Challenges come in all shapes and sizes...this week at Balmain has seen a variety of challenges...

Our teachers and ministers have had to overcome the challenge of our PA system not working, one of our students faced a small challenge prior to performing at Assembly, the challenges faced when visually impaired, students with the challenge of competing at the District Cross-Country, debating against other schools and my challenge of remembering all our crystal names (some of them are really tricky!!!)

I’m sure I haven’t even mentioned half the challenges at BPS...

Some challenges are easier than others, but regardless of the size of the challenge, there’s always a way around it! It could be the moving of a chair, buying a new PA system, practising those tricky spelling words, training prior to racing or having a guide dog...

It’s important to have a go, never give up and always believe that you can do it!

I just have to figure out how I’m going to remember 4/5 Dioptase...hmmm, I’ll keep working on my challenge! Surely I can do it!

Maria Lambos
Principal
What an exciting second week at PSSA.

The netball teams won both their games, touch was a close game winning 4-3, and in soccer, Balmain A won their first game but unfortunately their second game was a no show.

Balmain B and the mixed team both recovered from losses and went on to draw their second games.

The netball, touch and soccer teams played exceptionally well displaying the usual high standards of Balmain sportsmanship.

Guide Dog Visits Balmain...

On Wednesday 21\textsuperscript{st} May, Allen Pronger and his Guide Dog Archie, came to visit Balmain Public School. Allen spoke of the importance of Guide Dogs and taught us how they assist people with impaired vision to get around safely and independently within our community. Students asked many questions and really enjoyed this special session with Allen and Archie.

KINDERGARTEN 2015

\textbf{ENROLLING NOW...}

\textbf{...IF YOUR CHILD TURNS 5 ON OR BEFORE 31 JULY 2015...}

\texttt{ENQUIRE @ OFFICE ~ 9818 1177}
**K-2 Movie Night**

Make sure you keep **Friday 13th June** free
For **K-2 Movie Night**!
6-8:30pm
See attached flyer for details...

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**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.

*A meeting will be held on Wednesday 4 June at 6pm in the school library.*

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**P&C Meeting...**

Our next P&C meeting will be held in the School’s Library on Wednesday 4th June @7pm.
All welcome to attend.
Year One Ruby’s Assembly

Last Thursday was Year One Ruby’s Assembly. All the children did a wonderful job of performing a play, which taught about having good manners.

Look how good it is when we all show our manners!

Coco and Chloe as Mr and Mrs Wolf and Jamie as the naughty Wolfie.
All the narrators did a wonderful job!

Ava, Laila, Denva, Winnie and Leah performed as beautiful dancers.
Heroism in our School...

By Emmie, Charley and Rosie

We are back again with our third heroic Balmain Public School newsletter article!

This week we have collected so many acts of heroism around the school that we cannot fit them all in this article. Isn’t that amazing? What a great school!

Here they are:

Rania from K Bowenite was looking after Matthew as he sadly broke his arm. Matthew was also showing courage and bravery because his arm is tragically broken and he finds it difficult to do things.

The next act of heroism that has been observed was performed by Lara in 1 Sapphire. Lara has been helping all her wonderful friends in her class with their learning.

In 6 Bixbite, Eric has been consistently taking initiative and using flexibility and leadership to help teachers and classmates.

And finally, Sam in 3/4 Bronzite has been very humble and brave in times of hardship.

That’s all for this week. Our school is so kind and heroic and we are so proud of everybody! See you next week!

CONGRATS...

On Thursday, Mr Nuto and Ms Mikhail-Gogos went to Glebe for the District Cross-Country, with a group of students from Balmain Public School.

Congratulations to everyone for competing. A special congrats goes out to the following place-getters:

Ada R—1st place—8-9 yr Girls
Nilufar—4th place—10 yr Girls
Charlie R—2nd place—11 yr Boys
Fehlim—7th place (1st Reserve) - 8-9 yr Boys

Well done everyone—we are proud of you!
Ryde East Music Festival this Sunday...

Balmain Public School Band will be playing at The Ryde East Music Festival on

**Sunday the 25th of May.**

**Address:** Ryde East Public School, [12 Twin Road, North Ryde, 2113](#)

**Arrival time:** 9.30am SHARP (to register & rehearse)

**Performance time:** 10.40am - 11am (approx.)

**Band Uniform:** Red Balmain Public School Band T-Shirt (available from the school office); black skirt/trousers, black shoes.

**Instruments:** Remember to bring them!

Our conductor Freddie Hill & I are looking forward to seeing you all there & hearing our children play!

Thanks, Biddy

Volunteer Band Coordinator

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**Congratulations to Ming...**

With **Reconciliation Week** next week, Ms Comino entered some of our students into the ‘**Primary School’s Art Competition for Reconciliation**’.

Lily C, Yi Wei L, Max H and Ming G all entered the competition.

The exciting news is that Ming will be presented with an award (we haven’t been told yet) on Tuesday evening! Congratulations Ming!
Too sick for school?
As the cold weather hits, so do the winter bugs. It’s often hard to know whether to send your child to school or let them stay home to recover, especially when that means an adult cancelling work. For safety’s sake, if your child seems unwell you should always keep them home from school and seek medical advice.

School A to Z and the NSW Health have created an at-a-glance chart to help answer your questions about common childhood illness and how long sick kids need to miss school. Find it by typing this link into your web browser www.bit.ly/1hytn2E

Mental maths strategies
We teach children a range of different strategies to add and subtract numbers. By showing them several methods for solving maths questions, we’re helping them to look for patterns. All this builds a good sense of “number” which means they understand the relationships between different numbers and why different ways to add and subtract work well. The goal is that your child will understand many ways to approach a maths problem and will be able to choose a way that makes the most sense to them. School A to Z has a lot of resources, including help sheets on mental maths strategies, here: www.bit.ly/JkiUsY

Does speaking another language at home confuse children?
Are your children fortunate enough to be growing up in a home where two or more languages are spoken? Many parents worry that bilingualism can cause confusion and even delays in learning for their children, but according the Raising Children Network, that’s not the case at all. A good knowledge of your native language can actually help your child with learning English. Bilingual children who are read books and spoken to in their in their native language find it easier to learn to read and write in English when they get to school. More information is at www.bit.ly/1m0agnk
Changing needs in inner Sydney...

Consultation on strengthening public secondary education in the inner Sydney area

The Department of Education and Communities is looking for community ideas and feedback as it considers how best to strengthen the provision of public secondary schooling in inner Sydney, especially from 2018 when projections indicate there will be a need for additional teaching and learning spaces in the area.

You are invited to visit http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/sydneyhsconsultation to find out more about the consultation, participate in online forums, RSVP to attend a community workshop and find out how to host your own “Kitchen Table Discussion” to gather opinions and feed them back into the consultation process.

Community workshops are being conducted from 6:30 - 8:30pm on:

* **Thursday, 29 May** at Sydney Girls High School - Campbell Hall - Cleveland Street, Moore Park

* **Tuesday, 3 June** at Alexandria Park Community School - The Denzel - school hall - Park Road Campus, Alexandria

* **Thursday 5 June** at Sydney Secondary College – school hall - Blackwattle Campus, Taylor Street, Glebe

The majority of the workshop will be spent working in small groups to maximise the opportunity for you to discuss the issues and give feedback.

To register for a community workshop please go to www.dec.nsw.gov.au/sydneyhsconsultation

If you are unable to attend one of the community workshops there are multiple other opportunities to participate and have your say. Visit the Department’s website at www.dec.nsw.gov.au/sydneyhsconsultation to find out more.

The consultation period is from Friday 16 May – Friday 27 June 2014.

All members of the school community are encouraged to participate in and support this exciting initiative to help shape the future of public secondary school education in our area.
BALMAIN PUBLIC SCHOOL
MOVIE NIGHT
PRESENTS

Disney • PIXAR
MONSTERS UNIVERSITY

BALMAIN PUBLIC SCHOOL CINEMA
Friday 13th June, 6-8.30pm
Tickets include popcorn & cordial
Meal deals = pizza & ice cream

This is a P&C Event. All children need to be supervised by an adult.

CHILD’S NAME: .....................
CLASS: ..............................
No. TICKETS $5 EACH: .........
No. MEAL DEALS $5 EACH: ........
TOTAL AMOUNT INCLUDED: $ ....
Cash or cheques to:
Balmain Public School P+C

MEAL DEALS AND TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE ON THE NIGHT
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 whiteboard 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: PCVC-Family Surname-Class of Oldest Child.

For example, the Jones family with kids in KL, 1/2E & 5/6N 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.
Kindergarten Information Evening
Tuesday 3rd June 2014
6pm in the school library

Starting Kindergarten is an exciting time for both children and their families. Balmain Public School’s Information Evening will provide you with an insight into the educational programs available as well as opportunities to:

Meet and listen to our teachers, students and parents
Meet our P & C President and Eaton St Centre representatives
Become involved
Ask questions

Contact: Maria Lambos
Principal

balmain-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Ph: 98181177