**Remembrance Day** We honour the fallen with a minute’s silence in our classrooms. Thanks to Mrs Lewis for organizing the powerpoint so the children have some knowledge about the significance of today. Lest We Forget.

**CALENDAR – TERM 4**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>11 Nov</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting 7.15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>12 Nov</td>
<td>School Starters Playgroup 9.15am</td>
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<td>Thur</td>
<td>19 Nov</td>
<td>School Starters Playgroup 9.15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>19 Nov</td>
<td>Leaders’ Candidate Speeches Assembly 2.15pm in Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>26 Nov</td>
<td>School Starters Final Playgroup 9.15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>1 Dec</td>
<td>Scripture/Parent Helpers Breakfast 8.30-9.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>3 Dec</td>
<td>K-2 Concert 5.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>7 Dec</td>
<td>Presentation Day 9.15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>9 Dec</td>
<td>Yr6 Graduation 9.15am &amp; Morning Tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>10 Dec</td>
<td>Yr6 Farewell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>14 Dec</td>
<td>Student Reports to Parents</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>16 Dec</td>
<td>Students Last Day</td>
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School Leaders and Captains for 2016  Thanks to Mrs Burns, Mr Loxton and the team for organising the nominations for our leaders for next year. It is an honour to be nominated for a leadership position; good luck to all of you.

The process includes:

- **Stage Three** students nominating candidates on Monday 16\(^{th}\) November 2015. Pre selection occurs if there are too many candidates.
- Nominations accepted and announced to school.
- Speeches and voting will be held on Thursday 19\(^{th}\) November at 2.15pm. Parents are welcome to come to the speeches. Student ballot papers will have candidate’s photos on them to assist our younger children.
- Years 2 to 5 vote for the Leaders.
- The School Captains and leaders will be announced at Presentation Day, Week 10.
- SRC, Environment, IT and Sports Leaders will be chosen in February 2016.
- All badges will be given to students at the Leaders assembly in 2016.

**Last Day of Kinder Orientation today.** It was a joy to see the new Kinder children as they came today to be part of their new
adventure. They are a happy smiling bunch and we look forward to sharing the next seven years with them as they learn and grow at Balgownie Public School. Thanks also to their buddies who are making them feel at ease and will continue to help and guide them as their special friends in 2016. They are ‘wrapped’ in their new friends!

**Transition Playgroup is a huge success.** Thanks to the parent team who lead the playgroup which is held from 9.15-10.45am on Thursdays in the hall and complements our three orientation sessions.

We are currently looking for a team of coordinators for next year. If you have a child who is starting school in 2017, we need you! The program is all set and the current and past playgroup leaders are happy to mentor you. Please see me or the Playgroup ladies to put your name down.
Have a great week!

Aloma Stewart

Joke of week
Q: What kind of bird can write?
A: PENguin.

Thought of the Week
Be happy with what you have, and you will have plenty to be happy about.
-Irish proverb.

FIVE REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD READ ALOUD TO YOUR KIDS – AND PICK THEIR FAVOURITE BOOK

Ryan Spencer, University of Canberra
November 3, 2015 Theconversation.com

As parents know all too well, children love to re-read their favourite books over and over again. While this may feel painfully repetitive to adults, there is something in the text that is bringing children back time after time.

Children benefit greatly from re-reading as they learn the rhyming or predictable pattern of the text – rather than spending that time trying to understand what the book’s about. Research shows that repeated reading of favourite books can boost vocabulary by up to 40%.
But this is only truly beneficial when the text is read aloud.

Research shows that when preschool children are frequently read to, their brain areas supporting comprehension and mental imagery are highly engaged. Studies show that this helps with the development of reading skills, such as word recognition, when they start to learn to read.

By assisting our children to develop these skills, we’re ensuring that they know that text conveys a message, and to read on for more information when they get stuck on a word. And it’s never too early to start reading aloud to your children. Australian author and literacy studies professor Mem Fox says reading to children from birth can help develop a love for and understanding of books.

Need more convincing? Here are five ways that reading aloud can benefit your child:

1. **Improves fluency** Fluency when reading is essential in order to build strong and confident readers. But it can frequently be misinterpreted as relating only to reading speed alone. Researcher Timothy Rasinski highlights the “bridge” that fluency plays in between word recognition and understanding what the book is about. He highlights the way that reading fluently at a natural reading speed
helps to ensure that comprehension is maintained when reading.

When you share a book with your child, they get to see good reading modelled for them. They establish a sense of the speed and prosody that is essential to fluent reading. This then aids in their comprehension of the story.

To help your child hear themselves as a fluent reader, choose a favourite book, and take it in turns reading a sentence, such as in the style of echo reading, where you might read a sentence or a page first then your child repeats the same part.

Hearing themselves as confident and fluent readers allows children to break out of the struggling reader mindset where every book is a challenge.

2. Expands vocabulary knowledge Research shows that possessing a broad vocabulary is essential to making sure that children have access to a range of different words with different meanings. It makes sense that the more words that children know when reading independently, the more they’ll enjoy what they’re reading.

While vocabulary lessons are taught in schools, parents can also
assist in helping their children learn new words at home by reading favourite books aloud. Before reading a book for the first time, flick through the pages with your child. Look for any interesting words that your child might not have seen before. Talk about what these words mean and where they may have seen them before.

3. Helps comprehension Successful reading is all about making sense of what we’re reading. As adults, if we don’t quite understand something that we’ve just read, the first thing that we tend to do is to go back and reread. This is a vital skill that we need to encourage in our children to help them become self-sufficient readers.

Reading aloud provides the means by which to clearly take about what is happening in the book and to practice this rereading skill. The conversations about what the book is about can take place before reading with your child in order to predict what might happen. Discussions during and after reading are also usual in clarifying what your children have just read.

4. Involves family members Fathers and other significant males in a child’s life play a vital role in encouraging their children to be active readers at home. While mothers do tend to spend more time with their children and often take on reading as a part of this experience, research demonstrates clear benefits when dads, uncles,
grandfathers and male friends read with children.

Dads are often seen as the untapped resource when it comes to reading with their children and they frequently provide a different range of experiences, especially when reading aloud. This might be through using different funny voices and even the content that is read together.

5. **Brings the fun back into reading** As any avid reader knows there are few things better in life than curling up with a favourite book and not wanting to put it down. Sharing this experience with your child is a valuable way to get them on the path to loving books as well.

Consider taking home a new book from the bookstore or library and selling this to your child. Try talking about the pictures, look at interesting words and predict what might happen before reading together. When you are reading the book aloud for the first time, use different voices for each character.

If you’re looking for some inspiration on what to read to your child, then try the Children’s Book Council of Australia Awards shortlist, or the Dymock’s Top 51 Kids list which is voted for by kids for kids.
REMEMBRANCE DAY 2015

This year 11 November marks the 97th anniversary of the Armistice which ended the First World War (1914–18). Each year on this day Australians observe one minute’s silence at 11 am, in memory of those who died or suffered in all wars and armed conflicts.

At 11 am on 11 November 1918 the guns of the Western Front fell silent after more than four years continuous warfare. The allied armies had driven the German invaders back, having inflicted heavy defeats upon them over the preceding four months. In November the Germans called for an armistice (suspension of fighting) in order to secure a peace settlement. They accepted allied terms that amounted to unconditional surrender.

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month attained a special significance in the post-war years. The moment when hostilities ceased on the Western Front became universally associated with the remembrance of those who had died in the war. This first modern world conflict had brought about the mobilisation of over 70 million people and left between 9 and 13 million dead, perhaps as many as one-third of them with no known grave. The allied nations chose this day and time for the commemoration of their war dead.

After the end of the Second World War, the Australian and British governments changed the name to Remembrance Day. Armistice Day was no longer an appropriate title for a day which would
commemorate all war dead.
Today we all stopped at 11.00 a.m. to remember the fallen from all wars, past and present. It was also a time to give thanks for those currently serving.

We will remember them. Lest we forget.

CANTEEN ROSTER FOR TERM 4 WEEK 7
Thank you to the generous volunteers who donate their time to keep our canteen open. Please consider joining our volunteer team to keep our canteen open everyday. Next week’s volunteers are:

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<tr>
<th>Mon 16 Nov</th>
<th>Jane Cooper/Fahmiya Haniffa</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 17 Nov</td>
<td>Mary Papakosmas/Mandy Fanning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 18 Nov</td>
<td>Jodie Hurt/Joanna Lindenau</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 19 Nov</td>
<td>Corina Firpo/Kate Smith/Penny Fraser</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frid 20 Nov</td>
<td>Julie Neal/Gayle Galvin/Shellie Lavery</td>
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If any volunteers old or new are available on Thursday 26 November please text Karen on 0401 729778 asap so we can open canteen that day. Thanks!

COMMUNITY NEWS

VACANCY FOR VOLUNTEER ETHICS TEACHER AT BALGOWNIE PUBLIC SCHOOL

If you or somebody you know has been thinking about becoming an Ethics Teacher now is the time to apply. We need a new volunteer to join us so we can keep offering the same number of Ethics classes in 2016. Volunteers receive training from Primary Ethics and lots of support from the team. You must be available on Tuesday mornings during term time for the 30 minute classes. Grandparents are very welcome to apply too! For more information about the role, please go to http://www.primaryethics.com.au or call Jodie on 0417113380.
Can you make a difference to a child this Christmas?

Every year thousands of children do not experience an enjoyable Christmas! This year you can make a difference to a child’s Christmas by brightening their day with a gift. All donations will be donated to local children, through The Salvation Army.

Please donate to the fourth annual Shellharbour Giving Tree!

- Buy a gift for a child aged 0-18.
- Bring it to school, unwrapped, and place it under the Christmas tree in the front office.
- A representative from The Salvation Army will attend our morning assemble on Thursday the 10th of December to accept the gifts.

Thank you for your support and making a difference! Please feel free to share your donation using the hashtag #TheShellharbourGivingTree

Merry Christmas