Playground equipment is on its way! At the staff and P and C meeting, we discussed the three quotes for the playground equipment. The decision was made to go with Moduplay for the equipment and I have since met with the company to tweak the design following some ideas from the meeting and to put the plan in place.

It should be installed (OK pending that we don’t have three months of rain) by the beginning of Term 4 latest. Hopeful for it to be a bit earlier but not wanting to promise too much!

It is so exciting and I have to say a big thank you to the community for the past few years who have poured their heart and soul into making our playground a better place for our students. It is exciting times!

Kindergarten Open Day was really successful. Thirty new families (and some returning ones!) were introduced to our school, followed by a tour by our senior students. The feedback about the maturity, pride and charm shown by our senior students who took our visitors around the school was extremely positive. Well done, team! You are a credit to our school and your families.

Thanks to Mrs Birchall and Miss Steele for their work behind the scenes. Thanks also to the current parent and carers for being part of the show case of our wonderful school. You helped make the new parents feel welcome and to actively demonstrate the community spirit that is one of our most positive features.

Don’t forget! If you know of any families who are looking for a great school for their child for 2016 and live in our area, encourage them to apply to enrol at Balgownie Public School.

NAPLAN completed for 2015. Sometimes the anticipation of an event is more challenging than the event itself. Our Year 3 and 5 students handled themselves well in what is a different situation than what they are used to. They ‘took it in their stride’ and we were proud of how they applied themselves to be the best they can be.

School Planning has been completed and ‘endorsed.’ It will be published on website and app within the week.

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability

Notification for Parents and Carers
From 2015, all Government and non-Government schools across Australia are required to participate annually in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD).

All Australian schools will collect data on their students who are receiving adjustments to meet additional learning and support needs in accordance with their obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and Disability Standards for Education 2005. This data will be provided to the Australian Government to assist in the development of a consistent, national picture of the educational needs of students with disability.

The data provided to the Australian Government by the NSW Department of Education and Communities is provided in such a way that it cannot be used to identify any individual student or school.


Privacy Protection
The NSW Department of Education and Communities follows the requirements of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 and the Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002. Schools will collect, record, store and use data about individual students in line with these requirements. Data security and protection is a priority and students’ personal details will be kept confidential.

Under Clause 52 of the Commonwealth Australian Education Regulation 2013, data collected by the NSW Department of Education and Communities for the NCCD must be provided to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training. This includes the number of students at each level of education, the number in each category of disability and the number at each level of adjustment. The information is provided to the Commonwealth as a series of number sets that cannot be used to identify any individual student or school.
The Australian Government Department of Education and Training follows the requirements of the Commonwealth Privacy Act 1988 when handling any data provided by NSW Department of Education and Communities in connection with the national data collection. A privacy notice has been developed by the Australian Government to provide students, parents and carers with important privacy information in relation to the data collection. This notice is available on the department’s website at http://education.gov.au/notices. If you have any questions about the data collection please do not hesitate to contact Aloma Stewart.

Just a reminder about the rules around our school to keep our children safe.
Where there is a yellow line on the gutter, it is a no stopping zone. This means you are not to stop your car for any reason, even to quickly drop off your children. There are also ‘no stopping’ signage there. Please be aware of these no stopping zones as they are for the safety of the students in our school.

What is a school ‘Drop-off and Pick-up’ area?
This area, always on the school side of the road, is designated by ‘NO PARKING’ signs. It provides an appropriate environment for parents and carers when dropping off and collecting their children from school by car. Drivers may drop-off and pick-up passengers legally within a two minute timeframe.

‘Kiss and Drop’ zone is to the west of the school gate on Balgownie Road and has room for about three cars at a time. This is not a place to park and leave the car, or park and wait for your child to come out of school. These zones are designed for 2 minute stopping only.

Please go through the children’s crossing rules with your children. If the flags are up, they have right of way. If the flags are not up, they must give way to cars. It is also good practice to teach your child to look before crossing to make sure the cars have seen them and are stopping.

Antibullying lessons in Week 5. This week, there are two themes. Early Stage One and Stage One are working on ‘Saying No’ and the older students are building on this by learning how to be an effective bystander.

Lesson 5: SAYING “NO” AND HOW TO BE AN EFFECTIVE BYSTANDER

Why learn this skill?
Sometimes students find it hard to resist pressure from friends to do things that they don’t really want to do or which are mean, against the rules, or dangerous.

The key aspects to this skill are:
- Continuing to say no confidently and calmly;
- Not lecturing the other person;
- Not giving in to attempts to change your mind;
- Being friendly but firm so you don’t alienate others.

Saying No
Cool people can say ‘no’ if they don’t want to do it.

Do’s
- Look in their eyes.
- Tell them you don’t want to do it.
- Briefly say why (eg “No, I want to do something else after school”).

OR
- If it’s a mean thing or against the rules or dangerous, point out the consequences (eg “No it’s too risky” or “No that’s mean”).
- Keep your tone of voice and expression friendly and calm.
- Continue to calmly say no if they keep asking you.

Don’ts
- Don’t look away or down at the ground.
- Don’t say yes just so they’ll like you.
- If what they asked you to do was mean, dangerous, or against the rules, don’t give them a lecture about it.
- Don’t get angry or upset.

Bystander Behaviour – How to be an everyday superhero

Why teach this skill?
- Most bullying takes place when bystanders are present; although most bystanders do not act to discourage it, when any one of them does there is a good chance (around 50%) that the bullying will stop.
- Students who are ‘defended’ are better adjusted and report less peer victimisation one year later.
- Reconciliation occurred even more when bystanders intervened than when teachers intervened.
- The majority of peer interventions are effective.

What is a bystander?
Definition: A bystander is someone who sees or knows about the bullying situation. Bystanders may act in many different ways. A bystander might:
- Watch what is going on and not get involved.
- Pretend not to see and ignore the situation.
- Choose to get involved in the bullying.
- Choose to get involved and stop the bullying
- Choose to get help.

As bystanders, the way children behave can either support or help to stop bullying. Many children don’t know how to help the person being bullied.

What are the bystanders doing?
What does the victim see and feel? (a group of students bullying them/or supporting the bullying.)
If children see someone being bullied they could:

- Let the person doing the bullying know that what they are doing is bullying;
- Refuse to join in with their bullying and walk away;
- Support the student who is being bullied;
- Ask a teacher or support person for help; and
- Support their friends and protect them from bullying by being there for them.

Have a great week!

Aloma Stewart

Joke of the Week

Q: What do you get when you cross a cow with a trampoline?
A: A milkshake!

Thought of the Week

All journeys have secret destinations of which the traveller is unaware. Martin Buber

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS – P&C

This is our only fundraiser for the year, so please support our school.

A reminder to all the families who haven’t paid/returned Entertainment Books. They are due back this week. You can pay online at https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/280m2 or complete c/c slip on the bottom of letter that went home with the book or pay in cash in an envelope with child’s name and class, drop at the school office. Your support is greatly appreciated.

2015 GRIP LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

On Friday Jayda, Jake, James and I went to the 2015 Grip Leadership Conference at Wollongong Uni. We had lots of fun learning about being a leader and what we can do to make a change at our school. We had to go around meeting other leaders from different schools and hear what they thought about some of the questions and what it meant ‘to lead’. As a school we had to come up with a plan for what we wanted to do to our school. We came up with the idea of having a market day to raise money to purchase paint so we can paint handprints of the Year Six students around the Stage 3 stairwells at the end of each year. This would brighten the dull stairwell and leave a lasting legacy of our leaving Year Six students. We had lots of fun and we have definitely become better leaders after this conference.

Written by Charlotte

STAGE 3 PSSA NETBALL KNOCKOUT

On the 19th May, nine Balgownie Public Schools Stage 3 girls competed in 2 games of netball at Guest Park Fairy Meadow. The team consisted of Darcy, Romany, Natasha, Emma, Ella, Rachel, Kalia, Ella and Hannah. Unfortunately we lost the first game 17-3. We played against Corrimal East who were hard to beat. Our next game was against Austinmer and luckily we won the second game 11-8. Austinmer was good but not as hard as Corrimal East. In the second game, our team all tried new positions and we played with a lot more success, enjoyment and lots of fun. Unfortunately, we only came 3rd in the competition, so therefore we did not make it into the next round. But the main thing was that we all ended up having lots of fun and we were all very proud to represent our school.

Written By: Darcy, Natasha and Romany.

A Challenge to All Australian Primary Schools

The 16th annual National Walk Safely to School Day will be held on Friday 22 May 2015. All primary school children, along with their parents and carers, are encouraged to walk and commute safely to school.

The Objectives of National Walk Safely to School Day are:

- To encourage parents and carers to walk to school with primary school age children
- To promote the health benefits of walking and create regular walking habits
- To help children develop vital road crossing skills and ensure children up to the age of 10 years hold an adult’s hand when crossing roads
- To reduce car dependency and traffic congestion
- To promote the use of public transport

CANTEEN NEWS

The canteen oven is still unavailable, so no hot food orders please except for noodle cups and toasted sandwiches. All other fresh, packaged and frozen items still available.
Canteen Roster for Week 6 Term 2
Thank you to our wonderful canteen volunteers who keep our canteen open, cooking and serving hot and healthy food each day. Next week’s volunteers are:

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Volunteers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 25 May</td>
<td>Jameela Krishna, Bianca Ljubicic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 26 May</td>
<td>Jodie McLaughlin, Barbara Picciolini</td>
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<td>Wed 27 May</td>
<td>Nicky Kettley, Karen Rogers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 28 May</td>
<td>Sharon O’Brien, Joanna Lindenau</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 29 May</td>
<td>Shellie Lavery, Marg Lynam</td>
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COMMUNITY NEWS

BALGOWNIE COMMUNITY GARDEN (BALLY’S PATCH) WORKING BEE
Sunday May 31 from 9am
All welcome!
Bally’s Patch is located at Lot 21, Church St, Balgownie (between #5 and #7 Church St). Bring your gardening gloves, hats and smiles, and make some friends along the way.
Visit www.ballyspatch.wordpress.com for more info or call 0413 862 865.

BRINGING UP GREAT KIDS - A free parenting program for mums, dads and carers
This program promotes positive, respectful parent and child relationships.
Thurs 28th May to Thurs 25th June
5.30pm to 7.30pm
Willy Wagtail Child Care Centre
43 Florence St Fairy Meadow
To register: 0439 887 554 or email admin@fsi.org
Family Services Illawarra Inc.

INTRODUCTION TO KOREAN
A new Korean language course for primary school students in Years 5 and 6 will be offered for the first time in the Illawarra from Weeks 6-10 of Term 2. The course is proudly funded by the Australia-Korea Foundation (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) and taught by qualified Korean language teachers based in the Illawarra.
• Learn to read and write the Korean alphabet
• Learn basic greetings and survival Korean
• Learn about Korean culture, food and music
• Meet new friends while learning about Asia’s best-kept secret
Location: Smith’s Hill High School
When: Weeks 6-10 Term 2, 2015
Class Times: Thursdays 4:30pm-5:30pm
Who: Students from local primary schools (Years 5 and 6)
Total cost: $15 material fee
Applications Close: Friday, May 22, 2015
How to apply: Send an email illawarrahangul@gmail.com
Course Commences: Week 6, Term 2, Thu May 28th.