



PIGEON POST

Learn ~ Live ~ Lead

FEBRUARY

- Mon 19 ~ Parent Information Evening in Hall:
 - 6-6:45 - Kindy
 - 7-7:45 - Stage 3
- Tue 20 ~ Parent Information Evening in Hall:
 - 6-6:45 - Stage 1
 - 7-7:45 - Stage 2

MARCH

- Wed 7 ~ P&C Meeting
- Fri 9 ~ P&C Welcome Evening ~ 7pm
- Tues 27 & Wed 28 ~ School Photos

APRIL

- Fri 13 Last day of Term One

MAY

- Mon 1 ~ Staff Development Day
- Tue 2 ~ Students return



Officially exhausted!

Kindy have just completed two full weeks at big school and it has left some totally exhausted!

School life is jam-packed full of fun and learning, although sometimes we just need to have a little rest...

Maria Lambos ~ Principal

PARENT INFO EVENINGS @ BPS in the Hall

Monday 19th February:

6:00-6:45pm - Early Stage One (Kindy)

7:00-7:45pm Stage Three (Years 5 & 6)

Tuesday 20th February:

6:00-6:45pm - Stage One (Years 1 & 2)

7:00-7:45pm Stage Two (Years 3 & 4)

**Meet the teachers and find out
about your child's learning
in 2018**

STAFFING @ BPS

At Balmain Public School, we are so fortunate to have a team of such dedicated, passionate teachers; each and every person, regardless of experience or age, is genuinely committed to providing your children with a quality education. The latest members of our staff – Sarah, Amelia, Cara-lee, Megan, Nancy and Brigit – have all fit in very easily and are enjoying working with your children and being part of the welcoming Balmain family.

There have been a number of changes in staff since last year, with discussions had at P&C meetings, as well as some communication through Skoolbag. However, I am aware that many of you still perhaps have questions as to why this has occurred. Hopefully, the following will make things clearer for all.

Firstly, since my arrival at Balmain PS in 2014, the enrolments have steadily grown from 274 to our current 370 students. This translates to an increase in classes from 11 in 2014, to 15 in 2018. We are now at capacity. Our school has 15 classrooms, thanks to having the demountable classroom installed in Term One 2016. With the increase in classes, temporary teachers have been employed, which have been well-loved by students, parents and staff alike. Where the Department of Education (DoE) allow temporary staff to be employed to fill these vacancies in the first instance, it is an expectation that these positions will eventually be permanently appointed.

The DoE has specific procedures in filling positions at public schools, which may be unlike independent/private schools, as well as in the corporate world. We are unable to merely offer the position to the temporary staff member sitting in that position, even though we'd like to. However, the positive in following DoE procedures, allows for the addition of new staff members, who also have a lot to bring.

The DoE's procedures require schools to alternate between a central appointment (filled by the DoE through transfers and graduate recruitment) and merit selection (the position is advertised and teachers may apply for the position). Regardless of whether a school is advertising for a position, or having someone appointed, the DoE will offer the vacant position to indigenous teachers at the first instance. If there is no interest at this first stage, the position then continues through the recruitment process, according to the last method of filling at each particular school.

Ms Ariana Davis holds the last position to be filled and this was done via merit selection, or an advertised position, with an interview by a panel. The panel consisted of myself as convener, May Ellwood as the teacher representative, as well as Vanessa James as the parent representative. As we had four positions to permanently fill last term, for the beginning of this year, without counting the newly formed 15th class, two positions had to be filled via central appointment and two via merit selection.

The centrally appointed positions belong to Ms Amelia Cooper, on KD, as well as Ms Martha-Jean Hynes, who was meant to be on Stage Two this year. Martha has taken leave without pay (LWOP), to work for the DoE's High Performance Unit, dealing with opportunity classes and selective high schools. The two advertised positions were offered to, and accepted by, Ms Sophie Parsons, on KP, who was initially temporary staff, as well as Ms Sarah Weston, teaching 5/6W OC this year. The panel consisted of myself as convener, Jo Edwards as staff representative and Sophie Knox as the parent representative.

STAFFING...

As in the corporate world, people within the DoE are entitled to take leave or change career direction. Some of our permanent staff have taken leave for 2018. Students, parents and Balmain Public School staff all miss each and every person who is not with us this year, for whatever reason, but we need to remember that taking leave has been their choice and prerogative.

Ms Jenny Parkes is taking the year to spend some quality time with her youngest child, who is due to start 'big school' in 2019. Mr Blake Nuto has taken his young family to Tasmania and is working at The Peregrine School (see Postcards from Peregrine later in this issue). Mr Sean Baumann, in his second year on leave, has decided to return to Balmain early. He initially was going to return in Term 3, but I have enticed him into starting next term. Sean is really excited!

Two well-loved permanent staff members of Balmain have decided to 'spread their wings' and experience other schools. Ms Katina Comino is in her third year at Orange Grove PS and during the last couple of days of school last year, Ms May Ellwood decided she would like a change and a new challenge for 2018, so she is working at Five Dock PS this year. Ms Victoria Clay, although not permanent staff, decided that she too would like a new challenge and applied for a temporary position at Orange Grove PS.

One of my responsibilities as principal is to be supportive of each and every staff member at Balmain. This is very easy to do, as each person – May, Katina and Victoria – are such amazing practitioners, as we all know. This has also been a double-edged sword for me. As principal, I am the first referee for anyone applying for another position. With each question I was asked about May, Katina and Victoria last term, I knew that my responses were obviously 'ticking all the right boxes' and that these ladies would all be offered positions. I could have told some lies so we could hold on to them, but morally that is not the right thing to do (but I did secretly think about it).

Our bubbly and energetic Ms Angela Curry, another well-loved member, is currently experiencing the time of her life, travelling through South America. Even though she is not permanent, so there is no 'right of return' to our school, we have left a position vacant for her when she returns!

Ms Lauren Burke, who shared a class with Ms Parkes last year, can only work on a part-time basis. Unfortunately, we did not have a part-time position available this year, so Lauren is working at Leichhardt PS this year. It was lovely to have Lauren in on Friday, covering Ms Tavia's class, whilst she was supporting her son's representative sporting commitments in Port Macquarie.

And finally, our beloved 'part of the furniture' Andrzej ('Onjay'), finally hung up his working clothes and 'kit' late last year, retiring and moving to Thailand! He is also greatly missed by all!

Hopefully, this has made things clearer for you. Should you wish to discuss this further, please contact the school, or pop in to see me.

Dear Parents,
Tickets are flying out the door on flexischools.com.au for the **PARENT SOCIAL NIGHT & FUNDRAISER** March 9th.

For new parents – this is our biggest evening of the year – and a great opportunity to meet other parents and teachers in a fun relaxed social format. Your Ticket includes two drinks and substantial canapés. A Bar is running and we also have music and entertainment.

For existing Parents, Sue has managed to lock in over 50 local businesses to donate vouchers for the silent auction. We also have some great bigger ticket items where people can band together as a group.

Can any Parents donate vouchers? Do you have any connections that could further enhance the pool on offer for the night.

Next week we will run a list of contributing businesses in recognition of their support of our school.




Please remember this is a Child Free event, allowing me as Licensee to run the bar as per DoE rules.

School Staff attendance is on a voluntary basis and they are there socially, not to work. We love seeing the staff enjoying fun our night.

Rob Taubman
P & C President
rob@taubs.net

Join the Balmain Public School Ski Team

Would **YOU** like to be part of something special? Have you ever been skiing and think it might be fun to go in a race? Would you like to compete against future Olympians , or perhaps become one yourself? Would you like to represent **Balmain Public School** at a regional interschool competition? Well, with 14 members of the current Australian Olympic team having started their competition days in the Interschool Skiing Championships representing their schools, this might be the place for you!

What is the Interschool Snowsports Championships?

The Interschools Snowsports Championship is a fabulous, well organised DoE sanctioned event that attracts over 6000 students from 349 schools to compete across 9 alpine events. Competitors of **all abilities** and **all school ages** are encouraged and welcome to enter. The emphasis is on **fun** and **participation**.

When is it?

During the mid-year school holidays: **July 17-21 @ Perisher**

Who Participates?

ANYONE who attends Balmain PS who loves skiing or snowboarding!

This year will be the second year ever Balmain PS has participated! Last year we sent three representatives and this year we already have 7 members spanning kindy to Stage 3. **BUT** to participate in team events **we need YOU!**

What are the events?

Alpine, Skier-cross, Freestyle Moguls, Snowboard Giant Slalom, Snowboard Cross, Cross Country Freestyle Cross Country Relay, Ski Slopestyle & Snowboard Slopestyle.



How do I find out more information? Go to the Interschool Snowsport Championship website:

<http://www.nswinterschools.com.au/> or contact Paul Foster at pfoster@balrec.com.au or **0422 800 501**.

Snapshots of 1/2 Galapagos...



Getting along and working together...

"We loved building with the marble run! It was cool!" Hannah, Hayley, Jessica and Marco

What great learners!

Oscar and Cormac have been learning about water in **science** and experimented with removing waste from water in **investigations**.

"The water was polluted. Be careful what you put down the sink!" Oscar and Cormac



"We have been working on writing this week..."

"I want to be a Formula One driver when I grow up!" Ashton

"We made All About Me Posters and paintings. I think my sunglasses look cool!" Luca

"I have done some excellent work!"
Zara

"I think my sunglasses look very nice!" Estelle





"I am working hard with my friends." Tom

"Putting 3 digit large numbers in order is easy." Julia

Sensory zone...

"Feeling the sand is fun!"

Hayley and Nico



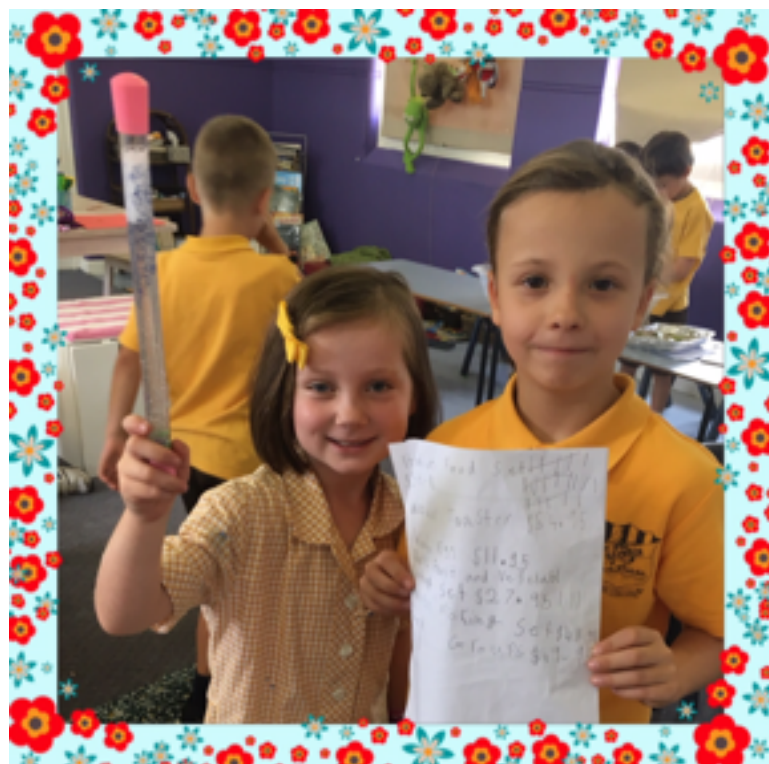
Links with literacy...

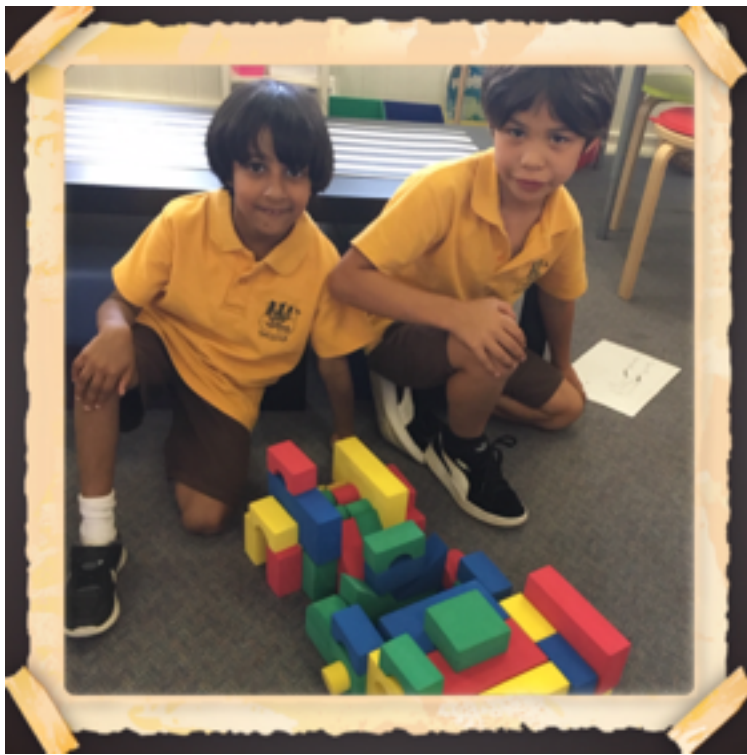
"I was the sentence superhero. I check your work. I hope that you get to be one too!" Rosie



Art in investigations...

"We learnt about the primary colours: blue, yellow and red." Remi, Lauren and Vivienne

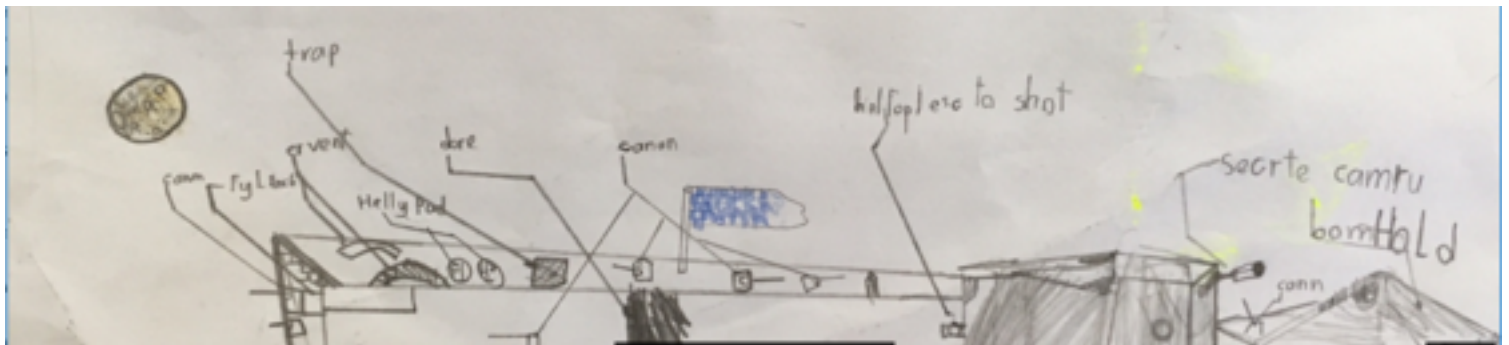




Designing and building police stations...

"The police station is a great building. It has a bomb holder and the building is heavily guarded. Even if you did get in, you would be put in jail in seconds because there is a wall and floor alarm and a laser alarm. It also hurts!"

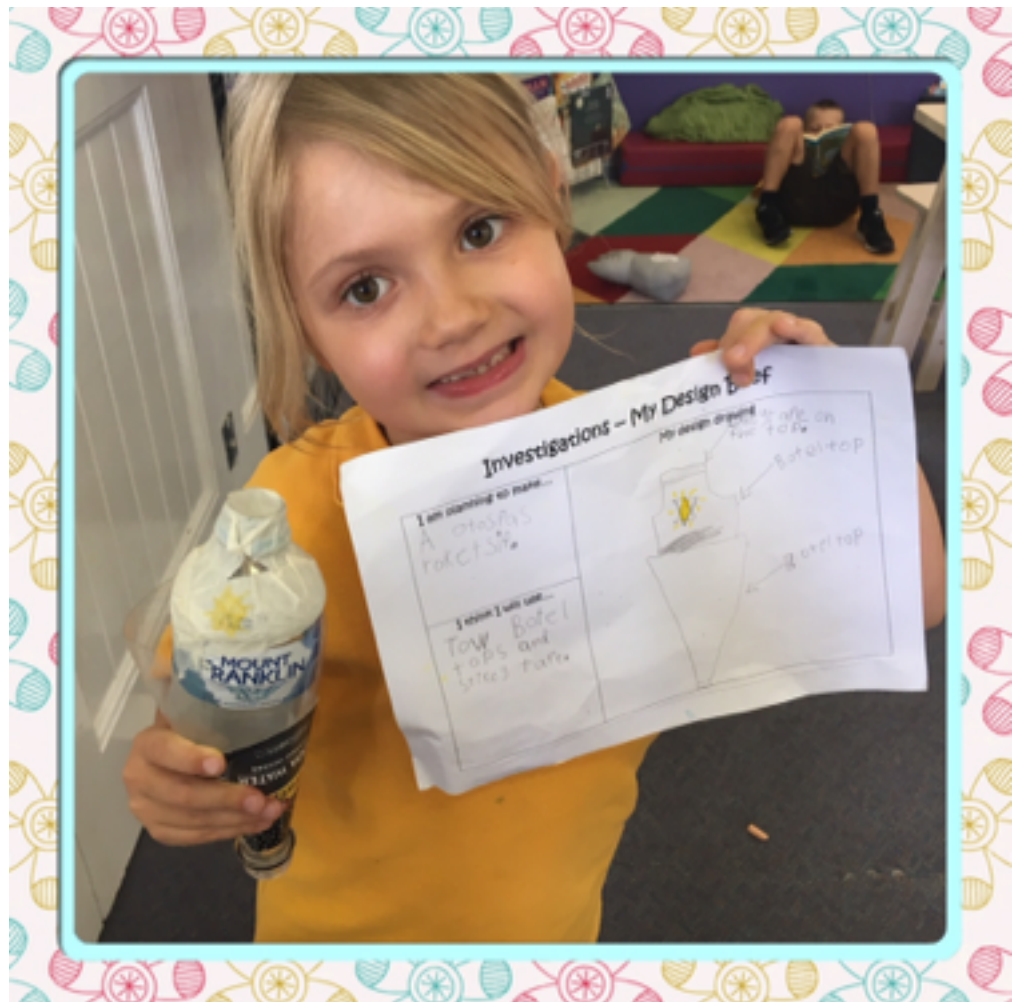
Leo and Elias



Box Construction...

**"I made an out of
space rocket ship.
Blow in the bottle
and it goes up!"**

Olivia





Measurement...

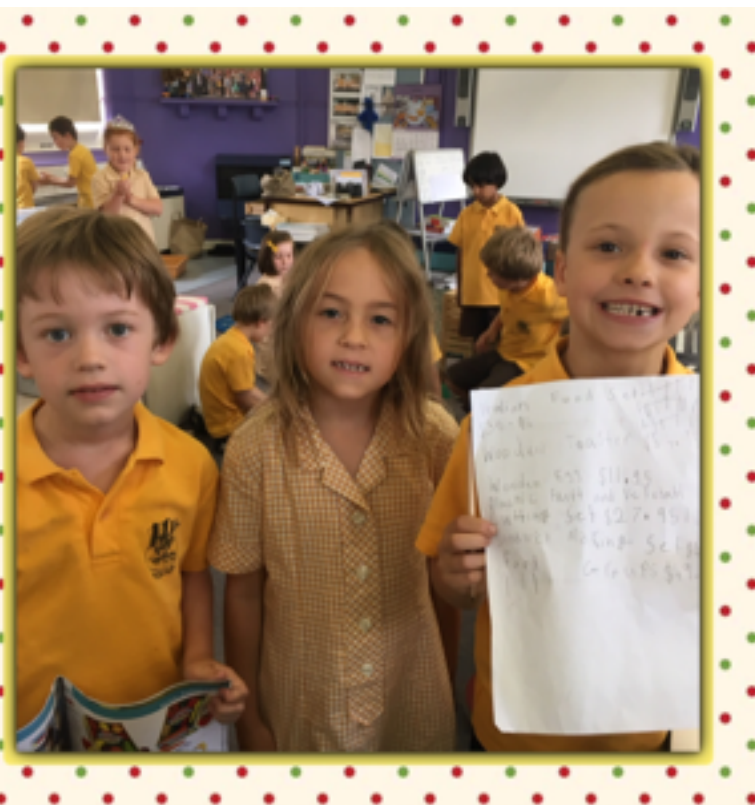
"We have been busy measuring using centimetres. I love learning. Really, I love doing maths and learning!" Yena

"My thumb nail is 1 cm wide!"
Madeleine

"We have been learning about length and I made my own ruler!" Elliot

Footsteps...

"I liked it when I was dancing to 'Eye of the Tiger' in Footsteps. I got to see some of my friends and I got to dance with them." Toby



Data Surveys...

"We asked everyone in the class about their favourite toys." Elise

"I showed them the magazine and it was lots of fun!" Ben

"We found out which things our class likes the most." Elizaveta



BPS CANTEEN

BPS Parents & Citizens Association



www.flexischools.com.au

**DON'T FORGET TO GET YOUR ORDERS IN
BY THURSDAY 9AM!**

TERM 1 MENU

Feb 9	Dumplings		Mar 9	Pork & Rice	
Feb 16	Butter Chicken & Rice		Nov 24	Penne Napoletana	
Feb 23	Beef & Rice		Dec 1	Butter Chicken	
Mar 2	Spaghetti Meatballs		Dec 8	Dumplings	

2nd Chance Uniform Stall



The second chance uniform stall will be running every **FRIDAY** morning from **8:30-9am**.

Postcards from Peregrine...



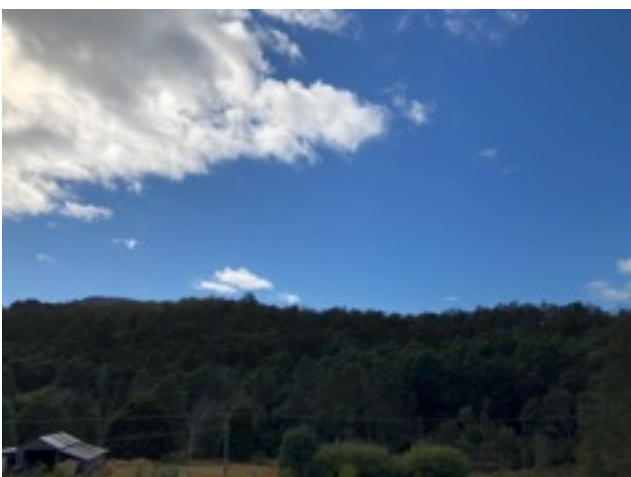
Mr Blake Nuto has taken his young family and relocated in Tasmania.

He is teaching at an independent school called 'The Peregrine School'. It's located in an idyllic setting of eucalypts, wattles and a constantly flowing rivulet.

Mr Nuto has a brand new classroom, with a loft, and an amazing view!

<https://www.peregrine.tas.edu.au>

On Wednesday this week, the whole school turned southwards and waved towards our former colleague and teacher, Mr Blake Nuto. Amongst other things, Mr Nuto may be remembered for his 'Positive Thought of the Day', a morning lines moment, which Miss Stanley took up on Wednesday with the thought - 'Isn't it great that our brain is a muscle and can learn new things!'





Ethics Classes at Balmain Public School

Dear Parents and Carers,

Could you be an ethics teacher for Balmain Public School?

We are seeking volunteers so that ethics classes are available for all families who have requested them.

Ethics teachers receive full training by Primary Ethics, the not-for-profit organisation approved to design curriculum and training for the ethics program. Training consists of a two day workshop and short online modules. Lesson materials are provided. Suitable volunteers have an interest in children's education and development of critical thinking skills and must be available at **10:30am Friday each week** to teach a half hour class. A small amount of weekly preparation (such as printing and reading through lesson materials) is also required.

In ethics classes, children learn how to think logically, disagree respectfully and support their arguments with evidence, rather than act according to blind habit or peer pressure.

Children discuss topic such as:

- imagining how others feel
- how do we treat living things?
- what is laziness?
- how do we disagree in a respectful way?
- fairness

If you are looking for an opportunity to make a valuable contribution to our school, please visit www.primaryethics.com.au and/or contact Abby Fitcher – Balmain School Ethics Coordinator, talk2arabella@gmail.com or 0404 494 158.

Welcome to 3/4 Turtles

Being part of the BPS spirit 3/4T at the swimming carnival
The Hermit Crabs - Part of our 3/4 T family



3/4 T Live, Learn and Read!



Term 1 in 34 T
Making new friends and working in teams engages REAL learning.



Learning to work and engage together in our 'Learning for Success'



Parents can elect to direct their loyalty points at **Kidstuff** to Balmain Public School, rather than keep them for themselves.

Kidstuff used to have signs up stating this, but now they don't, so some parents, (particularly new ones), may not be aware they can do this.

The gift vouchers can be used by the school or P&C for school fundraising, or prizes, such as the Belle Property Balmain Fun Run.

I'm spending a fortune in that shop, so hopefully the reward points for the school are racking up as a consequence!!!

Claire



Level 1 30A George St, Burwood 2134
Office: (02) 9745 1170

CHESS!!

Learn to be a chess champion! Coaching for students at Balmain Public School is held on Thursdays from 1:20pm to 2:00pm, starting on 15 February 2018.

Learning and playing chess helps children develop their logical thinking and problem solving skills, improves their concentration and focus, while also being a great source of enjoyment. Activities include group lessons on a demonstration chess board or interactive whiteboard, puzzle solving and fun practice games.

Students earn merit awards by making checkmates, or by displaying skills and positive qualities, which all good chess players strive to develop.

If your child is interested in taking part, you can collect an enrolment form from the school office, or email enrol@sydneyacademyofchess.com.au for a copy. For all enquiries, please contact Sydney Academy of Chess on (02) 9745 1170.



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FRENCH CLUB

Are you looking for a fun & educational after-school activity for your children?

*The Bonjour Babies 'French Club' offers a before-school class on **Wednesday mornings at BPS from 7:55am-8:50am.***

Children from K-2 are invited to join.

We also have local after school classes on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons in Rozelle.

Make 2018 the year to expose your children to a second language. You will not regret it!

Register at www.bonjourbabies.com.au or email info@bonjourbabies.com.au





Play with Balmain Junior Rugby in 2018

Balmain Junior Rugby Union is now accepting registrations from boys and girls aged 5 to 14 across the inner west.

Training starts in March and Games start Early April.
The \$100 Active Kids voucher applies for all kids.

For more information and registration details please email balmainjuniorrugby@gmail.com or look us up on facebook



AFTER SCHOOL ART CLASSES

'ART CLUB!'

Tuesdays: 3-5pm

from 30/1/18

This class is for kids who especially LOVE to draw!

\$34 per class

Years
3-6

new
class

'ART NINJAS!'

Thursdays: 3-4.30pm

from 1/2/18

A more varied program, to include crafts

\$30 per class

years
K-6



An extension until 5pm is possible for this class, please ask for details.

MATERIALS & SNACKS

are provided at all classes.

Like to try a class out? No worries!!...
...casual classes can be arranged at \$35 each



AT BALMAIN PUBLIC SCHOOL

YOUNGATARTSYDNEY.COM

YOUNG AT ART

For more details, please email **Sally** at
youngatartsydney@outlook.com