In two weeks is the census for student numbers will be collected. Unless we gain or lose significant numbers, students will mostly remain in their current classes. It is always difficult to predict the future! We have made some minor changes already and there may be a few more changes in the next few days. We have the best interests of our students as the centre of our decision making processes.

Our classes and teachers are as follows:

- KK  Mrs Alison Kerema
- KD  Mrs Robyn Dunnell
- K/1M Miss Deborah Main (Assistant Principal)
- 1D  Mr Geoff Dewer
- 1S  Mrs Heather Sheath
- 2L  Mrs Jenny Lewis
- 2J  Mrs Katherin Jeffs
- 3/4L Mrs Sascha Lynch
- 3/4HR Mrs Davina Robson (Mon-Tues) and Mrs Jill Hockey (Assistant Principal Wed-Fri)
- 4M  Mr McGoldrick (Assistant Principal Thur and Fri)
- 5T  Mr James Terry
- 5/6B Mrs Dianne Burns
- 6L  Mr Martin Loxton (Assistant Principal)
- RFF Mrs Nicole Shum (Mon-Wed)
- Library Mrs Jacqui Birchall
- English as Second Language Mrs Sandra West (Mon-Tues)
- Support Teacher Mrs Cheryl Phillis (Assistant Principal Mon-Wed)

We also have our wonderful SASS crew of Michelle Thompson (SAM), Mrs Joanne Oyston, Mrs Jenny Price and Mrs Joanne Carrigan who make sure our school runs effectively and our General Assistants Mr Dave Swan and Mr Brett Summerfield.
Change of Times for Lunch and Recess. This is effective as of today and will be trialled for 2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Start time</td>
<td>9am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morning session</td>
<td>9-11am (2 hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>11-11.10 – eating time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Play 11.10-11.50 (50 mins total)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle session</td>
<td>11.50am-1.50pm (2 hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recess</td>
<td>1.50-2.10pm (20 minutes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afternoon session</td>
<td>2.10-3pm (50 mins)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home</td>
<td>3pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The advantages of the change are:
- Start and finish times don’t change
- Supervised eating of ‘proper food’ – not snacks first. Students don’t fill up on recess snacks then not want to eat their lunch.
- Possible healthier eating and perhaps then, better concentration.
- Maybe better for canteen roster that is becoming more difficult to fill, as volunteers could commit just for lunch then can go home earlier.
- Sun safety as the students are outside for longer when it is not so hot.
- 2 x 2 hour blocks for consolidated learning with the last session being shorter when some students find it more difficult to concentrate.
- More effective timetabling for support staff as we will be able to have 4x 1hour blocks.

Scripture has been changed until Tuesday 9.30am which will follow directly after Fitness.

School leaders for 2013 Congratulations to the following students who have been elected as School Leaders in 2013.
Noah Bailey     Hayley Bannerman
Jordan Kipps    Emily Sproal

3Rs at Balgownie are respect, responsibility and real learning. Community choose our school and are proud to send their children here because of our high standards in teaching, learning and behaviour. This is a safe place for students. These high expectations have to be encouraged by staff and families working together.

We want to start the year with high expectations in our uniform. All students are expected to be in full school uniform and this has been endorsed by the P and C.

P and C are helping families of our new Kindergarten students by providing every student with a hat. Thankyou for this lovely way to make our students feel part of our school community.

Our expectations of uniform include not just the correct dress, shirt, shorts or trousers but also the following.
- A school hat – either the bucket hat or the cap. The school recommends the bucket hat but respects family decision making about hat choice. Hats are all now $10.00. No other hats are accepted (eg black hats with other logos).
- Black shoes or joggers with white socks.
LIVING AND LEARNING

- No jewellery except sleeper or stud earrings and a watch. Religious necklaces are accepted if they are under uniform.
- School jumpers or jackets only.
- Black or white hair accessories.

The Uniform shop is open on Tuesdays at 8.30 am and otherwise students can order through the canteen. If there are any concerns with this, please make a time to talk to me about it. We really want all of our students to wear school uniform proudly!

Bikes and Cars

- All students are to walk bikes and scooters out of the school so that they avoid accidents in the playground at busy times of the days. It is parental responsibility to ensure that they have appropriate safety gear and that they understand safety messages.
- Drop children off on the correct side of the road. If you have to park on the opposite side of the road, get out of your car and come and meet your child. Little people don’t always look at traffic when they are excited to see you.
- Please follow the road signs around our school. Make sure that you don’t obstruct view of children around road crossings. We want to keep all of our students safe.
- The lower car park is not to be used by students as a walking path into school as there are cars entering this at all times. Please encourage your children to use the path beside the carpark.
- Please do not pull into our either of our carparks to drop your children off and then reverse back out on the road. Reversing at such a busy time, with little children around is dangerous as they are difficult to see and sometimes unpredictable.

Please come to the office and update any contact details or changes in medical conditions for your children. We need to be able to reach you in case of an emergency. This is for the safety of your children. If your child has asthma or anaphylactic reactions, it is your responsibility to update your child’s medical plan and medications.

Communication and Publications

To promote outstanding work that students produce here at Balgownie Public, it is necessary to display student work and their photographs in public areas. To do this we need your permission. Attached is an updated form that all parents need to sign as it has changes reflecting current policy. Please complete and return to the office.

Composites - Stages not Ages

At the beginning of a new school year, many parents find their child in a composite class. Naturally, questions arise: for the older group - will my child be held back? For the younger group - will my child be able to keep up? In primary schools, classes are organised in a wide variety of ways. Composite classes are one such type.

Background

Classes that are made up of children of different year levels have traditionally been called composite classes. In recent times, these classes have also been labelled multi aged or stage classes. There are two reasons why these classes are formed:

- Educational - where classes are formed on the basis of educational rationale as they are seen to have educational benefit for the student. Our teachers spend a long time working together to form classes that offer the best possible learning for all of our students. We do most of this at the end of the year and the teachers who know the students best make the decisions together.
- Administrative - this is where there is an uneven enrolment in school years and classes need to be formed across a number of school years. This occurs in most primary schools and especially in smaller primary schools.

Composite classes have been the source of much controversy over the years, with parents often believing that their children are being disadvantaged in some way by being in one. Even within a ‘straight’ class (eg Year 2 class), children will be at different levels. If your child is in a class with younger children, this doesn’t mean that your child is not smart nor will it hold them back in their learning.

Teachers at Balgownie PS are experienced in teaching composite classes. Our staff work in stage based teams and plan together. The formation of our classes helps consistency between classes as it facilitates team planning and children benefit from the joint expertise of staff. Stage teams often group children across classes or teach different lessons to deepen the learning of students (eg rotational groups).

Older students are not held back in composite classes. Teachers manage different grades in the one class by grouping children according to what they already know and giving small group instruction. This is achieved through continual assessment for learning. Learning programs are ‘differentiated’ or made different for the different levels of student achievement by teachers extending the work of those who learn more quickly and giving more support to those who need it, through...
group work and individualised learning. The learning then becomes outcome based and or ‘differentiated.’

Children in composite classes do no better or worse academically than their peers in straight grade class, and, socially, their development can be enhanced. They can be more confident, can operate better as part of a group, become more independent learners and better problem-solvers. They also make friends outside of their standard age-groups.

Multi-age classes work well where both teachers and parents believe that the quality of the teaching and learning taking place is far more important than whether or not the class was formed on an age basis. Children need time to settle into their new class and get to know their new classmates and teachers. If you have any concerns, please see your class teacher, the Assistant Principals or myself.

Have a great week.
Alora Stewart

POSITION VACANCIES
We are seeking new committee members to fill in the following positions:
- Canteen Sub Committee Convener
- Canteen Roster Coordinator

Looking forward to hearing many interests from YOU to keep our friendly and resourceful canteen up and running!!

CANTEEN ROSTER
2013 Week 2, Term 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>4.2.13</td>
<td>Meikell McCreadie</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Karen Rogers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>5.2.13</td>
<td>Marion Payne</td>
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<td>Janette Pickham</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
<td>6.2.13</td>
<td>Sam Halmay</td>
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<td>Jenny McConchie</td>
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<td>Thurs</td>
<td>7.2.13</td>
<td>Sharyn Ross</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Sharren Effting</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Sharon Ward</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>8.2.13</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LIVING AND LEARNING

Thought of the Week
The greatest tragedy of life doesn’t lie in failing to reach your goals. The greatest tragedy lies in having no goals to reach.
B.E. Mays

Joke of the Week
What do you get when you cross an echidna with a pig?
A porkupine.

CANTEEN NEWS
FIRST DAY OF CANTEEN AND THE CHANGE ON RECESS/LUNCH TIME
BPS canteen will open for Term 1 on Monday 4/2/2013. As it has been informed, lunch time is at 11:00am and recess is at 1:00pm.

ATTENTION - CANTEEN VOLUNTEERS
Canteen subcommittee advise you to arrive to school around 8:45 am to start you rostered day due to earlier lunch time from this year. We also would like to mention that the 2012 roster continues on until the end of February. Please contact Yuki if you have any questions.