



PIGEON POST

2019

NOVEMBER

- Sun 10 ~ Belle Property **BALMAIN FUN RUN**
www.balmainfunrun.com.au
- Mon 11 ~ Remembrance Day
- Wed 13 ~ Beethoven & Bach bands performing at morning lines
- Wed 20 ~ Kindergarten Orientation

DECEMBER

- Mon 9 ~ Music evening ~ 6:30pm ~ Hall
- Mon 16 ~ Year 6 Graduation
- Tues 17 ~ Celebration of Learning
- Wed 18 ~ LAST DAY

ONLINE
UNIFORM
ORDERING

Congratulations!



...to Ms Nancy Ferguson! As of the beginning of the 2020 school year, she will be a permanent staff member at Balmain Public School!

Nancy proved to be the most successful candidate during a recent open merit selection process, and shone like a beacon.

The panel, which included a parent rep, teacher rep and myself, found the process quite difficult, as the overall standard of candidates was so high!

School Calendar

P&C
event

BPS
event

2019		TERM 4 @ BPS				
WEEK		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
5	10 November Belle Property BALMAIN FUN RUN	11 November REMEMBRANCE DAY	12 November	13 November Beethoven & Bach bands performing at morning lines	14 November	15 November
6		18 November	19 November	20 November Kindergarten Orientation	21 November	22 November
7		25 November	26 November	27 November	28 November	29 November
8		2 December	3 December	4 December	5 December	6 December
9		9 December Music evening ~ 6:30pm ~ Hall	10 December	11 December	12 December	13 December
10		16 December Year 6 Graduation @ Balmain Town Hall	17 December Celebration of Learning @ Balmain Town Hall	18 December Last day of school for students and staff		

ALL UNDERLINED ENTRIES ON THIS PAGE
ARE LINKED TO UPCOMING EVENTS
CALENDAR, WEBSITE AND/OR OUR
INSTAGRAM PAGE



REGISTER TODAY!

belle
PROPERTY

2019 BALMAIN FUN RUN

ONE MORE SLEEP!!!!

SUNDAY 10TH NOV

ENTER NOW

DEADLINE CLOSING SOON!

This amazing event
couldn't happen
without our hard
working volunteers.



Enter now, so they
can cheer you on at the finish line!

BALMAINFUNRUN.COM.AU



...and the
AWARD
goes to...



EARLY STAGE ONE & STAGE ONE ~ LEARN LIVE LEAD

K Duruga

Elodie W - writing an interesting story about a big butterfly and the not so ordinary bush!

K Potoroo

Lennon L - working hard on his creative writing

K/1 Miima

Victoria G - writing an interesting letter to the Tooth Fairy during investigative learning

1/2 Banjarah

Harvey T - outstanding improvement in his reading

1/2 Collarenebri

Arwen J - applying herself to the best of her ability all year long!

1/2 Gidjirrigaa

Elisya G - wonderful effort and results in spelling!

1/2 Hielamon

Maxi F - his constant effort in producing work at a high level

STAGE TWO & STAGE THREE ~ LEARN LIVE LEAD

3/4 Alura

Charlotte F - for setting a great example in the classroom

3/4 Kabi Kabi

Estelle D - consistently giving her best effort during all learning tasks

3/4 Malya

Maxi F - being optimistic when situations don't go his way!

4/5 Manbara

Jonah P - an incredible improvement in his dedication to his learning!

5/6 Lamalama

Matilde L - her outstanding directing skills during ProjectNEST

5/6 Nakkara

Keira L - contributing to discussions and experiences provided by the Sydney Dance Company with insight and energy

5/6 Waka Waka

Matej P - bringing his enthusiasm to all lessons

5/6 Yorta Yorta

Rory G - his commitment and enthusiasm during this week's mathematics lesson

ES1 & S1 ~ POSITIVE PETE & YOU CAN DO IT! (Term 4 ~ Resilience)

ES1 Positive Pete - Thomas R (KP) ~ S1 Positive Pete - Rosie F (1/2C)

K Duruga

Naomi O'B - being a dedicated learner and giving things a go!

K Potoroo

Mariia T - working persistently on her writing

K/1 Miima

Leo Y - showing resilience in the classroom and the playground

1/2 Banjarah

Juma M - working hard on improving his editing skills on his persuasive text

1/2 Collarenebri

Jack S - showing growing resilience when things go wrong

1/2 Gidjirrigaa

Oscar L - never giving up and adapting well to change

1/2 Hielamon

Imogen R - being a reflective learner and someone striving to improve

S2 & S3 ~ POSITIVE PETE & YOU CAN DO IT! (Term 4 ~ Resilience)

S2 Positive Pete - Felisha K (3/4K) ~ S3 Positive Pete - Phoebe M (5/6N)

3/4 Alura

Eleanor C - always being an awesome classmate

3/4 Kabi Kabi

Amelia W - being a responsible learner and seeking assistance when needed

3/4 Malya

Hayley Y - reading clearly and fluently in reading groups

4/5 Manbara

Marcella C-H - her resilient attitude during class and on the playground

5/6 Lamalama

Alex T - his ongoing hard work and determination to extend his mathematical knowledge. Well done!

5/6 Nakkara

Zafary M - his capacity to cope with challenges and look for logical solutions

5/6 Waka Waka

Ricky S - being adaptable and finding a solution

5/6 Yorta Yorta

Yvonne S - her respectful and cooperative manner during lessons

**Let's get
our Mo Bro
teachers
over the
line...**



**I wonder if
you can help...**



<https://mobro.co/14035628?mc=1>



It's fabulous to know that we have students at Balmain Public School that want to make a difference in other people's lives!

Thanks to our fundraising crew - William B, Nick G, Charlie B, Laila R, Eva S, Alexia K, Hannah B, Matilde L, Joe F & Lucius S - for organising and running the 'Hair Spray & Faceprint' store on Wednesday, as well as everyone who helped support it.

The amount of \$224.70 will be donated to the Cancer Council, all thanks to you!



Donate to the
Cancer Council
here



Keep an eye out for our wonderful group of entrepreneurs - they are busy creating products for a Market Day stall, hoping to raise funds to save koalas due to the bushfires...



Positive Pete winners...



[ORDER UNIFORM ITEMS HERE](#)



[ORDER UNIFORM ITEMS HERE](#)

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us on INSTAGRAM](#)



To visit The School Canteen website, click on logo

Contact Kirsty: info@theschoolcanteen.com.au

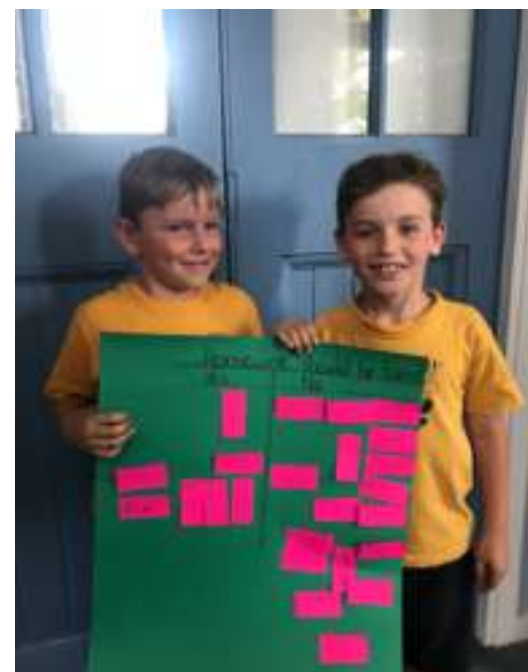
To order lunch, click: [Flexischools](#)



Newsletter



During investigations, some children made balloon rockets to link in with their learning about forces in STEAM and others wrote descriptions and created cute animals using natural materials. In art, they had fun making Pop Art prints. Curling up with a book and reading to a buddy is a common sight in 1 / 2 G and is a great way to improve fluency. In English, we learnt about persuasive texts. Check out our opinions on homework!



My Finland Study Tour

As many of you are aware, during the recent school holidays, I was in Finland on a self-funded study tour, or professional learning excursion, with 30 other principals and executive leaders from across NSW, South Australia and Tasmania. We visited schools in Helsinki and in a smaller northern town, Kokkola, celebrating their 400th birthday in 2020.

We had the opportunity to walk through many different schools; from old to new, and one that wasn't quite open. We spoke with principals, teachers and students, as well as directors of education, university lecturers and trainee teachers. We experienced the daily hot meals provided at schools, as well as a few aspects of the Finnish lifestyle - enjoying a sauna, interspersed with dipping into the nearby lake (only 6C!!!), and walking through some of the magnificent abundant forests! Spending time in Finland gives you an amazing sense of calmness and tranquility - what an incredible experience!



Finnish education is world-renowned for achieving excellent results. The Hon. Julie Bishop even mentioned Finnish education, when she spoke at the recent annual NSWPPA Conference I attended. The Finnish education system is inextricably linked to their culture and community values and cannot be replicated in its exact format here in Australia.

As a country, education is the highest priority and decisions have been made to ensure that an excellent education is accessible to everybody. Trust is paramount - the government trusts the Ministry of Education, who, in turn, trust the Directors of each region, directors trust the schools, parents trust the schools and schools trust the students. There is only one education system - public - and the 'nearest school is the best school'. Private, Catholic and independent schools do not exist. Education is free in all learning settings - school, university and vocational education - and further education is definitely encouraged and subsidised. Places of learning are well-resourced and well-maintained.



During our free weekend between Kokkola and Helsinki, some of us travelled to Rovaniemi, Lapland, to visit Santa! We crossed the Arctic Circle, fed reindeer, went Aurora hunting and even saw the Northern Lights (with a little assistance from our professional guide and his camera).



Primary schools in Finland

- All schools are public schools
- Free education for all
- Students start school at 7 years - the first year of school is Year 1
- No school uniforms
- No shoes indoors
- Shorter school days and varying starting and finishing times - 8am, 9am or 10am - 12pm, 1pm, 2pm
- Lessons comprise of 45 minutes, with a 15 minute play/break time outside - once the temperature drops to less than -20C, students are able to stay indoors during break times
- Schools use adjacent forests as part of break time, with minimal supervision
- 99% of students walk or ride a bike to school
- Smaller classes
- More support staff
- Dedicated spaces and specialists for music, craft/sewing, woodwork/metalwork
- All students learn Finnish, Swedish and English, and possibly one more language
- Free, healthy, hot school lunch for everyone - no choice of meal
- No front office or fences surrounding schools
- Very few admin duties for teachers
- Team of cleaning staff clean the school throughout the school day
- No external assessments, such as NAPLAN - if students are interested in university entry, there is a matriculation exam at the end of Year 12 only



PISA is the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment. Every three years it tests 15-year-old students from all over the world in reading, mathematics and science. The tests are designed to gauge how well the students master key subjects in order to be prepared for real-life situations in the adult world.

Currently, Finland is ranked 8th, while Australia sits in 21st position across 70 countries. <http://factsmaps.com/pisa-worldwide-ranking-average-score-of-math-science-reading/>

The 2018 results will be released 3 December 2019. <http://www.oecd.org/pisa/>

Was there anything remarkable happening in the classrooms? Not that I could see. Yes, students were engaged, although when I walk around our school, our students are also highly engaged in their learning. In fact, I feel that our students are often more actively involved and are able to articulate their thinking, due to our focus on student voice.

Both countries' students compare in their quest to make a difference beyond themselves - sustainability is very prevalent. Both countries believe in future-focused education, with an emphasis on 21st Century skills - project-based learning is evident throughout. In general, our NSW education system compares very favourably at the grassroots. It appears to be the accountability and compliance that weighs down on our schools and teachers.

Both systems have passionate educators who want the best for their students. That is especially true at Balmain Public School!



STARTING SCHOOL IN 2020?

PARENT ORIENTATION INFORMATION MORNING



Wednesday, 20th November 2019 @ 9:15AM

Parent orientation will be an information morning for those parents available to come.

Parents find this session very valuable and useful. Details will be presented about uniforms, equipment, 'first day at school' procedures, general school procedures, 'Best Start' information and bookings.

***Just to clarify this session is very different to the information evening that was held earlier this year.**

THIS IS A PARENT ONLY EVENT

The meeting will be held in the school hall.

MOVEMBER



This year the Male staff (Mo Bro's) of Balmain Public School have decided to work together in raising funds and awareness in men's health and support.

**How, you ask?
By growing a glorious Mo
(or facial hair)**

**By growing a Mo, it can inspire donations, conversations and real change.
If you would like to donate to this wonderful cause, please follow the link listed below. Or alternatively you can scan the QR code to take you to our 'Mo Bro Teachers of BALMAIN' page where you can donate.**

<https://mobro.co/14035628?mc=1>



Your Donation would be
FAN {TAHCE} TIC!



What is Movember?

Movember is the leading charity changing the face of men's health. It exists to help men live happier, healthier, longer lives – this is what drives every single one of our men's health projects.

Since 2003 Movember has funded more than 1,250 men's health projects around the world, challenging the status quo, shaking up men's health research and transforming the way health services reach and support men.

2019 BPS YEARBOOK COVER CONTEST!

We are looking for a cover for the
2019 Balmain Public School Yearbook
and we need your art!

Every student is invited to submit a drawing or a painting or pieces of construction paper glued on another piece of construction paper. Have fun, be creative, think of something that would look great on our yearbook cover. All submissions should be horizontal/landscape orientation (so the left side will be the back cover and the right side will be the front cover) and are due to your class teacher by **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21st**.

Note: No need to write Balmain Public School or 2019 because that will be added.

Past winners.



CARING FOR A CHILD WITH DISABILITY?



You are invited to a free workshop for parents run by the Better Start team at Carers NSW

Come to a free event for all parents and guardians of children with disability aged up to 12 years old. Gather information and strategies to support you and your child. All NDIS questions answered. It does not matter if you have a plan or not. Everyone welcome. Meet other parents and chat about your experiences.

Local speakers include:
 - ECI partners (0-6 age group NDIS)
 - Local Area Coordinators (7+ age group NDIS)
 - Local Disability Advocacy Agency
 - NSW Dept of Education

If you would like to attend but cannot, please let us know.

EVENT INFORMATION

WHERE: Wed 27 November 2019
 9:30am - 2:00pm
 Registration 9:15am

WHERE:
 Canterbury Hurstville Park RSL Club
 20-26 Canterbury Road
 Hurstville Park NSW 2183

RSVP: The Better Start Team
 CALL US: 1800 242 636
 EMAIL: betterstart@carersnsw.org.au

COST: Free
 Morning tea and light lunch will be provided, tell us if you have any allergies or dietary requirements.

LEICHHARDT SWIM CLUB

Our Club races are on Saturday mornings in the Olympic Pool (LPAC) from 12 October 2019 until 21 March 2020 at Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre.

Races start at 7.30am and finish by 10am.

Swimmers of all ages 4yr to 90+ and all abilities are welcome, whether you swim for fitness, fun or competition. You can turn up at the pool on Saturday morning at 7.30 am and give it a go!

Register as a member for the new season from 1 October - more information on our web page.

leichhardt.swimming.org.au

CALL - 0439 981 821
 RALPH HALL (secretary)

CALL - 0411 238 020
 ANNE-MARIE WHELAN (president)

2019 - 2020 SEASON



EST. 1962



TOP NOTE MUSIC

9807 1272 | 0404 871 272



In Term 1, 2020, we will continue to provide electronic keyboard organ / piano lessons at your school.

Students would be taught by an experienced music teacher who has been teaching group keyboard lessons for over 20 years.

Tuition is \$20.00 for a 45minute lesson per week. Family discounts for siblings are available.

To express your interest in providing this program, fill in the form, and return to your school or email at topnotemusicschool@gmail.com Friday 29th November, 2019.

----- cut and return this part -----

MUSIC LESSONS

Yes, I'm interested in my child in learning to play the piano/keyboard with Top Note Music School.

Child's Name Class.....

School.....

We have our own instrument Piano Elec. Organ/Keyboard None

Parental Approval.....  Contact Phone No.....

SCHOOL HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS



GIVE YOUR CHILD
THE GIFT OF
PERFORMING ARTS
THIS CHRISTMAS!

Balmain Secondary College
13-17 January
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