

BALLY ROYALE



MR BRECHT STEALING PHONES AND SELLING THEM FOR MONEY!

If you are on your phone in Mr Brecht's class then you better be careful. Why? Unless you buy it back on eBay, you'll never see it again. Students say that Mr Brecht will take any phone he sees out in class.

We decided to observe Mr Brecht's class for a day to investigate these claims. Mr Brecht confiscated 7 phones that day, including an iPhone X worth \$1800. We have an exclusive interview with a student in the class who has been unjustly by Mr Brecht.

"I was texting my girlfriend and Mr Brecht took my phone and sent her a text saying 'we're over' and walked away with my phone! Later Mr Brecht sold the phone on eBay for \$1200. I was devastated when I found this out! I can't believe he sold my phone!"

A quick look into his eBay account revealed several phones that he had confiscated earlier that week.



But why? Why is he taking these phones? We cannot confirm but our guess is that he needs the money. Is Mr Brecht poor? Is he greedy? Is his salary so low he needs to sell phones to get enough money to get by in his daily life?

We put these questions squarely to Mr Brecht, who stated "I strongly deny these allegations. I do not sell the phones online. I only confiscate them for that period or for the day. I will only take a student's phone if they are using it in class and not listening to what I am teaching them."

Mr Brecht claims that he doesn't sell them, but our investigation shows he does and now many students are protesting for their phones back. According to our calculations, Mr Brecht confiscates around \$5000 worth of phones every fortnight. Surely the school will act against him as soon as possible. Surely...



ILLEGAL MARKETING AT SCHOOL

SCAMMERS AT LARGE



Over 200 Year 7s started High School recently and were instantly bribed by older students into buying confectionary such as Zappos, Mentos, and cans of soft drink. These illegal scammers are achieving profits of over 100% - up to \$35 profit per pack. This is not only occurring at Balgowlah Boys, but it has been reported that it is also rife at many schools including St Pauls, Oxford falls and Mackellar Girls. Research has found that without a permit, these scammers are committing a severe crime that is illegal in over 100 different countries.

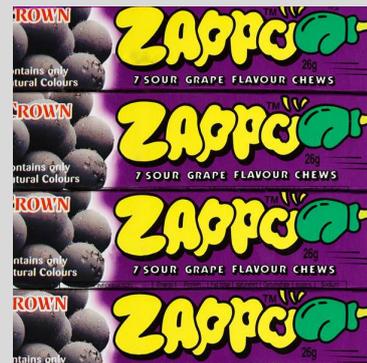
We interviewed Mr Morris, a PDHPE and health teacher at Bally, to give us insight into how this corruption is affecting our health and the relationship between students. His response was that he is "obviously against the idea, but he likes the notion of someone being able to make profit in an entrepreneurial way.'

His main concern is that, being a Health teacher, these foods are unhealthy for the students and can create significant long term health issues. We also asked him if there should be consequences.

"Anything serious is unnecessary, but a detention might be deserved if they continue." He mentioned that the canteen would struggle with this argument because it will draw their customers away, leaving them no choice but to raise the price due to the lack of buyers.

With these answers we confirmed that it is a disgrace and it needs to be stopped, for both the fairness of the younger students and the safety and health of all students on the Northern Beaches.

This issue has created such drama because students believe they are receiving deals because they're sold out (to the rackateers) in the canteen at their school. This controversial issue must be stopped immediately, at least in the name of fairness.



IS THE SWIMMING CARNIVAL TOO DANGEROUS???



The swimming carnival is a brilliant day for everyone involved. Year 7 to Year 12 can go swimming, hang out with friends and have an all-round good time.

A question, however, still remains - is the swimming carnival too dangerous?

Each year, hundreds of pupils compete in the Balgowlah Boys annual swimming carnival which goes for around 5 hours. This is a long time to be sitting in the sun as there is limited shade at the venue. This is dangerous as teachers can't physically apply sunscreen to a student, so the students inevitably don't all put on sun screen or drink water. All day.

This causes dehydration, sunburn and, worst-case scenario, could contribute to skin cancer. This problem would not exist if the venue was at an indoor location such as the Warringah Aquatic Centre.

The carnival is obviously about swimming, so this means that there will be a fair amount of risk involved. For example, what if someone hit their head on the bottom from diving too shallow and fell unconscious while in the water? Someone participating might not know how to swim and may drown if not under proper supervision. Sun stroke is also a big problem, and a few students had a case of it last year, even though the school didn't mention it in their report.

Therefore, more safety precautions must be put in place to avoid these things from happening. Currently, there are lifeguards supervising the racers at all times, and teachers direct students to the proper race area so no one dives in at the wrong end of the pool.

Well, the carnival can be dangerous, but only if a student is complacent enough to ignore a teacher's instructions.



The Secrets Behind the Success in HSC English

Balgowlah Boys HSC results have skyrocketed over the past couple of years. Relieving Principal Ian James provided us with some insights on this success.

"The success is due to the excellent work of staff and students. It can only be preserved if the staff maintain their extraordinary work ethic and students continue to strive to achieve to their potential."

In 2016, Bally Boys achieved 3rd in NSW for English under the guidance of Mr. Seldon and Mr. Breheny. This was backed up with 8th in NSW for 2017 under the leadership of Mr. Breheny. He shared his thoughts with us on the English programs here at Bally.



"Each year the English faculty strives to improve the teaching and learning from the previous year and continues to set higher expectations for ourselves and the students."

"The English results rose dramatically when we adopted an explicit approach to teaching writing. We model and scaffold for the boys to explicitly teach them how to convey their ideas with intellectual quality, precision and cohesion. We have also created a culture of hard work within the staff and students as well as an insatiable desire to achieve."

Mr. Breheny feels incredibly proud of the students at Bally. He demands a lot from the HSC students, and describes beating almost every Selective, Government and Non-Government school in the last two years as "extremely satisfying... but we're still hungry for more."

This academic success explains why Bally has doubled in size over the past decade. Where will Bally's success take us next? Balgowlah Selective or top of the state in HSC?

These lofty aspirations can only be achieved if the students at Bally continue to do their best and the teachers continue to support the boys to get the best out of them.

At Bally, by effort we achieve.

Make Balgowlah Boys Green Again

Litter is a big problem all over the Northern Beaches, but it is a very grave issue at Balgowlah Boys. The solution appears to be simple - put your rubbish in the bin. Or perhaps we could start by doing an audit of what is in the bin and make our students more environmentally conscious?

Our interview with the head of the environment club told us that teachers should recycle their materials and reuse object for something else.

Ms Tadros stated that "there should be more visible bins in the same location everyday so that kids take more care of their surroundings. If there is more rubbish in the area then more crows and other birds come and pick the rubbish out of the bins which causes more pollution."



A day dedicated to cleaning up the school may help, but it is not always going to teach people to put their rubbish in the bin in the first place. Balgowlah Boys cannot only be cleaned up by the dedicated cleaners; they are under resourced and can't be expected to pick up after students day after day.

Having a clean work place, study area and classroom around students is important, as if it is dirty and full of rubbish it can affect their learning and how they behave and act.

Students must take more pride in the physical environment of their school, as keeping it clean will create a more positive learning environment.