From the Principal...

‘I have no idols. I admire work, dedication and competence.’ ~ Ayrton Senna

This week saw my first ‘official’ Parents & Citizens, or P&C meeting at Balmain Public School. The P&C meet every first Wednesday of the month, at 7pm, in our school Library.

Ayrton Senna’s quote would definitely apply to the team of hard-working, dedicated people, who’s aim is to raise much needed funds for the benefit of all the children, K-6, at our school.

As you are no doubt aware, the most recent goal of the P&C was to raise $18,000, in order to purchase new laptops. This goal, thanks to the P&C, as well as our generous community, was reached! Our children are now using the 32 new laptops!!!

This would not be possible without the fundraising events held throughout the year, but more importantly, the Voluntary Contributions made by our families.

The Department of Education allocates a budget for each public school annually, dependent on the size of school, as well as the number of students. Included in this budget is an allocation of just under $65 per student, earmarked for classroom resources. With this amount, schools are meant to totally resource each class with everyday items, as well as to have reading books, maths equipment etc., not to mention keeping up with technology!

Even though contributions are voluntary, they are absolutely vital in enabling Balmain Public School to be well resourced. The benefits are far-reaching...each and every child at the school will directly benefit from your generous contributions.

Your continued support of quality education is much appreciated!

Maria Lambos

Principal
Hello, our names are Charley, Rosie and Emmie and we are starting a weekly column in the newsletter. The purpose of this column is to inform you of our discoveries about heroism. Recently, we have been studying heroes in class. We will be covering the subject of bravery and courage here at school over the next two weeks.

We believe that heroism is when a person demonstrates acts of bravery or courage. This also includes people who are admired for what they have done. We are looking for acts of bravery in our classrooms and on the playground. Last week Mr Grahame Paton gave us a talk about what makes a hero and the different types of heroes.

Some of the heroes he listed include:
John Simpson Kirkpatrick—He had the courage to risk his life and save soldiers during the first world war at Gallipoli knowing full well he could die at any moment.

People who fight against bullying - they are brave enough to help victims and follow Mary Mackillop’s saying, “never see a need without doing something about it”.

We believe we have these types of heroes at our school. Next week we will talk about the heroic people in our school.
Dear Parents

When paying for anything ie excursion etc, the following details MUST be put on the envelope, preferably in a school money envelope obtained from the office:

- Student name in full
- Student’s full name
- Class
- What is being paid for
- Amount enclosed

Thank you

From the Office...

Year 6 Graduation 2014...

*It is time to start planning for the end of year celebration for our current Year 6 intake.*

*To ensure these students have a memorable graduation we are calling for any interested Yr. 6 parent to form a planning and working committee.*

Adding School Website App to your phone...

- Google ‘Balmain Public School’ on your phone
- Tap on ‘Website’
- Tap the button on bottom of screen
- Tap ‘Add to home screen, then tap ‘add’

From the Office...

Dear Parents

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Thank you
Kindergarten Lightbrary enjoy special time with their buddies on a Friday afternoon. The Year 6 students assist with computers, craft, writing and enjoy reading to the kindies.

Kindergarten Lightbrary thoroughly enjoyed their first Easter Hat Parade on the last day of term 1 and their hats looked fabulous!

Mathematics is very ‘hands-on’ in Kindergarten. During recent maths lessons, the students used familiar classroom objects to create towers of varied heights and compared and recorded the mass of classroom objects using equal arm balances.
Wishing all our Mums

A very Happy Mother’s Day
Dear Parents & Carers,

Every year, the Balmain Public School P&C Association asks every family in the school community to make a voluntary financial contribution so that we can purchase essential items and services directly for the school; in general, these are things that are important for the school but are not paid for by the NSW Department of Education & Communities.

The money raised in 2013 was used to update the computers at school and we successfully raised $18,000 for 32 new laptops.

This year the P&C have chosen to raise money for another specific target: the school is in need of guided-reading tables and we are trying to raise $18,000 for 11 of them (one for each class from K to Yr6). Any money raised over and above our target will be used to purchase new library books, new class readers, subsidising the recorder & band programs and other projects.

Guided-reading tables allow the teacher to sit with a small group of students and place equal focus on each individual child. The semi-circular shape and whitewall surface of the tables ensure that each child is engaged in the lesson with equal focus. The tables serve a multitude of purposes and can be used for any type of focused-learning activity – not just reading.

For example, 1R currently do their reading groups and focused-learning on the floor.

With guided-reading tables, the teacher can focus more on individualised learning.

Like last year, a minimum voluntary contribution from every family/household of $150 will very easily help the P&C achieve their financial target. Payments will be accepted by cash, cheque, and electronic funds transfer.

For cash/cheque payments, print out and complete the coupon below along with your payment of $150, or more if you can.

**P&C VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION**

Name of Oldest Child: __________________________  Class of Oldest Child: ___________  Total Payment: $ ___________

Please place your payment in the box by the office. Cheques can be made out to Balmain School P+C.

For electronic funds transfers, your payment of $150 [or more if you are able] can be made to:
Account Name: Balmain School P+C
BSB/Branch & Account Number: 062110-00900412
In order for us to keep track of payments please ensure that you write the following in the Description Line of your payment: PCV-family Surname-Class of Oldest Child.
For example, the Jones family with kids in KL, 1/2E & S/6N would write: PCVC-Jones-5/6N

Every week, we will show how the fundraising is tracking against target in the school newsletter. The P&C and school staff thank you for making this vital financial contribution and helping us to achieve our goals.
BIRCHGROVE FETE
MARKETS • FOOD • RIDES • COMMUNITY

SATURDAY 10 MAY 2014 10AM-4PM
BIRCHGROVE PUBLIC SCHOOL

- Games & Rides
- Artisan Market
- Secondhand Toys & Books
- Coffee
- Flower & Plant Stall

- BBQ
- Fresh Sonoma Bread
- Entertainment
- Art with Artspark
- Cupcake Decorating
- Homemade Cakes

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HARRISPARTNERS  healthspace  Prestige Auto Traders
SYDNEY PORTS  Riverview  Bingham & Bingham
NORTH SYDNEY GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL CENTENARY

FESTIVAL DAY

SATURDAY 17th MAY 2014
Celebrating a century of excellence and contribution to the wider community

11.00am – 3.00pm

Unveiling of a reproduction of the original school crest
Archival displays
Performances by current students and primary school students
Jumping Castle
Food Stalls
Buskers
Face Painting

PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

12.00 (noon) Welcome and unveiling of the school emblem
12.15pm North Sydney Girls High School Concert Band
12.45pm North Sydney Girls High School Bassoon Quartet
1.00pm Cammeray Primary School Band
1.30pm North Sydney Girls High School Senior Jazz
1.45pm The Swords Club display
2.15pm North Sydney Girls High School Centenary Ensemble
2.30pm North Sydney Girls High School Centenary Ensemble
2.45pm Neutral Bay Primary School Band

AURASMA
Some of the items on display have been tagged with an Augmented Reality app. To experience these please download and install the free app: “AURASMA” before you attend on the day. Simply search for it on your iTunes or Android App store and download. It’s free!

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