Forthcoming Events

March
Monday 19th  North Central Secondary Duathlon at Wyche
Wednesday 21st  Year 9 Advance Activities
Thursday 22nd  School Council Meeting 8pm
Monday 26th  Year 9 Advance trip to Bendigo
Tuesday 27th  Parent Teacher Evening 3.30pm
Friday 30th  Last day of school for term one. 2.30 finish

April
Monday 16th  First day of school for term two
Friday 20th  Debutante Ball
Tuesday 25th  Anzac Day
Monday 30th  → Year 9 Advance program
Friday 4th May
Monday 30th  → Year 10 Work Experience
Friday 4th May

May
Tuesday 1st  Year 11 students - Ormond College Visit
Monday 7th  → Grade 6 Maldon Camp
Wednesday 9th
Tuesday 8th  Physical Resources Meeting 8pm
Thursday 10th  Secondary House Cross Country
Friday 11th  Primary Cross Country
Tuesday 15th  NAPLAN Testing for Years 3, 5, 7, 9
               Year 12 TIS Day Carlton
Wednesday 16th  NAPLAN Testing for Years 3, 5, 7, 9
Thursday 17th  NAPLAN Testing for Years 3, 5, 7, 9
                School Council Meeting 8pm
Monday 21st  School Production - Sister Act - Matinee 1pm
Wednesday 23rd  School Production - Sister Act - 7pm
Friday 25th  School Production - Sister Act - 7pm
Thursday 31st  School Review Day

June
Tuesday 5th  University of Ballarat - Outreach Day
Wednesday 6th  Australian Science Competition
Friday 8th  Report Writing Day - Pupil Free Day
Monday 11th  Queen’s Birthday Holiday

July
Monday 16th  → Year 9 Rubicon camp
Friday 20th

2012 Birchip P-12 School Fete

– Another huge success – thank you to all!

Despite the weather and the downpour at 4:30 p.m. the 2012 School Fete was another terrific success. The evening and setting in the Stadium was warm but friendly and enjoyable. Some even made comments and said the venue was best because it kept everyone together. The theme of ‘Country Fair’ was observable and added to the evening’s atmosphere. Many thanks to our parents, friends and community members for once again supporting our school. Whether it be by turning up at the fete, or buying a raffle ticket; your support is very much appreciated.

A large crowd of students, parents, staff and very supportive community members enjoyed the offerings of many stalls, raffles, spinning wheels and roast meal. Approximately 150 meals were served.

A profit of approximately $6,000 was realized

The fete involves a huge effort by many including students, parents and staff. The excellent works by many ensured a most successful evening both socially, enjoyably and profitably. The Red Faces acts were enjoyed by all – even Copper Benfield performing various contortions for the amazed crowd.

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Thanks to Marcia Mallia and Maureen Donnellon for their
co-ordination of this event and to the students for their enthusiasm.

Many thanks to the Parents’ Club for providing the beautiful roast meal for all to enjoy which was again followed by coffee and cake to complete the meal.

The fete organizing committee, led by Mrs Eileen Smith and Mrs Trish Lehmann must be congratulated and commended for their excellent preparations and organization for the fete. Many thanks to Eileen and Trish for their leadership and excellent co-ordination of the event. It is very much appreciated.

Thanks to Dave Valentine for his efforts in setting up the venue and ensuring various items are at the ready. Thank you to staff members for their willingness to organize students with various exciting activities for our students to enjoy.

And finally, thank you to all our students who are always prepared to set up, enjoy the activities and then clean up when the ‘party’ is over.

Thank you to everyone for your efforts – all in all – a magnificent effort and enjoyable evening.

Prize Winners include:
Lollies in a jar  Guess of 400 lollies (actually 402 lollies) by Andrea Smith
Guess the Teacher competition  Emily Smith
Mini Golf  Primary – Matilda Rickard
               Secondary – Jacob Gleeson

Major Raffle Winners:
LCD Television  Lyn Leersen
eBook  Danni Ryan (Berriwillock)
Michael Hussey ball  Lorna Litt
Teddy Bear  Aden Kemp
Engineering Play Set  Yvonne Schofield

Learning starts long before children enter school and parents are the best teachers

Families are the first and most enduring influence on a child’s development and play an important role in a child’s learning. Developing strong skills in reading, writing and mathematics is critical to ensure your child’s success in early learning and beyond.

Parents sometimes feel powerless but you can make a difference by supporting what your child learns at school and helping them to learn at home.

In the early years of primary school, students learn to read through rhymes, story-telling and following along with their favourite book. Learning to write begins with scribble and drawings so encourage your talented artist to colour, finger paint and draw.

Story-telling is a great way to extend your child’s language and listening skills. It’s also an effective way of developing your imagination. By simply talking about a character in a book or in a television program, you are without knowing it, improving your child’s literacy skills.

Reading is an important way to make the link from spoken words to written words so encourage your child to select books and talk about the pictures in books. Children love to hear rhyme and repetition in books and enjoy reading when they know a book by heart. You can probably remember with nostalgia some of the books that were read to you as a child.

Children need lots of practise in making, counting, drawing and talking about numbers. Encourage your child to see patterns, to count out items at home—even the socks in the washing basket, the fruit in the bowl, the number of lights in the house and read house numbers.

By the way, Shake Rattle and Read, an early childhood literacy program which aims to make reading a fun activity for both parent and child is conducted at our school every second Wednesday morning at 10:50 a.m. Parents are appreciative of our librarians who give them useful tips on how to read and tell stories with their children.

Learning becomes very sophisticated as students progress through school.

Media & Graphics

For the past few weeks, budding architects in year nine and ten Graphics have been experimenting with how they can use technology to design. Using the program Google Sketch Up, students designed their own dream houses. The students have thoroughly enjoyed using their notebooks to produce these pieces, and have been thoroughly engaged in classes.
Physics

In Mr McRae’s Year 12 Physics class, students, Ethan Cooper and Jesse Buteux, investigated aspects of motion in two dimensions using an air table. The air table is much like the familiar air hockey table where pucks can slide across its surface with almost zero friction. Pucks of various masses and velocities collided with each other and the motion was video-taped from above. The video footage is analysed to determine the velocities of each puck involved, both before and after the collision. The aim of the experiment was to verify that the total momentum of the pucks before the collision is equal to the total momentum of the pucks after the collision. As an extension, and with the aid of mathematics, the students can closely predict the resulting motion of the pucks after the collision. Such experiments have been useful in working out the force of a gun’s recoil and what happens in traffic accidents when vehicles collide.

Maths is Marvellous
You can count on it!

Show children how you use maths in your everyday activities, e.g. measuring ingredients, estimating costs, calculating change, timing long things take to cook, preparing shopping lists, using calibrated containers, using kitchen scales, tendering money, playing card and board games, telling time, looking for patterns in the environment, reading house numbers, reading vehicle number plates.

THE EASY WAY TO GET A TAX FILE NUMBER (TFN)

The Australian Taxation Office with the co-operation of schools, offers students aged 13 years or over the opportunity to apply for a tax file number through the school. This is a voluntary program and makes it easier for students to obtain a TFN. Students need a TFN for employment, applying for Centrelink benefits, opening a bank account or deferring university fees.

Applying for a TFN through the school is easier because students do not need to show identifying documentation to the ATO. The application form is available from the school and students can complete it at home. The form requires information such as the student’s name, address and date of birth. Students born in Australia will need to provide their birth certificate number, state of issue and year of registration or Australian passport number and date of issue.

Students born overseas will need to provide their overseas passport number and country of issue.

Parent Teacher Student Interviews

Tuesday 27 March 2012 from 3:15 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

All families will receive a ‘Parent Teacher Student Interviews Schedule’ next week inviting them to come along on Tuesday 27th March 2012 from 3:15 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. in the Stadium.

On this day, school will finish at 3:00 p.m. with school buses running 25 minutes earlier than usual.

We will commence the interviews slightly earlier at 3:15 p.m.

Families have been allocated one or two of three hour blocks.

- Session 1: 3:15 – 4:15 p.m.
- Session 2: 4:15 – 5:15 p.m.
- Session 3: 5:15 – 6:30 p.m.

Should your allotted time be inconvenient, please contact Mr Cameron Whelan at the school for an alternative time.

All teachers will be in attendance. Please take the opportunity to come and discuss your son’s and daughter’s progress with their teachers. Interim Reports will be distributed on the night.

Parent-teacher evening will conclude at 6:30 p.m.

Parents of three or more children at our school will be allotted two, one hour time slots to give them more chance of catching up with all their children’s teachers.

There will be three chairs in a line leading up to each teacher to allow for an ordered queue process.

A letter will be sent home next week indicating the times allocated to your family for the parent-teacher evening. There was a tear off receipt which needs to be returned to the office so that planning can occur.
Yukako — Japanese Assistant Teacher

Thank you to Emma, Rodney, Amy, Katie and Cameron Bennett for hosting Yukako. She will have Easter with the Bennetts too. She has moved and is now staying at Sue, Mick, Ronald, Nakita, Cassie Turner. If anyone is interested in hosting Yukako, please let Mr Richmond or Ms Nakamura know at school. Yukako will stay in Birchip until Christmas.

Commonwealth Bank Student School Banking

A new way to open accounts.

Parents can now open student banking accounts via any Commonwealth Bank branch, online through NetBank, or by downloading a paper-based form. This change is designed to make opening an account simple and easy for parents.


Student banking is usually done on a Wednesday.
Birchip P-12 School Parents’ Club

Annual General Meeting

The Parents’ Club Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 19th March at 7:30 p.m. in the Staff Recreation Room. All are very welcome to attend.

Thank you to Trish Lehmann and many workers at the Quarter Horse races. It all ran very smoothly. Thanks also to Sam Kemp and workers for cooking for the Parents’ Club sweet stall at the fete on Wednesday night, and to all parents who supplied food and worked at the fete and sold raffle tickets down the street. It has been a busy week and your assistance has been much appreciated.

BIRCHIP JUNIOR CRICKET

After leading the Birchip Junior Cricket Competition all season Watson came up against Hussey who had experienced a winning patch of form in the lead up to the Grand Final. A close match with some excellent fielding performances saw Hussey continue their winning streak by passing the required total in the last few overs.

Results of Grand Final

Hussey 113 defeated Watson 108

Watson
Harrison Christie 22
Ben Milne 2 wickets for 2 runs

Hussey
Cajun Fowler 30
Joe Boyle 26
David Casey 25
Ben Hogan 3 for 9 runs

Thank you to all parents that helped umpire, score, pack up cricket gear, cook BBQs and generally supporting the junior cricketers.

Congratulations and well done to all captains and other older players for the help and positive support of the younger cricketers.

Birchip Watchem Hockey Club

Training – mens, womens & underage (year 7 & above)
Wednesday nights at the field from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
All players encouraged to attend.
Any new or interested players also welcome.
Enquiries/apologies to Tim McClelland 0408 136 947

Birchip Book Club

at the Shamrock at 8:00 p.m.

One Wednesday a month, (next meeting 21st March 2012)
Books are distributed at each meeting
$50.00 for 2012
Enrol now at the Birchip Business and Learning Centre on 54 922 735 or email birchipblc@bigpond.com
Birchip Youth Room
at the Shamrock
77 Cumming Avenue Birchip

The youth room with various games and equipment including a television, PlayStation, computers, table tennis table & pool table is available for the young people of Birchip.

It is not supervised and all users must act responsibly and leave the room tidy and free of rubbish. All lights, air conditioner/heater, TV and computers must be turned off, doors locked and furniture put back in its place when users leave the building.

The Youth Room will be open until 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday (users can lock up when they leave) and it will be available at other times for secondary school aged children by way of a key system. The key can be collected from Simone Christie at 13 Lockwood Street BIRCHIP 3483 or by contacting 0429 922 735.

Please do not enter the house to get the key if no one is home. The key must be signed for and it is the responsibility of this person to lock up and return the key.

If something is broken please report it to Simone Christie ASAP.

Birchip Watchem Junior Football Club

BBQ and registration evening
Tuesday 20th March 2012

Parents and players in the Birchip Watchem Under Thirteen and Sixteen teams for the 2012 season are invited to attend a registration evening which will be held on Tuesday 20th March 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at the George Cartwright oval.

Registration cost for the season is $30.00 which must be paid on the night.

Medicare, ambulance and private health insurance information if applicable, are all required. Please ensure you sons have this information ready for inclusion into the club’s database.

If you are a parent of an under thirteen player please ask about the many vacant roles associated with getting that team on the field. If they are not filled then a team may not be entered in the competition this year.

Murray to Moyne

Party Plan Afternoon on Sunday 25th March 2012 from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Birchip CFA Shed

- Essential Addition Bags
- Tupperware
- ‘Lorraine Lea’ Linen
- ‘Postie Fashion’
- Turners Jewellery
- Mcc’s Wear (mens clothing)
- Chief Toolbox
- Intimo
- Chrome Tools

This is a fundraiser for the East Wimmera Health Service.

Contact: Rosalie Gould 54 922 260 or 0429 922 260

Birchip Tennis

Semi-finals at Donald, team to leave the café at midday.

**SACs Next Week**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year level</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Homework</th>
<th>Due date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Enzymes - experiment</td>
<td>20th March</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Report on enzymes</td>
<td>21st March</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Business Management</td>
<td>Internal Environment - Part A</td>
<td>23rd March</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>Resource Allocation - the market system</td>
<td>20th March</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Ag &amp; Hort</td>
<td>Emerging technology</td>
<td>23rd March</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Analysis</td>
<td>19th March</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Oral</td>
<td>23rd March</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Investigating enzyme activity - experimental design</td>
<td>20th March</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Investigating enzyme activity - experiment</td>
<td>27th March</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Homework!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Spelling test</td>
<td>23rd Mar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Persuasive essay</td>
<td>21st Mar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mr Brady</td>
<td>Answer Question sheet</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Ms Tellbach</td>
<td>Complete methods section of report</td>
<td>19th Mar</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Physical/chemical reactions worksheet</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>Eloquent English</td>
<td>Mr Brady</td>
<td>Read up to Part 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>Write the Right</td>
<td>Mr Brady</td>
<td>Complete questions. Application</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mr Brady</td>
<td>Read up to pg 207. Finish essay</td>
<td>20th Mar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Ms Tellbach</td>
<td>Revise for enzyme SAC for</td>
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<td>English</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Analysis and oral SAC preparation</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>PE</td>
<td>Mr Sayle</td>
<td>HR response to exercise question</td>
<td>19th Mar</td>
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All Years - 15 minutes reading a day!