Congratulations to Emma Lowe for making the regional team to represent us at the state swimming in 50m breaststroke and 50m backstroke. Well done! Congratulations to all of our team who represented not just our school, but our Brokers District well.

Premier’s Reading Challenge has begun and all students are encouraged to complete the challenge which means reading 20 books in Years 3-6 and 30 books for K-2 on the list before the end of Term 3 (NB: K-2 students will be completing the PRC in class with their teachers). If our children read one book from the list per week, they will complete the challenge. This is an excellent way to help your children practice a skill we all need for life, and to read a wide variety of literature. It is also a habit we want to grow, reading every day! Come on Balgownie kids, we can all complete the challenge!

125th Celebrations are on Sunday 6th April from 10-5pm. There will be tours of the school at 11am and time to catch up with old friends. Bring your own picnic and enjoy it in the grounds. The event is being organized by the Museum volunteers who work tirelessly to celebrate our school and life in Balgownie.

The P and C are running a cake stall on the day. Please plan some time to cook and deliver some cake to the school on the Sunday. More details about packaging, labelling and helpers to follow. The weekend before is the working bee to make our school look at its best before the big event.

P and C meeting tonight! Come along and see what P and C is all about. Tonight, Jacqui Birchall will be discussing the Positive Behaviour for Success program which underpins our approach to student welfare followed by the AGM of the P and C. All parents, grandparents and carers are welcome.

Arriving early Although we want our students here on time, we are getting some students who are here very early. Please remember that supervision starts at 8.30am and we don’t want students here earlier than that as they are unsupervised.

After School Supervision is provided by class teachers and then by a member of staff who supervises the after school care and bus students. This teacher, usually a member of our executive, is also responsible for ensuring that any children who can’t find their parents, or vice versa are cared for and arrangements made.

We have a number of children and families who are playing in the school grounds for a short time after school. You are more than welcome to do this, but please remember that supervision starts at 8.30am and we don’t want students here earlier than that as they are unsupervised.

It becomes confusing for students if they are permitted to do things after school, that during the day they are not allowed to do. Please make sure that your children are following our expectations. This includes all times that our children are in our school grounds.

Please support us and help your children by following school guidelines and making sure that toddlers and students are not in the car parks unsupervised, or down near the neighbours’ fences as we want to keep our children safe and maintain good relationships with other people.

Please also ensure your children and toddlers are behaving in a way that is mindful of the wonderful things in our playground eg chess pieces, sandpit covers and the cubbies. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Uniforms Thanks to all those parents who support the high standards we set for our school through ensuring...
their children are in full school uniform. School hats and clothing are fabulous and the students look really smart. We still need to improve the shoes of all students.

Shoes are to be plain black without coloured laces or any colour other than black. Boots or high tops are not part of our school uniform. Sports shoes may be worn on Friday. It is recommended that canvas shoes are not worn as they provide limited support for growing feet. Shoes should have non slippery soles as they are worn for outdoor activities. Socks to be visible above shoes.

The only day that students can wear any colour shoes other than black is sport day. This does not include fitness days of Monday and Tuesday. I will be notifying families for those students not in full uniform. Thank you.

Positive Behaviour for Success – Honesty and Solving Problems. It is important for students to learn how to solve their problems they may encounter with their friends, parents, brothers or sisters. This session will provide students with strategies that will be useful for problem solving.

For example:  
- Arguing about what game to play  
- Fighting about rules of a game.  
- Disagreeing about an answer.

Problem solving steps include:

a. Stop, take a deep breath, and count to five.
b. Decide what the problem is and how you feel.
c. Think about your choices and their consequences:
   - Ignore the situation
   - Tell yourself, “It’s OK”
   - Tell yourself to relax
   - Compromise
   - Say how you feel using ‘I’ statements
d. Decide on your best choice.
e. Do it.

Present students with different ways that people use to sort out their problems.

1. Intimidating another person into doing what you want them to do.
2. Agreeing to disagree – sometimes you have different ideas about a problem and both people can be right.
3. Asking someone to help sort things out. If you have tried to sort the disagreement out but it hasn’t worked you might need to ask someone else to help sort it out.
4. Being assertive – speaking up for yourself in a good way. Use words like ‘I feel’ or ‘I think’.
5. Apologising – if you have been unfair or done something wrong to someone it is helpful to apologise even if only some of the disagreement was your fault.
6. Negotiating to solve the problem – This is the best way to solve a problem where you try to work out a solution that is fair to both people.

History of our school

In 1918 there were 250 students and 3 staff. Like many of the schools in the area, the fast growing population meant overcrowding. During a measles epidemic, only 68 students attended school. Eventually 170 pupils came down with the disease and quite a few were kept at home to avoid catching it.

1914-1930 -Headmaster Sproul is the father of 7 sons. Mr Sproul’s punishment became legendary with excessive use of the cane but he was considered a very good teacher. His influence was felt beyond school management and community affairs.

The World War 1 years promoted national pride. He introduced small wooded rifles and basic army drilling for the senior boys. Red Cross activities were encouraged and special displays occurred on Empire Day and the King’s Birthday.

Mr Sproul promoted tennis as a way of providing an outlet from the tensions of war. All his sons played tennis. Cliff, a Davis Cup player, attained ultimate world tennis award when he received the Marlborough Award in 1966.

Have a wonderful week.
Aloma Stewart

Joke of the week
What do you call a cow spying on another cow? A steak out.

Thought of the week
That you might retain your self-respect, it is better to displease people by doing what you know is right, than to temporarily please them by doing what you know is wrong. - William Boetcker

IMPORTANT - WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK
All school volunteers need to complete the Departments new Working with Children Check - declaration form. There is a 100 points proof of identity check that is required with the new form. Please see the office for a new form or further information. Please complete form and return to office with identification details as soon as possible.

PLEASE RETURN IMMEDIATELY
A reminder to parents who recently received forms to update their child/rens Anaphylaxis, Asthma or Allergy information - please return these forms to the office immediately. It is a Department requirement that student medical information is updated annually and current information also ensures that students receive the most appropriate care for their condition. If your child no longer suffers from asthma or an allergy, please notify the office in writing.

Respect, Responsibility, Real Learning

Principal: Aloma Stewart   PO Box 192 Fairy Meadow  NSW 2519   P&C: www.balgowniepnc.com
GRANDPARENTS DAY
Grandparents Day is on next Monday, 17th March. Grandparents are invited to school. It starts at 10am and finishes at 11am, followed by a picnic lunch with students. At 10.30am the K-2 Grandparents will move to the hall for an assembly. We look forward to meeting you.

WORLD OF MATHS
2nd & 3rd April 2014
Numeracy is a compulsory component of our curriculum, and to make numeracy fun and relevant to our students, we have arranged for the World of Maths to visit our school. It is an exciting and educational presentation of hands-on, problem solving activities. The World of Maths is an ideal opportunity for students to see how maths is applied to real life situations.

Students will be engaged in hands-on activities that will cater for all ability levels and probe their problem solving skills. It is a highly engaging session which will show the students that Maths can be fun!

For more information and to view a video of a session in action, visit the World of Maths website: www.worldofmaths.com

There will be NO COST to parents / caregivers for student participation.

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY - THURSDAY 27 MARCH
- Return your photo envelope on photo day. Your child will hand the envelope directly to the photographer.
- You can pay for all children in one envelope however each child needs to have their own envelope on photo day.
- Family envelopes are available at the school office.
- Please enclose correct money as no change is given. Cash, cheques and money orders.
- For any enquiries, please contact MSP Photography on 4261 3009.

CANTEEN NEWS
Canteen Specials for Grandparents Day
Having our Grandparents visit at school on Monday 17th March is a special day and the canteen have a special treat for you all available via pre-order.

Plain Jelly Cups 50c (Red or Green)
Mexican Potato skins $1.50
(a single serve of potato skins, melted grated cheese, salsa and sour cream)

To take advantage of this special treat, please place your pre-order bags in the canteen with the correct money by Thursday 13th March.
(Orders will be available at 11am on Monday 17th March from the canteen. The canteen will be operating as normal on this day).
Also if you are available to help serve at the canteen please let us know as we would love your help!

Positions Available.
5 volunteers.
We are currently seeking 5 more volunteers for the school canteen roster-namely Thursdays and Fridays. The job requires you to work on a day of your choice, for approximately 3 hours a month. You will be responsible for preparing lunches and snacks, and making 100's of kids smile when they come to the canteen at lunch time. Lunch and tea/coffee is provided and it's a great way to meet other parents/carers. Why not grab a friend/mum or dad/sister/aunty/partner and team up once a month to help out our school canteen.

ILLAWARRA SPORTS HIGH SCHOOL
Talented Sports and Development Program
Year 6 Trials – Tuesday 25th March
Venue – Illawarra Sports HS Stadium
For more information contact Illawarra Sports HS on 4271 1099.
UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

**Important Note: Girls Winter Tunics Not Available from Uniform Shop**

Due to sizing issues, the uniform shop will **NOT** be providing girls winter tunics this year. These can be purchased from Crystal Bears at Corrimal. It is advisable to see Crystal Bears ASAP in case they need to make a tunic for you. The uniform shop does however have a small supply of second hand tunics.

P&C NEWS

**PLEASE HELP WITH BUNNINGS BBQ FUNDRAISER!**

Brad and Kimberley Elliott, on behalf of the P&C, are running the Bunnings BBQ fundraiser on Saturday, April 19 (yes, Easter weekend). If you are not going away on Easter weekend please consider helping out for 1-2 hours. Please contact Kimberley on 0422 590 988 (text or call).

Times (just a guide, one hour of your help is wonderful too!)
08:30 – 10:30
10:30 – 12:30
12:30 – 14:30
14:30 – 16:30

We look forward to hearing from you and serving up lots of sausages!

**HOT CROSS BUN DRIVE**

The P&C will be running a Hot Cross Bun drive to raise money for the fabulous playground structure that is planned. Our local Bakers Delight are offering several delicious options for you to choose form. The school will receive $2.70 for every pack sold. So please share the offer with everyone you know who likes high quality freshly baked food. Order forms will be sent out with next week's newsletter.

We are looking for volunteers to help count money for 1-2 morning between 27th March and 7th April and to help distribute the buns on the afternoon of Thursday 10th April. Please call Catherine James on 0405 262 267 or email p.and.c@hotmail.com if you are able to lend a hand.

**SCHOOL STARTERS PLAYGROUP**

It is that time of year again to start the preparations for playgroup.

The success of our school starters playgroup in previous years has not only been the great relationships between staff and parents at our school but to the dedication of an organising committee to ensure playgroup runs smoothly each week.

If you have a child starting Kindergarten in 2015 and would be interested in organising playgroup this year, we would love to hear from you. Please call Donna Guest 0447 790 619

**LOST & FOUND**

A diabetes test kit (small black case with zip) has been handed in at office.

COMMUNITY NEWS

**FOOD DRIVE**

A Community Initiative by “Need a feed?” for Wollongong Emergency Family Housing.

The Bendigo Bank is accepting non perishable food donations in support of a food drive.

For more information contact Shaz: 0404 474 880

**SHAMROCKS JUNIOR RUGBY**

**Registration Days 2014**

Frid 14th Mar from 5pm – last registration & first training session. Registrations at Ocean Park, Woonona. Contact Andrew Cracknell for more info. 0432 944 543

**FERNHILL GUIDES**

have limited vacancies available for girls 7-10yrs between 4-5:30pm and 10-14yrs between 5:30-7:30. At Fernhill Guide Hall 2 Douglas Rd Fernhill. If you wish to attend please book your place by ringing ‘Wattle’ on 42837297 or 0437230751

**PARENTING FOR SUCCESS**

In this **FREE** realistic and practical presentation about parenting younger children, Carol will talk about how children learn to cope in times of stress and how parents can use this knowledge to help kids grow into resourceful, confident adults.

Development of effective strategies that build children's self-esteem, confidence, effective problem-solving skills and positive communication between a parent and their child are key protective factors that reduce the likelihood of young people becoming involved in risk taking behaviours, such as substance abuse. These early years lay important foundations for building blocks for later life.

Carol Boland
B.A. (Hons), M.Clin.Psych. MAPS

Carol Boland is a clinical psychologist who has worked with parents, children and adolescents for over twenty-five years. Carol says that many of today’s parents face a range of daunting challenges that past generations rarely if ever experienced and that much of the knowledge she has gained about raising successful children has come from the parents with whom she has worked.

**Tuesday 8th April 2014**

Albion Park 9:00am-11:00am: Centenary Hall, Tongarra Rd, Albion Park

Dapto 12:30pm-2:30pm:Dapto Ribbonwood Centre (Kurrajong Hall 2) 93 Princes Hwy, Dapto

**FREE** A donation of $2 per person (at the door) to support local D&A education programs is appreciated.

**Bookings Essential:** Ph. Tina Camitz: (02) 4254 2700

**(Places may be limited)**

Martina.camitz@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au