The Balgowlah Boys Campus Newsletter

Principal’s Report  

Week 3 Term 4 2013

The 2013 NAPLAN results have just been released and once again Balgowlah Boys has produced outstanding results. The graph below is the North Sydney Region Growth for Year 9 in one of the literacy competencies, spelling. Balgowlah is the top performing school (by a long, long way) of the 35 high schools in the region – which includes 6 selective high schools.

Over the past 4 years Balgowlah has become used to being the best performing school on the northern beaches for growth in literacy and numeracy but this year we have surpassed expectations. One of the schools targets for 2013 was to improve reading data:

Regional Growth Data - Reading
I believe we can safely assume that we have reached this target. The growth data for grammar was equally impressive, topping the region. I would like to congratulate the effort of Year 9; they have worked consistently and diligently on their basic skills and are now in an excellent position to achieve their best academically in senior school. I must also take this opportunity congratulate the teachers for their dedication and commitment to support all students across the range of abilities.

The school’s annual fundraiser is a fortnight away, on Friday 1st November. Trivia Night is always a popular event and tickets are on sale online.
The Faculty of Arts

With yearly examinations are just around the corner, all our classes are gearing up for examination revisions. Some students will try to prepare for their examinations by cramming just a few minutes/hours ahead of time, but a good test mark is determined by ongoing and consistent hard work.

Imagine your brain to be a waterway. When the dam at the end opens, water comes rushing through. Held in a steady stream over time, the water will pass through just fine. If too much tries to get through at once, though, there are floods. The waterway overflows and loses a lot of water. Your brain works the same way: a steady, slower stream of information is will achieve a greater outcome. Your brain is a sponge, and it needs to absorb what you’ve given it before you try to get in more.

Students are encouraged to develop a regular study pattern at home by consulting their study guides and their teachers. Your teachers are there to help. Keep asking questions on topics/concepts you do not understand.

A good study habit consists of the following:

- Decide what to study (choose a reasonable task) and how long or how may chapters, pages, problems, etc. Set and stick to deadlines.
- Do difficult tasks first. For procrastination, start off with an easy, interesting aspect of the project.
- Have special places to study. Take into consideration lighting, temperature, and availability of materials.
- Study 50 minutes, and then take a 10 minute break. Stretch, relax, have and energy snack.
- Allow longer, "massed" time periods for organising relationships and concepts, outlining, and writing papers. Use shorter, "spaced" time intervals for rote memorisation, review, and self-testing. Use odd moments for recall/review.
- If you get tired or bored, switch task/activity, subject, or environment. Stop studying when you are no longer being productive.
- Do rote memory tasks and review, especially detail, just before you fall asleep.
- Study with a friend. Quiz each other, compare notes and predicted test questions.
- Above all, review regularly and plan to study ahead, so that the night before the exam, all you do is review material...
- Avoid All-Nighters!

Hasan Shanal
Head Teacher – The Faculty of Arts

Music

Though about a year old now, the Balgowlah Boys Campus Concert Band, Stage Band and Senior/Junior Rock Ensembles have performed a number of times at regional events, college performances as well as performing for primary schools across the Northern Beaches. For the past term all the ensembles have been working to put together an exciting and interactive show for our Summer Band Tour.
Starting on **Tuesday 22 October** then **Wednesday 4 December** – continuing through to **Friday 6 December**, our Ensembles will visit 6 primary schools (two each day) and perform a one hour show to more than 3500 primary school students and staff. Our Band Tour show is specifically designed for **Early Stage 1 to Stage 3 (Years K-6)** students that will entertain as well as get them involved with our music making. We don't expect anyone to just 'sit and listen'!

A morning performance would see us start the show 70 minutes before your recess bell. An afternoon show would see us perform in the last 70 minutes before the schools final bell. This way there are 10 minutes following our show for students and staff to pack-up etc.

This is a valuable experience for the boys as it will strengthen their ensemble skills, develop as mature and confident performers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Tuesday 22 October</th>
<th>Wednesday 4 December</th>
<th>Thursday 5 December</th>
<th>Friday 6 December</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morning</td>
<td>Kurmond Boys Campus</td>
<td>Balgowlah Boys Campus</td>
<td>Balgowlah North Public School</td>
<td>Manly Village Public School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afternoon</td>
<td>North Curl Curl Public School</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Brookvale Public School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Just a reminder that we now provide private instrument tuition on any instrument our student’s desire. Our tuition staffs are qualified instrument teachers with amazing musical backgrounds. These fantastic and dedicated tutors not only provide a comprehensive curriculum but also teach superior technical skills with confidence building performance dexterity. The Tuition program is available for every student at Balgowlah Boys Campus. No previous skill is required.

**The tuition days are as follows:**
Monday and Tuesday: Guitar acoustic, steel string acoustic, electric, and bass
Monday - Brass (Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium and Tuba)
Thursday – Percussion, eg. Drum Kit
Friday - Woodwind (flute, clarinet, saxophone)
Friday - Strings (Violin, Viola and Cello)

The cost of the tuition is $25 for 30 minute lessons, except Brass which is $33 for 30 minute lessons. Please see Mr Shanal (Head Teacher Faculty of Arts) for application in to the Tuition Programs or for any inquiries through email hasan.shanal@det.nsw.edu.au or phone (02)9949 4200.
Note: Please encourage students to check their timetable on the board outside the Faculty of Arts Staffroom on a weekly basis.

There are many ensembles our students have access to at Balgowlah Boys Campus. We encourage all our students to join an ensemble to strengthen their performance skills. All students are welcome.

The ensembles days and times as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Ensemble</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>01:00pm</td>
<td>Gamelan Ensemble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>07:30am</td>
<td>Concert Band</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>01:00pm</td>
<td>Stage Band</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>01:00pm</td>
<td>Guitar Ensemble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>01:00pm</td>
<td>Jazz Impro Ensembles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every day</td>
<td>01:00pm</td>
<td>Junior and Senior Rock Ensemble</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hasan Shanal
Head Teacher – The Faculty of Arts

Visual Arts

Visual Arts students from 7-10 are currently working with a range of art forms including animation, drawing, and photography. Year 7 students have just submitted their stopframe animations which explore the human body in motion and the sporting figure, and are now moving on to a unit of work which explores postmodernism and appropriation using Photoshop. Visual Arts at Balgowlah Boys Campus has just started a YouTube account to upload student films and animations. Details on viewing uploaded works are to come.

Likewise, Year 10 students have just submitted their charcoal stopframe animations which were inspired by the amazing works of artist William Kentridge. Google this artist and you will be amazed by what you see! This term, Year 10s will be able to select their own artmaking investigations from the forms and subject matter they have explored during Terms 1-3 of this year. Investigations can include soapstone carving, stopframe animation, drawing, and relief printing. A Visual Arts day for Year 10 students is currently being planned for Tuesday 22nd November, to be held at the school. Students will be provided with a range of artmaking investigations, including a photographic session by Canon Camera Company and a Zine workshop by David Murray from Manly Library. The cost for the day will be $10 which will cover any materials used, as well as light refreshments for students and presenters. All current Year 10 Visual Arts students are encouraged to attend this day.

Year 8 students are currently working on a unit of work which explores ideas on photographing the everyday object, and the unit will also include studio and product photography. Students are encouraged to bring their own cameras if available, and their art teachers are able to lock the cameras away for safe keeping.
Year 9 students are using paper clay to create intricate handmade human forms based on the artmaking practice of Ron Mueck. This is quite a laborious task and students have worked very well so far to produce some very good work!

Year 12 students have started their HSC artmaking and art study investigations. This term will focus on the experimentation of materials, techniques and concepts in preparation for their body of work. In art study, students are investigating appropriation and the postmodern frame in contemporary artmaking. Students are encouraged to keep an ‘artist bank’ where they record the names and artworks of all artists investigated during the HSC year. This will help in preparing for all future HSC assessment tasks, as the ‘artist bank’ acts as a summary of content taught.

Art study and revision sessions for 7-10 will be held in class over the coming weeks to prepare students for their examinations. If students are away during this period, they are encouraged to see Ms Leaney or Ms Curran to follow up on any work missed. Students are also expected to consult their study guides early and speak with their Visual Arts teachers if they have any questions regarding the content. We wish all students the best of luck for their exams.

Ms Leaney and Ms Curran
Visual Arts Teachers

Drama Club

After finishing Term 3 with a celebration that included pizza and a movie, the Drama Club have been in great discussions about what project they would like to do next. We have spent the last two week investigating and exploring well known scripts. The boys have presented their information on plays such as Twelve Angry Men, Rusty Bugles, The Chocolate War and Lord of the Flies. After many colourful discussions, debates and votes we have narrowed the selection down to two plays. Over the next couple of terms we will be working together to collaborate a spectacular Bally version of a popular play. Watch this space!!

Ms Gardiner
Drama Teacher

Languages

Once again, Languages have several interesting activities occurring. In Mid-November, Balgowlah Boys will have 9 exchange students from Okinawa, Japan, staying with us for a week. These students will be involved in numerous activities around the school and we hope they have a great time. Also, we would like to give our thanks to all the families who have volunteered to look after our visitors from Japan while they are here.

Language selection notes have gone home with all year seven students this week, with a choice between French or Japanese for year 8. Please remember that when choosing what language you want to do for next year, it should be based on what language you are really interested in learning.

Later this term, our year 10 and 9 Japanese elective students will be going on a combined excursion with Mackellar Girls to a Japanese Karaoke venue in the city. All students will get the chance to try various types of Japanese food and try to sing in Japanese in front of everyone as well.
Finally, the French elective visit to New Caledonia is now being organised. Once initial permission is received, there will be a meeting for interested parents. This visit is for French elective students to experience language immersion in French, understanding of culture, realisation into the influence of French from a nation so close to our own, and of course to have some fun.

Bonus points plan to raise low levels of language study
Josephine Tovey October 09, 2013

The Board of Studies has proposed the development of an ATAR bonus point scheme for students who have studied a language. Photo: Rob Young

Students who study a language for their HSC could be given bonus Australian Tertiary Admission Rank points and all primary school children would undertake some form of language education under proposals to address the low levels of foreign language study in NSW.
"We want universities to say if this is national priority and you've studied a language, we think we can afford to give you a bonus of three or four points because we recognise the importance of language acquisition in general intellectual activity," said board president, Tom Alegounarias.

Ms Briggs and Mr Host
Languages Teachers

Year 9 Work Education.

The boys in Work education have been progressing very nicely. The talk among the teachers on a Friday is about the quality of the coffee that the boys produce in the Bally Prestige Café. Four boys a week are charged with running the café. They are so efficient now that they are able to coordinate 40 different orders and have them all delivered hot and on time each week unaided by their teacher. The boys have also run the cafe at recent events attached to the school such as the Lifeline Book Fair and M.A.D. It certainly has been a rewarding project so far this year.

As well as this they have completed two design projects in G11 which they planned, coordinated and delivered. Now the boys are focussed on producing a tropical garden near the Industrial Arts block. So far the soil and ground cover plants have been prepared and over the coming weeks many plants will be added to create this wonderful oasis. Well done on your work so far boys, can’t wait to see the finished product.

Daniel O’Brien
Work Education Teacher
Sport Report

Summer sport has now commenced and most boys seem happy with their sports choices. Year 10 only do sport for the remainder of this year, and as such there will be another reshuffle of sport at the end of the term. This will only affect boys who want to change to sports such as Indoor Soccer that at present is almost exclusively filled with Year 10 students.

A big congratulations to the 15’s water polo team who won the grand finale against Homebush Boys last Monday at Ryde pool. Whilst to many this may just seem like another sports announcement, we have only beaten Homebush Boys three times in nearly 20 years in water polo, making our 19-3 victory all the sweeter. Congratulations to coach Mr Sheather.

Our very popular Sportsman’s dinner is on Thursday 21st November at school. The cost will be $20 per head, and will include food and drinks. All boys who will be receiving an award on the night will receive an invitation.

I will be emailing all parents in the next week with details of the night. I hope you can come and help us celebrate another fine year of sports representation at Balgowlah Boys.

Dave Morris
Sports Organiser

Library Lines

It is no surprise to hear of Balgowlah Boys Campus recent outstanding success in NAPLAN results, knowing the wide range of robust literacy and numeracy programs running at our school delivered by passionate, dedicated teaching staff. Our school library staff work together with staff from all curriculum areas to enhance our boys’ literacy and numeracy skills.

It is an exciting time for our school library, knowing that Australian libraries are leading the world in providing well-resourced learning environments and that our library is about to receive a major facelift. In true Bally style, library staff are working collaboratively with our Principal and a small team of Year 7 students led by Julian McKay, to design an efficient, functioning learning environment. The school library of the 21st Century will provide a “balanced delivery of books, IT tools and writing” (Gold Coast Principal). Recent research has provided further evidence of the positive impacts that school libraries and teacher librarians can make, both to school communities and students’ literacy, learning and wellbeing.
The findings in a recent study conducted by the School Library Association of Queensland (SLAQ) in partnership with QUT’s Youth Research Centre, demonstrated the significant advantage that a well-resourced school library run by a professionally qualified teacher librarian can bring to a school. (Hughes, H. Gold Coast study links school libraries and teacher librarians to literacy. SCIS, Connections. Term 4, 2013.) We are privileged to have Mrs Anna Taylor with us for five weeks this term. Mrs Taylor is a pre-service teacher, currently studying to gain professional qualifications as a Teacher-Librarian. Our library will provide an example of best practice according to latest research.

Balgowlah Boys Campus Library supports a wide range of literacy and numeracy programs. Selecting relevant, authentic research material is becoming quite a challenge for the boys facing information overload using ICTs. Library-based research assignments are designed to use a wide range of reference materials with an emphasis on ‘using your own words’ to avoid plagiarism and to address the set task accurately. The Year 7 Active Exploration Program, encourages the boys to ask questions and generate their own answers in their own words, using the information they locate and select. Some typical questions are:

What am I being asked to do?
How much do I already know?
What else do I need to find out?
Where will I look?
Is this information authentic?
Is it relevant?

Neil Gaiman is an English author of short fiction, novels, comic books, graphic novels, audio theatre and films. His edited lecture, to be found stresses the importance of libraries and reading, I encourage you to read this article and be assured that our school and our school library provides a generous collection of o variety of genres in both text and graphic form. www.theguardian.com%2fbooks%2f2013%2foct%2f15%2fneil-gaiman-future-libraries-reading-daydreaming

Our wide-reading program in Years 7 and 8 provides an opportunity for the boys to select books, read quietly, imagine, dream and register for the Premiers Reading Challenge. In this challenge, boys are able to read 5 books of their choice and 15 from the official list. Although the new list has been published, registration will begin early in 2014. Boys are encouraged to begin reading now and make a note of all books read so they may add them to their list in March next year. Check out the new list! https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html

Library staff look forward to another busy term as we work collaboratively with staff to provide a wide range of programs to support boys education and enhance literacy and numeracy skills.

Joy Jones
Teacher Librarian