



The Balgowlah Boys Campus Newsletter

Week 7 Term 2 2015

Principal's Report

Balgowlah Boys have all now completed their half-year assessments and it is interesting to see how eager the boys are to receive their results and compare them with their peers. It certainly reinforces the research that boys engage in healthy competition. Half year reports will be completed before the end of term and parents are welcome to contact the school if they wish further details about their son's progress.

I would like to congratulate our latest media star Ethan Low of year 8, who was interviewed by the Sydney Morning Herald recently about his participation in the school's Coding Club. The club has been run by Ms Caroline Tromans at lunchtimes becoming very popular with students interested in programming.

"At the Balgowlah Boys Campus of Northern Beaches Secondary College, Ethan Low is one of those students who would have loved to have been taught to code at the same time as being taught to read."

"Coding is like writing a story, without the flow, essence and emotion it has no meaning, they are all just separate actions, but when you code it all together the program knows a beginning middle and an end".

The 14-year-old is busy programming Lego robots to run riot around a classroom - a skill Australia hopes will take him and the country further, "My dream job is to be a robotic engineer," he said."



Congratulations also to Harry and Edward Gay, David Singleton and Robert Giddy for the success of their production of *As You Like It*. I believe any resemblance to real persons (or educators), living or dead, is purely coincidental.



This week Balgowlah is hosting the annual "Bally-Macka" Dance with our sister school Mackellar Girls. The dance is fully supervised by teachers of both schools and normal school rules apply. There is a Year 7 & 8 Dance (5.30 – 7.00 pm) and a 9-12 Dance (7.30 – 9.30 pm). The evening is organised by both prefect bodies.

Paul Sheather

Deputy Principal's Report – Year 7, 9 and 11.

I have been very impressed with the way in which years 7 & 9 have with diligence and gravity attempted this year's NAPLAN test. As I'm sure you are aware, these tests are designed to assess the literacy and numeracy skills of students across Australian schools and provide important information about what each student can do. This information will be used at Balgowlah Boys' to support teaching and learning programs.

Parents will receive a report indicating their son's level of achievement. Each of your son's level of achievement is compared against the national minimum standard.

Year 11 have also just completed their half-yearly exams and will receive feedback as to how they also achieved across a range of subjects. The half-yearly exams in Year 11 are very important indicators of subject suitability and appropriate levels of subject chosen. Every student and parent should evaluate these results together to help ensure that their senior course of study is appropriate leading up to the HSC.

Ian James

Deputy Principal's Report – Year 8, 10 and 12.

Teaching Our Values (PBEL)

This week we are focusing on our 3 core school values of Respect, Responsibility and Excellence.

During ELAN, our staff will work with our students to discuss what each of our values look like, sound like and feel like in different settings around the school.

The learning intention of these lessons is for students to recognise our 3 core values; know what they mean, understand why they are important and how they might be applied in a number of settings; and develop ways to use this understanding in real-life situations.

If you are interested in seeing how we are teaching our 3 core values, you can access the lessons through the link on our Facebook page.

Facebook

Our school Facebook page is an excellent place to get updates, information and news about what is going on and coming up at BBC.

The Facebook page is open to comment and likes of posts however, these are all moderated. Liking our page does not make you "friends" with the page or its administrators. Liking our page simply means you will receive update notifications of new information as it is posted.

Like our page at www.facebook.com/balgowlahboys



BBC France and Belgium Trip 2016

Balgowlah Boys Campus will be travelling to France and Belgium Trip during the September 2016 school holidays.

The trip is for Year 7 - 12 students and has been planned to support our programs in History, Geography, Visual Arts, Music, TAS, Mathematics and English.

A parent of one of our students who travelled with us in 2013 posted the following on Facebook.

"A wonderful itinerary. Our son went in 2013, and it was a brilliant experience. Visiting the gravesite of our relative from World War 1 was a very moving experience. It truly makes the whole Modern History curriculum real. The teachers were so supportive and increased the bonding as well as the educational experience beyond our expectations. I highly recommend the trip."

A copy of the 2016 Itinerary follows.

PROPOSED ITINERARY

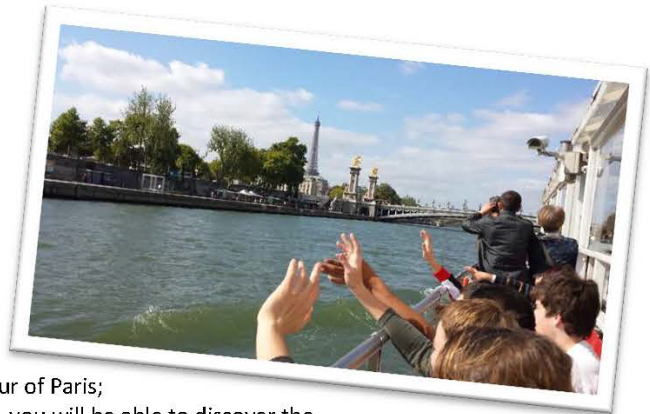
Day 1: Saturday 24th September, 2016

Sydney to Paris

Overnight: In flight

Day 2: Sunday 25th September (D)

Arrive in Paris early morning. After clearing customs you will be met by your English speaking tour guide. Your private Coach will take you to enjoy a 3-hour panoramic tour of Paris;



you will be able to discover the main sights of the French capital such as the Arc de Triumph, Place de la Concorde, Eiffel Tower and the Champs Elysées. Check into your hotel afterwards. Once you have checked-in and had time to freshen up, your coach will take you to Quai de la Bourdonnais to board your bateau for an inspiring afternoon Seine River cruise (1hr). Following the cruise, enjoy an early dinner at a local restaurant before returning to the hotel. Overnight: Paris



Day 3: Monday 26th September (B, D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Paris is a magnificent city best explored on foot (and by using the Metro!). Enjoy a full day of sightseeing. Use your Paris Metro card to discover this enchanting city, entrance to the Musée du Louvre and Musée de

l'Orangerie included. Overnight: Paris



Day 4: Tuesday 27th September (B)

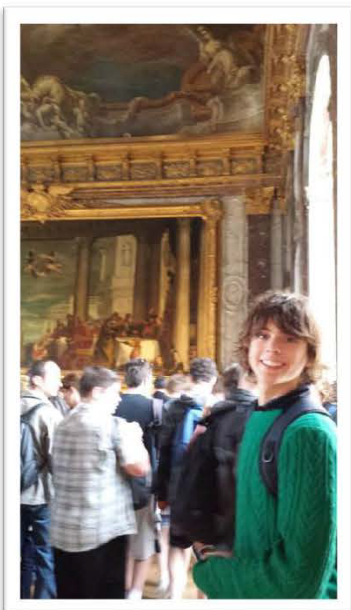
Breakfast at the hotel After breakfast, meet your English speaking guide at your hotel and take the metro and the RER (ticket included) to go Versailles. Visit the Palace and the gardens in Versailles during your half day excursion there. Return to Paris in the afternoon and stop at the Eiffel Tower for an independent visit of this monument (ticket to 3rd level included). Overnight: Paris

Day 5: Wednesday 28th September (B, D)

Breakfast at the hotel After breakfast, meet your private coach and depart for Amiens. Stop en route in Compiègne (Armistice Wagon) and in Fromelles to see the Memorial and the VC Corner. Continue onto Amiens and check in at your hotel. Overnight: Amiens

Day 6: Thursday 29th September (B, L, D)

Breakfast at the hotel Depart for a full day excursion in Somme. Sightseeing includes visit of the Villers-Bretonneux (Franco- Australian museum, Australian memorial and Adelaide Cemetery) and the Albert (Somme 1916 museum). Lunch is included today. Transfer back to Amiens at the end of the day. Dinner will be at a local restaurant in Amiens. Overnight: Amiens



Day 7: Friday 30th September (B)

Breakfast at the hotel Transfer from Amiens to Ypres. Stop en route in Peronne to visit the Historical de la Grande Guerre and in Fromelles to see the Memorial and VC Corner. Upon arrival, check into your hotel in Ypres. Overnight: Ypres

Day 8: Saturday 1st October (B)

Breakfast at the hotel In the morning, meet your private coach at the hotel and depart for a full day excursion in Ypres. You will visit the Flanders Field museum and stop at the village of Zonnebeke. In the evening, attend the memorial service at Menin Gate. Overnight: Ypres

Day 9: Sunday 2nd October (B, D)

Breakfast at the hotel Transfer to Caen by coach this morning. Before arriving in Caen, you will visit Dunkerque and the Omaha Beach with the American



cemetery. Arrive in Caen later this afternoon, dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight: Caen

Day 10: Monday 3rd October (B, D)

Breakfast at the hotel After breakfast, you will depart for a full day excursion in Normandy including a short walking tour of the city, visit the Arromanches museum and Caen Peace Memorial. Return to your hotel later this afternoon. Dinner will be at a local restaurant. Overnight: Caen

Day 11: Tuesday 4th October (B)

Breakfast at the hotel Transfer to Paris via coach after

breakfast. En route, you will stop in the village of Giverny to visit Claude Monet's House and Gardens. After your arrival in Paris, check in to your hotel. Overnight: Paris

Day 12: Wednesday 5th October (B)

Breakfast at the hotel. After breakfast, use your metro pass and RER tickets to go to Disneyland. Spend your day in the park and return to your hotel at the end of the day. Overnight: Paris

Day 13: Thursday 6th October (B)

Breakfast at the hotel After breakfast, check out of your hotel and transfer to Charles de Gaulle International Airport for your flight home to Australia. Overnight: In transit

Day 14: Friday 7th October

Arrive in Sydney.



Sport Report

Winter sport is now well and truly underway and most boys are now settled into their respective sports. Grade sport commenced competition against other local schools on the 13th May including the 7/8 touch/soccer competition and so far there has been some outstanding results. Keep up the good work boys! Just a reminder to all boys that all school based sports such as games, badminton and table tennis start at 1:10pm. All "paid" sports such as tennis, ten pin bowling and skating start when your bus departs school at 1:00 pm sharp. All grade sports start when your bus departs at 12:45 pm.

Congratulations to Miss Duncan and the U14's Rugby league team who are off to state having played undefeated in the Buckley shield, beating Narrabeen 22-0 in the grand final. Also to Mr O'Brien and the 13's League team who won the All Schools KO this week. Mr Campbell's 15's can also hold their heads high coming 2nd to Narrabeen 18-4 in the grand final.

Also congratulations continue for Mr Gulczynski and the U16s Futsal team who defended their regional championship. Next stop is the NSW State Titles!

Dave Morris
Sports Organiser

Year 8-11 Ski trip

All students on the 8-11 ski trip have been asked to collect a second note and information package outlining everything that is needed for a successful ski trip.

Just a reminder that we are offering:

- 4 nights Thredbo on-snow accommodation at The Alpenhorn
- All meals
- 4 day Thredbo lift and all mountain lesson – lessons start at Friday Flat, 5 mins walk from our accommodation. This means more skiing and boarding time each day (8.30am to 5.00pm)

Any boy in Years 8, 9 10 and 11 interested should contact me without delay as there is only limited places available for the trip.

Dave Morris
Ski Camp Organiser

PDHPE
Year 7 Report.

The boys are continuing to delight and surprise at every turn. This has been no more evident than in relation to the new merit system launched this term. Already a staggering thirty five boys have completed the first row of their merit books earning themselves the reward of a canteen voucher. Each of these boys has been given a merit by a range of teachers on at least ten occasions. This recognises their effort, respect, responsibility and excellence both in and outside the classroom. We look forward to seeing the great work continue. Special Mention goes to Albert-Flynn Stauffer and Paul van der Watt who have completed their second row of merits.

Another pleasing aspect of the way the boys are working is the improvement in the use of school diaries. This is a new skill for most of the boys which we are adamant will benefit them into the future. Creating the habit now is only going to help them flourish in the years to come.

Many parents have been asking what expectation they should set around their son's level of study, homework and assignments. Firstly, homework is a way for teachers to further embed concepts from class to develop greater understanding. Teachers who give homework through Edmodo or through assigning it in class certainly do so in this positive manner. The school sets no expectation that students should do a particular amount of homework as our teachers work in a robust fashion to assist their students in class.

Study should be an ongoing process but certainly not onerous and is a key way for students to strengthen their understanding of concepts. A few minutes each day writing up the key 3 points from each lesson they have had or practicing 2 or three difficult questions in a study book should suffice. Research has shown that studying on the same day a concept is learnt should greatly aid retention.

Assignments should be started the day they are received and a suggestion is to do an amount each day or have a couple of days each week in which assignments become the student's focus. A study timetable can help in this process. With any issues around homework, study and assignments or any other issues we remind all parents that we remain ready to hear your concerns either via the school email, telephone or in person.

Your Year 7 Advisors
Daniel O'Brien and Ian May

NBSC Duke of Edinburgh's Award Update

Our Duke of Ed participants are currently regularly participating in activities in three areas of their choice - *skill, physical recreation and service to the community*. Many of these activities take students beyond the everyday, challenging them to pursue their goals, requiring leadership, initiative and motivation.

Many of our **Gold** students are heading out on expeditions in the June/July holidays - we look forward to hearing about their *Urban Odyssey Challenge* next term! I encourage the students who are still planning their Gold award to register and sign up for the expedition this week please! Contact Mrs Yorston for details ASAP.

Bronze students - those who missed the March practice expedition can participate in the catch up expedition on *October 9th - 11th* at Broken Bay Sport and Rec. More info to come in term 3. The **Qualifying Journey** will be on *October 17th-18th OR October 24th-25th* (choose one weekend) – at Camp Somerset. More details to come closer to the time but please save the date.

A few points of information for **all** Duke of Ed students:

- **Online Record Book (ORB)** - please ignore the "*payment status - unpaid*" notice on your Online Record Books - it is incorrect/invalid. You can all be now logging your hours of activity on the ORB (or using the offline records if you rather for Bronze and Silver levels)
- **Award Plans and Assessor approval** - Thanks to those who have handed in their award plans and assessor forms (Assessor Commencement Guides - ACGs). I am still waiting on some. Please fill your award plan in and hand it in as I can check to make sure your activities meet the requirements of the Bronze award. If you have handed in your assessor forms you can presume that your assessor has been approved (I will notify you if not approved). If you change assessors or get a new assessor throughout the year please hand in an ACG for them.
- **Bronze and Silver Practice Journey reports** - If you have not yet submitted yours please do so to dukes@campsomerset.com.au
- **Assessor sign off** - Assessors only have to report on and sign off your activity at the *completion* of your entire section.
- all forms can be handed in to me via your campus office.

Any questions or help needed please feel free to contact me

Naomi Yorston

Northern Beaches Secondary College Duke of Edinburgh's Award Co-ordinator (Thursday/Friday)

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