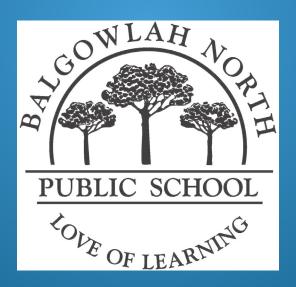
Stage 3 2023



We acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians on whose land our school rests. Their footsteps and whispers blow in the wind, drift on the clouds, remain deep in the sandstone and float on the waterways of this place. Their memories and Dreaming stories will continue to connect us to the land and guide future generations of our school community. Country is alive if you take the time to look, listen and learn.





5M - Chris McCall

5R- Steph Rooleht

6/5H – Anna Harris

6S – Susie Stock/Carol Saab

Stage Supervisor: Susie Stock



Communicating with the school

Contact	Concern/Question/Information
School Office	 Health issues – more serious e.g. ongoing medication Administering of medication at school – short term e.g. antibiotics Custody/Court Orders Absent notes via the school app Change of address or emergency contact details Enrolment forms Application for exemption (leave longer than 15 days needs approval) Child leaving the school School policy or process Excursion/Incursion Permission Note Payments
Classroom Teacher	 Academic progress of child Welfare of own child Health issues - minor Behaviour or actions of a student (in class/playground) Parent-Teacher Interviews Student Login details



Communicating with the school

Clear, open and effective communication between parents and teachers is vital to ensuring our students are supported and meet their full potential.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's learning, development or well-being it is important you contact your child's teacher to schedule a time for an interview.

All email correspondence should be directed to the school email address. Please put your child's name and class in the subject heading rather than emailing your teacher directly.

balgowlahn-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Our communication to you:

- School App/Website/Newsletter
- ★ Parent-Teacher Interviews
- Student Reports
- ★ Emails (Assistant Principals and Principal may be copied into an email to a parent/caregiver)
- ★ Phone Calls (in some instances a phone call to a parent/caregiver will be the preferable mode of contact)
- ★ P&C Meetings
- ★ Notes





Please ensure you download the Schoolzine app for all communication in 2023.



Diverse Learners Team

Our Diverse Learners Team supports any students with additional needs. These may be academic, social, emotional or behavioural needs.

If your child's class teacher is concerned about your child, they will discuss these concerns with you. If it is deemed necessary for these issues to be referred to the Diverse Learners Team, your consent will be obtained.

The Diverse Learners Team will develop a plan to support your child and you will be updated on how program modifications and adjustments are progressing.

Our Diverse Learners Team is comprised of our Principal, School Counsellor, Learning and Support Teacher and the Assistant Principal and Class Teacher of identified students.



Parent Referral Process

Parents may also refer their child to the Diverse Learners Team. If you wish to do this, please contact our school office for the relevant parent referral forms.

At times, some students may benefit from regular appointments with speech therapists, psychologists and occupational therapists. These appointments should be made out of school hours. In the rare occurrence that this is unable to happen, parents are to apply for leave from school to the principal.

If parents wish to apply to the principal to remove their child from school for regular appointments, such as psychology, speech therapy and occupational therapy, they are to provide:

- A completed form for school counsellor assistance and a Diverse Learners Team parent referral form. These forms can be obtained by contacting the school via email or at the school office.
- Any reports from allied health professionals that have been completed that support the need for withdrawal from class.
- A letter to the principal from the parents outlining the reasons for why their child is to be considered for approved leave.



Differentiation

What is differentiation?

- ★Differentiation is a high impact strategy used by teachers to craft lessons that have the right amount of support and challenge for every student.
- ★Differentiation engages all students in meaningful ways, including those working below, working at or working past expected learning outcomes.
- ★All students are exposed to the same core content and taught the same key concepts and big ideas. Teachers differentiate for their individual students whilst maintaining high expectations of all students. An example is setting individual learning goals.
- ★In every class, including composites, there are a wide range of ages and abilities.

 Teachers are experts in finding key opportunities to meet learners where they are 'at' in order to propel them forward in knowledge, understanding and skills.



Enrichment Opportunities

- Maths Olympiad
- ★ Forest High Enrichment Program
 First and second semester: Five Year 5 students chosen per semester
- Creative Arts opportunities (Arts Alive: Term 1)
- Writing opportunities:
 - -Year 11 Forest High students writing workshop for Year 6 students
 - -Writing workshop later in the year



High School

In-area students are entitled to attend The Forest High co-educational school, Mackellar Girls or Balgowlah Boys.

You are able to check this by visiting- https://education.nsw.gov.au/school-finder/index Forms will be sent home later this term.

Students may apply to attend other NSW states schools like Davidson, Mosman, etc. although places are highly sought after and not guaranteed, even with siblings there. Many of the out of area schools have specialist programs for academic extension, the arts/drama, dance, music, so on and you are entitled to apply for places in these programs. Information about these programs can be found online for each school.

Selective High School

Year 5 Parents will nominate students in Term 4 and students sit the test in Term 1 of the next year. Notified of acceptance will be in July by the Selective High School.

Attendance

Establishing positive attendance practices for your child is essential.

Partial absences must be recorded at the school office when the child enters the school late or leaves early for any reason. Please submit absences via the digital absence form on the school app.





NAPLAN

This year the NAPLAN test window has moved to March. NAPLAN is made up of tests in the four areas of Reading, Writing, Conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy. Information will be in the weekly school newsletters.

Wednesday 15th March - Writing and Reading

Friday 17th March - Conventions of Language

Monday 20th March - Numeracy



Stage 3 Curriculum

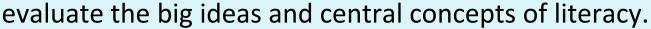
The NSW syllabus is organised in stages. Our Year 5 and 6 students are working towards meeting the outcomes of the Stage 3 syllabus.

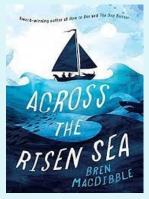
Our teachers differentiate their programs, lessons and teaching strategies to meet the needs of each and every student.

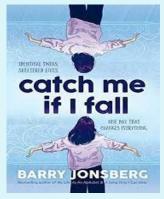


English

We are passionate about facilitating opportunities for our Stage 3 students to be critical responders to a diverse range of texts. Our Term 1 program allows them to read, understand and respond to quality texts that include novels, picture books, short films, art works and advertisements. By focusing our English programs on deep immersion in texts, we are asking our students to compare, contrast, analyse and





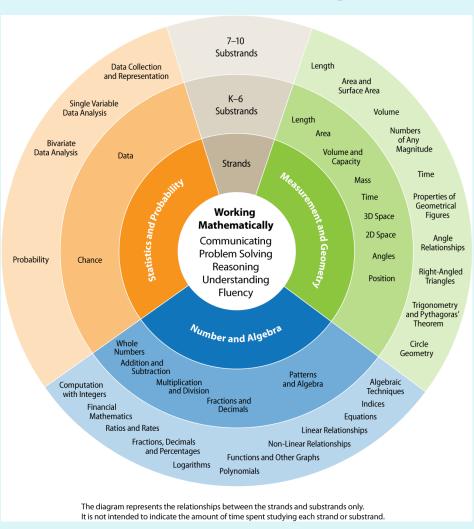






Maths

We aim to design mathematics lessons that allow our students to develop and refine their skills and apply them to conceptual problems that involve critical thinking and multi-operational problem solving.

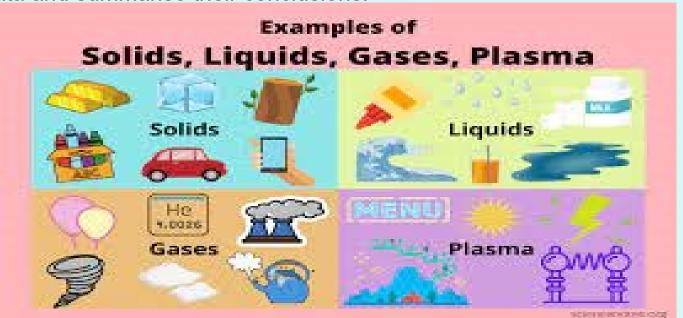




Science

Unit: Material World

This term Stage 3 students will be planning and conducting scientific investigations into the three main forms of matter which are solid, liquids and gases. They will collect data and summarise their conclusions.





Technology

iPads

All of our Stage 3 students have been assigned an iPad to support their learning.

We value safe, respectful and responsible digital citizenship and expect our students to uphold the agreement they have signed.

We remind parents to please be mindful of what your child is doing online and on social media at home.

At school, mobile phones need to be in bags and switched off and may not be used during school hours. Apple Watches cannot be used to send and receive messages or receive phone calls.

Robotics

We will be incorporating robotics into our program in 2023 and look forward to the innovative opportunities this will provide our students.



History

Stage 3 students will be learning and researching the influences of Britain and the USA on the Australian democracy. They will sequence key figures and events and explain their significance in the development of the Australian country. They examine and outline local, state and federal government structures and responsibilities. This will assist in their understanding of the parliamentary system when they attend the Canberra camp.









Sport and PSSA

Summer PSSA:

AFL Cricket

Eagle Tag

PSSA starts: Week 5 Friday 24th February



School Sport

For students remaining at school, we have specialist orienteering and ultimate Frisbee coaches coming to provide students with programs in each sport. Tennis/futsal will also be offered for 4 weeks at an additional cost to parents.

Students will have a P.E session once a week with Mrs Kelly. Students are to wear their sports uniform for P.E lessons and sport on Friday. If your child is injured and unable to participate, please send in a note.

★ Thursday (all Stage 3 classes)



Library

Library lessons occur every week with our Teacher Librarian, Mrs Debbie Horsley. This term during library lessons Stage 3 students will be exploring a range of quality literature including various formats and genres. Classroom novel studies will be extended during library time with a focus on comprehension strategies to help facilitate a deeper understanding of texts.

Students will have the opportunity and be encouraged to borrow each week from our extensive library, including our digital platforms. This year Stage 3 students will be participating in a reading challenge. As a group year 5 and 6 students are challenged to read 1000 books by the end of the year. These books will be recorded on a google form which will be sent out on google classroom.

We encourage parents to take an interest in what their child is reading and support them (if required). Regular reading and changing of books will help maintain interest. A book that is simply 'at home, unopened' is simply preventing another student from accessing the book. Not

all books are engaging for every student. Encourage your child to change their book if it is not working for them.

- **★** Tuesday (5M, 5R, 6/5H)
- ★ Thursday (6S)



Creative Arts

In Term 1, students from Year 5 and 6 will be learning about performing, composing and appreciating dance. Lessons will include a warmup/stretch, explicit teaching, learning activities, reflection time and a cool down/meditation. The learning will also have a focus on Aboriginal Dance, dance through time and dance around the world. We will be working in the dance/music room and hall. Students will have the opportunity to perform and to build their confidence. We look forward to an exciting term of Dance!

★ Tuesday (all Stage 3 classes)

All students in Stage Three are also invited to participate in any extracurricular opportunities including;

- Concert Band Monday morning and Thursday lunch
- Senior Band Tuesday and Thursday morning
- Junior Band Monday lunch and Wednesday morning
- Beginner Strings Thursday morning
- Choir for Years 3-6 Tuesday lunch (Hall with Mrs Harris)
 Senior Dance Ensemble Y5 and 6 - Wednesday lunch (Hall with Miss Rooleht and Miss Ross)





Dance Sports

- DanceSports is an activity that combines sport and dance, and that allows the participants to improve physical fitness and mental wellbeing, to form social relationships and to obtain results in competition at all levels.
- Year 5 (15 week course) Term 2 and 3
- Year 6 (10 week course) Term 4







PDH and Interrelate

Our Personal Development and Health program is an opportunity for us to explore real-world issues that are relevant to our students as they grow and develop. This year we will address key inquiry questions including:

How does my uniqueness change over time?

How do empathy, inclusion and respect have an impact on myself and others? How responsible am I for my own and others/ health, safety and wellbeing? How does a healthy, safe and active lifestyle enhance connection with others?

Students will also participate in the Interrelate Program in Term 2. This is a fantastic sexuality and relationship program that prides itself on non-discriminatory and open teaching of sensitive issues. We will provide further details of this program closer to the time.



Relationships and Social Development

We are aware that friendships and relationships are of paramount importance to your children at this age.

We also understand that this is a time in their lives when they can encounter difficulties navigating complex social issues and may require support in how to manage the situations they find themselves in.

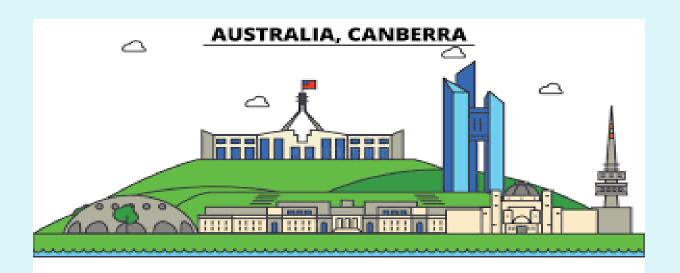
We are here to support our students in their social and emotional development and encourage them to speak to us as soon as they feel they have the need to. It is always better to be proactive in managing and responding to social challenges. The URstrong framework that we use at BNPS will provide our students with the tools they need to thrive. Information on the URstrong program is available in the week 3 newsletter.



Stage 3 Camp

As part of our history unit on Power and Government, our Stage Three students will be visiting Canberra this term (Week 10: Monday 27th March – Wednesday 29th March). Highlights include Parliament House and the Australian War Memorial.

Notes were issued yesterday for both students and parents to sign.





Medications at Camp

If your child regularly takes medication any prescription medication can be taken to a chemist and for a fee (approx \$3.50) the medication can be put in a secure and clearly labelled blister pack for the student.

This allows for safer administration of any medication while at camp. Teachers are only in charge of administering prescription medication.





Homework

Homework commenced on Monday (Week 4) and will operate on a fortnightly grid of activities.

As homework covers a 2-week cycle, please encourage your child to participate in tasks over this period. Remember that you can always encourage your child to do more reading/research/creative tasks if you wish to pursue areas of interest.

Our homework will be open-ended and meet the needs of all our Stage 3 learners.

Leadership and Independence

Stage 3 very much reinforces the idea that students must become responsible and organised learners. We encourage all students to take responsibility for their own learning and to make good choices. This is especially important for those Year 5 students who wish to become school leaders and for Year 6 as they go off to high school next year.

Peer Mediation for Year 5:

Year 5 students will begin Peer mediation on Wednesday 1st March. The workshop will enable students to become Peer Mediators in the K-2 playground for Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 students. The training will provide our students with a structured process to resolve minor playground disputes.

We are all looking forward to an exciting 2023.

Are there any questions?

