Congratulations to the following students who have been nominated by their Stage 3 peers for the position of school leader in 2016.

Hannah D
Romany F
These candidates will present their speeches on Thursday 19\textsuperscript{th} November at 2pm (\textit{Please note the change in time}). Parents are welcome to come to the speeches. Our best wishes to all candidates.

There are many leadership responsibilities available next year. There are leadership positions per House, IT, Library and Environment Leaders as well as SRC positions. Our students will be working hard to uphold our reputation as a school which values learning, behaviour and caring for each other in school.

**Balgownie Public School Helpers “Thank you” Breakfast**

We would like to extend an invitation to all our school helpers to say thank you for all you do for our school. Our “Thank you” breakfast will be held on Tuesday 1 December 2015 in the school hall from
Helping kids deal with horrifying news by Michael Grosse

Terrorist events in Europe and the Middle East in recent days have reverberated around the world. Graphic images have been brought into our living rooms and onto our devices via the media over the last few weeks, and will continue to do so in the immediate future. But what about the impact of the event and the subsequent media coverage on children and young people?

As adults we all want our children to live carefree lives and keep them from the pain and even horror of tragedies such as terror attacks. In reality we can’t do this. So what is a parent, teacher, or other caring adult to do when such events fill the airwaves and the consciousness of society?

Here are some ideas:

1. Reassure children that they are safe. The consistency of the images can be frightening for young children who don’t understand the notion of distance and have difficulty distinguishing between reality and fiction. Let them know that while this event is indeed happening it will not affect them directly.
2. Explain what happened. Sounds obvious but it’s important not to simply assume that children and young people understand what’s happened. Be calm and stick to the facts, using a map to show older children where it happened.

3. Be available. Let kids know that it is okay to talk about the unpleasant events. Listen to what they think and feel. By listening, you can find out if they have misunderstandings, and you can learn more about the support that they need. You do not need to explain more than they are ready to hear, but be willing to answer their questions.

4. Help children process what they see and hear, particularly through television. Children are good observers but can be poor interpreters of events that are out of their level of understanding.

5. Support children’s concerns for others. They may have genuine concerns for the suffering that will occur and they may need an outlet for those concerns. It is heartwarming to see this empathy in children for the concerns of others.

6. Let them explore feelings beyond fear. Many children may feel sad or even angry with these events so let them express the full range of emotions.
7. Avoid keeping the television on all the time. The visual nature of the media means that images are repeated over and over, which can be both distressing to some and desensitising to others.

8. Be aware of your own actions. Children will take their cues from you and if they see you focusing on it in an unhealthy way then they will focus on it too. Let them know that it is happening but it should not dominate their lives.

Children’s worlds can be affected in ways that we can’t even conceive of, so adults need to be both sensitive to children’s needs and mindful of what they say and how they act in front of children. In difficult times, it is worth remembering what adults and children need most are each other.

**Robotics**

Skills demonstrated are part of what we are trying to achieve at our school. The Michael Fullan (2015) ‘6Cs’ are demonstrated in the following graph.

“Engage in focused innovation relative to higher order skills and qualities, test what works and spread effective practices.”
These are evident in our robotics program for all Stage 3 students who have been learning about robots for just this term. The learning they are engaged in is phenomenal and extremely high order. The lesson that I watched in 5/6 M on Friday had programmed ‘wrestling’ robots (through coding on the computers) to not go outside the black ring but to use their sensors to find and lock on to the other robots and push them out.
 SOME CORNY PUNS

1. AVOIDABLE: What a bullfighter tries to do
2. BURGLARIZE: What a crook sees with
3. COUNTERFEITERS: Workers who put together kitchen cabinets
4. ECLIPSE: What an English barber does for a living
5. EYEDROPPER: A clumsy ophthalmologist
6. HEROES: What a guy in a boat does
7. LEFTBANK: What the robber did when his bag was full of money
8. PARADOX: Two physicians
9. PARASITES: What you see from the top of the Eiffel Tower
10. PHARMACIST: A helper on the farm
11. POLARIZE: What penguins see with
12. RELIEF: What trees do in the spring
13. SELFISH: What the owner of a seafood store does

*Have a great week!

Aloma Stewart*
**Joke of week**

Q: What's black and white and makes a lot of noise?

A: A zebra with a drumkit.

**Thought of the Week**

“Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into friend.”

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**SHELLHARBOUR GIVING TREE**

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 gifts 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 and bring it to school, **unwrapped**, and place it under the Christmas tree in the front office. **Thank you for your support and making a difference!**

**LIBRARY NEWS**

**THANK YOU**

A big thank you to all of the volunteers who have recently assisted
us in covering a large volume of newly acquired reading resources for our school. Your assistance is always greatly appreciated.

LIBRARY STOCKTAKE
The library is currently preparing to undertake its annual stocktake of resources. Could you please assist your children to search for any library items that may still be at home and return them throughout the coming week. Official stocktake will commence Monday Week 9, 30 November.

CANTEEN NEWS
If any volunteers old or new are available on Thursday 26 November, please text Karen on 0401 729 778 asap so we can open canteen that day. Thanks!

CANTEEN ROSTER FOR TERM 4 WEEK 8

| Mon 23 Nov     | Jameela Krishna     |  
|                | Bianca Ljubicic    |
| Tue 24 Nov     | Barbara Picciolini  |
|                | Lisa Rouse         |
| Wed 25 Nov     | Hazel Merola        |
|                | Nicky Kettley       |
| Thur 26 Nov    | Marg Lynam          |
|                | 1 X HELP NEEDED TO OPEN |
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.