold coin donation
Monday	22 May	Check-in Reading & Numeracy Assessments Yrs 4 and 6
Thursday	26 May	Gala Day Stage 2 & 3
	27 May - 3 June	Reconciliation Week 2023
Wednesday	7 June	P&C Winter Pie Drive – orders close

### From the Principal's Desk

I hope everyone had a lovely Mother's Day with their families on Sunday. On Friday the Mother's Day stall was a hub of excited students providing a fantastic opportunity to go shopping at school. Thank you so much to the Fundraising Committee and volunteers who assisted in getting the Mother's Day stall organised, set up on the day and then sold the gifts. This was a huge effort. A special thank you to Nadine Yeend for doing much of the organisation, ordering the gifts and communicating with the volunteers to ensure the stall could go ahead.



### Health and Wellbeing

We are beginning to see cases of COVID in the school again. Please let the school know if your child has tested positive. Assisting children to practice washing their hands and when sneezing or coughing doing this into their elbows are small strategies that can assist with reducing the spread of illnesses. The weather is getting colder, and this is a good time to remind children about dressing appropriately for the weather such as wearing the uniform jumper or jacket. Rapid Tests were distributed to students last week. Should you require more, please contact the school office. Please note that your child only needs to be testing if they are showing flu like symptoms.

In addition, several cases of gastro have also been reported to the school office. As per guidance from NSW Health and NSW Department of Education, sick children should be excluded from attending school for at least 48 hours after their symptoms have ceased.

### New Curriculum and Classroom Update

Over the course of the year our staff and students have undertaken a lot of new learning and new classroom practices aligned to the new curriculum and evidence based research e.g. **Science of Reading**. Please take the time to read the information provided by our APC&I, Carinya Barkley. This may provide some understanding of some practices that are being undertaken in your child's classroom. If you have any questions at all, please contact your child's classroom teacher.

## Check-in Assessments

Years 3-6 students will be participating in Department of Education Check-in Assessments over the next fortnight and later in terms 3 and 4. These assessments are online and students will complete this in their class groups. These are ongoing assessments for each year. The Check-in assessments are designed to provide teachers with formative assessments that can give an indication of how students are performing and what to plan for future learning tasks. The Check-in assessment includes a reading, writing and a numeracy assessment. Each assessment consists of 40-50 multiple choice questions with approximately 50 minutes.

### Assessment windows for 2023

#### Term 2 (Weeks 4 to 7)

- Years 4, 6, and 8 complete reading and numeracy assessments

#### Term 3 (Weeks 8 to 10)

- Year 6 complete reading, numeracy and writing assessments

#### Term 4 (Weeks 1 to 4)

- Years 3, 4, and 5 complete reading and numeracy assessments

## Vision, Purpose & Values at Balgownie PS

Core values are what support the vision, drive our mission, shape our school's culture and desired future directions and outcomes. For this to be successful, **WE NEED YOUR VOICE!**

At Balgownie PS we are undertaking a review of our school core values, purpose and vision.

It is our desire to collaborate and consult with our entire school community (staff, students and families) about what values are important to **YOU**, your child's education and what type of school **YOU** want!

Please click on the google form link below:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScoGc7QC47LSwtu33M22ScH-QdoS9wy3Hb7ZsNlrgSG7L5EzQ/viewform>

Read through the list of words and **select 6 words** that are important to YOU and your child's education, schooling and development. If you have another word you wish to be considered, please type this under 'OTHER". This coming week, students in Years 3 to 6 will also be given the opportunity to provide a response.

## Muffi Day (Black & Yellow) for World Bee Day



At Balgownie Public School we are fortunate to have a bee hive! Bees are essential because two-thirds of our food production relies on bees. They play a crucial role for our food security!

**Friday May 19 BPS are celebrating World Bee Day by wearing Yellow or Black (or both) and donating a gold coin** which the gardening club will use for equipment needed for the beehive. **Please wear Yellow or Black on Friday (tomorrow) May 19 and Save the Bees!**

## PBL focus is for the fortnight - Responsibility

This fortnight our PBL focus is **Responsibility**.

At Balgownie Public School, this is how **Responsibility** looks;

- **In our classrooms**, we remain on task and complete all work to the best of our abilities.
- **In our library**, we treat our books with care, borrow books regularly and return our books on time.
- **Our outdoor spaces**, we wear a hat, follow the game rules, return the equipment we use and put our rubbish in the bin.
- **In our toilets**, we wash hands when finished, use the toilet at break times and use soap and toilet paper responsibly.
- **At the canteen**, we wait in the line patiently and join the end of the line.



☺ Have a fabulous week everyone!

*Miss Steele* (Relieving Principal)

## Travel update from Mrs Barton

Hi Everyone,

I have spent the last 2 weeks travelling through Cambodia. It is a beautiful country with beautiful, kind people. We have seen many interesting and different things, while learning about Cambodian culture. It is very, very hot and humid. Cambodia is very flat and lots of houses are built on stilts, so that during the rainy season, which is starting now, their homes won't be flooded. Also, the children only go to school for half a day! The other half, they either go to tutoring or stay home and do chores! We have been to Angkor Wat temple (a UNESCO World Heritage site) to watch the sunrise, travelled down a river to San.... lake to watch a sunset on a floating restaurant, and I even made a furry friend! I'm having lots of fun, but I do miss you.



Angkor Wat, traditional village - Kampon Phluk. The lake and river name is Tonle Sap river and lake. The tutoring school was in this village. And that is a tarantula. I didn't eat one...

## Curriculum Update - Introducing Engagement Norms

At Balgownie Public School, we have begun to introduce consistent whole school engagement norms in every classroom to maximise constant engagement and involvement during learning (approximately every one to two minutes). This helps students stay on track, maximises learning and minimises disengagement issues.

Research shows that students who are engaged in learning demonstrate greater success in school, which may in turn lead to better student attendance as well as fewer incidents of misbehaviour.

### Pronounce With Me

During Pronounce With Me, students rehearse a new word, a phrase, or a gesture along with the teacher. This engagement norm is useful to introduce new Academic or Content Vocabulary ensuring that students hear the correct pronunciation of new grade-specific vocabulary before reading it themselves.

### Track With Me

Track With Me helps students connect oral words with the written words. Teachers pre-read sentences while students are pointing to the words on their papers or on the screen. This way they are familiar with the words before asking the students to read it chorally. It's amazing how everyone can read if the teacher reads first.

DataWORKS Student  
**ENGAGEMENT NORMS**

- **Pronounce With Me**
- **Track With Me**
- **Read With Me**
- **Gesture With Me**
- **Pair-Share**  
A → B, B → A
- **Attention Signal**  
Eyes Front, Back Straight
- **Whiteboards**  
Chin-it
- **Complete Sentences**  
Public Voice, Academic Vocabulary

DataWORKS Educational Resources | All Students Successfully Taught at the Rigor of Common Core Standards

### Read With Me

Read With Me supports students with choral reading of text. The teacher cues the students to read chorally the same text that they just tracked. Generally, the teacher reads along with the students to set the pace and to keep everyone together. There are also variations for different grade levels.

### Gesture With Me

Gesture With Me. Gesturing is a great cognitive strategy to help students store information in long-term memory. Even when students are struggling to remember a specific bit of information, they can often remember the gesture associated with it, which may ultimately help them recall the information.

### Pair-Share

Pair-sharing gives students the opportunity to orally answer the question (which as a cognitive strategy means they have a greater chance of storing the information in long-term memory). It also helps them rehearse their response and provides an opportunity for them to academically converse with their peers.

### Attention Signal

An Attention Signal is a great tool to help students refocus after a Pair-Share. Teachers use a call-and-response signal. Students have to stop talking to make the response.

### Whiteboards

Whiteboards are a great way to Check for Understanding and ensure that every student is learning and working! Writing responses on whiteboards gives the teacher the chance to quickly glance around the room and see how many students have an incorrect answer and, if necessary, reteach. It is a real-time assessment of students' understanding.

After giving students response time, they 'hover' their whiteboards to indicate they have completed the task, and then the teacher uses 'chin-it' so that students place their whiteboard under their chins, on their heart, and students are encouraged to be proud of their learning.

### Complete Sentences

Asking the students to respond in Complete Sentences means they are really making connections with what they are learning. It provides practice in saying new words defined earlier in the lesson, using them in a meaningful context, and hearing them being used by others. In this engagement norm, students incorporate newly learned academic and content vocabulary, and they are practising using their public speaking voice – a very important life skill. This helps teachers know that students are conceptually learning what they are doing.

Source: [DataWorks Educational Research](#)

### Curriculum Update - Introducing the Daily Review

To increase students' understanding of key mathematical ideas and facts we have introduced a **mathematics daily review** across all classes.

Students practise key mathematical skills across many mathematical learning areas at least three to five times per week as part of a warmup to their deeper concept learning. Daily review skills and concepts such as place value, operations (addition and subtraction, multiplication and division), number skills in ascending and descending order, from different start points, and out of order (skip counting, times tables, number patterns, factors, multiples), fractions and decimals, number lines, bar models, problem solving, time, volume and capacity, 2D and 3D shapes are just some of the concepts students will regularly practise.

Daily review is a **learning retrieval practice** that involves bringing information to mind from memory, which is a technique that is very effective at promoting long term memory.

As part of daily review, we are **spacing** learning concepts and skills. This means that instead of consolidating and revising just before an assessment, learners have the opportunity to revise concepts and practise it over weeks rather than a short amount of time. Spaced practice has been investigated in many different subjects and learning contexts and helps increase 'storage strength' - a measure of deep learning, rather than our ability to produce information which is called 'retrieval strength'. If we forget a little before we restudy information, this allows us to boost that storage strength when re-encounter the information. Repetitions spaced out over time will lead to greater retention of information in the long run than the same number of repetitions close together in time.

Another important part of our daily reviews is **interleaving** which involves switching between ideas or types of problems rather than learning about one idea or type of problem for too long. This encourages better discrimination between ideas and procedures. In studies looking at interleaving in math, typically students are given a variety of math skills to learn and are given practice on these skills either blocked by skill, or interleaved so that various different skills are practiced in one session. Studies show that interleaved practice maintains performance at higher levels than blocked practice.

Daily review helps students develop and improve their **mathematical fluency**. Mathematical fluency is the ability to quickly and accurately recall mathematical facts and concepts. It's made up of 5 key parts – accuracy, flexibility and appropriate response, efficiency, automaticity, and number sense.

### **Why is mathematical fluency important?**

Fluency builds the foundations students use to tackle more complex, multi-step questions in problem-solving and reasoning activities, and it's crucial to their success.

### **Mathematical fluency saves energy**

Students have only so much energy to apply when it comes to problem-solving and reasoning activities. For example, a problem solving and reasoning activity may have five steps, and each one of them has four or five problems to solve. The more energy students spend on figuring out those smaller questions, the less they'll have when it comes to critically and creatively tackling the whole question.

If a student doesn't succeed at one part of a larger problem, it can make the entire activity feel overwhelming. Mathematicians with high fluency skills have efficient neural pathways, meaning there's less energy spent and less time is taken for the question to be received and for the answer to be found. These neural pathways are strengthened with repeated exercise. By engaging students in daily review, they are strengthening the mind muscles they need to do heavier lifting and for longer.

### **Fluency saves time**

Fluency saves time for students which means they can stay focused on the logical progression of problems and perform better on tests.

### **Fluency improves focus**

In a multi-step problem that asks students to use several approaches, being able to recall or solve parts of the problem with little or no effort keeps them from losing focus.

### **Mathematical fluency builds confidence**

Fluency builds confidence and reduces mathematics anxiety. Motivation, engagement and progress all rely on students' confidence that they can complete tasks. For students with mathematics anxiety (the feeling of being overwhelmed or paralysed by mathematics), this is especially important.

Strong fluency allows students to work and see success independently, growing their sense of autonomy and confidence, and helping them see whole problems as small, achievable steps.

### **How do we differentiate our daily review?**

Our questions include concepts expected at that grade level, learned within the grade level, and above the grade level. Teachers ask follow up questions, re-teach where needed and take notes about how students are progressing to ensure we have an accurate picture of what they can do fluently, how to

support them, and how to extend them. Additional questions are asked during the review, and/or additional questions are added to slides to further extend students.

### **What does the daily review look and sound like?**

The pace of our daily review is snappy and fast paced as it is reviewing concepts rather than introducing new content. We use PowerPoint slides with purposeful animations to cover content quickly. Our engagement norms ensure students are responding every minute either, orally through a read with me, gesture with me, pair share, whiteboards, or a full sentence.

All students have the opportunity to be successful with learning. Students who need additional support with a particular concept may receive teaching prompts, students who have mastered a concept are extended with additional verbal or slide prepared questioning.

### **How can you help?**

- Ask your child about their math learning. Ask them what they enjoy, what are they confident with, what they could practise with you to improve.
- Affirm that they are mathematicians and that just like the mastery of any skill, improvement takes practice.
- If you are helping your child consolidate a math concept, break it into small steps and practise each step.
- Play fluency math games (such as cards, timetables, dice games, board games etc) with them to help them develop greater accuracy, confidence and speed.
- Support and value the learning your child is engaging in at school.
- Help them become numerate citizens when shopping, weighing ingredients, working with recipes, budgeting with pocket money etc.

### **Lifelong Learning**

Just like our fantastic students are always learning, so are we as teachers. We engage in professional learning every week, we read journals, articles, educational textbooks and have regular meetings to discuss how our students are progressing and to learn from each other.

As we learn, we are implementing our learning in our classrooms and evaluating our teaching so that we can continually improve and refine the teaching and learning in our classroom. We are very passionate about providing the best education for our students. We highly value our parent and carer community as partners in learning. Please contact your classroom teacher if you have any questions.

### **References:**

Weinstein, Y., Sumeracki, M., & Caviglioli, O. Understanding How We Learn - a Visual Guide, (2019).

<https://thirdspacelearning.com/blog/how-teach-primary-maths-deliberate-practice-in-education/>

Kind regards

*Caringa Barkley*

Assistant Principal Curriculum & Instruction

### **Stage 2 and 3 Netball Girls**

A big shout out to our Stage 2 and 3 Netball girls who played in a double header knockout on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May at Guest Park. In slightly sub-zero conditions, the girls played well, winning one game and losing one game. Unfortunately for us to proceed into round 3, we lost the game that mattered. I am so proud of our girls, particularly the Stage 2 girls who stepped up and received some valuable court time against some physically bigger, stronger and experienced players. A massive thank you to Kerry Brindle and Emma Cappetta who gave up their time to help coach the girls at school and then umpired during our knockout games. Thank you too, to the parents who helped out with timing and scoring on the day. It is always a team effort!

Mrs Lynch

## P&C Information

### Uniform Shop Coordinator

You may have seen on recent Facebook posts that the P&C is looking for a Uniform Shop Coordinator. This is a pivotal role within our school community. Some of the tasks that the Uniform Shop Coordinator is responsible include:

- Ensuring stock levels are maintained and placing orders when required
- Fulfilling orders, monitoring the e-commerce platform and ensuring payments are received
- Coordinating store open days and second-hand stalls

While it is a packed role you will be fully supported by the P&C Executive and Committee. The reality is if we don't find anyone who is able to assist the P&C will need to look at other options for the uniform shop which may include an external store like Lowes.

If you would like more information or are interested and able to step into this role please reach out to Amanda- aivaneza@ymail.com

### Uniform Store Update

Unfortunately, Jenny is stepping down from her role as Uniform Shop Coordinator. This is a position Jenny has dedicated a lot of time to for many years. The P&C would like to thank Jenny for all her hard work in providing this service to our community.



While we are looking for a new Uniform Shop Coordinator we are going to need to make some adjustments to the shop and the way you can order.

We will not be taking orders **online** from **5pm Friday 19 May**. You will be able to place orders up to this time online and they will be fulfilled on the following Monday/Tuesday.

Going forward you will be able to purchase uniform items in person every alternative **Friday** and **Tuesday afternoon**. Updates will be sent out each week via the P&C Facebook page letting you know the day which the uniform shop will be open that week. We'll be accepting cash, EFTPOS and NSW Vouchers.

The first Uniform Shop opening will be **Friday 26 May 2:30pm-3:30pm**

We understand that things happen and you may need something urgently. Please reach out via the "contact me" form on the website or our Facebook page and we'll try our best to assist as quickly as possible.

We appreciate your understanding and patience while we work through this transition.

### 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 near Corrimal Library.

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 collecting!

