

STAGE 1

YEARS 1 AND 2

Acknowledgement of Country

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.



Welcome

An overview of this evening:

- *Introduction of the Stage 1 teachers
- *Organisation and procedures
- *Learning overview
- *Communication

Our Stage 1 Team

1E Eliza Ross

1H/R Jess Hardy and Megan Rose

K/1M Jenny Mercer

2M Amy Mussett

2P Alice Pond

2R Jenni Reinhardt (Mon-Thurs) and Mae Short (Fri)

Stage 1 Assistant Principal: Jenni Reinhardt

Specialist Teachers:

Teacher Librarian: Debbie Horsley

Physical Education: Kerry Kelly

Creative Arts: Eliza McAllister

Diverse Learner's Team (DLT)

Our Diverse Learner's 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 Learner's Team, your consent will be obtained.

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

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



MiniLit Program

MiniLit is an evidence-based, explicit and effective early literacy intervention program for teaching reading skills to children who need support in Year 1 or 2.

An information session on MiniLit will be held with Mrs Amanda Mason via zoom on

Thursday 3rd March at 5pm.

Details will be available in our school newsletter.

All welcome to join.

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.

Appointments should occur outside of school hours wherever possible.

If your child is participating in a support service with an external provider, this should not interrupt the school day. If you wish for your child to seek external support during school hours on an ongoing basis, a submission for approval must be made to the Diverse Learner's Team.

Home learning whilst isolating after contact with a Covid case.

- ★ Digital Learning Packs are organised into grades.
- ★ Each learning pack contains 5 days of learning activities.
- ★ You should start with the first pack (Kangaroo) and commence on day one regardless of the timing of your period of isolation.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/learning-from-home/learning-at-home/2022-digital-learning-packs/primary>

- ★ Students isolating and unable to attend face to face learning will be counted as attending school if there is reasonable evidence of participation in learning from home.
- ★ In Kindergarten - Year 2, students are asked to upload evidence of learning via Seesaw Class or bring hard copies when they return to school.

Students who are unwell are not expected to complete learning from home.

Homework

- ★ Homework for Stage 1 students will begin in Week 5.
- ★ Students will bring home their homework book on Monday and it is to be completed and returned by Friday.
- ★ Students will have a weekly homework grid stuck in their homework book. It will include spelling, revision mathematics tasks (including Mathletics) and other activities. Most tasks will be recorded in this book.
- ★ If your child is unable to complete their homework, please write a quick note in their homework book.

The Mathletics logo is located in the bottom right corner of the slide. It consists of the word "Mathletics" in a white, sans-serif font, centered within a blue, rounded rectangular shape. This shape is part of a stack of three similar, slightly offset rectangles, creating a 3D effect. The top rectangle is a vibrant blue, while the ones behind it are slightly darker and lighter shades of blue.

Mathletics

Year 1 Homework Term 1 Week 5 2021

My homework is due on Friday, 26th February.

This week...

News topic - Share a little about yourself. What makes you special and unique?

Reading

Write what you have read onto your reading log.

Library books can be used as well as home readers.



Have you logged onto Wushka yet?
There are so many readers to choose from.

Maths



Log onto Mangahigh and see if you have any activities assigned by your teacher.
Try out the **Games Centre**.

Activity

In your homework book, write a list of the months of the year. Don't forget that they need a capital letter.

Challenger:

Can you write the list of all 12 months but start with the month of your birthday?

Household Helper

Find a task you can do to help at home (not paid chores). You might be able to pack your school bag each day, tidy your room, set the table for dinner. Make sure you do this task EVERY day.

I helped at home by _____

Parent signature: _____

Spelling

Our spelling focus is the sound 'e', as in egg.



e, ea, ai can all make the same sound.

In your homework book:

- write down 3 words that end with 'ent'.
- write down 3 words that end with 'est'.

Challenger:

Can you put these words in a sentence?

said, air, head, bread, ahead

Active Homework



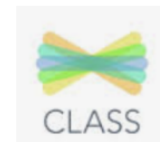
Skill: Bouncing

Practice daily

- Place a hoop on the ground or draw a circle with chalk.
- Get a grown up to tell you how many bounces to do in the hoop/circle.
- Repeat 5 times with one hand.
- Now try using the opposite hand.

Seesaw Activity

Log into Seesaw Class and follow the instructions to complete your first activity.



Reminders:

Library bag - **Monday**

Sport uniform - **Friday**

Homework

- ★ Daily reading is the most important of all homework tasks. If you are finding it challenging to get through homework, we ask that you prioritise your child's reading.
- ★ Students will bring leveled readers home in their reader folder at the start of the week and we ask that these are return at the end of the week, as they need to be quarantine and ready for the next student the following week.
- ★ Your child will also have access to readers on Wushka. The Wushka login will come home with your child's homework book next week. Books from the school and your home library are a wonderful option as well.



Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)

Teachers and students use the language of PBL throughout the day. Familiarity with it often helps students to make more reasoned choices.

Each week there is a different whole-school focus.

We encourage parents to model similar language at home.

- ★ *Be Safe*
- ★ *Be Respectful*
- ★ *Be Responsible*



Reward System

Our reward system involves an accumulation of certificates over your child's school years as follows:

- ★ 10 Mini Merits = 1 Merit Certificate
- ★ 5 Merit Certificates = 1 Principal's Certificate
- ★ 2 Principal's Certificates = 1 School Banner
- ★ 2 School Banners = School Medal

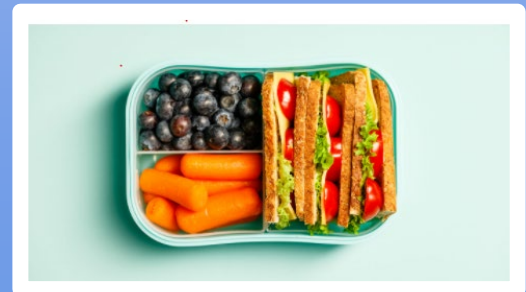


Class merit certificates will be awarded at the Year K-2 assemblies (Monday alternating weeks).

Please encourage your child to keep their certificates in a safe place.

Waste Free Wednesday

- ★ Balgowlah North Public School values environmental education and promotes sustainability across our school every day.
- ★ Each Wednesday, students are asked to reduce the amount of waste they produce by packing a waste free lunchbox.
- ★ Waste free numbers are collected by the SRC with classes competing to have the least amount of waste. Photos of the SRC reps from the winning class will appear in the newsletter. Our mascot, “Waste Free Wendy”, spends the week with the winning class.



SEAT - Scripture, Ethics and Additional Activities

- ★ SEAT will commence in Week 6.
- ★ SEAT is from 2.10-2.40 on Thursday afternoons.
- ★ Please ensure you send in your General Permission form ASAP with your preference.
- ★ If the first choice isn't available, your child will attend 'Additional Activities'.
- ★ No academic instruction or formal school activities can occur during time set aside for Scripture and Ethics.

Building Relationships Across the Grade

- ★ Students eat recess and lunch with their grade and play together at recess and lunchtime.
- ★ Weekly sport on Wednesday afternoons, in social groups.
- ★ Incursions and excursions
- ★ Special Events - Assemblies, Book Week Parade, Sports Days, etc.



Differentiation across the curriculum

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.

Stage 1 Curriculum

The NSW syllabus is organised in stages. Our Year 1 and 2 students are working towards meeting the outcomes of the Stage 1 syllabus.

Our teachers are experts at differentiating their programs, lessons and teaching strategies to meet the needs of each and every student.

English

In Stage 1, students learn to communicate through;

- ★ speaking and listening,
- ★ reading,
- ★ writing,
- ★ viewing and representing

In Term 1, students will explore quality texts with a focus on the theme of 'Belonging'. Students respond to and compose texts based on the books they read together in class.



English

Students read and view imaginative, informative and persuasive texts. They read with developing fluency and intonation and use an increasing variety of skills and strategies, including knowledge of text structure, context, grammar, punctuation, word usage and phonics.

Student understanding is deepened through participation in regular reading groups, which focus on developing reading fluency and skills in literal and inferential comprehension.

Students also create imaginative, informative and persuasive texts on familiar topics by planning, proofreading and editing their own writing.





Library

Library lessons occur every week for 40 minutes with our Teacher Librarian, Mrs Debbie Horsley. This program supports our Quality Text program and English concepts taught in the classroom.

Students in Stage 1 will be have time to borrow books at the end of their library lesson. Your child will need their library bag and books to return on their library day.

The library is open at lunch time on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday for reading, drawing and quiet games.

Students also have the opportunity to participate in the Premier's Reading Challenge. Details to come.



Maths

We aim to design mathematics lessons that allow our students to use hands-on materials and learning games to develop and refine their skills. Students will use mental strategies to make calculations and problem solve.

Students are encouraged to explain their thinking and develop different ways to demonstrate their understanding.

Learning in numeracy includes:

- ★ Forward and backward counting
- ★ Number recognition
- ★ Combining and partitioning
- ★ Sharing and forming equal groups
- ★ Repeating patterns
- ★ Shape and object recognition
- ★ Measuring length, area, volume
- ★ Positional language
- ★ Time



Maths

This year all students have access to the online Mathletics program. Passwords will be sent home and teachers will assign program related activities to be completed at school or home as required.



Science

This term students will be investigating the material world. They will be conducting hands-on science investigations around the properties of different materials and be involved in STEM investigations into how the properties of different materials can be applied to real world applications.

An important part of this process is using the Scientific Method to create questions, conduct experiments and draw conclusions.



History and Geography

Students will focus on history this semester and geography in semester 2.

This semester students will learn to:

- ★ Communicate stories of their own family heritage and the heritage of others.
- ★ Identify similarities and differences between families and recognise how important family events are commemorated.
- ★ Sequence familiar events in order and pose questions about their own and their family's past.
- ★ They identify and compare the features of objects from the past and the present.



Creative Arts

- ★ Teacher: Eliza McAllister
- ★ Term 1 - Dance
- ★ Term 2 - Music
- ★ Weekly 40 minute lesson
- ★ Focus on performing, composing and appreciating dance.
- ★ Aboriginal Dance in Term 1
- ★ Lessons will include a warmup/stretch, explicit teaching, learning activities, reflection time and a cool down/meditation.

Visual art lessons will be taught by the class teacher.



Personal Development and Health

URSTRONG

- ★ URSTRONG is a K-6 friendship skills program.
- ★ The program creates cultures of kindness in schools.
- ★ Child-friendly approach to help children navigate the ups and downs of friendships.
- ★ Empowers children to make healthy decisions about friendships.



Parents have access to a free membership.
(See the Week 3 newsletter for details)



Physical Education

Students will have a 40 minute P.E session once a week with our specialist sport teacher, Mrs Kelly.

Stage 1 students also have grade sport time on Wednesdays. During grade sport time, students are allocated into mixed, social groups which provides further opportunity for them to develop relationships with peers across the grade.

Students are to wear their sports uniform for P.E lessons and Grade sport on Wednesday. If your child is injured and unable to participate please send a note.

The Stage 1 PE Program focuses on fundamental movement skills and fitness.



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.

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

Communication

Modes of communication include:

- ★ School App/Website/Newsletter (Newsletter is sent out via the app every Wednesday.)
- ★ Parent-Teacher Interviews - End of Term 1
- ★ Student Reports - Emailed out at the end of Term 2 and Term 4.
- ★ Emails
- ★ Phone Calls (in some instances a phone call to a parent/caregiver will be the preferable mode of contact)
- ★ P&C Meetings - First meeting is happening on Zoom 7:30pm tonight.
- ★ Notes
- ★ The school **Communication Policy** is available on the **School Website**.

Communication

If your child is sick:

- ★ If your child is unwell, please keep them at home. In addition, children exhibiting any covid symptoms must to be tested before returning to school.
- ★ If your child has tested positive for Covid or they are a close contact, please contact the school office via the school email address or phone the school.
- ★ **Please lodge all absences through the school app.**
- ★ **School email address:** balgowlahn-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
- ★ **School contact number:** 9949 4499

Seesaw Class



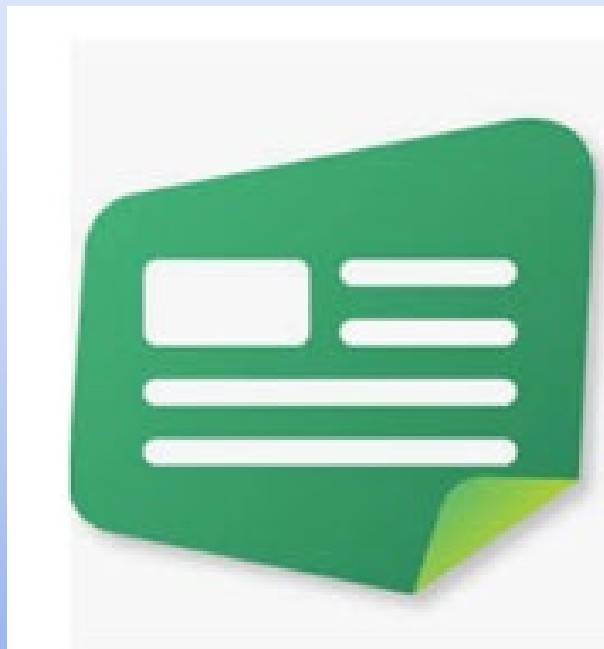
- ★ **Seesaw Class** is a digital platform that empowers students to demonstrate and share their learning.
- ★ K-2 will be using **Seesaw Class** for families to post the work their child has completed at home whilst isolating in line with Covid protocols.
- ★ During the year, teachers will also post photos of students at school events.
- ★ **PERMISSION TO PUBLISH** - If you sign 'do not publish' on the General Permission Form, your child's photo will not be in the newsletter or in any class photos. If you wish to change that preference, please send an email to the school email address.

Communication

Class Parent Role:

- ★ Make a list of names and contact details of class families.
- ★ Support your class teacher as required.
- ★ E-mail important information to class families from the school or P&C Committees.
- ★ Organises social activities for class families.
- ★ Attend P&C Meetings or read the minutes if unable to attend.
- ★ **1E and 1H/R is still looking for a class parent. If you're interested, please contact the school.**

SchoolZine



Please ensure you download the Schoolzine app
for all communication in 2022.

Thank you

