Tell them from me This term, students from Years 4 to 6 will be taking part in the ‘Tell them from me’ survey. The survey provides feedback on what students think about school life, how engaged they are with school, and the different ways that teachers interact with them. The surveys will be completed at school, the staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses as the will receive a unique user name and password. The school will receive the collated feedback and this will help us better understand how to improve students wellbeing and engagement. Later in the year, parents and teachers will be asked to complete the survey.

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

Students at Balgownie are safe. Our school conducted a successful fire drill last week. All people on our school site were at the meeting point in under 7 minutes. Students and staff were calm and confident and would be safe if there was an emergency. Fantastic effort everyone!

If you are visiting our school during an emergency, you need to also follow our Emergency Guidelines. If you hear a bell that sounds like ‘whoop, whoop, whoop’, you need to walk down to the basketball court and assemble there. Our staff have various duties, so it is important that you make yourself safe, and allow them to follow the procedures that ensure we all remain safe.

Kindergarten enrolments We are lucky enough to have a list of applications for enrolments for Kindergarten. It will be easier to make plans for 2016 if we know how many local enrolments we have. If you know of anyone, or are a parent of a child beginning school next year, please apply to enrol. We will be having an Open Day for prospective parents to promote what our school offers in June this year.

Buildings improved for our kids. Last week, work began on the old hall to turn that space and the adjoining classroom, into two classrooms. The new dividing wall has been constructed and the Interactive Whiteboard in 3/4’s classroom has been moved to the other wall in preparation for that wall to be demolished. The new paint work and carpet will then be laid. Not sure when that part is being completed.

The toilet block has a new roof and will also have some repairs on wall tiles and new paint in the near future.

I thank the staff for their flexibility in ‘rehousing’ a class when they could not be in their room for a day. Our team works together for the good of all students and it is always appreciated.

Playground steering committee met yesterday and is in the process of giving the job specifications to contractors for tender.

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 practise 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!

P and C meeting tonight! Come along and see what P and C is all about. Tonight is the AGM and we are holding it at Collegians with dinner at 6.30pm, followed by the meeting at 7.15pm. 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 parents are responsible for their children. You need to be able to see your children at all times to actively supervise them.

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.

School uniform for photo day A number of parents are inquiring about uniforms for school photo day. We have 2 uniforms for girls and either is acceptable for the photo. The photographers will make sure the photo looks wonderful and that the uniforms are balanced.

Please make sure that students are in full school uniform including plain black school shoes, white socks and no jewellery. It is also asked that students wear black and white hair accessories only.

Parent Teacher interviews are being held this term in week 9 and 10. Notes are going home to arrange interview times. Please make a time to speak with your child’s teacher about your child’s learning and progress. We hold the interviews at the end of Term One as part of our assessment and reporting cycle. This allows parents and staff to meet early in the year to discuss our children. By working in partnership, we can maximise your children’s achievements.

If you have recently had a meeting with your child’s teacher, please do not feel obliged to meet with them again. Written reports will be sent home at the end of Term Two and Four as it was last year.

Please help. To log on to our server and then to log onto the internet, our children need to type their full name into the computer. It would really help if you could teach your child how to type their first and last name. This is especially relevant for our younger students who can take a long time to log on if they can’t spell their name accurately!

Have a great week!

Aloma Stewart

Joke of the week

Q: Which knight is never killed in battle?
A: Sir Vivor.

Thought of the week

“Happiness is not the absence of problems, it’s the ability to deal with them.”

~ Steve Maraboli

YR6 STUDENTS HIGH SCHOOL EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORMS

Please note that the Expression of Interest for High School Application 2016, is due back to school by 20 March 2015. All Year 6 students need to return their completed and signed applications even if they are attending a private high school.

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

Please take time to read the relevant information on the MSP Photography payment envelopes and remember these helpful points:

- Don’t seal envelopes inside each other. You can pay for all children in one envelope however, each child needs to have their own envelope on photo day.
- Sibling Photo Envelopes are available at the school office upon request. **Online Ordering is NOT available for Sibling Photo Packs**.
- Please enclose correct money as no change is available for Sibling Photo Packs.
- **Return your individual photo envelopes on photo day.** Your child will be asked to present the envelope directly to the MSP photographer.

KEIRA HIGH SCHOOL EXPO EVENING

11 March 2015 - 6.00pm

Keira High School is holding an EXPO Evening for all Year 5 and Year 6 students and parents. The evening will consist of classroom tours, student performances and question and answer sessions. The evening will commence in the school hall at 6.00pm and conclude at 8.30pm.

Respect, Responsibility, Real Learning

Principal: Aloma Stewart  PO Box 192 Fairy Meadow NSW 2519  P&C: www.balgowniepnc.com
AUDITIONS FOR THE SOUTHERN STARS PERFORMING COMPANY ARE NOW OPEN

Any students from year 2 to year 12 are eligible to audition for a place in the Southern Stars Performing Company. The company consists of a Dance Company, Drama Company, Vocal Company and Orchestra. The successful students become featured artists in Southern Stars 2015 as well as performing in South Coast Dance Festival, South Coast Drama Festival, Schools Spectacular and other community events throughout the year. The majority of rehearsals are held in the July school holidays. The link to apply online is below:

https://southernstarsseci.wordpress.com/auditions/

(please right click and open in another browser if you are experiencing difficulty opening this link)

UNIFORM SHOP
WINTER TUNICS PRE ORDERS

We are receiving orders for Winter Tunics. These are NOT generally kept in stock, so please make sure you put your orders in by the 25th March.

Please ensure you select the correct measurement and size for your daughter. Full payment must be received PRIOR to this date. Orders will be delivered to your nominated child's Classroom. This is expected in the First week of Term 2.

Please consider PRE-ORDERING ONLINE, it’s easy and safe. Pay with Paypal, Credit Card, Cash or cheque. Visit: http://balgowniepnc.com/uniforms

Thank you for your order!

P&C

P&C AGM is being held at Balgownie Collegians tonight. We are meeting for dinner at 6.30pm and the meeting starts at 7.15pm in the room next to the Bistro. All welcome.

Respect, Responsibility, Real Learning
Principal: Aloma Stewart  PO Box 192 Fairy Meadow NSW 2519  P&C: www.balgowniepnc.com
**Important Information:**
- Please Consider Pre-ordering Online....visit [http://balgowniepnc.com/uniforms](http://balgowniepnc.com/uniforms) orders are payable via credit card, PayPal or Direct Deposit
- We still accept Cash & Cheque via the canteen slot. Please make all cheques payable to: BALGOWNIE PUBLIC SCHOOL P&C
- Uniform Shop is open by appointment only on Fridays. Please contact uniformshop@balgowniepnc.com
- This is a Pre Order, Dresses are not kept in stock. We will be ordering from Sweet P on the 25 March 2015 so please ensure you select the correct measurement & size for your child and full payment received prior to this date. Orders will be delivered to your nominated child’s class room once stock arrives Which is expected in the first week back to school (Term2)

Thank you for your Order

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**BALGOWNIE PUBLIC SCHOOL P & C**  
**WINTER TUNIC PRE-ORDER FORM**

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**INVOICING INFORMATION: (Please complete)**

Parent’s Name:

Phone Number:

Email:

Address (for invoicing/receipting purposes):

Child’s Name:

My Child is in Class:

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*Effective February 2015*