From the Principal’s desk

ANZAC Day Assembly
We held our ANZAC Assembly at school on Monday to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign. Able Seaman Dayne Grindley spoke to the children about his experiences in the armed forces and he also played The Last Post and Reveille on the bugle. It was a beautiful ceremony and the boys and girls behaved very respectfully throughout.

Our Prefects attended the Anzac Service at Hyde Park last Thursday

Fallen Trees
The tree loppers finally came and ‘made safe’ our fallen tree at the entrance on Bardoo Avenue. They will return shortly to finish tidying up the other trees and branches that were affected by last week’s wild weather. We will also engage arborists to inspect the rest of trees in our school as soon as we can.

Whooping Cough
I sent home an alert via the app last Friday to let you know that Whooping Cough (pertussis) had been diagnosed in our school. Whooping cough usually starts with a runny nose, followed by persistent cough that comes in bouts. Bouts may be followed by vomiting and a whooping sound as the child gasps for air. Whooping cough can cause a severe illness in young children particularly those aged under 6 months.

Anyone developing symptoms should consult their local doctor and mention that there has been a case of whooping cough here at school. Children who are diagnosed with whooping cough need to stay away from school until they have taken 5 days of a special antibiotic. For further information please contact the Northern Sydney Public Health Unit on 9477 9187.

Parent Focus Groups
I would like to thank the parents who were involved in our focus groups last week. The participants were selected at random from our enrolment database and their input has helped inform our school vision and educational planning for the next three years. Thank you for your valuable contribution to this process.

Term Letters
You would have received this term’s newsletters via the school app recently. These newsletters outline the major events for the term and aspects of the curriculum that your children will be studying. You can also download the letters from our website here.

NAPLAN Testing
The children in Years 3 and 5 will be sitting the NAPLAN tests on the 12th, 13th and 14th May. Friday 15th May has been set aside as a ‘catch up’ day if children miss any of the tests through illness.

Flag Pole
Our flag pole was finally fixed just in time for ANZAC Day thanks to one of our dads, Colin Mitchell’s, trade connections. Hugh Hanlon of Hanlon Industries (hugh@hanlonindustries.com.au) in Botany provided the cherry picker free of charge to get the job done. Thanks Hugh!

P&C Meeting
We will be hosting a morning P&C Meeting next Monday 4th May from 9am. Why not pop in after morning lines on Monday? Our P&C president, Monique Tompson, will even shout a proper coffee from the coffee van.

Mothers’ Day Breakfast
Don’t forget to place your orders for our annual Mothers’ Day Breakfast on Friday week. There are a variety of menu options which may be ordered through Flexischools. It will be held on our deck area just outside the hall.

Owen Taylor
Principal
Important Dates
4th May Morning P&C Meeting
6th May School Cross Country
8th May Mothers’ Day Breakfast
12th May Year 6 Shakespeare Workshops
13th May K-2 Seymour Centre Excursion

From the Deputy Principal’s desk
School Assemblies
We enjoy being able to share and celebrate the efforts and achievements of our students. This Thursday 30th April, we will hold a K-2 assembly in the school hall at 2.20pm. Parents and friends are welcome to join us. Throughout the year we have K – 2, 3 – 6 and whole school assemblies, information about our term two assemblies is below.

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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>K-6 Assembly Intermediate Band performing</td>
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<td>K-6 Assembly</td>
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Year 1 Incursion with Reverse Garbage
Year 1 were involved in an incursion yesterday with Reverse Garbage. The children were involved in using their imagination, creativity and collaborating using common items we often discard to create underwater scenes and animals. The children are learning about sustainability and how this can impact on our community. Below are some very creative and imaginative creations using CDs, scrap paper, plastic cups and plastic film.

Kiss and Drop Zone
One of the many initiatives the P&C is embarking on this year is addressing the ‘Kiss and Drop’ zone on Manning St. Currently there are only 4 car spots designated for this area, but since the start of term we have trialled a doubling of the size of the Drop Off zone. This was aimed at easing congestion around Manning St that is used by many non-school drivers taking a short cut to Wakehurst Parkway. In the lead up to 9am it has been chaotic in the past, with safety concerns arising from impatient drivers or poor practice by those dropping off their children.
Given the feedback and general observations so far, the trial has been very successful. Congestion is at a minimum and parents have embraced the idea to make it work. Thank you parents! There are still a few aspects that parents need to be aware of with the new ‘kiss and drop’ zone:

- If you pull into the ‘Kiss and Drop’ zone, please move as far forward as possible. We still have parents pulling up at the gate when they can move further forward. It will only require your child to walk an extra 10-15m to the school gate and will allow for a constant flow of cars as they pull into the area behind you. This especially applies to the extremely busy 8.50am-9am time slot.
- The Kiss and Drop zone is exactly that: **Kiss and Drop**. Thankfully nearly all parents realise this, and get the kids out and moving quite quickly.
- Parents please try to get your child out on the school side of the car. We have seen several children get out in the middle of the road. Safety is paramount, so please address this where possible.

We are working with the council to get the street signage moved and changed to reflect the new ‘K&D’ zone. If anyone has concerns or suggestions, please don’t hesitate to contact the P&C.

P&C Meeting Term 2, Week 3: Monday 4th May straight after lines
The P&C are trialling a new meeting on Monday after lines to engage our parent community who cannot make it to the night meetings we usually hold on the Wednesdays. We would love to see as many new faces there on Monday 4th May straight after lines. We will be meeting in one of the Year 4 classrooms as soon as lines finish (room to be determined). The P&C will organise a coffee van as well so come along, grab a coffee or tea, and get involved with your school community.
See you on Monday!
Adrian Molloy (on behalf of the P&C Committee)
Cross Country
All children from Years 2 to 6 will be participating in the school Cross-Country next week. It will take place from **12.30pm on Wednesday 6th May**. Children will have their lunch in their house groups on the oval. Children will be running with their age group and will run either 2 or 3 laps depending on their age. Please ensure that all children come dressed in their **sports uniform and wear appropriate shoes**. Make sure if your child requires asthma medication that they have it with them. Please also pack an extra bottle of water in their bag for the day. We need some additional course supervisors so if any parents are available to help in any way, please see me before the day of the Cross-Country.

Susie Stock & Kerry Kelly

The Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition
This year Balgowlah North is taking part in The Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition. It is a competition open to all NSW government primary schools. The competition has two different age divisions – one for Years 3&4 students and one for Years 5&6 students.

At each stage of the competition contestants present both a prepared speech and an impromptu speech. For their prepared speech, contestants must choose a topic from the list of multicultural topics at bottom of the next page. The prepared speech must have multicultural content. The impromptu speech is chosen by the adjudicator on the day, and will be on a general, non-multicultural theme.

Speeches will be prepared at home and presented to a panel of judges at school on Wednesday 3rd June 2015 (Week 7). Four students (two from each stage) will be selected to compete at the finals on Tuesday 16th June 2015 at Manly West Public School.

If your child would like to participate in this speaking competition please have them inform their classroom teacher no later than Friday 8th May (Week 3).

For all competition guidelines and topics please go to the website below.

Mallory Parsons

Uniform Sale
Uniform sale this Friday, 1st May from 3.00pm-4.30pm. Please bring small change.

Jenny Burgess

Book Club
Book Club closes Friday 8th May. Please make cheques payable to Balgowlah North Public School.
School Banking
School banking resumes this Thursday 8.30-9.00am

Account Opening Day
This is the opportunity to open a Youth Saver account so your child can participate in the school banking program each week

When: Next Thursday 7th May 830-9am
Where: school banking desk outside library
Bring: Parent ID
Any questions please contact Yogi Johnstone (yolandajohnstone@gmail.com or 0402780167)

Yolanda Johnstone
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Cardholder’s name: __________________________

Signature: __________________________

Thanks so much for your support! 20% from each Book sold contributes to our School.
Balgowlah North Public School

Mothers’ Day Breakfast

Friday 8th May 2015

From 8.00am to 9.00am