Forthcoming Events

**February**
- Friday 27th: Interschool swimming sports

**March**
- Tuesday 3rd: Year 12 Parent Teacher Interviews – 7:00 p.m
- Wednesday 4th: Parents’ Club Annual General Meeting
- Monday 9th: Labour Day Holiday
- Tuesday 10th: Year 7 Parent Teacher Interviews and BBQ – 5 p.m. start
- Physical Resources Mtg
- Thursday 12th: Shake Rattle and READ at 10:00 a.m.
- Tuesday 17th: Secondary Summer Sports
- Thursday 19th: School Council
- Friday 20th: Primary Summer Sports - Donald
- Thursday 26th: School Council
- Thursday 26th: Shake Rattle & Read at 10:00am
- Friday 27th: Presentation Ball

**April**
- Thursday 2nd: Senior Citizens Morning Tea & Easter Hat Parade
- Friday 3rd: Last day of school for Term 1 - 2.30 finish
- Monday 20th: School Resumes
- Saturday 25th: Anzac Day

2009 Year Seven Barbecue & Parent - Teacher - Student Night

Tuesday 10th March 2009 is set aside for this barbecue and parent-teacher-student night. This has been rescheduled from Monday 2nd March 2009.

The year seven students have completed four weeks in their first secondary school environment. It is therefore considered opportune for discussions to take place between parents, teachers and students on the progress your child has made and how he/she is settling in to secondary school life. It is also opportune for a social gathering to be held so that all parents, students and teachers can meet informally and get to know each other. This year we have parents and students from Nullawil, Watchem, Warracknabeal, Wycheproof, Beulah, Birchip and even Western Australia. I would urge you take the opportunity to discuss your child's progress thus far, meet with your child's teachers and discuss any concerns we or you as parents may have.

The evening will take the following format:
- 5:00 p.m. Year 7 teachers will be available for individual discussion with parents and students.
- You should discuss your child's progress in each unit.
- 7.00 p.m. Barbecue in the school quadrangle. BYO meat and drinks
  - Salads, paper plates, cups, sauce and bread and of course the BBQ provided.
- Throughout the evening, tea, coffee, cordial and biscuits will be available in the Staff Recreation Room.

Household Hamper Raffle

Tickets were due in today. Many thanks to those families who have returned their book of tickets. There are still some booklets outstanding and I request these back tomorrow morning to ensure all tickets are placed in the draw. The raffle will be drawn on Friday 27th February 2009 at lunchtime during the Interschool Swimming Sports.

Middle Kinglake Primary School is reforming as portable classrooms on the Kinglake oval and should be ready to re-open for students mid March. Birchip P-12 School student leaders will travel to Middle Kinglake Primary School to present the collected money from the Birchip School and community during March 2009.
2009 Year Twelve Parent - Teacher - Student Night

This evening is set aside for next Tuesday 3rd March 2009 commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the gallery.

It is important that parents of year 12 students and year 11 students undertaking a unit 3/4 sequence to attend.

Students are also encouraged to attend so that meaningful discussion on student progress can occur.

YEAR NINE ACTIVITY PROGRAM

The 2009 year nine students will be involved in the activity program ‘The teen queens’ for girls and ‘Run 4 ur life’ for boys over the next few weeks. The program has been organized by Rhonda Allan from the Mallee Sports Assembly.

Student activities planned include:

- Circuit Gym - Michelle Lee, Birchip
- Yoga - Natalie Jenkins, Swan Hill
- Injury prevention - Rhonda Allan, Mallee Sports Assembly
- How to eat properly - Kate Edwards, Bendigo Health Care Group
- Boxercising - Brenda Doran, Birchip
- Pasta Making - Nuccia McLean, Wycheproof
- What to wear – Ronda Cooper and Bev Ryan, Just You Casuals Birchip
- Strength Training - Michelle Lee, Birchip
- Belly Dancing - Sheoak Belly Dancers, Donald
- Self Defence - Brendan Doyle, Birchip

The first session was held on Wednesday 25th February 2009. The Year 9 students participated in numerous activities organized by Rhonda Allan from the Mallee Sports Assembly. Students were divided into two groups for the sessions. The boys undertook a yoga session and also spent time learning about sports injury prevention. The girls experienced yoga as well as working their way through a circuit gym session. Natalie Jenkins from Swan Hill facilitated the Yoga sessions. Thanks to Mrs Michelle Lee for giving freely of her time and providing circuit gym. All students thoroughly enjoyed these sessions. These will be continue each Wednesday until the end of term one.

Rhonda and the year nine students have planned this exciting activity program. The program will culminate with a celebration day in Bendigo on Wednesday 1st April 2009. This day also involves numerous activities which the students are selecting. Further details of the Bendigo day will be communicated to parents and students when planning is finalised.

Year 12 Motivation Day

Year 12 is a busy, and for some, a stressful year as students juggle study, exam preparation, work commitments, sport and busy social lives. The key to success is not just motivation but a planned approach to the year so that life doesn’t become unbearable. As such, Year 12 students were treated to a day of focusing on practical ways they could survive the year by presenters Neville Brady and Carrie Richmond.

Neville Brady’s presentation was lively and at times confronting. Ambition he saw was the key to success in every area of life. He talked about his youth and his dealings with football legend, Kevin Sheedy whose motto was “Want it bad.” The adage he believed to be true as many people
have talent but few make full use of their assets. The advice was that less talented people who work hard make it in life and in their studies. He compared Year 12 to be like eating an elephant. That is, the beast is so big that it takes all year to consume; and so it is with study.

While many have ambition, much of it is lost through risk-taking behaviour in the form of drugs. Mr Brady recalled the number of young people he had met in his life whose ambitions had been crushed because of drug taking or binge drinking. The message was clear; talent is not enough and drugs suck the soul of ambition.

The group discussed the nature of conflict and how it impacts upon their lives. Initially, students were introduced to the nature of intrapersonal conflict where students’ negative self talk acts to quash their ambition. Students were directed in how to deal with conflict and to own up to being part of the problem. This Mr Brady stated was vital in relationships as too many people sought solutions to problems by being violent, ‘dummy spitting,’ talking louder and being more belligerent than others. The focus of the lecture was that what determines a person’s future and the way one walks through the ranks is people skills.

Learning and earning are inextricably linked. Mr Brady related that what employers want are people who can learn and that the more a person learns, usually the better they are paid. Students were warned that if they didn’t want to learn, they had to rely on selling their physical strength.

Students were encouraged to be positive in their world, to look at positive achievements rather than the one mistake. Mr Brady alerted students to the fact that their world would not cave in if they didn’t achieve the ENTER they needed and that there are other ways of achieving their goals.

His parting words to the students was to not rely on luck as effort and belief in their abilities is what makes success. He implored the group to limit their risk taking behaviour and to look out for their mates as drug taking reduces inhibitions and this often results in death.

Ex-Birchip student, Carrie Richmond, now an organisational psychologist practising in Melbourne, addressed the group on the topic of Surviving Year 12. Carrie stressed that at this stage, students should know their own strengths and weaknesses and be working towards creating a realistic career goal.

While focus, discipline and hard work are the keys to success, Carrie stated that it is also important that students looked after themselves physically, mentally and emotionally. Eating well, she advised increases performance, strengthens the immune system and the ability to deal with stress. Exercise is essential as it not only strengthens the heart and lungs but also is a great way to release tension.

From her experience, Carrie stated that Year 12 can be stressful and that this is normal. While many see stress as a negative, it can however improve performance, the difficulty is not allowing stress to reach levels where performance declines. Carrie gave students a number of strategies to alleviate and reduce stress levels. Mainly, that they should have on average eight hours sleep at night, develop a sense of humour and laugh, know their limits, not worry about issues they cannot control and learn how to relax.

To keep motivated, Carrie suggested that students should put their Year 12 goals where they can see them so that they act as a constant reminder. Planning and managing time effectively are the keys to success.
Sometimes Carrie warned that the year will become difficult and there is no shame in enlisting the support of family as mentors. Ultimately, Carrie observed that it is the individual who is responsible for his own life and what he does with it.

Students were treated to a lovely lunch cooked by Mrs Barb Smith’s food students. The afternoon was a planning session spearheaded by Lizzie Wilde, school to work transition coordinator from the LLEN and Principal, Mr John Richmond. Ms Wilde encouraged the group to be specific with their goals so that their targets were clear, specific and manageable. The day was most worthwhile and left the group with lots to think about and aim for.

**Leaping Loonies**

Schooling is not only about exploring sophisticated notions of motivation and conflict; it is also about laughter and an appreciation of different forms of drama. Last week the whole school was treated to a performance by the Leaping Loonies. The Loonies are a Sydney based duo whose performance was a mix of slap stick comedy and gymnastics. The younger children were spellbound as the duo tumbled and did a mix of complicated somersaults and the older students stifled their giggles at the duo’s clever one-liners. Tahlia Flowers loved the show because they did ‘some very dangerous and terrifying tricks,’ Chloe Rymer wrote that she was ‘thrilled’ when they did their somersaults, Blair Gould thought ‘it was funny when the gymnast fell in the box’ and Tom Hogan was impressed with the duo performing their ‘Adults Don’t Know What To Do’ dance.
Long Service Leave – Returns and Departures

Next Monday we welcome back Miss Helen Digby following her four weeks long service leave. Miss Digby travelled to England and Europe where she escaped the heat of Australia and experienced below freezing temperatures instead. Thank you to Mrs Lyn Boyle who taught Miss Digby’s classes during her absence.

Bon voyage to Mrs Merrilyn Kelly and her husband David who will depart on a cruise around Australia for a month. We trust you both enjoy a well earned rest and return refreshed in term two. During Mrs Kelly’s long service leave absence, Mrs Kelli-Ann Sheahan will take on the role of prep / one class teacher.

Donation from the Beta Sigma Phi Theta Master Chapter

Yesterday the school received a further donation from the members of the Beta Sigma Phi Theta Master Chapter in Melbourne. This organization sent our school money last year too. We are indeed fortunate to continue to receive funds from various charitable organizations to ensure our students do not miss out when it comes to education. On behalf of the students, parents and staff of the school community, I thank the members of the Beta Sigma Phi Theta Master Chapter for their most generous donation.

Maths is Marvellous – You can count on it!

You can help your children at home by involving them in mathematical activities and talking to them about mathematics its everyday uses. Be positive! Praise your child’s success. Encourage your child to have a go at measuring, calculating, counting, estimating and solving problems. Invite children to investigate and make discoveries for themselves. Encourage and give them time to find their own answers. Don’t be too quick to give them the answers.

Interschool Swimming Sports

These will be held at the Birchip Swimming Pool tomorrow Friday 27th February 2009.

Students and teachers will work period one prior to the first event which is scheduled to begin at 10:30a.m.

Parents and friends are very much encouraged and welcome to support our school team.

Grade Five/Six Homework Questions – due Friday 6th March 2009

1. What is February’s birthstone?
2. The disease Lassa fever is transmitted to man by what creature?
3. What do steel bands use as their instruments?
4. Name Canada’s main port.
5. Is colour blindness more common in men or women?
6. What Australian birds are also known as bell magpies?
7. What are female kangaroos called?
8. The artist Canaletto is renowned for his paintings of which Italian city?
9. In Roman numerals what is CD plus CC?
10. In skiing what is a dauerlauf?

Answers to Homework Questions – Friday 27th February 2009

1. What color is mazarine? Deep Blue
2. Cynophobes are afraid of what? Dogs
3. Name Japan’s second largest city. Osaka / Yokohama
4. What is a Dutch door? A split door
5. What is the ripe fruit of a rose called? Rose-hip
6. What kind of food is bubble and squeak? Meats and left over vegetables, especially cabbage, fried up
7. Who recently replaced Julie Bishop as the Shadow Treasurer? Joe Hockey
8. Haiphong is which SE Asian country’s main port? Vietnam
9. The cochin is a breed of which creature? Poultry
10. What was unusual about the reign of Lady Jane Grey when she ruled England? Her reign only lasted nine days

BIRCHIP P-12 SCHOOL, 2009

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Congratulations to David Smith, Wendy Watts, Louise Lee and Cameron Flowers on their election as parent representatives for the next two years. School Council welcomes Cameron Flowers on his nomination and subsequent election as a first time school councillor. We thank Cameron for showing interest in our school and willingness to ensure positive outcomes for our school.

Thank you to James Boyle who did not seek re-nomination. James has been a school councillor for three - two year terms since 2002. James was also a valued member of the school’s Physical Resources Sub-committee. He was always
willing to assist with working bees and offer farming plant to ensure many projects were completed.

Congratulations also to Russell Christie and Andrew Sayle who renominated and were subsequently elected as DEECD representatives for a further two years.

Janine Welton tended her resignation half way through her second two year term. This creates a vacancy within the DEECD representatives. Nominations for this extraordinary election close tomorrow at 4:00 p.m. Friday 27th February 2009. A ballot will ensue if required. We thank Janine for her efforts and willingness to represent staff over the past three years.

See official election notice later.

**Hot Lunches**

The Home Economics room is available for all students in years 7 - 12 to heat up lunches on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday during semester 1.

**MIPS TIPS - For Parents**

Parents - would you like to get your hands on more careers information resources? Are you unsure about what the MIPs Program involves? Would you like to know more about how to assist your teenager with career investigations? Are you confused by all the acronyms (VET, VCAL, VCE, VTAC, etc, etc, etc...)? You’re not alone! Your school’s MIPs Coordinator, Lizzie Wilde, welcomes any queries - no matter how big or small - and encourages you to get in touch on 0429 148 399 or lien5@bigpond.com.

**Hinamatsuri (Girl’s Day)**

This will be held on Tuesday 3rd March 2009. Primary girls will be able to dress up on this day and bring their favourite doll. Japanese lollies will be provided to all primary students.

**Disturbing the Peace**

When: 8th March 2009
Where: Wycheproof Hall
Who: Years 7 - 12
Time: 8:30 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Cost: $15.00
'Strictly smoke, drug and alcohol free event'

**Birchip Archery Club**

Next shoot: Sunday 1st March.
10am start.
South End of Tchum Lake.
All Welcome.

**JUNIOR NETBALLERS**

Players interested in attending a two day coaching camp in Warracknabeal on 6th & 7th April 2009 should see Mrs Julie Coffey for information and application forms. The cost is $120.00.

Students interested in tennis coaching on Fridays (4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.) with tennis coach Peter Bewley, should contact Heather Hogan.

Sessions are ½ hour at a cost of $10.00, 4 students per session.

Limited places are available so be quick to contact Heather Hogan.

**Birchip Watchem Junior Football Club**

Training for under 13 footballers will begin on Wednesday night 4th March 2009 at 5:00 p.m. at the George Cartwright Oval.

Please bring Runners.

If families have old football boots that other children could use please send them along.

In upcoming weeks there will be a registration night and barbeque for players and parents. The date for this will be Wednesday 18th March 2009.

The barbecue will begin at the end of training at approximately 6:30 p.m. at the George Cartwright Oval.

Attendance by all families intending to have junior footballers involved with the Birchip Watchem Football Club are urged to attend.

At the recent annual meeting the following office bearers were elected.

President: Russell Christie
Vice President: Andrew Sayle
Minute Secretary: Leon Hogan

If you have any questions about junior football please contact Russell Christie on Work – 54 922 287, Home – 54 922 488

**LOST**

Could parents of year 8 and 9 girls please check their daughters’ white shirts for one marked BOYLE above the Midford label. If found please return to Claire Boyle.
BirchipP-12 School Newsletter

Junior Cricket
Waugh versus Chappell
Waugh: 102
Harrison Christie 33 retired
Hugh ‘Keefe 18
Chappell will need to make 103 next Saturday to win
NOTE: SUBS ARE OVERDUE - $15. Please pay to Andrew Sayle or leave at front office at school

Wanted
Drought Plants and Second hand Books for FETE. Contact Ros McClelland or Trish Lehmann

Parents' Club
Annual General Meeting
The 2009 Birchip P-12 School Parents’ Club Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th March 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at Birchip P-12 School in the Staff Recreation Room.
Guest speaker will be Marc Cox – Youth Worker for the Buloke Shire Council.

Please come and support our students and school. All parents are very welcome and encouraged to attend.

FUNDING INFORMATION
WORKSHOP FOR SPORTING CLUBS
Hosted by the Mallee Sports Assembly, Dept Planning of Planning & Community Development, Rural Access and Buloke Recreation Officer. Learn about funding available and how to prepare a successful grant application for your club. Each agency will also speak on their job role and how they can assist sport/rec clubs.

Monday March 2nd 2009  -Wyche proof Community Resource Centre- 7pm-9pm
Tuesday March 3rd 2009-Sea lake Golf Bowls Club -7pm-9pm
Wednesday-Donald Recreation Reserve (Blue Room)-7pm-9pm
Light supper provided
To register contact:
Rhonda Allan
Mallee Sports Assembly. Ph 54937 796 Mob 0427 780109

Netball Rules Day
Sunday March 15th
10am - 12:30pm
To be held at Woomelang Club Rooms
Chance for all Coaches and Umpires to clear up any queries regarding the new rules with Ann Castles
Any queries contact
Nelly Kelly 5081 2344

Lost
1 black roc t-bar school shoe, size 8 - somewhere between the school and the tennis court last Friday.
If found please return to Sophie Noonan
### Homework!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year level</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Homework</th>
<th>Due date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Mrs Welton</td>
<td>Learn Name, address and phone number to be used in an emergency. Counting backwards and forward from any number between 0-100+</td>
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<td>4/5</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Emonson/Weir</td>
<td>Learn spelling and spelling activities Timetables, reading</td>
<td>4th March ongoing</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Emonson/Weir</td>
<td>Homework questions</td>
<td>6th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>Miss Johnson</td>
<td>Viking ship research sheet</td>
<td>2nd March</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Miss Hicks</td>
<td>Writing Piece Due ‘The day I couldn’t believe….”</td>
<td>2nd March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Miss Meehan</td>
<td>Write up prac</td>
<td>3rd March</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>Miss Johnson</td>
<td>Essay research</td>
<td>2nd March</td>
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<td>9/10</td>
<td>Murder Ink</td>
<td>Miss Hicks</td>
<td>Writing Piece Book Study</td>
<td>2nd March</td>
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<td>9/10</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Miss Hicks</td>
<td>Writing Piece</td>
<td>2nd March</td>
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<td>9/10</td>
<td>Survival</td>
<td>Miss Hicks</td>
<td>Writing Piece Start oral Presentations</td>
<td>2nd March</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Forensics</td>
<td>Miss Meehan</td>
<td>Work on assignment</td>
<td>4th March</td>
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<td>10/11</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Miss Johnson</td>
<td>SAC</td>
<td>3rd March</td>
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<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Miss Barclay</td>
<td>Chapter 2. Review</td>
<td>6th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/12</td>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>Miss Digby</td>
<td>Finish own review</td>
<td>4th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>Miss Johnson</td>
<td>Read Expert sheets and Broome</td>
<td>2nd March</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>HD</td>
<td>Miss Digby</td>
<td>Finish all the grids. Finish ‘Measuring Health Status’ handout. Back-up reading from textbook</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Hicks/Smith</td>
<td>Study and prepare for SAC on language and orals</td>
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<td>Further Maths</td>
<td>Miss Barclay</td>
<td>Exercise 4D</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Miss Meehan</td>
<td>Study for SAC on diffusion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Business Man.</td>
<td>Mr Knights</td>
<td>SAC Revision</td>
<td>4th March</td>
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</tbody>
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All Years - 15 minutes reading a day!
Birchip P-12 School, 2009 School Council Elections

Parent representatives
Nominations received for the 4 vacant parent representatives of school council:

David Smith
Wendy Watts
Louise Lee
Cameron Flowers

There being no further nominations, I declare these four people named above duly elected to the Birchip P-12 School, School Council for a period of 2 years.

DEECD employee representatives
Nominations received for the 2 vacant parent representatives of school council:

Russell Christie
Andrew Sayle

There being no further nominations, I declare these two people named above duly elected to the Birchip P-12 School, School Council for a period of 2 years.

Extraordinary Election – DEECD employee representative
Janine Welton, has tended her resignation from the Birchip P12 School, School Council midway through her term of office. I subsequently call for nominations from the DEECD employee representatives to fill this vacant position. Nominations for this extraordinary vacancy will close at 4:00 p.m. on Friday 27th February 2009. Nomination Forms (Schedule 5B) can be obtained from the principal. If necessary, a ballot will be held and you will be able to cast your vote between 8:00 a.m. Monday 2nd March 2009 until 4:00 p.m. Wednesday 4th March 2009.

John Richmond
PRINCIPAL
Birchip P-12 School
Habits of Mind

Pancake Tuesday
Back in the classroom, teachers are energetically organising writing activities in creative ways. What better way of teaching children to write their ideas in order than having them write a recipe for making pancakes? Grade 4 children, under the direction of Mrs Emonson and Mrs Weir not only discussed the origins of the day with their students but they also cooked up huge quantities of pancakes that dripped with honey and ice cream.

Students and teachers learned many valuable skills that will help them in life through the simple act of making and cooking pancakes.

Making pancakes was not as simple students thought it would be as they had to strive for accuracy as they measured their ingredients. Students worked in groups, cooperating and learning together. The room was buzzing with laughter and humour as sometimes the mixture was not as it should have been or the pancakes stuck to the bottom of the pan.

After cooking and cleaning up finished, students undertook the task of writing up their recipe accurately so that they could make their culinary delight for their family.

This was indeed a memorable learning activity.