From the Principal’s desk

Mons Road entry upgrade
The DEC and their contractors will be commencing work on a new path from the north western entry gate on Mons Road. There is currently an ‘unofficial’ path which weaves from this entrance around to the top of our front playground which will be replaced by a 900mm concrete path. The run ups to the cricket nets will be upgraded and drainage issues around the primary toilets, sports room and GA office will be rectified as part of this process. Work will commence next week and you will need to enter the school via an alternate gate.

Term One invoices
Our Term One invoices were sent home earlier this week. Your prompt attention is much appreciated. Without your valued financial support we would be unable to offer many of our terrific school programs.

Trivia night
Our Year 2 fundraising parents are organising another trivia night on Friday 4th April in our school hall. Last year’s event was a terrific success and was hugely oversubscribed. Keep your eye out for more information in coming newsletters.

Grates over drains
The children are not to lift drains to retrieve lost balls or other property. We do not want any little fingers getting caught. I will be reminding the children of the dangers over the next week and it would be appreciated if you could follow up this message at home. Children can report to the office when items fall into the drains and we will endeavour to retrieve them.

Drop Off Zone
The ‘Kiss and Drop’ Zone on Manning Street is signposted with ‘No Parking’ signs which are in effect from 8am until 9:30am. The RTA website states that ‘in a No Parking zone you may not stop for longer than 2 minutes and only to drop off or pick up passengers or goods (ie you must remain within 3 metres of your vehicle). If you leave your vehicle, you are breaking the law and risk receiving a $165 fine and losing 2 demerit points. Please ensure you abide by the road rules when driving and parking around our school. With PSSA sport commencing this Friday, it is important the bus zone on Manning Street is also kept free on Friday afternoons. Parking in the staff car park or across driveways is also not permitted.

References for children
As per DEC policy, our teachers are unable to provide personal references for children. I can provide statements of enrolment and other generic information on official letterhead, if required, but teachers cannot provide references about individual children. Thank you for your understanding.

Toddlers on the equipment
It gets very busy in our fort playground before school. There have been many instances where unsupervised toddlers have been playing on the equipment. We don’t want any accidents to happen, so I’d appreciate it if your pre-school children didn’t play on the equipment before school. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Owen Taylor,
Principal

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Stars of the Week

Tennis Knockout Team

Congratulations to our tennis team - Shante (5A), Georgia (6W), Charlie (5G) and Rigby (5G) - who have won through to the second round of the NSW Primary Schools Sports Association (PSSA) knockout competition.
From the Deputy Principal’s desk

Specialised Religious Education (SRE) and Specialised Ethics Education (SEE).
A big thank you to all the SRE teachers who have volunteered once again this year. SRE and SEE lessons commence tomorrow, 27th February. We are extremely lucky to have such a dedicated and experienced group of volunteers to deliver the SRE and SEE programs. In order to allow teachers to develop a rapport with the students, and to ensure continuity in their programs, we advise that enrolments or changes in SRE classes are now closed for the year. Thank you to Monique Tompson, who will continue in the role of Ethics Coordinator for our school again this year.

K-6 Assembly
This Thursday, will be our first K-6 assembly of 2014 with the presentation of badges to our SRC, Band Captains, Sound Crew, Library Monitors and Principal’s Certificates. We look forward to celebrating the many achievements of our students and hope you will be able to join us from 2.20 in the hall.

University of NSW International Competitions (ICAS)
Students from Years 3-6 are invited to take part in the UNSW International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS). The competition dates are as follows:
Science Competition: 4th June
Writing Competition: 18th June
English Competition: 29th July
Mathematics Competition: 12th August
All students in Years 3 – 6, received a note last week. The closing date for applications is
* Thursday 27th March. No entries will be accepted after this date. Additional information for parents is available at www.eaa.unsw.edu.au. Follow the link labelled “prepare” for some practice tests. If you wish your child to participate in one or all of these competitions, please return the permission slip with payment to your child’s class teacher. If you have misplaced the note one can be found on the school website under notes – whole school.

Stewart House Clothing Appeal.
The Stewart House annual clothing appeal makes a most valuable contribution to the welfare of children and adults in great need. It provides funds for teaching and accommodating children with special needs who benefit from a stay at Stewart House at Curl Curl. A reminder that all bags will be collected on Monday 3rd March. Many thanks for your support.

Kindergarten Buddies
Year 6 and Kindergarten enjoyed their first ‘Buddies’ visit last week. Amongst the excitement of being at ‘big school’, meeting their Year 6 buddy added to how wonderful and exciting school is. Our Year 6 students listened to first day stories from their Kindy friends and got to know each other a little better. This is a wonderful opportunity for our Year 6 to develop leadership skills and the very important skill of listening! I’m sure that there will be many more opportunities for our students to share their learning over the year.

Happiness is a gift and the trick is not to expect it, but to delight in it when it comes.
Charles Dickens

Have a wonderful week
Marita Nieuwenhuis
Deputy Principal

NSW PSSA Tennis Knockout
Victor J Kelly Trophy

Congratulations to the Balgowlah North tennis team who won the first round in Mondays NSW PSSA tennis knockout. The team of Shante Lai, Rigby Whearty Georgia Singleton and Charlie Brown defeated Lane Cove Public School 34 to 31 games. A wonderful effort! This puts them into round 2 and the team will play host to the winners of the Gladesville vs Lane Cove West game in the next couple of weeks. Thank you to Michelle Lai and Sally Whearty for managing the team. Well done team!

Susie Stock
Sports Co-ordinator
Clean Up Our School Day 2014

Staff and students at Balgowlah North Public School will be doing their bit to help the environment by taking part in Schools’ Clean Up Day this Friday, 28th February. This is a perfect opportunity for us to examine what types of rubbish are most common, discuss what we can do to avoid the creation of this environmental mess and consider the problems this pollution creates. Students are asked to bring gloves, preferably reusable to avoid creating further waste. Clean Up Australia Day is this Sunday, 2nd March.

Student Leaders Report

The Student Leaders met on Tuesday to discuss some exciting new initiatives for 2014. We would like to invite everyone in the school to support the Y6 boys in their Greatest Shave Fundraiser for the Leukaemia Foundation by having a ‘Crazy Hair’ day and bringing a gold coin to school on the day. We will let you know the date very soon.

We are looking forward to meeting with the student representatives from K-6 next Tuesday where we will discuss ideas for making our school even better.

Thank you.
Student Leaders

Northern Beaches Eisteddfod.

Please make sure that you check out details on the school website if you would like to enter this year’s Eisteddfod. All money must be paid by Saturday 1st March so time has almost run out.

Ms Jenny O’Neill will try to catch up with all students who are entering this year as soon as possible.

In the meantime, be thinking of your topic ideas and even start preparing your speech if you can.

Good luck to all our public speakers and have fun.

Mrs Wetzler

School Banking Sign Up Day

We now have over 280 school bankers at BNPS! That’s a fabulous number of students developing good saving habits at a young age. Remember it’s about consistency rather than the dollar amount. If your child would like to join the program, our CBA School Banking Specialist will be visiting to sign up students.

When: Thursday 27th February @ 830am and 9am
Where: Outside the Library
Bring: Parent/Carer ID & Child’s passport or birth certificate

The CBA donates to our school, $5 for each new account opened as well as 5% of the total amount of deposits made each week. This helps fund the purchasing of new books for the Home Reader Program.

P&C News

It was lovely to meet new faces at our coffee morning on Monday. Hope you all enjoyed your coffee, I know I did!

Our first fundraiser of the year is a Trivia Night which is being held on April 4th 7.30pm in the school hall. Tickets will be available on Flexischools in the next couple of days. Teams are in tables of 8. Please organise your team and appoint a captain/point of contact. We can organise teams if you aren’t part of one. Contact bnps2014fundraising@gmail.com if purchasing tickets through flexi schools to allocate table.

We have had two proposals put forward at P&C for:

a) Landscaping at the bottom K-2 play area under the trees.
b) Some kind of shade structure in the 3-6 play ground.

Both of these projects would need to be financed from P&C funds and before we consider such funding we need to know the costs involved. So, we need parents with landscaping and gardening expertise to form a Playground committee who would look at costings and plans etc and would be able to drive the projects to make things happen. Please let me know if you can help, as without your help we cannot undertake either proposal. Many thanks.

Ann Parkinson
P&C President
ann@jallcom.com.au

Special Swimming Scheme

Students in Year 2 have the opportunity to attend an intensive swimming and water safety program if they have not yet reached a satisfactory standard of water safety. This swimming scheme will be held at the Warringah Aquatic Centre. Our allocated time is in Weeks 8 and 9 from Wednesday 19th March to Friday 28th March. Each lesson will last for 60 minutes, from 11:15 – 12:15. We have been allotted 60 places. The program itself is free but students are required to pay for pool entry and a bus to and from the pool each day. Notes will be issued on Friday 28th February. Please send your permission note and money to school as soon as possible as places are limited. If all 60 places are not filled by Year 2 students then places will be offered to Year 3 students.

Patricia Vitale,
School Swimming Co-ordinator

### Canteen Roster

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#### Canteen Volunteers Needed

Join our easy online rostering system to browse the available shifts.

[www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E44ADAE28A2FF2-bnps/14122370](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E44ADAE28A2FF2-bnps/14122370)

Or scan the QR code above.

Roster enquiries email: petracteen@optusnet.com.au

Please do the responsible thing. If you can’t make it, phone or swap. Please bring an apron!

Committee: Chairperson: Brigitte Campbell Secretary: Shelloy Buckley
Treasurer: Alexandria Tucker Roster Manager: Petra Mazaraki
Committee Members: Liz Appleton, Bronwyn Norris, Tanja Muller
Canteen Manager: Mylene Stegman Newsletter: Sara Linden

Enquiries: Mylene 9949 4499


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MEET OUR NEW TEACHERS

Mrs Ridley
Teacher Interviewed by Emily 6C

I teach kindergarten and I have been teaching for seven years.

My favourite thing about teaching is watching children being proud of achieving and learning.

I taught at Cammeray Public School before joining Balgowlah North Public School

Apart from teaching, I love going to the beach and being with family and friends.

Mrs Horsley
Interviewed by Mary 6W

I have been teaching for 14 years and I love it.

I love to find out all about the students and the things they are interested in.

I have taught at Avalon Public School, Neutral Bay and also in the U.S.

When I am not at school, I love being a mum and going to the beach.
What night will it be impossible to get a babysitter?

PARENTS’ TRIVIA NIGHT
FRIDAY APRIL 4
7.30PM IN THE SCHOOL HALL

TICKETS ONLY $30. BYO DRINKS & PLATTER.
There’ll be games, raffles and a prize for the table with the best theme.
You can come on your own, as a couple or organise a table of eight people.
Pay with your account at flexischools.com or outside the hall, before or after assembly on Thursdays.