From the Principal...

“A person starts to live when he can live outside himself.” ~ Albert Einstein

It is very easy to become self-absorbed with what is happening in our own lives...At Balmain PS, we have children, (and adults), who concern themselves with others’ well-being, and should definitely be commended!

Stephanie J-G registered our school for the ‘Cupcake Day for the RSPCA’ and a lot of work went into advertising and preparing for the successful event...5/6N and 2MG were involved in this initiative.

Thank you to everyone who helped support this fundraising event, either by baking, or buying, or both!

A special THANK YOU goes to Stephanie J-G, Lily C, Mikiko O, Tate F, Lilybet M, Dhara G, Finley R and Bella F-S.

A total of $275.05 was raised!!!!

What an amazing effort!

THANKS AGAIN!!!!

Maria Lambos  Principal
The rain fell but it could not dampen our enthusiasm for reading! Balmain Public School attacked Book Week with great gusto this year.

Our book fair ran over three days and was a huge success, with students purchasing a wide range of titles across the fiction and non-fiction genres. The money raised from this fair will go towards the purchase of new books for us all to borrow. Thanks for your support.

We were also treated to a visit from a special person who just happens to be the uncle of two people at our school. Oscar and Darcy Finlay were able to introduce us to the author Andrew Cranna. They even feature in his graphic novels!

Andrew came to visit us in the library to tell us about the process of producing a graphic novel, from creating the characters all the way through to the publishing process. Along the way he gave some impressive demonstrations of his drawing skills. A few lucky Balmain students got to take his artworks home with them!

We loved reading Andrew’s first novel about The Bloodhound Boys, “The Great Blood Bank Robbery”. Keep your eyes peeled for their next adventure – “The Monster Truck Tremor Turmoil”!
It's been a great week! Thanks for helping us “Connect to Reading”!

Book Character Parade
I faced a paradox in my life in sending my grandma away from me to China. This was a really hard decision. Whenever I have a chance to see her I look forward to it, so I enjoy the time spent with her as much as possible. I spend time remembering her face and body, and hugging her as long as I can. With tears in my eyes and a broken heart I let her go. I remember her every time I have my arm around her, crying, feeling sorrow but there is also a bright tickle in me making me smile. I frown down for a moment, hesitating whether I should let her go. Again, before I knew it grandma walked away into the airport. I screamed towards her, when she walked away and disappeared. When I saw her face for the last moment she had tears coming down with a heart broken as well. I walked away from her as my heart pumped fast and my tears dripped constantly.

By Nathan
All of a sudden we bumped into the enemy. It was chaos, bodies flying through the air. The shadows of men, broken, being chucked about and the noise, screams, shouts, gunfire, explosions shook the earth. It was now we had seen what war could do, the death and destruction it caused.

Some of us stood there watching the earth fly into weird spots. I looked up. All I could see was smoke and red sparks as shells hit the ground. I heard officers screaming for order but nobody heard or listened.

I heard something whistling through the air. I looked up – a bomb! I tried to run but my feet felt like they were stuck in the mud. It hit me. “BOOM!”

The shell exploded in all the soldiers’ faces. It was the end of most of them. “Retreat!” yelled the officers. The remaining men dragged themselves back to the trenches.

Charley 5L
BATTLE SCARS

By Ava 5L

World War I, 1915.

We stepped silently through the mud; placing our feet carefully, so the enemy wouldn’t hear us. All was quiet. Suddenly, a cry of surprise rippled through the platoon, and ruby flames shot up into the air, and then down again, burning almost everything in sight, including men. Silhouettes of falling soldiers whizzed past me. A tank screeched, reaching the end of a non-stop life. Dirt flew around the army’s feet like shrapnel, and ammunition rained down and ended the life of many. Countless men fall over, lifeless. As the shrapnel, dirt and cloth rags flew, a vision of a stormy sea crashing against a jagged cliff passed through my mind. I thought of home. Suddenly, all was silent. My vision became blurred. A burst of pain stabbed my thigh. The blood, the yells, the pain all pass by me, like many others before. Then, I lay still on a muddy ground. I drew my last breath...
We creep up on the enemy. Neither side is prepared. Cries of shock ring out all around me. I look over and see Lieutenant Shepard at the head of my platoon...our platoon. Seeing him there inspires confidence in me, and I fight harder, aiming my well-worn rifle into the thick smoke from the explosions that rattle even the air itself. Men were falling everywhere, some gasping and writhing, most lay motionless on the muddy ground of no-man's-land. I faintly heard officers screeching for order, but no one was listening. The shadows of lucky men advanced on their opposition, some falling sooner than others. I suddenly realise that I, too, am incredibly lucky, for I have been standing still, in stark, cold horror, for over a minute, and the only thing harming me is shrapnel stinging my skin. Still, I may not be lucky for long. I spring into action. The inability to see more than five inches in front of my face only slows me. I fire endlessly into the grey doom, having no idea whether I am firing at my own men or the opposition's. I know that I am very likely to be hit by one of those speeding embers of men's lives, but that just makes me fight harder. Then it happens. The sharp pain catches me mid-breath and forces me to the mud and dirt. It spreads like wildfire, burning, burning. Strangely, I feel oddly peaceful, as if the bullet has taken away all the panic and fear that has been wallowing up inside me. I close my eyes. "Rest in peace, eh?" I think, I force my eyes open, but I can't see anything. I breathe one last sigh before Death wraps my soul in the folds of his cloak and leads me to where I can truly rest in peace.

A short explanation:

I have written this from the point of view of a soldier in Lieutenant Shepard's platoon. The last sentence is based on the fact that many English citizens were Christian at the time, therefore, the place where the soldier could 'truly rest in peace' would have been Heaven.
YEAR 6 FUN FAIR!!!!!

Thursday 28th August
12pm-2pm

ALL MONEY RAISED GOES TOWARDS THE
YEAR 6 FAREWELL!!!

Spider drinks
Obstacle course
Coloured hair spray
Flappy bird
Lolly bags

Throw a sponge at a Year 6
Doughnuts on a string
Temporary tattoos
Cakes and Cookies
And more...

PRICES RANGE FROM 50c TO $2.50

OPEN TO STUDENTS FROM K-6!!!!!!!
A BIG thanks to all our wonderful school families who helped with and attended the recent ‘Toy Swap and Bop’ – a fun night for all, and the kids went home with lots of great ‘new’ toys to keep them busy! We raised enough money on the night to fund the purchase of a new school barbecue for our ‘sausage sizzles’ and canteen use.

We also collected five boxes of preschool books and toys to donate to “Good Beginnings” charity, for use in their playgroups and toy library service for disadvantaged families.

Thank you Balmain Public!

Our next social event is:

Spring Breakfast - Friday 5th Sept 8 am

Come celebrate Spring’s arrival with your family and friends, enjoy a great breakfast and music in our playground before heading off to work and school.

Bacon and egg rolls, Croissants and pastries, Juices and Fruit

Hosted by Balmain P&C, Gold Coin donations please

Finally a date for your Term 4 diary:

The Spooktacular Halloween Disco

Friday 31st October ....

Planners and volunteers needed - if you can help please mail: oddette_harvey@yahoo.com.au; venetiahendry@yahoo.co.uk
THANK YOU to the Balmain PS Community!

Thank you!

Good Beginnings Inner-west, including Lakemba Toy Library:

Balmain Public School P & C Committee

For your generous donation of toys books for disadvantaged children

Jeff Wilkin, Manager

August 6, 2014
BALMAIN PUBLIC SCHOOL P+C

2014 SPRING BREAKFAST

COME AND ENJOY BREAKFAST COFFEE, BBQ, JUICE, CROISSANTS and THE BPS BAND..!

8.00AM-9.00AM

Just a gold coin donation

Friday 5th Sept
FOR LESS THAN THE COST OF 1 COFFEE PER WEEK, YOU CAN HELP THE P&C TO REACH THEIR TARGET

Thanks to the generous donations from the school parent body, $9,050 of the $18K needed to buy new guided-reading tables has been collected.

Any money raised over & above what we need will be used for our next major project: 30 iPads used specifically for enriching the learning of our kids.

WE ARE HALF WAY THERE!

It is not too late to make your $150 P&C Voluntary Contribution; if you are able to donate more then it would be greatly appreciated. Please refer to the next page for more details.

The school staff, our kids & the P&C would like to thank you for your valued financial support in helping us to reach our goals.
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.

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.

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**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.
VINTAGE FIND!

GREAT VINTAGE CUPBOARD FOR SALE
$160 O.N.O.

In very good condition.
Pick up only from Balmain Public School
1 Eaton Street, Balmain

Please call 9818 1496
You are cordially invited to the Riverside Girls HS

Creative and Performing Arts

2014 HSC

28th August
School Hall
Doors open 5pm to view artworks
Performances begin 6pm
OPEN MORNING

Wednesday, 10 September 2014
9.30am – 11.30am

Address by Principal and performances by students 9.30 – 10.30am
Tours of the school 10.30 – 11.30am

Leading Girls Education in NSW
• Outstanding academic achievement
• Broad development of each child

Debating
Music
Drama
Creativity
Leadership
Technology
Duke of Edinburgh
Sport

RESILIENT  CONNECTED  INNOVATIVE

Please note – there is no parking in the school grounds
Enquiries: Mrs Jenni Cooper, Telephone 9922 6666 ext 104
The Undesirables: Inside Nauru

Speakers: Thomas Keneally, Mark Isaacs, Fr Aloyysis Mowe SJ

You are invited to attend a special evening to learn from the inside what is really happening to asylum seekers under Australian policy. Thomas Keneally (our Australian National Living Treasure); Mark Isaacs (author of The Undesirables) and Fr Aloyysis Mowe SJ (Director of the Jesuit Refugee Service) will share their personal experiences and knowledge of Australia’s policy on asylum seekers and hopes for a more compassionate Australia.

Wednesday 3rd September 7pm

Fr John Therry Catholic Primary School
Jane St Campus – Stage 3 Classrooms
16 Jane St Balmain 2041

Please RSVP and for more info: Angela Mills (info@fjtbalmain.catholic.edu.au)
HALLOWEEN DISCO!

ENTRY TO DISCO: $5 PER CHILD OR ADULT
ENTRY TO DISCO AND "MEAL DEAL" (PIZZA + MINI ICE SCREAM + CORDIAL): $10

TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE NIGHT BUT BOOK AHEAD SO YOU DON'T MISS OUT!

THIS IS A P+C EVENT. ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR CARER

FRIDAY 31ST OCTOBER
6-8.30PM