



# NEWSLETTER

STUDENT NEWS FROM BALRANALD CENTRAL SCHOOL

9 February 2022 ISSUE 1

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**2022 School Captains**  
Molly Helgeland and  
Stuart Matarazzo

### 2022 Student Leaders

Reagan McCartney  
Jye Harper  
Adrian Butler  
Cassidy Lowe



# PRINCIPAL'S PONDERINGS

Welcome back to all returning students, staff and parents and a very special welcome to our 36 new students and their parents. It was encouraging to see our students return who are the lifeblood of our school and make the place “buzz”. Welcome also to our new staff, who include Bonnie Sengoz (Secondary English & HSIE), Antonio Comi (Primary & Secondary Generalist), Kane Barrie (Secondary Science & Mathematics) and Gee Barrie (Student Learning Support Officer). Our new staff seem to be settling in well and are providing enthusiasm and energy around the school. I look forward to seeing how they enhance our programs at BCS and how they get involved with the local community.

Congratulations to our Secondary School Captains Molly Helgelend and Stuart Matarazzo and our Primary Student Leaders Reagan McCartney, Jye Harper, Adrian Butler and Cassidy Lowe. I am very confident that these young people will develop their leadership skills, motivate others to achieve their goals and provide diligent school service.

Our Annual Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday 18th February at the local pool and will be a day carnival as opposed to the twilight carnivals of the past. This change was necessitated due to current DoE regulations and is not the preferred model for the school. The twilight model allowed more parents to attend and was a cooler affair for the students but unfortunately this option cannot continue. With the current COVID regulations vaccinated parents will be allowed to attend the carnival and must check in with the Service NSW App. Once parents enter, they will need to move to the parent only area where they must maintain social distancing. The carnival will be run under the COVID plan of the council and the DoE and COVID restrictions will need to be adhered to. One such COVID measure is that students will not be sitting in their sporting houses due to cohort restrictions and so they will be sitting with their class cohorts e.g. Year 3/4, Year 9/10.

A canteen will be operating on the day and will also be restricted in terms of servery areas and social distancing.

Our intention is to run both the Swimming Carnival next week and the Beach Carnival later in Term 1 but unfortunately there will be restrictions on these activities. Many schools throughout NSW are not having swimming carnivals or are having competitors only formats. My apologies in advance to students and parents but I would rather give our kids a school experience albeit under adverse conditions.

A reminder that our P & C AGM meeting will be held on Tuesday 22nd Feb at 6pm in the staff common room. I encourage any new parents who have an interest in enhancing the educational experience of our students to come along. Hopefully some of our experienced members will turn up to continue their vital work and fundraising for 2022. Once again due to the DoE regulations only those who are vaccinated can attend.

Word of the week “albeit”- which means even though.

My saying this week comes from CS Lewis who said, “Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make man a more clever devil.” Hopefully 2022 will be a year where we will have continuity and be able to engage our students with learning experiences and strong values in order to allow them to achieve their individual personal bests!

*Gus Comi*

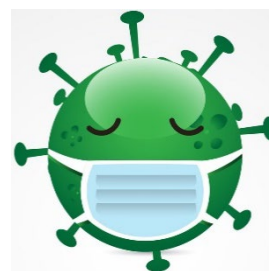
# Deputy Principal's Message

## Masks

A combination of layered safety measures – vaccination, masks, cohorting, physical distancing, ventilation, rapid antigen testing (RAT), hygiene and cleaning – allows us to prioritise student and staff wellbeing while keeping schools operational.

The department has supplied students and staff with rapid antigen tests (RATs) to support our first few weeks of term. Thank you to all parents and carers who collected RATs from the front office as well as at Euston Public School. Use of RATs are recommended for all students and staff, twice a week in the morning before attending school.

The department has taken the position on health and safety grounds that surgical face masks are required indoors by all staff and students in Year 7 and above. The department's position aligns with community and government expectations about the wearing of masks indoors and supports the health and safety of students and staff attending our schools at this time.



NSW Health has advised that this is an important part of reducing the risk of transmission and protecting people's health. Maintaining good hygiene, using personal protective equipment and physical distancing are also important for reducing the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

Wearing a mask may be unsuitable for some students or they may not be able to wear them for extended periods of time. The current Public Health Order outlines reasons why someone may not be able to wear a mask or face covering. These reasons may include skin conditions, intellectual disability, autism or trauma. **Exemptions may apply. Please contact the school if you would like to discuss these further, as well as the process to obtain an exemption.**

- As we are obliged to adhere to Public Health Orders and Department of Education guidelines, all students in Year 7 and above, who do not otherwise have a reasonable excuse, are required to comply with wearing a mask when indoors
- BCS secondary students are encouraged to bring their own surgical mask from home or will be provided a mask from the school supply if required
- Non-compliance with requests, for staff and students in Year 7-12 to wear a mask indoors, will follow the directives set by the Department of Education

This is a situation like no other that we have ever had to face, and we genuinely appreciate your support and recognition of the job we are trying to do in continuing to educate, support and care for your children, our students. Please keep safe this year and let's meet the challenges of 2022 together.

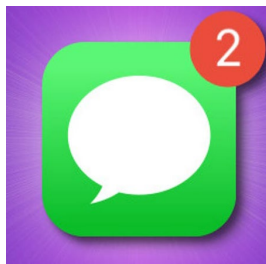
## Quick Texts

Over the past two years we've all had to re-think how and when we find out information from school – and it's never been more important to keep all parties in the loop. New developments, reminders and even last-minute changes are part of everyday life in all schools.

Personal contact, including meetings at school, home visits, assemblies, parent/teacher interviews and home visits along with telephone calls, subject selection evenings and carnivals are possibly the most effective form of communication and may be among the most familiar to us all.

In normal times!

However, effective school-home communication has grown more complex as our world has changed. It's not possible to rely on a single method of communication that will reach all homes with a given message. It is essential that a variety of strategies, adapted to the needs of families and their schedules, be incorporated into an overall plan. Each parent's preference on how they receive information from schools is different. Some prefer email and some prefer newsletters; some prefer texts, and some prefer social media.



To cater for as many people as possible, we communicate with parents through various channels, such as our fortnightly newsletter, BCS Facebook page, and information notes/flyers. We have already successfully trialled SMS texts via our Sentral administration platform as a means of communicating absences, and just last week we have experimented with a quick SMS to reach all families regarding the RAT collection process.

We will continue to make use of 'Quick texts' to help both students and their families stay more informed about what's going on in school. Many people today prefer text messages to phone calls, because they are easy to read and don't feel intrusive.

- A 150-character 'Quick Text' limit will mean you will get regular reminders that are short and to the point. No "fluff". They may just help to answer the question that you might have in the morning rush before school.
- Although it's not sent from our school phone number, they will always start with our school identification "BCS: ....".

Perhaps you can save the number as a regular school contact. Let us know if they work for you over our Term 1 trial. We love your feedback.

## Attendance

In 2022 we will continue to acknowledge great attendance at school – as it ensures opportunities for GREAT learning!

Class teachers and Year Advisors will be in contact with you if a student has unexplained absences, or if they are away for more than a few days running.

If there are any attendance concerns, I will be able to work with families and students to support BCS achieving 95%+ attendance from all of our students.



Mrs Matarazzo



Congratulations Sheridan Dalton, Rhiannon Lanteri & Bonnie Jolliffe on their impressive achievement of 100% attendance in 2021. AMAZING!

Well done to these students who all achieved **98%+** attendance for 2021



- |                  |                  |                    |
|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Karson Barnes    | Shania Lanteri   | Helaina Alderuccio |
| Dempsy Cimino    | Oscar Old        | Rory Hillerman     |
| Beau Muscat      | Adrian Butler    | Lilian Matarazzo   |
| Isla Old         | Kyron Michaels   | Stuart Matarazzo   |
| Mitchell Thomson | Kadison Dalton   | Bonnie Jolliffe    |
| Will Cimino      | Sheridan Dalton  | Macy Lloyd         |
| Ryan Johnstone   | Rhiannon Lanteri |                    |

# PRIMARY PERSPECTIVE

## Class Teachers

Kindergarten	Mrs Helgeland
1/2	Mrs Lockhart
3/4	Mr Patterson
5/6	Mrs Harper

## Library Days

Kindergarten	Thursdays period 5
1/2	Wednesdays period 5
3/4	Tuesdays period 4
5/6	Any time during class when needed

Students need to supply their own library bag.

## Fruit Break

All classes will be having a fruit break (students are to supply their own fresh fruit/vegetable.)



## Water

All students need to bring a water bottle to school each day with their name clearly labelled.

## Hat

As part of the Sun Safe Policy, all Primary students are required to wear a bucket hat. Hats are to be clearly labelled and can be purchased from the School Canteen for \$15.

## Reader Folders

Reader folders can be purchased from the local Sport shop for \$10.



# Balranald Central School Bell Times 2022

## PLEASE NOTE:

- Secondary students begin their day at 8:50am
- Primary students begin their day at 9:00am
- All breaks are the same for Primary and Secondary

Bell Times	
Roll Call (Sec)	8:50am – 9:00am
Pd 1 (Prim Lines)	9:00am-10:00am
Pd 2	10:00am – 11:00am
RECESS	<b>11:00am-11:20am</b>
Pd 3	11:20am – 12:20pm
Pd 4	12:20pm – 1:20pm
Lunch 1	<b>1:20pm – 1:40pm</b>
Lunch 2	<b>1:40pm-2:00pm</b>
Pd 5	2:00pm- 3:00pm
School Ends	3:00pm

## SPORT

Primary – Period 4 on Fridays

Secondary – Wednesdays Week B  
Period 5 and Fridays Period 5

Students need to wear their sport shirts on these days.

### COPY OF NEWSLETTER - 2022

I would like my child: \_\_\_\_\_ of Year: \_\_\_\_\_ to be given a hard copy of the Newsletter each week.

I would like a copy of the Newsletter emailed to this address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: / /

### YEAR ADVISOR'S FOR 2022

If families have any concerns regarding their child's progress at school, please do not hesitate to contact the school. For secondary students, a **first point of call for a general inquiry can be made to your child's Year Advisor**. They are:

Year 7	Ms Gema Hull
Year 8	Mr Graham Longford
Year 9	Mr Richard White
Year 10	Miss Alannah Kemp
Year 11	Ms Nella Sharp
Year 12	Mr Wyatt Cutting



### CHANGE OF ENROLMENT DETAILS

If you have recently changed address, telephone number, place of employment, family situation or would like to change your emergency contact details, you will need to complete a form at the school's front office. **It is particularly important that we have correct details in the case of accident or illness.**

### SENDING MONEY TO SCHOOL

Often students need to bring money to school to pay for activities, excursions and performances. Could all parents ensure that the **correct money** is sent in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the child's name, grade, activity and amount enclosed. Primary students should hand their money to their classroom teacher, whilst secondary students should hand their money in at roll call or to the front office.

### WHEN YOU VISIT OUR SCHOOL, PLEASE SIGN IN

Whenever you visit the school, before entering the premises you need to check in by scanning the QR code. We do not see or collect this information and it will only be used for contact tracing. You also need to sign the visitor's book at the front office. It is essential in case of emergency, for security and safety of the students that we know who is in the school buildings and grounds at all times.

### SCIENTIFIC CALCULATORS

The front office has scientific calculators for sale for \$30 each. Students from Year 7 to Year 12 require a scientific calculator for use in mathematics lessons.

### LOCKERS

Lockers are available for hire by all secondary students. Payment of \$20 can be made by students wishing to hire a locker for their duration of enrolment at Balranald Central School. If students lose their padlock, they can get a replacement at a cost of \$20. Please contact the school's front office for further details.

### LOST CLOTHING

**Please label all clothing**, as our lost property box is always full of unnamed articles. Unclaimed items are put in the welfare box in the Uniform Shop at the end of each term.

### LEAVING SCHOOL GROUNDS

**No students are permitted to leave school grounds unless they have been signed out through the front office** and a reasonable explanation is given, eg. Doctor's appointment. **Primary students may only leave school grounds during the school day if they are collected by a parent or caregiver.** Secondary students can leave school grounds if they have a signed permission note from their parent indicating the time they are leaving/returning, where they are going and why they are going. Secondary students with notes are asked to bring them to the school's front office before roll call. All students are required to sign back in through the front office upon returning to the school.

### NEWSLETTERS

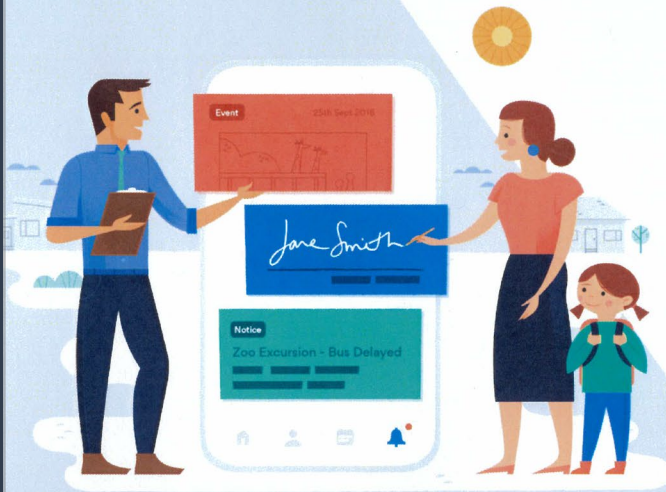
In these times of greater access to and use of technology, parents and community members are increasingly accessing the school's newsletter via computers and portable devices. Hard copies of newsletters will only be provided to those families who specifically request them by completing the note on page 5 of this newsletter or contacting the school office. If you would like the newsletter emailed to you, please return the note on page 5 with your email address on it. **(If you were getting them emailed to you last year and still wish to, you need not do anything!)** We are extremely conscious of the importance of parents and community members keeping up to date with school events and in support of this, newsletters will be emailed directly to all those families who provide email particulars and newsletters will continue to be uploaded onto the school website and skoolbag each week. Newsletters are also available at the Newsagency.

### SKOOLBAG

To install the App on your iPhone, click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device. Type your school's name in the search, using suburb name will help. If iPhone, you will see your school appear, click "Free" then "install". When installed click "Open". Select "Ok" to receive push notifications, when asked.



# Stay informed with the SkoolBag App



The SkoolBag app is the easiest way to stay up-to-date with school events, last minutes notices, newsletters and **all** school communications.



## Download the app

Search for the free SkoolBag app in the Apple App or Google Play Store



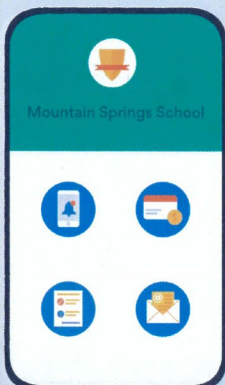
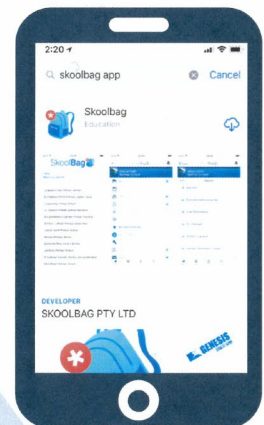
## Create an account

Sign up in seconds with your email address



## Add your school

Search for your school and add your subscription groups



## Balranald Central School Uniform Policy

At Balranald Central School, students are expected to wear the correct uniform. All clothing is available from the Balranald Central School Parents and Citizens' Association. The uniform shop is located on the school grounds and the local Sport shop also stocks a limited range of uniform. Parents are requested to clearly mark all items of clothing and belongings with their child's name.

### SCHOOL UNIFORM

#### Summer Uniform

navy shorts, skirt or skorts  
white BCS polo neck shirt  
navy BCS zip up jumper  
black shoes  
white socks

#### Winter Uniform

navy pants or skirt  
navy BCS zip up jumper  
white BCS polo neck shirt  
black shoes  
white socks, navy tights

#### Sports Uniform

navy track pants  
navy sport shorts or skorts  
pale blue BCS sport shirt  
navy BCS zip up jumper  
sports shoes

**HATS:** Balranald Central School has a compulsory Sun Safe Policy for all students. All students are required to wear a protective school hat. Students who do not wear a hat must remain out of the sun for play, sport and subjects (KLA and Elective) periods.

Primary students are to wear the BCS navy bucket hat and secondary students are to wear either the BCS navy cap or bucket hat. Students should protect themselves with 30+ sunscreen whenever they are outdoors, including during sport and excursions. Sunscreen is available in all Primary classrooms and the front office for use by students.

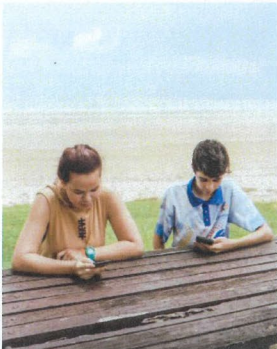
BCS has beanies available in winter. The beanies provide excellent warmth for all our students.

**JEWELLERY:** Jewellery, which may result in a WH&S risk, is prohibited. All jewellery is to be removed for sport and PE. ONLY sleepers and studs are permitted in low WH&S risk situations.

**PRACTICAL SUBJECTS:** It is advised that students require the appropriate protective clothing for subjects in the Technical and Applied Sciences, and Visual Arts. This includes shoes with a stout sole and firm leather uppers.

# upcoming sessions

Parents, Carers, and Community Members in Murrumbidgee are invited to attend a free mental health education session in Term 1.



## The sessions aim to:

- Strengthen your understanding of mental health definitions.
- Enhance your conversational approach to mental health and well-being.
- Build skills and strategies to support young people, including transition to work and study.
- Build awareness of local, state and national supports available to young people.
- Increase your knowledge and understanding of the mental health challenges facing young people today.
- Introduce you to some of the skills and strategies to encourage and support help-seeking.



## Helping my young person during COVID

Date: 14/2/2022

Time: 6:30 PM – 7:45 PM AEDT

Location: Online webinar

Registration: <https://bit.ly/3zX4zBK>



## Helping my young person during COVID

Date: 16/3/2022

Time: 6:30 PM – 7:45 PM AEDT

Location: Online webinar

Registration: <https://bit.ly/31XOH5B>



## For more information

Contact us at [programsupport@headspace.org.au](mailto:programsupport@headspace.org.au)

## TERM ONE - 2022

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Week 1</b>	<b>31 JANUARY</b>	<b>1 FEBRUARY</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAY</b> <b>- PUPIL FREE DAY</b>
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>7 FEBRUARY</b> <b>SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAY</b> <b>- PUPIL FREE DAY</b>	<b>8</b> Yr 1 to 12 First Day of School <i>Kinder – Best Start Assessment</i>	<b>9</b> <i>Kinder – Best Start Assessment</i>	<b>10</b> <i>Kinder First Day of School</i>	<b>11</b> K-12 Sports Day
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>14 FEBRUARY</b> <i>Exec meeting</i> Yr 8 – Borambola	<b>15</b> Yr 8 – Borambola	<b>16</b> Yr 8 – Borambola	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> K-12 Swimming Carnival
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>21 FEBRUARY</b> <i>Exec meeting</i>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Zone Swimming Carnival (Hay)	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> K-12 Sports Day
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>28 FEBRUARY</b> <i>Exec meeting</i>	<b>1 MARCH</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Open Basketball (Hay)	<b>4</b> K-12 Sports Day K-6 AFL Skill Development Day @ Greenham Park
<b>Week 6</b>	<b>7 MARCH</b> <i>Exec meeting</i>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> K-12 Sports Day
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>14 MARCH</b> <i>Exec meeting</i>	<b>15</b> Bowls & Tennis (Hay)	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Open Boys/Girls Soccer (Deni)	<b>18</b> K-12 Sports Day
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>21 MARCH</b> <i>Exec meeting</i>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> K-12 Sports Day
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>28 MARCH</b> <i>Exec meeting</i>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1 APRIL</b> K-12 Sports Day
<b>Week 10</b>	<b>4 APRIL</b> <i>Exec meeting</i>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Last Day of Term 1

*Italic: K-Yr 6*    Normal: Yr 7-12    **Bold: K-Yr 12**