Forthcoming Events

**March**
- Tuesday 17th: Secondary Summer Sports
- Thursday 19th: **School Fete**
- Friday 20th: Primary Summer Sports - Donald
- Thursday 26th: School Council at 8pm
- Friday 27th: Presentation Ball
- Tuesday 31st: Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews

**April**
- Thursday 2nd: Senior Citizens Morning Tea & Easter Parade
- Friday 3rd: Last day of school for Term 1 - 2.30 finish
- Monday 20th: School Resumes
- Tuesday 21st: Gallipoli performance for years 7 – 11
- Thursday 23rd: School Council
- Saturday 25th: Anzac Day
- Wednesday 29th: Tutti Fruitti Healthy Eating Show

**May**
- Monday 4th → Friday 8th: Year 10 Work Experience
- Monday 4th → Friday 8th: Year 9 Advance Camp - Swan Hill
- Friday 8th: Primary Cross Country - St Arnaud
- Tuesday 12th → June 10th: NAPLAN Testing for Yrs 3, 5, 7 & 9 students
- Physical Resources Meeting
- Monday 18th → Friday 22nd: Education Week
- Thursday 21st: School Council Meeting

**June**
- Monday 1st → Wednesday 3rd: Grade 6 Maldon Camp
- Monday 8th: Queen’s Birthday Holiday
- Tuesday 9th → Thursday 22nd: VCE exams & GAT exam
- Tuesday 9th: Physical Resources meeting
- Wednesday 10th: Australian Science Exam
- Friday 12th: Pupil Free Day - report writing day
- Friday 19th: Primary Winter Sports - Birchip
- Friday 26th: Last day of second term - 2.30pm finish

**July**
- Monday 13th: First day of third term

Successful 2009 Fete – amazing evening!

A warm balmy evening followed a beautiful day setting the scene for a most successful fete. We were indeed fortunate to have many students, parents and friends supporting our annual Birchip P-12 School fete. Many thanks to all who came and supported us again this year. Takings were approximately $9,500. After expenses, it is expected that approximately $8,000 will be realized. This continues to be an amazing effort for a small school and town experiencing prolonged drought and of course the economic crisis. It is gratifying to know that even considering these trying times our community is prepared to dig deep to ensure our school and its students are supported.

It was again terrific to see the amazing support our school receives from the Birchip community and the willingness of students, teachers and parents to assist our school to ensure a successful outcome. The school thanks the Birchip community very much for its continued support.

Our fete management committee made up of Mrs Eileen Smith, Mrs Trish Lehmann and Mrs Angela Liston need special mention for their amazing efforts input to ensure the success of our fete. The school community thanks these committee members for their dedication and hard work.
members most sincerely for their efforts.
The Parents’ Club (many dressed as Dame Edna Everage) worked tirelessly during the evening to ensure patrons enjoyed a beautiful meal of roast meat and salads. Approximately 180 meals were served. This is on top of the BBQ and sars also being sold. This was followed by fresh fruit salad and ice-cream and then the pièce de résistance, various coffees (cappuccinos, lattes, skinny lattes, tall blacks, short blacks, hot chocolates etc..) and beautiful cakes and tortes. Even Dame Edna (aka Denita Donnan) made a guest appearance to entertain the crowd and hand out ‘coffee and cake vouchers’ to parents.

Staff and students have been planning our fete for many days and weeks now. Much effort was input and it was terrific to see so many children have so much fun. At the end of the evening, all students’ names were placed in a bucket. The student drawn out, Joe O’Donnell, of grade four, was excited to win a brand new Malvern Star bicycle – generously donated by the Salvation Army. Many thanks to Dianne McAdam for her continued support of our school.

Thank you to staff and students, who, without your continued support and good works our fete would not be the success it was.

Activity Prize Winners:
Lolly in a Jar | Sean Hogan
Mini Golf | Emily Smith
| Jesse Smith
Footy in a bin | Cormacc Wilson
| Marnie Lehmann

Raffle Winners:
Quilt Raffle made by Val Connelly (raising approximately $1,000.00) won by Kath Arundall from Warracknabeal.

Michael Hussey signed cricket bat and stump
Kalvin McGinnis

Monster Lolly Raffle - Tammy Tait

Michael Hussey signed memorabilia
The Dorans

Sony Digital Frame - Stephanie McClelland

Accommodation in Halls Gap - Jessica Bidstrup

Bike Raffle | Joe O’Donnell

Northern Zone Swimming
Today we had thirteen students compete in the Northern Zone Swimming Finals at Swan Hill.

Thank you to the parents who assisted Kevin Delaney and Helen Digby with transport and other duties. Further information will be available in next week’s newsletter.

Word Quiz
This week, pick the three synonyms for each word but can you describe the subtle difference between the three similar words?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To fascinate- verb</th>
<th>Fiery- adjective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To enchant</td>
<td>charming</td>
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<tr>
<td>To hate</td>
<td>relentless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To fasten</td>
<td>corrupt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To intrigue</td>
<td>merciless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To mesmerise</td>
<td>relentless</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VCAL Debate
“It is too much of an imposition to expect ‘L’ plate drivers to document 120 hours of driving experience”

The affirmative side | The negative side
Lee James | Ian Fraser
Simon White | Marshall Connelly
James Totzenberger | Nathan Witherow

Come along and see the VCAL students argue both sides!

When: Monday 30th March 2009 commencing at 6:00 p.m.
Where: Birchip P-12 School Staff Recreation Room
Refreshments provided
Everyone welcome - audience required

Maths is Marvellous – You can count on it!

Cooking at Home
Children can help you prepare shopping lists, work out the quantities of ingredients needed, weigh the ingredients and check on cooking time. Involve the children in selecting new recipes.

Competitions
Mrs Debra Emonson will send a letter home next week to inform students and parents about the science, English and mathematics competitions.
Science | 10th June 2009
English | 4th August 2009
Mathematics | 6th August 2009

Grade 5/6 Homework questions
Due to the fete and summer sports day there are no homework questions this week.
THE AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRSHOW – AVALON

Thousands of plane enthusiasts attended the Avalon International Airshow last week to see more than 400 military and commercial aircraft on display; and the Birchip Flight students were among the throng who indulged their passion for fast flying machines. While many relived childhood dreams of being in control of a jet, the excursion was far from fanciful as the Air Show demonstrated to students that Maths and Physics have exciting applications in industry. While the class attended the Air Show to specifically learn about flight, throughout the day however, students were bombarded with many career paths that they had previously never considered.

For most of the day, the group’s eyes were directed skyward in awe of the speed, size and noise of the jets. Students returned to the peace of Birchip, relating how some planes achieved speeds in excess of 900 km/hr while being only 10 metres off the ground. Others were amazed at the Lockheed C-5 Galaxy, a military transport aircraft which could fit three wheat trucks inside its bowels and was five storeys high. The Caribou, one of the Air Force’s workhorses and soon to be decommissioned because of its high maintenance cost, intrigued many because of its ability to take off in small confines. Teacher, Mr Christie was impressed by the 65 tonnes Abram’s tank which can travel at 70 km/hr and stop its huge weight in its own length. Unbelievably, the tank’s ammunition was accurate to a distance of five and a half kilometres.

Teachers, Mr Whelan and Mr Sayle and students were inspired by Australian astronaut, Andy Thomas who spoke of his missions into space and his work with NASA. His pathway was interesting; he had always wanted to be an astronaut but thought he could never achieve his goal. He started his career studying mechanical engineering in Adelaide and then went to work with Lockheed Aeronautical Company in California. Thomas was the ultimate optimist and believed that with dedication and hard work ‘It can be done.’ And for Thomas this motto was successful as he fulfilled his dream in becoming an astronaut with NASA and subsequently flying millions of miles in space.

All the students thought that the 5:00 a.m. departure and four hour drive was worth the effort as they had a memorable day.
Inter School Summer Carnival

Students always look forward to the inter school carnival where they meet up with friends from Hopetoun and Rainbow. The competitions held were tennis, softball for boys and girls, cricket, basketball and lawn bowls which meant that most students were active, participating and being social for the day. This year the school was successful in boys’ tennis and cricket. Again the day ran smoothly because of Mr Sayle’s meticulous organisation and staff who managed teams and umpired.

Farewell to Eri Mizuno

Thank you to Eri for staying in Birchip for three weeks. We hope she had an enjoyable time.

Thank you to Emma, Rodney, Amy, Katie and Cameron Bennett for hosting Eri for the past three weeks.

Eri with the Birchip P-12 School Prep Class

YEAR 9 ACTIVITY PROGRAM - DAY 3

On Wednesday the year 9 class continued their journey with their activity program. Students were involved with Strength Training with Mrs Michelle Lee and Pasta Making with Nuccia McLean from Wycheproof. All students found both sessions to be very entertaining. Both groups especially found having a bowl of spaghetti at the end of the pasta making to be very delicious! Thanks to Rhonda Allan from the Mallee Sports Assembly for her co-ordination of the project and to Mrs Michelle Lee and Nuccia McLean for giving freely of their talents and sharing them with our students.
Presentation Ball Roster Friday
27th March 2009

The continuation of the traditional sumptuous supper at the presentation ball is reliant upon the generosity of our parent body.

Food may be brought to school in the morning or delivered to the hall by 6:30 p.m.

If you are unable to work or provide food please find your own replacement.

**Workers 7:00 p.m. coordinators**
Rhonda Bell, Sam Kemp, Colene Delaney, Deanne Botheras, Wendy Buteux, Renae Dingley, Denise Emery, Margaret O’Keefe

**Small Cream Puffs, 2doz** Sam Kemp, Rachel Colbert

**Éclairs 2doz** Michelle Lee, Deanne Botheras

**Jelly Slice 2doz** Wendy Collins, Wendy Buteux

**Hedgehog 2doz** Danane Brody, Mandy Braine

**Own Choice slice 2doz** Rosalie Gould, Bev Forrester

**Sausage rolls-3 doz** Debbie Emonson, Nicole James, Carly Sharp

**Mini Quiches-3doz** Denita Donnan, Rhonda Bell, Colene Delaney

**Meatballs-3doz** Renae Dingley, Lyn Boyle, Veronica Hogan

**Pin Wheels-3doz** Fiona Sayle, Kim McInerney

**Milk 4 litres** Greg Martin

**Tomato Sauce 4 litres** Margaret O’Keefe

**MIPS TIPS - Year 12s: Do you need to sit the UMAT?**

If you're planning to study a medical-related course in 2010, you may need to sit the Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Test (UMAT). Some universities use UMAT results (perhaps in conjunction with your ENTER and an interview) in selecting entrants for some courses. Check with your MPIs Coordinator or Careers Teacher to find out if your course is on the list. Even if you're thinking about one of these courses, it might be a good idea to sit the test 'just in case'. The test is on July 29th and registrations open in April. More info at [http://umatweb.acer.edu.au](http://umatweb.acer.edu.au).

**Birchip Archery Club**
March Shoot - Sunday 22nd March
10am start
Tchum Lake South
Enquiries Bob Darby 0400 958 915

**GWM Water Year 9 $75.00 Awards**

GWMWater is providing the opportunity for two Year 9 students from this school to receive a $75 award each this year.

Entries need to make a direct link to water, influence understanding of water in the community and be selected from one of the key learning areas as outlined in the award criteria.

For more information on the awards and how you might receive one, visit the GWMWater website [www.gwmwater.org.au](http://www.gwmwater.org.au) and type Year 9 awards in the search box, or contact GWMWater’s Community Education Co-ordinator Gillian Vanderwaal on 1300 659 961.

**Decorated Bike Competition**
Sunday 29th March
Birchip Park at 9.30 a.m.

**EAST WIMMERA HEALTH SERVICE - HOT SHOTS**
‘Murray to Moyne’ relay – Birchip Participants will be holding a competition for BEST DECORATED BIKE

Primary Students only
9.30am - Police will be in attendance to do engraving identification on bikes.
10am - Judging of bikes will take place
Section 1 Prep - Grade 3
Section 2 Grades 4, 5 & 6

1st prize Pushbike
2nd prize Bike Helmet
3rd prize Bike flag
To be awarded in both sections.
Plus other great prizes to be won.
Sausage sizzle during the morning
Entry $2.00 with all proceeds going to the EWHS Birchip Campus

**Quarterhorse Cup - Parents’ Club Catering**
Special thanks to the parents and students who made themselves available to work at the Quarter Horse Races last weekend. These volunteers worked tirelessly and enthusiastically to produce high quality food under less than perfect conditions. The success of Café Banshee was directly attributable to the effort and energy applied by these people whose initiative and creativity made good quality catering possible in a tent in the dust.

Thank you all for your effort, energy and enthusiasm. Special thanks to our gourmet chefs Trish Lehmann and Angela Liston for their planning and tireless work on the day.

Exhibition organised by the Victoria and Albert Museum, London

Bendigo Art Gallery

Mrs Barb Smith and the year 9/10 Textiles students travelled to Bendigo yesterday to view the “The Golden Age of Couture” Exhibition. The exhibits included evening gowns, underwear, suits, cocktail dresses, street dresses and fundraising dolls made by couturieres in Paris and London after world war two. Notably famous exhibitors included Christobel Balenciago, Hubert de Ginenchy, Worth London, Christian Dior and Coco Channel. The incredible fabrics, drape, shapes and intricate processes involved in creating the garments were fascinating. Following are a couple of reflections from the students –

Evelyn Reid - “I was interested to see how the features of military uniforms were incorporated into fashion at this time. Lots of the clothes had padded shoulders and suit styles.”

Karleigh Weir – “I loved it all – I found it very interesting to see how fashion reproduced itself”

Mikaela Christie – “I liked seeing all the different designers and what they designed 50 years ago. I was especially interested in Christian Dior and Coco Channel.”
## 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>Prep</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Mrs Sheahan</td>
<td>Revise f, t sounds, recognising numbers 1 - 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Mrs Shehan</td>
<td>Counting x5, x10</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Mrs Welton</td>
<td>Choose a number between 0 &amp; 100 and practise counting backwards</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/5</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td></td>
<td>Spelling and test, learn times tables</td>
<td>25th Mar.</td>
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<td>24th Mar.</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Spelling test, study for grammar test on Thursday</td>
<td>26th Mar.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Miss Barclay</td>
<td>Math Mate</td>
<td>23rd Mar.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Miss Meehan</td>
<td>Study for test</td>
<td>27th Mar.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>Miss Johnson</td>
<td>Modern conflict and mind maps</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Miss Meehan</td>
<td>Study for test</td>
<td>23rd Mar.</td>
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<td>10/11</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Miss Hicks</td>
<td>Book study to be completed</td>
<td>23rd Mar.</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Miss Johnson</td>
<td>Prosocial activities</td>
<td>24th Mar.</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>General Maths</td>
<td>Miss Barclay</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
<td>2nd April</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Design &amp; Tech.</td>
<td>Mr Whelan</td>
<td>Folio - Unit 1</td>
<td>27th Mar.</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>Miss Johnson</td>
<td>Charles Thatcher’s Song</td>
<td>23rd Mar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Smith/Hicks</td>
<td>Prepare for Oral SAC</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Miss Meehan</td>
<td>SAC preparation (enzymes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Further Maths</td>
<td>Miss Barclay</td>
<td>Practise SAC</td>
<td>23rd Mar.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All Years - 15 minutes reading a day!
Habits of Mind

Wonderment and Awe

Last Friday 13th March 2009, Mr Christie, Mr Whelan and Mr Sayle along with 10 year 10/11 students were amazed and experienced wonderment and awe at the Avalon, Australian International Airshow.

Hugh
Heading up on the bus at 5.30 I was wondering if it was worth getting up, when we got to the air show I soon found out the exciting adrenelen rushing planes were worth it.

Tim
It was an early start for us flight students heading off at 5.30 heading for Avalon. The air show was a great experience learning heaps about the army and planes.

Nick
The trip was an amazing experience. The highlight from the trip was listening to Andrew Thomas the Australian Astronaught, and then meeting him. (It can be done)

Brad
The experience was great and watching the fast planes fly around and all the free stuff and looking at all the different aeroplanes around. It was a fun trip.

Conor
One of the highlights of the trip was listening to Andy Thomas talk about how he went into space and what he experienced and saw. Also watching the planes doing flips in the air was pretty amazing too.

Marshall
Avalon was fantastic, it was a real eye opener. There are so many things that planes can do that I didn’t even think they could. If I had another chance of going to the air show I would go in a heart beat and that Andy Thomas talk was brilliant.