



BALMACEWEN
INTERMEDIATE

BALMACEWEN NEWS

Friday 29th May 2009
TERM 2 - No. 5

Newsletter Kindly sponsored by
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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents and Caregivers

The winter term is certainly upon us and as usual there are many sports and activities to keep us warm and motivated.

We have a very high participation rate in our winter sports programme, which is great to see. At Balmacewen we talk about the personal skills and attitudes required to be a good team person. It's excellent to see these traits put into practise on a regular basis. A special thank you to all parents/coaches who have committed their time and energy into helping our teams.

Science Fair is approaching soon. It's not only a test of bright ideas, it's also a test of organisation and time management. The support that you give your child through their preparation for Science Fair is really important. Thanks and good luck! As always if you would like to discuss your child's progress, please feel free to contact me.

Kind regards, Andrew Hunter.

REFLECTIONS

YEAR 8 NEWS

Kia Ora to all Year 8 friends and families.

Our Outdoor Ed. Programme has been busy with both Rooms 2 and 9 away over the last two weeks. Even with the unpredictable weather the students have enjoyed the many experiences that arise on such a trip. A big thank you to all our camp helpers, your contributions are very much appreciated.

The remaining camp dates are...

Term 3

Week 6 - 24th - 28th August - Room 4

Week 8 - 7th - 11th September - Room 8

Week 9 - 14th - 18th September - Room 14

We have a number of working professionals who have recently graduated from University visit our Year 8 classes. They have shared with us their career pathways and the challenges they faced to get where they are now. An important aspect of their presentation is how they use Science Fair procedures in their daily work. It gave the students a grand opportunity to see science in action. Thank you to Lynne Newell and Futureintech for providing this opportunity.

The aim for all Year 8 students is for them to complete their project independently, with both teachers and parents providing guidance. Remember that it is your child's responsibility to complete this assignment and that the

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process of working through the steps is equally important as the finished outcome.

Thanks once again for all your support.

Year 8 Staff

YEAR 7 NEWS

The topic for Year 7 this term is "Discovery". We have been busy doing experiments and investigations to prepare us and get us ready for the school Science Fair. So far it has been a lot of fun with lots of fizzing, foaming and floating!

The students have come up with some creative and interesting topics for their Science Fair projects, and we look forward to seeing these in Week 9.

All the classes have been doing "Tim Tam Slams" for procedural writing and are making the most of their hall time due to the lovely weather we've been having.

A great start to Term 2.

Charlotte Cooper.

INDIVIDUAL SUCCESSES

It has been wonderful to see so many students perform admirably in a variety of outer school activities.

Rahan Ali - Otago U12 Soccer, NZ Futsal -12/13 boys

Grace Perry - Otago Waterpolo Blue Team

Liam Trotter - Otago Waterpolo White Team

Thomas Hatherly & Josh Askin - Otago Cricket Gold Team

Josh Askin - Otago Squash

Jamie MacDonald - Otago Basketball

Bailey Brandham - Otago Waterpolo

Ross Campbell - Otago Interprovincial Athletics Team

Alex Brewer - Otago Archery Under 12 Boys Recurve - South Island Easter Archery Tournament - Archer of the Tournament

Aisling Beamish - Otago Tennis

Lloyd McGee - Otago Tennis

Rosie Craven now holds the record for the Otago Under 14 Pole Vault.

Esther Fogarty - Otago U14 Gold WaterPolo

Courtney Shea - Otago U14 Blue

Michael Gray, Chris Dingley, Benjamin Wardhaugh, Eva Kjaergaard - Otago U14 Water Polo

Polly Inglis - U16 Otago Hockey, Otago Soccer 14th Grade

TOUCH

Term 1 saw four Balmacewen teams compete at the Oval on a Thursday after school. The year 7 Blue and Red were coached by Mr Napier and performed very well. With the Blue team forcing the Year 8 Boys to a draw, in a very closely fought game. The Year 8 Boys went into

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the final game facing the unbeaten Macandrew Boys, and won 8-3. The Balmacewen Girls team are now undefeated in the last two terms of touch, and have been playing in the Mixed Section during Term 1. We are all looking forward to playing more great touch in Term 4. The trials for the Term 4 teams will be held late in Term 3. Thank you to all the parents who came and watched the games, and for transporting to and from the Oval.

Term 1 also saw the inaugural Year 7 & 8 Touch Competition. Balmacewen sent two mixed teams. It was a fun day with both teams playing incredibly well considering they both played six 30 minute games, and both teams got into the semi finals. Balmacewen Gold headed into the finals, and lost to Outram Gold, 5-3, and Balmacewen Silver finished 4th after a tight game and a drop off with KVC Green. It was a fantastic day for all.

Alex Buttery

ROOM 2 CAMP

On Monday the 11th of May, a group of enthusiastic, excited Room 2 students set off for a muddy week at Berwick Forest Camp. Although the weather wasn't good, we still managed to participate in a wide range of activities.

Some of the highlights were spotlight, the assault course (when it wasn't cold), the confidence course and the Wednesday Activity, Operation Overland. Going to a certain point outside of camp, with no torches and trying to get back without being spotted by the adults. Some were even keen enough to go for a dip in the river! (Sound familiar Jordie?) Before

we knew it, it was time to get on the bus and head back to school!

Thank you VERY much to all of those helping out at Berwick Camp this year!

Kelly Young

Room 2



POLICE PCT TRAINING

Last Thursday four teams of Year 8 students competed in the Police PCT Bluelight Challenge at the Edgar Centre. They had to complete the physical competence training course as a team in the fastest time possible. This involved pushing trailers, running 200m, jumping over obstacles, through windows, under hurdles, over walls and fences. Each team from Dunedin and South Otago schools competed in this event.

It was a very exciting time and the competition was fierce, particularly between our four school teams. They all competed well setting some very fast times for others to follow. At the end of the day, our Team One - Polly Inglis, Lillian Cotter, Chris McNoe and Zak Watt came out on top winning in a time of 2 minutes 51 seconds, beating their closest rivals Tahuna by seven seconds. Well done!

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MOVIE MAKERS

The Balmacewen Movie Makers is well under way for 2009. The group has selected its script from entries from Jonathan Turner, Rory Jackson, Olivia Kerley, Amelia Walker and Kyra Gillies. The high level of all of these scripts was easily the highest I have seen and has prompted the group to try and make two movies this year. Well done to Isabella Sowerby and Jessie Malcolm for having your script selected as the best. These scripts can be read on the school's web site.

BASKETBALL

This year we have 100 children playing basketball on a Monday night. We have made an excellent start with our top team qualifying to play in the top section and all teams showing some great potential. A special thanks to Karen Beres, Kim McDonald and Angela Ruske for helping coach teams this year.

WEB SITE

The web site now has a curriculum link on it which has an overview of what your child will be learning about for each term. The next step is to provide more detailed information on what exactly teachers will

be doing so that you can discuss concepts and themes with your child.

With winter sports in full swing we will also endeavour to keep the sports' draws for basketball, netball, hockey, soccer and rugby all up to date. These can be found at www.balmacewen.school.nz

COMMUNITY SOFTWARE PLAN

Our school is participating in the CSP (Community Software Plan) featuring great value bundles of software. Each bundle contains 4 titles (Maths, English, Reading and Spelling) for a specific age group. Through the CSP parents can purchase a bundle for only \$37.95 (usually \$99 for all 4 titles)

As part of the plan our school will receive a free site licence for the Edalive software title of our choice. A leaflet has gone home with your child and please return your orders to the school by Friday 5th of June. www.edalive.com

Aroha Wylie

TRACKPANTS AND SHORTS

On behalf of the office staff we wish to thank parents for their patience in regard to the delivery of the trackpants and shorts. Unfortunately the delay was beyond our control. We are still waiting for a few more trackpants and all the jackets. We are assured they won't be too far away!!

CANTEEN

Due to the low orders for Sushi it has been decided to cancel this and revisit it in Term 4.

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Note: Chicken and Beef Burgers, Mince Bites and Lasagne are now available every day.

THANK YOU

A big thank you to Foley's Plumbing for their kind donation of a number of sports balls. Thanks also to the Bendigo Community Trust for the continued support of Balmacewen's programmes.



UP COMING EVENTS

MULTIPLICATION MARATHON MONTH

Classrooms are currently working on multiplication and division strategies such as the following:

Compensation from Tidy Numbers	$19 \times 6 = (20 \times 6) - 6$ $56 \div 4 \rightarrow (60 \div 4) - 1$
Place Value	$28 \times 7 \rightarrow (20 \times 7) + (8 \times 7)$ $72 \div 4 \rightarrow (40 \div 4) + (32 \div 4)$
Reversibility	$63 \div 9 = 9 \times ? = 63$
Proportional Adjustment	$75 \times 4 \rightarrow 25 \times 12$ $81 \div 3 \rightarrow (81 \div 9) \times 3$
Express remainders as fractions, decimal or whole numbers	$38 \div 6 = 6 \text{ r}2 \text{ or } 6 \frac{1}{3} \text{ or } 6.33$
Standard written forms for \times and \div	$\begin{array}{r} 476 \\ \times 8 \\ \hline \end{array}$ $6 \overline{)845}$

One of the biggest hurdles that students have in solving problems like this is their lack of knowledge of their times tables.

In the month of June we will be placing a big emphasis on students learning all of the times tables confidently.

All classes will be focusing on this with the school setting some targets that will see all students improve. If the targets are met we will be taking the school swimming to reward the effort that has been put in.

You can help at home with this goal and a second letter has come home today with information on some simple ideas which will help your child learn their times tables.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY FAIR

The countdown is on for our Science and Technology Fair. Only four weeks to go! I know students have been really busy in class talking about and discussing their ideas. I hope they are by now well underway with their inquiry and I look forward to seeing the results.

The Science Fair display boards are now available to purchase from school for \$10.00. These are on sale in the school library before school and at lunchtimes. Also on display are some of last year's prize winning exhibits. It is worth coming in some time before or after school to have a look to see how the final work needs to be displayed. If you have any questions, please contact your classroom teacher.

Lisa Shea

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be different

SKI TRIP

With the cold weather upon us many of our thoughts turn to skiing. This year Balmacewen will be offering two school ski trips, one to Cardrona on the weekend of 1/2 August and one to Treble Cone (date to be advised).

As a school we are offered very reasonable rates by these skifields. The cost for Cardrona will be approximately \$63 per day (\$6 more for snowboard hire) and for Treble Cone as an introductory one off offer of \$35 per day. This is for lift, lesson and ski hire and is a great way to introduce your child to the sport of skiing! The dates and further information will be sent home shortly. We do not arrange transport or accommodation.

Sandra Paterson and Simon Clarke

2009 TERM DATES

Term 2 = Monday 27 April to Friday 3 July

Term 3 = Monday 20 July to Friday 25 September

Term 4 = Monday 12 October to 16 December

TERM CALENDER

4 June - HPV Follow up day

11 June - Southland Sports Interchange

23-25 June - Science Fair

3 July - Mid Year Reports home

FRIDAY ASSEMBLY

5 June - Room 9

12 June - Room 14

19 June - Room 2

STUDENTS' WORK



Is it a bird? No! Is it a plane? No! It's a floating teabag!!!!!! Room 13 has been incinerating teabags. We have been carrying out some awesome science experiments like making Hokey Pokey, yum, and making a really weird gooey substance called an "oobleck" that felt hard when you punched it with your finger. And we made margarine blobs. But now we have been making teabags fly! Of course with the supervision of Mr Sloan in case you parents were worried.

The procedure, first Mr Sloan gave us a Dilmah teabag. Then we had to carefully take the string and staple out of the bag and then pour out the contents of the bag. Then we had to carefully shape the teabag into a tube and make it stand on aluminium foil. Mr Sloan then came with a match and lit the tube and burnt it and then when the flame was nearly at the bottom it flew like Mary Poppins on a sugar high!

Natasha's, Caitlin's and Deanna's flew the highest as it touched the roof but Tayler's group's one got stuck on the rafters! But Daymon's group didn't work because it was a different brand of tea?

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The reason the tea bag floated up was because warm air is less dense than cool air and the burning of the tube made the air hot and rise as the cooler air moved down on it.

By Tayler, Caitlin and Clayton.

THE HIGHLANDERS COME TO BALMAC

We hurried over to the field excitedly, all set and ready to go watch our very own Highlanders train on our own school grounds.

We were honoured to have them at our school, extremely proud of the local Otago rugby team. As we approached the field, we watched in awe as the Highlanders chased each other around with the ball, tackling each other to get it. I went and stood by the sideline, chatting with my friends and watching the Highlanders pass to each other, and try and tackle their way past the try line.

Unfortunately, our class, Room 7, ruined it for each other and got to go inside early. We trudged inside, disappointed that we weren't able to watch them train anymore.

As we waited eagerly in the class for three of the Highlanders to come into our class room and answer some of our questions, we just couldn't contain our excitement. We were all grinning at each other, some of us bouncing around in our seats in excitement.

Finally, three very cheerful-looking and sweaty men came into our classroom. They stood at the front and introduced themselves as Lucky, Israel and Hayden. Hayden was very tall with a little goatee and the others were darker skinned with dark hair. We listened as they talked about training, only interrupting them to

ask questions. We had some very good questions and they had some very good answers. We found out all about how the team worked, and how they trained mostly every day of the week. Playing rugby for the Highlanders was their full-time job.

The bell rang for morning-tea and the three Highlanders offered to sign their autographs onto a special Highlanders card for us. We filed along beside them, watching them signing our piece of paper, amazed by them. We thanked them nervously and ran outside with our morning-tea, running around after the other Highlanders, high-fiving them and asking them for their signatures.

It was a great morning and I just LOVED it. I hope they can come again soon!

By Mackenzie Reeves

This story was recently published in the ODT Extra newspaper

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Relay for Life Fundraiser

The Otago Cancer Society Relay For Life 2009 took place February 21st and 22nd.

As part of our ongoing fundraising, Earthlight Angels are offering purple drink bottles for sale, which we have designed.

Purple is the official Relay colour - bottles are \$5 each. Please contact us at Earthlight on 479 0303 or email angels@earthlight.co.nz to place your order and arrange payment.

To check out the pictures of our fundraising activities and costumes

www.earthlight.co.nz/angels/gallery

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OTAGO SKI CLUB - SKI AND SNOWBOARD SKI WEEKS

Ski and Snowboard development programme for children aged from 8 to 17 years old (Primary to Secondary School) operated during the July school holidays. All levels catered for. Ski week package includes accommodation, meals (breakfast and dinner), lift and lesson passes.

Ski and ride Coronet Peak with International Ski and Snowboard instructors from NZSki.com Stay at Otago Ski Club Joel Lodge Coronet Peak, Queenstown. Joel Lodge is located 5 minutes walk from the Coronet Peak base building.

Prices for ski week is \$650.00 for members OSC and \$700.00 for non members. Vacancies exist for Boys and Girls for Ski Week 2 (12-18 July). For further details contact Arno Bynevelt on 0274366924 or by email skiweeks@osc.org.nz

For information on Otago Ski Club refer to the club web site www.osc.org.nz

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