From the Principal’s desk

Northern Beaches Learning Alliance – NBLA
Balgowlah North Public school is part of the Northern Beaches Learning Alliance (NBLA). The NBLA is a community of schools – consisting of 12 primary and 5 high schools – which work closely together to share ideas and teaching expertise across the alliance. We also provide combined professional learning for our teaching staff and communities. The primary schools involved are Balgowlah Heights, Balgowlah North, Beacon Hill, Brookvale, Curl Curl North, Dee Why, Harbord, Manly Village, Manly West, Manly Vale, Narrabeena and Seaforth. The five campuses of the Northern Beaches Secondary College - Cromer, Balgowlah Boys, Freshwater, Mackellar Girls and Manly Selective - are also involved. At our next school development day to be held on Monday 28th April, teachers from the above schools will meet at Beacon Hill to work with Dr Michael Carr-Gregg, a leading child and adolescent psychologist, and a passionate and engaging speaker. He will discuss a range of issues which affect our children from positive psychology to cybersafety. The teachers are looking forward to this day and the opportunity to network with other local education professionals.

Michael will also present a two hour parent information session as part of his work with the NBLA. This will be on the same day - Monday 28th April from 6pm - at the Northern Beaches Secondary College, Freshwater Campus. We will provide more information about the evening in upcoming newsletters. I’m sure you will find this evening most engaging, informative and worthwhile and I would recommend it to all parents within our community. You can find more information about Michael Carr-Gregg here.

Trees in our playground
You would have all heard about the tragic accident which happened recently at Pitt Town Public School. Our thoughts are with that entire school community at such a difficult time. We have approximately 80 trees in our playground and we regularly have aborists out to inspect and assess their condition. Forest Tree Services were here yesterday beginning this process for this year. Hopefully, these preventative measures will ensure our grounds are as safe as they can be.

Crazy Hair Day
Congratulations to Jayden and the boys from Year 6 who are supporting the World’s Greatest Shave this year. The SRC are on board and have organised a ‘crazy hair day’ for Monday 17th March. On this day, the children may style their hair in a crazy way and bring along a gold coin donation which will go to the Leukaemia Foundation. The Year 6 boys will have their heads shaved by their parents at Monday morning lines and I’ll be joining in to lose my woolly beard.

Before school
As mentioned in our Week 3 newsletter, there is no supervision in our playground before 8:30am. Children who arrive in the playground before this time will be asked to sit on the silver seats until supervision commences. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Term One invoices
Thanks again to all who have paid their Term One invoices. It is much appreciated and ensures our quality programs continue.

No Julius on Thursday
Our crossing supervisor, Julius, will not be at work tomorrow and the RTA have been unable to find a replacement. Please be sure to take extra care at the crossing during drop off and pick up times.

Owen Taylor,
Principal

Important Dates
Thursday 13th March
Selective High School Test
Friday 14th March
Zone Swimming Carnival
Book Club returned
Monday 17th March
Crazy Hair Day
Wednesday 19th March
Swimming Scheme begins
Wednesday 2nd April
Grandfriends’ Day
Friday 4th April
Trivia Night

Star of the Week

Evie Coulter, 5G, who displayed tremendous sportsmanship at the State Nippers Championship on the weekend. After leading for most of the way in her board race, Evie was narrowly beaten into fourth place. Although disappointed, she was the first to congratulate the three placegetters in her event. Nice work Evie!

3T keeping our local environment clean for Clean Up Our Schools Day on Monday

From the Deputy Principal’s desk

Teaching and Learning

This year begins the nationwide formal introduction of the National English Curriculum. Over the past 12 months, our staff have undergone a range of professional development opportunities designed to familiarise them with the new syllabus. New South Wales teachers have always implemented a well-rounded curriculum characterised by high academic expectations and respect for diversity. The new syllabus documents bring the rest of Australia in line with the NSW curriculum and also focus on the development of skills our students will need to flourish as 21st Century learners.

The syllabus outlines the explicit and systematic teaching of reading, writing and talking and listening, as it always has. One new feature of the syllabus is the prominence given to the concept of Visual Literacy. Visual Literacy refers to the way visual elements such as line, colour, shape, texture, symbols and composition create meaning. A person’s ability to ‘read’ and make meaning from an image extends their range of literacy from that which they may be able to gain from printed text only.

Visual Literacy can refer to images only, or images annotated by words or symbols. These days, children are exposed to an enormous amount of visual information (websites, television, multi-media, movies, hand-held devices, apps, digital games and so on), all of which employ elements of visual literacy to ‘position’ a viewer. The more educated a viewer is about the ways an author or illustrator has used visual elements, the more likely they are to be able to gain maximum information from a text (such as the diagram of the peach, where the use of different colours clearly conveys two different parts of the peach) or understand how they may be being manipulated as consumers (as with advertisements).

One aspect of Visual Literacy that children can find challenging is the ability to infer from a picture how a character might be feeling. Illustrations from Shaun Tan’s *The Arrival* are a good example of the way illustrations can convey a great deal of emotion. Teachers might use a visual text such as this for students in Years 5 and 6 in order to develop their ability to engage with a character and articulate their understanding of the character’s emotions and thoughts. Students respond very well to the concepts taught in visual literacy. At home, parents can help by talking about how people in images might be feeling or thinking, and how the illustrator has made sure that we, the viewers, know this. Children can make extremely insightful comments!

You can access more information on the new curriculum documents at: www.australiancurriculum.edu.au

Grandfriends’ Open Morning
If you haven’t already penciled in the date for our Grandfriends open morning on the 2nd April, you might like to do so. In celebration of Seniors’ Week our school opens its doors to grandparents and grandfriends to visit classrooms and see what school is like in 2014. More details will come in a future newsletter. Please remember this event is for grandparents and grandfriends, there will be many other opportunities for parents to visit their children at school.

Woolworths Earn and Learn
On Monday 4th March our Woolworths Earn and Learn equipment arrived at school. The items will be utilised within the school to promote cooperative and engaging play on our deck area at lunchtimes. The equipment earned consists of Snakes and Ladders, Giant Polydrons and a Jamanga Tower. These will be welcome additions to our giant Connect 4 and building blocks already in use at lunchtimes. Thank you to our Balgowlah North school community for supporting this promotion at the local level and to Mr McCall for his coordination of the project at the school level.

Playmates Program
Our Playmates Program for Kindergarten students has commenced in the lower playground on Tuesday lunchtimes. This program is aimed at helping students learn effective socialising behaviours. With students from Years 6 acting as mentors, the Kindergarten children will participate in a range of structured games and activities which reinforce positive playing behaviours. Congratulations to our mentors; Gabby Young, Jayden Agapiou, Jamie Dunn, Hayley Dalton, Madison Bulloch, Madison Lidgard, Alani Darke & Sarah Murdoch, you have displayed wonderful leadership, listening and patience with our youngest school students. Thanks also to Mrs Ross for her guidance of our mentors and overseeing the successful running of this program.

UNSW Competitions
Students in Years 3 – 6 have received notes for entry into the competitions conducted by the UNSW. Please complete the tear off slip and return with payment in the envelope provided to your child’s class teacher by Thursday 27th March. No entries will be accepted after this date. The note can be accessed on our website under notes, Stage 2 and Stage 3.

GERRIC at UNSW
GERRIC, (Gifted Education Research Resource and Information Centre), provides parents of gifted children with relevant services, programs, events and information underpinned by the latest in gifted education research and best practice. The course includes both plenary lectures and seminar-style workshops to maximise content delivery and interactive participation. The next GERRIC Parent Course will be this weekend, 8-9 March 2014. Click on the link for further details.  https://education.arts.unsw.edu.au/about-us/gerric/for-parents/

GERRIC is also hosting a NEW public lecture series for parents beginning in 2014. Lectures will be free and open to the public, aimed at an audience of parents of gifted children. Topics will cover a wide variety of subjects, determined by the particular expertise of each presenter. Parents will have the opportunity to ask questions following the lecture and network with other attendees over light refreshments. Please contact GERRIC (see weblink above) to RSVP for these free parent sessions.

Have a wonderful week
Marita Nieuwenhuis
Deputy Principal

Become an Ethics Teacher
at Balgowlah North Public School
Primary Ethics provides the opportunity for NSW public primary school students who don’t attend scripture classes (SRE) to participate in ethics classes. We need new volunteers to join our fabulous volunteer teachers
taking half hour ethics classes from Years 1 to 6 every Thursday between 10-11am.
The classes teach children how to approach ethical issues and develop their capacity for considered moral judgment, which will enable them to respond more thoughtfully to many of the problems and issues they will face in their lives. Volunteer Ethics Teachers are trained to deliver our age-appropriate curriculum every week and to use the accompanying teaching and learning materials. For more information about the role and to volunteer, please go to http://www.primaryethics.com.au

Monique Tompson - (Ethics Coordinator)
M: 0410 646 736 E: moniquetompson@bigpond.com

Beginning the Learning Journey
The Kindergarten Teachers would like to invite interested Kindergarten parents to an information session on teaching and learning in the Early Stage One classroom. This is an opportunity for parents to gain a more detailed insight into the pedagogy that guides the educational experience of students in their first year of school at Balgowlah North Public School. Our information session will be held in the school hall on Thursday the 20th of March from 6:30-7:30pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Northern Beaches Eisteddfod.
Mrs Jenny O’Neill will be available on Mondays after school Thursdays at recess in the library, to advise any students entering this year’s competition. Please make sure your child lets Mrs O’Neill know he/she is competing.

Student Leaders Report
The Student Leaders met with the student representatives on Tuesday. The meeting was very exciting with some fabulous suggestions made by many classes. The student representatives will be speaking to their classes about the idea of changing the names of our Houses. We look forward to see the results of their survey. Thank you for your ideas and keep them coming for the next meeting.

Thank you.
Student Leaders

The World’s Greatest Shave
The team has raised an amazing $2,600.00 for the Leukaemia Foundation so far. With only two weeks to go, we hope everyone will support us in this great event. We think Mr Taylor will be getting very nervous as he prepares to lose his beard in front of the whole school.

Bring a gold coin to school on Monday 17th March and make sure you have a very creative and colourful hairstyle. Thank you.
Jayden Agapiou

Library News
We have had a great start to the year in the library. It has been wonderful having all the new classes come with such enthusiasm for borrowing books and an obvious love of literature. This year all lessons are an extension of classroom programs with the teachers and the librarians planning together.
We are so excited to have Library Monitors to help in the library at lunchtimes. Thank you to these students who have volunteered: Emma Foster, Lauren Devine, Lucy Parkinson, Jessie Suwart, Hayley Dalton, Natalia Munroe, Sarah Murdoch, Sara Wymer, Emily Dunn, Madison Bulloch, Steph Johnston.

Registrations for the Premier’s Reading Challenge opened this week. The Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read. We encourage all students to participate!

The children will need their school username and passwords to register. These will be sent home with your children by the end of this week. Please visit the website for registration details.
We look forward to getting to know lots of families this year and encourage you to drop into the library when you’re passing by.
Debbie Horsley & Nicole Grover
Teacher Librarians

Sound Crew: Matthew Smith, Hayley Dalton, Lachie Daniels & Lucy Parkinson

Miss Yore interviewed by David

I am from Newcastle. I have been a teacher for 5 years. I really like sport. I love the beach and music. I also have a wonderful dog called Sarge.
I like teaching because I get to laugh every day and every day is different.
I taught in London and Newcastle before I came to Balgowlah North.
Apart from teaching I like playing sports like hockey and soccer. I also like walking, being with my friends and watching movies.

Mrs Kelly interviewed by Josh

I was born in Southern Africa and I grew up in New Zealand and I now have two beautiful daughters.
The thing I like most about teaching is watching students who think they can’t do something and then they realise that they can.
I have taught in England, Denmark, Queensland and all around Sydney’s North.
Apart from teaching, I like hockey, swimming, spending time with family, travelling and camping.

Congratulations to our SRC

Book Club
Please return any book club orders, to Mrs Hunt in the school office, by Friday 14th March.

https://twitter.com/BalgowlahNthPS
Dear Parents,

Balgowlah North Public School will be implementing the School Fitness Test during Term 1 and 4, 2014.

About the School Fitness Test
The School Fitness Test is an assessment and reporting program for schools. The program was developed in response to the need for a comprehensive set of assessment procedures in physical education programs.

What does it involve?
Students will participate in the following tests:

20m Run Test  
The student runs continuously between two lines 20 meters apart attempting to cover as much distance as possible in five minutes.

Standing Long Jump  
The student stands with feet slightly apart jumping as far forward as possible. A two-foot takeoff and landing is used.

Push-Ups  
The student performs as many push-ups as possible in 1 minute.

Sit-Ups  
The student performs as many sit-ups as possible in 1 minute.

Sit & Reach  
The student sits on the floor with legs stretched out in front. The student then reaches as far forward as possible with both hands.

Will I receive my child’s results? Yes you will receive a detailed 2-page report on your child.

More Information  
Please visit http://au.schoollfitnesstest.com/parents

Sport Teachers  
Kerry Kelly and Rachel Adams

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Head Lice


Facts...

Head lice infestations are a common occurrence, particularly in primary schools.

- about 23% of primary students have head lice at any one time
- anyone can catch head lice regardless of their age, sex, or how clean their hair is
- head lice move from one person’s head to another via hair
- head lice do not survive long when they are off a human head
- head lice do not live on furniture, hats, bedding or carpet
- head lice have built up some resistance to head lice treatments


Any parent who has a child at school will know (or will soon know!) the sheer frustration that can come with treating and preventing head lice. If you haven’t done your homework on these menacing little critters yet, then do it quick! Even if your child hasn’t had a case of head lice yet, you’ll probably know it’s a ticking time bomb and is very hard to escape. Some hairdressers report seeing head lice or nits on every third or fourth child that comes in.

Head lice is on the increase and it’s best to be prepared and to place an importance on prevention rather than need a cure.

It’s impossible to completely eradicate head lice from existence because they learn to adapt to their environment. So according they exist and are likely to be found in your child’s hair at some point of their schooling is going to be less stressful for everyone. With a good management plan, you’ll be much better off when it happens.

Prevention tips...

1. If your child has long hair, tie it up for school every day (plaits or braids are great) and if you like, spray their hair with hairspray.
2. For long or short hair, encourage wearing a hat to protect their hair from coming into contact with others.
3. You can buy (or make your own) head lice resistor sprays which you can spray into their hair and inside their hats. Most of the sprays have essential oils — mainly tea tree, eucalyptus, geranium and lavender — which lice don’t like. It’s an effective repellent.
4. Make absolutely sure that you follow any treatment program as per the instructions. No treatment exists that kills both the head lice AND the eggs in one go. Repeating a treatment is always needed because the live lice die, but the eggs in your child’s hair will hatch soon after, so you need to make sure you get them out before they are old enough to reproduce — around 7-10 days is a good time to repeat a treatment.
5. Use tea tree shampoo and/or conditioner for washing your children’s hair. Check out the different options available which vary in price, as well as the amounts of oils in each product. You may be able to find a better range at your pharmacy or variety store.
6. Make sure your hairdresser and/or partner for head lice. Kids love to be up close to your face and hair, especially when they struggle, so you may have transmitted head lice between you before you realised head lice was around. The last thing you want is to have your children head lice free, but then someone else passes it back to them. Some mothers who colour their hair find that their hair colour treatment kills the head lice. Similarly with those who straighten their hair with a straightener – the heat kills the lice and eggs.

Advice from NSW Health indicates that there is no need for students to be sent home or excluded from school because of head lice.
Canteen Roster

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Canteen Volunteers Needed

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

www.signupgenius.com/go/100e44ADAE282A2FF2-bnps/14122370

OR scan the QR code above

Roster enquiries email: petracanteen@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: Shelley Buckley Treasurer: Alexander Tucker Roster Manager: Petra Mazarakis Committee Members: Liz Appleton, Bronwyn Norris, Tanja Muller Canteen Manager: Mylene Stimson Newsletter: Sara Linden

Enquiries: Mylene 9949 4499

Order online www.flexischools.com.au

Does your child love to sing up a storm? Join in at Sydney Vocal Arts Centre, Manly!

The Manly Children’s Choir are now taking enrolments for their Wed. afternoon group with Director Margi Coen!

Give your child the chance to be part of a performance group where they will have a great opportunity to build skills in communication and confidence whilst they gain musical knowledge in a fun & relaxed atmosphere!

Call Margi now on 99755502 or 0410395510 to arrange an appointment or have a chat!

This group is for 6-12yr olds and has a number of performances throughout the year.

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