First day back for students Years 1-6, is Wednesday 29th January 2015.
Our students will be in their 2014 classes on Wednesday and when we confirm numbers, we will move our students into their new classes. Currently there will be thirteen classes. The Early Years Team will be assessing our new Kindergarten students Wednesday to Friday and the students will start on Monday.

Congratulations India! India represented NSW in athletics and came 8th in her pet event, the Long Jump. Well done, India! Our school and community are very proud of you.

K-2 Concert full of fun and love. All parents, families and students delighted in the K-2 Christmas assembly where our younger students performed. They were sensational. It was especially lively with song, dance and poems. It is wonderful to share in some of those times with our children. Thanks to the classes and teachers who came to celebrate the end of the year with our school.

Presentation Day is a success. Congratulations to our award winners and a special mention to those who have achieved whole school awards. It is a wonderful way to celebrate learning. It was lovely to see all of the families proud of our students and celebrating their success.

Dux Ritchie W
Citizenship Clancy L
Sportsperson Lauren M

Year Six Farewell I would like to congratulate our Year Six students on finishing Primary School and wish them a wonderful holiday before their new adventure begins at High School. Enjoy the Farewell! I would like to thank the parent team for their tireless efforts in organising and preparing the evening. I would also like to thank the Stage Three teachers for the time and effort they have devoted to ensuring the Year Six Farewell is a success.

At this time I also wish to especially thank our four school leaders, Claudia, Max, Mitchell and Molly for their hard work and leadership this year. These students, together with the other student leaders in our school, have excelled in their duties and our school is a better place because of their dedication and enthusiasm. You will be a hard act to follow!

This is the last newsletter of 2014. I want to thank some people. Schools are places where people come together to help our children. They are our legacy and our future. Thanks to the:

- Students of Balgownie who make each day a joy to come to work. Your manners, smiles and hard work are a credit to you and your families.
- Parents and Carers who work in partnership with us to help make our children the best they can be.
- P and C who work so hard to make our school a better place.
- Staff who teach our children and work to maximise each child’s potential while caring for their welfare. Our staff are a great team who collaborate to make sure our students have as many opportunities as possible.
- The Administration staff who greet people with a smile and work hard in the background to make sure that events run smoothly.
- The Cleaners and our GAs who make our school a pleasant place to be.
- The Executive team who lead our school in the direction we know will be the best for our children.
Thank you everyone for a fabulous year.

Have a great holiday and spend it doing all the things you enjoy with family and friends. I am looking forward to working with you all, and our new families in 2015.

Aloma Stewart

Making the most of these holidays

By Michael Grose

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

Joke of the week

Q: Why don't astronauts relate well to other people?
A: They're not always down-to-earth.

Thought of the week

*Why fit in when you were born to stand out?*  
*Dr. Seuss*

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**Congratulations** to the following students who have demonstrated our values of **Respect, Responsibility** and **Real Learning**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annabelle D</td>
<td>Amelia M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adem D</td>
<td>Kaiya P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte H</td>
<td>Rosie G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levi M</td>
<td>Daniel M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Well done!

And well done to the following student who achieved the PBS Badge.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rebekah B</td>
<td>Ashley B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laila C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CHANGES TO OUR PBS REWARD DAY**

Unfortunately due to the forecast of inclement weather we have cancelled the Towradgi picnic day scheduled for this Friday 12 December. Alternatively we will be holding a multi/pyjama movie day at the school. Students are invited to bring along movie snacks (healthy choices) and pillows to enjoy our selection of age appropriate movies.

**HOME READERS K-2**

All Home Readers need to be returned by this Friday, the 12th December. Please search at home for any that are misplaced. Notes will be sent home on Monday with students that have missing books. Due to the cost of lost or damaged books each missing book will incur a cost of $5 to replace it.

**BPS GIVING TREE**

A huge thank you to the families of Balgownie Public School for generously supporting The City of Wollongong Giving Tree. Our gifts were collected this morning by a representative from St Vincent De Paul and will be distributed to those families less fortunate than ourselves.

**2015 - DANCE2BFIT**

As a result of the success of the Dance2bfit Program over the past few years, all students will have the opportunity to be involved in the program in 2015. This is an 8 week program by qualified teachers, with each lesson of 40 minutes duration (30 minutes for Kindergarten). The aim is to provide a fully developmental and sequential dance orientated movement program which complements the PE/PD/Health syllabus.

Classes will commence on Friday 6th February 2015 for 8 weeks with the last class being taught on Friday 27th March.

The price is **$24 for the full 8 week course**. Each student will also receive a free Dance2bfit promotional item that will be used in some of the dances. A Family discount applies where 3rd and 4th child is free. Money is to be paid when school resumes in 2015.

**2015 - LIFE EDUCATION**

The Life Education program will be returning to Balgownie Public School in Term 1 2015. The cost is $5 each child. Money is to be paid when school resumes in 2015.
COMMUNITY NEWS

BASKETBALL ILLAWARRA AUSSIE HOOPS
Basketball Illawarra is launching ‘Aussie Hoops’ program to commence Saturday 7th February 2015.
‘Aussie Hoops’ is the official junior basketball development program for children aged between 5 – 10 years old.
Sessions will be run Saturday mornings 11am – 12pm at the Illawarra Basketball Stadium ‘The Snakepit’ located in Foley Street, Gwynneville.
8 week program costs $90 which includes a backpack, basketball and reversible singlet.

BALGOWNIE JUNIORS FOOTBALL CLUB - 2015
Come and join the biggest and friendliest junior soccer club in the area!
Whether it’s just for fun and playing alongside your friends or if you are more serious about your sport - we try to cater for all skill levels.

Annual registration is $125 (includes insurance).
You can register online from January 1.
Go to our website for more details: www.balgowniejuniors.com.au
Get fit and have fun with Bally in 2015!

UNIFORM SHOP HELP NEEDED!!!!
Can you spare an hour or so in the morning of the first 3 days of school next year?
The Uniform Shop needs a few volunteers each day to ensure ALL children have hats available for purchase as well as any uniform items that parents might’ve forgotten to order or stock that’s currently out of stock.
Please complete this form and place it in the canteen slot before school finishes on Wed 17th December or email uniformshop@balgowniepnc.com

I CAN HELP THE UNIFORM SHOP ON: (Please circle)
Wednesday 28th January 8.30am – 9.30am
Thursday 29th January 8.30am – 9.30am
Friday 30th January 8.30am – 9.30am

Name: ________________________________
Phone: ______________________________
Email: ______________________________

Your help will be greatly appreciated!

P&C NEWS
Please join us tonight for the last P&C meeting of the year. The meeting will be held at the Collegians Club at Balgownie. Collegians have asked that we eat and meet in the meeting room NOT in the bistro as it is getting booked out. Bonus for us we have a private dining venue lol!! Still at 6pm for dinner and 7:15 for meeting. Come along to help celebrate an incredibly successful year.
Balgownie Public School P & C Association
http://balgowniepnc.com/

UNIFORM SHOP
LAST ORDERS FOR 2014
Today is your last chance to place your final orders for 2014. The uniform shop will not be processing orders after Wednesday, 10 December 2014.

Please place final orders now!
Any order received after this date will be delivered 30 January 2015. Go to http://balgowniepnc.com/ourschool/uniforms/ to place you order.
Thank you

RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, REAL LEARNING
Principal: Aloma Stewart PO Box 192 Fairy Meadow NSW 2519 P&C: www.balgowniepnc.com