The Bally Buzz
Balgownie Public School
Living & Learning


Term 3  Week 3  Wednesday 29 July 2015

CALENDAR – TERM 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frid</td>
<td>31 July</td>
<td>Boys Soccer PSSA Knockout at Judy Masters Oval 1.15pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>31 July</td>
<td>Soccajoeys K-2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>5 Aug</td>
<td>Brokers District Athletics Carnival</td>
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<td>Thur</td>
<td>6 Aug</td>
<td>K-2 Athletics Carnival 12-2pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6 Aug</td>
<td>School Starters Playgroup in Hall 9-11am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6 Aug</td>
<td>Keirabald at Wollongong Art Gallery 6.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>10-13 Aug</td>
<td>Book Fair in Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>11 Aug</td>
<td>ICAS Maths test</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>12 Aug</td>
<td>Book Week Fancy Dress Parade in Hall 9.15am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12 Aug</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting 7.15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>13 Aug</td>
<td>K-6 Paper Aeroplane Competition 12-2.00pm</td>
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Choir were wonderful Last night I had the privilege of attending the 61st Choral Festival at which our choir performed. Congratulations to all of the students who committed their time to performing in the choir. Not only did you represent your school with the utmost respect
you also made your parents, teachers and principal extremely proud. Special mention to Romey Fanning who had individual solo parts in one of the massed choir songs. You looked and sounded very professional and confident! The whole festival was amazing with four schools performing individual and mass choir items. Our school was sensational with two uplifting songs, *Best Day of my Life* and with drum accompaniment, *Like a Drum*. Well done to our drummers, Abby S, Macey C, Zac V and Jack B.

A special congratulations for our star conductor Mrs Lynch. You lead the choir to sound so beautiful. Thanks to the team for their hard work with the choir and to the ladies in the office for their work with the tickets.

The quality performance demonstrated what is so good about Public Education - staff working together to support each other who care and give above and beyond their job description, parents and communities proud in their support of their child's school and students who are engaged, learning and taking the opportunity to step up and perform in a forum that wholeheartedly recognises their abilities. Absolutely brilliant, thank you!

**Students shine in ICAS Science exam.** Well done to the 39 students who sat for the ICAS Science test. The following students attained excellent results.
A high distinction is for the top 1% of participants, distinction next 10%, credit next 25%, merit next 10%, and all remaining students receive a participation certificate. If you would like to discuss any aspect of this test please feel free to see Mrs Cliff or Mrs Robson.

**High Distinction**
William. N (Year 4)
Adil. S (Year 4)

**Distinction**
Zachary. R (Year 2)

**Credit**
Amelia. B (Year 2)
Hamish. C (Year 2)
Samuel. D (Year 2)
Escher. G (Year 2)
Penelope. G-B (Year 2)
Rahil. S (Year 2)
Annabelle. D (Year 3)
Richard. Z (Year 3)
Tabitha. K-G (Year 4)
Campbell. W (Year 4)
Charlie. F (Year 5)
Ashton. R (Year 5)
Casey. B (Year 6)
Merit
Max. W (Year 2)
Connor. F (Year 5)
Emma. L (Year 5)
Lauren. S (Year 5)

Good Luck to our Boys’ Soccer (football) team who are in Round 4 of the State Knockout. They are playing Coniston at Judy Masters Oval this Friday at 1.15pm.

Education Week provides NSW government schools with the opportunity to showcase everything that is good about Public Education. In reality, everything we do every day here at Balgownie and in the 2,200 plus Public Schools across the state constantly show that we have in our schools, students who are engaged thanks to our outstanding teachers leading their learning. Every day I get to see this first hand and during our Education Week 2015, I hope that parents and carers can enjoy the marvellous teaching and learning that we do here every day.

Toilet Block upgrade continues. Although it was slightly unplanned, our toilet block has been upgraded on the outside as well as the completed upgrade on the inside. The beautiful pine tree’s roots have caused a few issues that have shown to be more extensive than originally thought. The plumbers have worked hard to
try to rectify the issues before Open Day and although it still needs to be finished, they have made sure that the toilet block is in working order.

Games for vocabulary development from www.ehow.com
Vocabulary development is a key skill to a student's success and assists in comprehension of texts read and aids in improving reading and writing. Vocabulary games are an effective way to help build their vocabulary while having fun at the same time.

Game 2 - Narratives  Ask the student to verbally tell their favorite story, whether it be personal or from another source. Next, give them a list of vocabulary words and ask them to re-tell the story in writing, incorporating every word from the vocabulary list at least once before the end of the story. Review it to make sure that all words are used in their proper context.

Do you let your kids amaze you? By Michael Grose
“I'm amazed at what children CAN do when given the opportunity and encouragement. I love the pride, confidence and sense of purpose/pleasure in contributing, each new skill achieved brings. The smiles are awesome too.” A mother left this comment on our Facebook page recently in response to our post: “What would be the impact if you did less, not more for your children?” Lovely answer!
It got me thinking that the joy that this mother took from watching her children develop independence was no accident. Her parenting style played a large role in her children’s independence. All power to her and her parenting style! I’ve long believed that *adults are the gatekeepers for children’s independence*. 

We open the gate to independence when we give children opportunities to develop **self-help skills** (*carry their own schoolbags, get themselves up in the morning, tidy their own rooms*); provide them with **real responsibility** (*feeding pets, setting the meal table and preparing meals*) and give them **autonomy** to make some of their own decisions (*choosing clothes within limits, following own interests, making choices about pocket-money spending*). 

We close the independence gate when we **do too much** for children (*tidy their toys away, pack their schoolbags, make simple snacks*); **rescue** them from learning opportunities (*take forgotten lunches to school, sort out their friendship problems, pay their library fines*) and **neglect** to build scaffolds to independence (*such as help them make their bed, walk half way to school, teach them to ride public transport*). 

It’s a quirk of parenting that many children think they are older than they are, and parents think their children are younger than they are. We underestimate children’s abilities to the detriment of their
development.

Are you an opener or closer of the gate to children’s independence?

Think of independence as a continuum with opening the gate and closing the gate at either end. If your parenting is more at the closing end then look for ways to move down the continuum towards independence building. My advice is to make small adaptations to your parenting. For instance, start with a child making their own snacks before moving to helping you to prepare a meal. But first you need to develop a mindset for independence building. That means, be on the lookout for opportunities for children to do things for themselves.

As many readers will know I firmly believe that the job of parents is to make ourselves redundant from the earliest possible age of a child’s life. That means, that our interactions with kids have an endgame in mind – we want our kids to be able to stand on their own two feet physically (Don’t we get a kick out of them walking for the first time!), emotionally (with support, of course) and to navigate their world without being reliant on others.

There is no better feeling as a parent than watching your child beam with joy and pride when they’ve mastered a new skill, overcome a
challenge or conquered a fear. It’s those times that make parenting so worthwhile. Those awesome smiles won’t happen by accident. They require a parenting style that gives kids a chance to be independent; that encourages them to be brave and offers them the safety net of emotional support when life throws them curve balls. Why not try it? Give your kids a chance to amaze you.

Have a great week!

Aloma Stewart

Joke of the Week
Q: Where do geologists like to relax?
A: In a rocking chair.

Thought of the Week
“Life has no limitations, except the ones you make.” ~Les Brown

BOOK WEEK “BOOKS LIGHT UP OUR WORLD”
Book Week is being celebrated at Balgownie School in week 5. Book Week activities will include a Book Fair, to be held in the Library though out week 5 and we will also be having a Fancy Dress Parade for our children on Wednesday, 12 August. Children are being asked
to come dressed as their favourite book character or in this year’s Book Week theme “Books light up our world”.

The parade will begin at 9.15am in the school hall. Please visit the Children’s Book Council of Australia website to check out this year’s nominated books. Looking forward to a wonderful week of celebration.

Mrs Birchall

PREMIER'S SPELLING BEE 2015
The Premier's Spelling Bee was introduced in 2004 as a fun and educational way for primary school students to engage with spelling. The competition is open to all government primary schools in NSW and comprises Regional Finals that are held in various locations across NSW in the last two weeks of Term 3. Each year the State Final is held at the Eugene Goossens Hall, ABC Centre, Sydney, with the final half hour of the Senior Final broadcast live on ABC Local Radio. The competition attracts significant publicity through media and television coverage.

This year our school is entering the Premier's Spelling Bee. It is open to all students in Stage 2 and Stage 3. There are two divisions – Junior for Years 3-4 and Senior for Years 5-6. Two students will be selected from each division i.e. two from stage 2 and two from stage 3. These four students will be asked to compete at the regional final.
If students win the regional final they will be asked to compete in the state final.

To select the regional finalists, two students from each class will be chosen by the class teacher/s. These students will then be asked to compete in the Spelling Bee School Final. Notes will be sent home to advise successful students of applicable dates.

The students will be selected from a spelling competition based on the recommended word list. The word list can be downloaded from the below website.

Password: robot

Please note:
Junior words begin at Level 1 and go to Level 5
Senior words begin at Level 2 and go to Level 7

General dates are below:
School finals will be some time in weeks 4, 5 and 6. Successful students from each class will be given a spelling list and informed which day the school final will be on.
Regional finals will be at Austinmer Public School on Monday, 14 September 2015, Junior 9.30-11.30 and Senior 12.30-2.30. State
final to be held on Wednesday 11th November between 9.30am - 6.00pm at the ABC centre, Ultimo.

Mrs Robson

WOOLWORTHS EARN AND LEARN

The Earn and Learn Program is running again this year in conjunction with Woolworths and Modern Teaching Aids. In past years we have been able to obtain lots of great resources through this program.

The more stickers we collect the more resources we can buy for the school.

From Wednesday the 15th July you will get one sticker for every $10 you spend at Woolworths. These need to be placed on a sticker chart, which we will send home when they arrive at school. When you have filled in a whole sticker chart bring the chart to school and place in the Woolworths Earn and Learn box in the front foyer of the school office.

Ask family, friends and neighbours to collect stickers for you. The more sticker charts we fill the more equipment we can buy. In the past some of the equipment we have obtained through this program have included the outdoor car near the cubby houses, the outdoor furniture on the kindergarten verandah and outdoor cushions. If you
have any questions or suggestions on collecting lots of stickers please see Mrs Kerema in KK.

**CANTEEN ROSTER FOR TERM 3 WEEK 4**

Thank you to our wonderful canteen volunteers who keep our canteen open, cooking and serving hot and healthy food each day. Thank you also to our student volunteers who have begun assisting us. Next week’s volunteers are (student volunteers in *italics*):

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<tr>
<th>Mon 3 August</th>
<th>Jemma Mulquin</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Michelle Guiliani</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 4 August</td>
<td>Marissa Bull</td>
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<td>Jodie McLaughlin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 5 August</td>
<td>Fahmiya Haniffa</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ljuba Rodic</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Holly, Vidhi G</em></td>
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<td>Thurs 6 August</td>
<td>Chantal Sproates</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tanya Vlietstra</td>
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<td><em>Hannah R and Grace A</em></td>
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<td>Fri 7 August</td>
<td>Belinda Down</td>
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<td>Zoe Wood</td>
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<td>Samantha Brown</td>
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<td><em>Owain C and Harry D</em></td>
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‘OPT IN’ FOR PAPER COPY OF NEWSLETTER

I would like to have a paper copy of the weekly newsletter sent home with my child.

Child’s Name ........................................................................................................

Class .....................................................................................................................

(Please consider our environment)