First term – a short but busy term

The first term has come to an abrupt end. Thank you to students for their excellent endeavours and willingness to ‘have a go’ during the term. Thanks to our enthusiastic and hard working staff for their efforts to ensure our students continue to enjoy excellent education opportunities. Thank you also to our parents who continue to support our school in many and varied ways.

I wish you all a happy and safe Easter. Have a well earned rest so that we can all be ready to meet the challenges of Term 2 – a long 12 week term and let’s hope a wet one too.

Second term commences on Monday 7th April 2008 at 8:55 a.m.

School Uniform

Students are expected to wear winter uniform during second and third terms. There will be a two (2) week changeover period from Monday 7th April 2008 until Friday 18th April 2008 where students may wear either summer or winter uniform – not a combination of both. On Monday 21st April all students are expected to be in full Winter uniform. The uniform policy can be found under the information tab on the school’s webpage http://www.birchip.vic.edu.au Please use the holiday time to organize your school uniform in readiness for term 2.

Easter Parade & Concert

Last Tuesday, in front of a large and very appreciative audience, P-6 students performed musical items and modelled creative hats and masks. Our school traditionally targets senior community members with special invitations, and welcomes all parents and interested onlookers.

Hats and masks were of a very high standard, thanks to the creative leadership of Mrs Janine Welton, and
the musical items were of the usual high standard, achieved under the watchful eye of Mrs Andrea Phelan, who also contributed with accompaniment from the accordion.

Year 5 and 6 students took turns to be announcers for the morning, and despite much nervousness, performed extremely well. The Year 6 students ushered and welcomed the audience to a special morning tea, and then proceeded to wait on those in attendance. The food provided was delicious thanks to the year 6 students who each provided a cake or slice. The staff room was packed with staff and guests and when all had been served refreshments, our students sat and chatted with the visitors, before finally washing dishes and tidying the room.
Reminder to Parents of VCE students

If your son/daughter is ill on the day of School Assessed Coursework (SAC), then they must have a doctor’s certificate for the absence. By obtaining a Doctor’s certificate the teacher can assess the student later through a different activity or a modified activity. If the SAC is ongoing then the extra time may be granted to the student.

Failure to obtain a doctor’s certificate for the student who is absent on SAC day means that an N maybe received for that piece of work and the student may fail that unit.

Russell Christie VCE Co-ordinator

Northern Zone Swimming

Congratulations to the following students for their efforts on being selected to represent Birchip P-12 School at the Northern Zone Swimming Finals held at Swan Hill yesterday. The school’s swim team consisted of Brenten Delaney, Karleigh Weir, Harrison Christie, Jake Hogan, Tayla Connelly, Marshall Connelly and Riley Doran

All students performed well and should be pleased with their efforts.

Placegetters were:
Harrison Christie - 2nd U13 B 50m Butterfly
Brenten Delaney - 3rd U15 B 200m Freestyle, 3rd U15 B 50m Freestyle and 3rd U15 B 50m Backstroke

Thanks to Mr Delaney for transporting and managing the team and also to the parents who supported students at Swan Hill.

Success next year – 2009??

Wouldn’t it be great to see more placegetters and winners in 2009?

Students are encouraged to support the swim squad and join at the start of next season. This would be a great way to participate in regular physical activity and maintain fitness over summer while improving swimming skills.

Thanks to all staff and parents who have supported the School swimming program this year.

Andrew Sayle

Bike Education Program

During the first three weeks of Term 2 children from Grade 6 will be undertaking a Bike Education Program in preparation for the Maldon Camp. Children will require a bike in roadworthy condition and a safety approved helmet.

Japanese Trip

Parents and students intending to participate in the Japanese trip are reminded of the next information night on Monday 14th April 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the Staff Recreation Room. Flight arrangements, costs, itinerary etc., will be discussed at the meeting. The Japan trip is planned to take place during the September / October school holidays.

Alpine School

Year 9 students have been attending lunchtime meetings over the past few weeks to discuss the Community Learning Project along with selection criteria for students wishing to attend Alpine School.

Mr Marchesi distributed the 7 selection criteria to students today. Students will need to provide completed responses to these selection criteria by Wednesday 2nd April 2008. (This is the second Wednesday of the holidays). Please deliver your completed responses to Mr Richmond on this day. Students will also need to make themselves available for interview on the afternoon of Friday 4th April 2008. Should this interview time be unsuitable for students, please contact Mr Richmond for a suitable alternative interview time. Students will be notified of the outcome of their submission on Tuesday 8th April 2008.

Parents and students should note that at the moment it is possible for students to be involved in both activities – the Japan trip AND Alpine School. The Japan trip members would finish prior to the departure of the Alpine camp attendees.

Immunizations

Parents and students please note that the next immunizations round will take place on Monday 7th April 2008 at 1:30 p.m. - (This is the first day back in Term 2)

Year 7: Chicken Pox, Hepatitis B, Gardasil
Year 9: Gardasil
Year 10: Gardasil, Boostrix (Triple antigen – Diphtheria, Tetanus, whooping cough)
Presentation Ball

The Birchip P-12 School Presentation Ball will be held on Friday 18th April 2008.

Tickets:  
- Adults - $12.00  
- Students - $5.00  
- Viewing (upstairs) - $3.00  
- Primary Students – Free

You are strongly encouraged to pre-book your tickets to the ball. Pre-booked tickets must be paid for when the booking is made. Bookings can be made at the school office during school times.

Holiday Training

Training will be held on Monday 31st March at 7:00 p.m. Girls should attend a short meeting with Jenny Simpson of Farmyard Flowers at 6:30 p.m. on this evening. Further training dates will be discussed on this night also.

Year 9 Activity Program

Rhonda Allan (Mallee Sports Assembly) has organized a group of activities with year 9 students during term 2. This will involve 6 sessions for both boys and girls. Activities include eating properly, self defence, what to wear, fun walk, how to cope with teenage life, massage, time management, boxercise, drug and alcohol talk, yoga, gymnasium, swimming, lunch, hair, make-up, skin care, abseiling, rock climbing and ten pin bowling.

It is interesting to note that the health professional delivering the talk on eating properly is our own home grown nutritionist/dietician Bree Forrester.

The program looks to be very exciting with a good mix of discussion, advice, activity and entertainment. The final celebration day, Tuesday 3rd June 2008, will involve a full day in Bendigo. There will be a small fee to cover the transport cost on this day.

Parent Teacher Evening

The Parent Teacher Evening is scheduled for Tuesday 22nd April 2008 from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the school’s stadium. This will involve three (3) sessions:

- Session One: 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Session Two: 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Session Three: 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Senior SRC will provide tea, coffee, water, biscuits, etc., to staff and parents during the evening.

Letters will be sent home to parents in early Term 2 indicating the session times for your family.

Do your bit. Turn off your LIGHTS for one hour on Saturday 29th March at 8pm.

Go Green Save the World

Birchip P-12 School has entered into the spirit of earth hour by turning off all fridges and computers for the duration of the holidays.

School Council Induction Program

School Councillors – please consider attending the School Council Induction evening being held on Wednesday 9th April 2008 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at the Horsham Golf Club.

Please let John Richmond know if you are interested.

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Smart bunnies become members at Easter.

Easter is a great time of year for families to get away for a holiday or have fun in the backyard. Unfortunately, it's also one of Ambulance Victoria's busiest times of year. In 2007, we responded to over 2,963 calls for emergency assistance in Metropolitan Melbourne alone during the four day weekend. If your family aren't members, calling an ambulance could cost you up to $5,500.

Join before April 11 and save 10%.

Become a member for just $120 and protect your family. If you pay via Ambulance EASY Pay (direct debit) before April 11, we'll give you a 10% discount. Enjoy a safe and happy Easter and take care on the roads.

To qualify for the discount when you join, please quote the following code when speaking to the customer consultant or joining online: School001

Visit: ambulance.vic.gov.au
Call: 1800 64 84 84

Ambulance Membership

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Birchip Uniting Church & Birchip-Watchem Netball & Hockey Clubs Catering

BCG 20/20 Vision Dinner
Rosters have been sent home with junior players.
Queries contact:
Heather Hogan or Michelle Lee (netball)
Simone Christie (Hockey)

Birchip Junior Golf
Junior golf will commence on Friday 11th April at 3:30 p.m. Any new interested primary or secondary students are most welcome. Please contact Beryl Feitz on 03 54 922 636 if interested.

Southern Cross Cultural Exchange, an Australian not-for-profit, organisation specialising in international student exchange programs, is URGENTLY seeking volunteer host families for high school students scheduled to arrive in Australia in July 2008 from Germany, Austria, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Holland. Host families can choose from students staying for a range of either 3, 5 or 10 months and they all attend their local high school whilst they are in Australia. The main purpose of cultural exchange is to challenge youth towards international understanding and tolerance, encourage further learning, self knowledge and awareness - invaluable characteristics in today’s world. We organise all the flights, schools, transportation, insurances and support systems. Call Southern Cross Cultural Exchange now toll free on 1800 500 501, visit www.scce.com.au or email scce aust@scce.com.au

VACANCY
INTEGRATION AIDE
25 HOURS/WEEK

Applications/Expressions of interest by 24th March 2008
Job description available on the school’ website

VCAL Debate
A small but appreciative audience gathered in the Staff Recreation Room on Monday evening to hear the VCAL students debate whether “The Australian Government’s new law restricting passengers of P-plate drivers will benefit the community”. MC for the evening was Patrick Ryan who very capably welcomed all present and introduced the adjudicators and the
teams. Debating the negative were Tom Rumbold, Jesse Dyall and Debra Hughes; they clearly had the most difficult task however discussed the designated driver culture, the fact that there would be more cars on the road and the erosion of their independence. The affirmative team who were judged the winners of the debate included Rachael Pellegrino, Virginia Glen and Zoe Barbetti. They investigated road death statistics, quoted examples and personal experiences. Cody Connelly was event manager and experienced a small taste of the various tasks involved in organising and promoting such events. Special thanks are extended to Mr Russell Christie, Ms Elisha Johnson and Ms Fiona Best for giving of their time and expertise to adjudicate the debate. Prior to announcing the winning team Fiona provided some encouraging remarks to each speaker and offered advice to assist them in the future.

The debate was a team building exercise that encouraged the formation of opinions on a health/community related topic and provided a forum for public speaking as part of the Personal Development Strand of the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning.

Farewell Miss Aoi Kobayashi

Aoi has been in Birchip for four weeks. She has very much enjoyed her time with us and gained many wonderful experiences. We hope to see her again. Aoi is going back to Japan on Easter Sunday.
All the best to Aoi.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year level</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Homework</th>
<th>Due date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep/1</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Mrs Welton</td>
<td>Skipping, practise words, counting, shapes</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/5</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Mrs Kelly</td>
<td>Read and learn tables</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>Miss Langley</td>
<td>Homework sheet</td>
<td>7th April</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Differences Count</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Prepare for oral first day back</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Subject</td>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>Task Description</td>
<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>Survival</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Complete Earring assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>Miss Langley</td>
<td>Application task</td>
<td>7th April</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/11</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>Miss Johnson</td>
<td>Complete research notes for essay</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Ag. Hort.</td>
<td>Mr Christie</td>
<td>Finish weeds assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>Mr Christie</td>
<td>Chapter 2 questions</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Accounting</td>
<td>Mr Knights</td>
<td>SAC Part A</td>
<td>7th April</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>General Maths</td>
<td>Barclay/Langley</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
<td>7th April</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Miss Barclay</td>
<td>Area 1 Study Review</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Maths Methods</td>
<td>Miss Langley</td>
<td>Homework Checklist Sheet</td>
<td>8th April</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>General Maths</td>
<td>Miss Langley</td>
<td>Bivariate Data: Analysis CD &amp; CB also</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Food Technology</td>
<td>Mr Christie</td>
<td>Continue with reading exercises</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Ag. Hort.</td>
<td>Mr Christie</td>
<td>Complete duck technology assignment</td>
<td>7th April</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Mr Christie</td>
<td>Test on gravimetric analysis, 12 chemistry questions</td>
<td>7th April</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Prepare for oral SAC first day back</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>Mr Richmond</td>
<td>Complete electronic component activity</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>PE</td>
<td>Mr Sayle</td>
<td>Promoting Physical Activity, prepare for SAC, Revision questions (3), Exam questions, Energy Systems questions sheet</td>
<td>7th April</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Business Manag</td>
<td>Mr Knights</td>
<td>Chapters 6-7</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Further Maths</td>
<td>Miss Barclay</td>
<td>Practice for Sac first week back</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Miss Johnson</td>
<td>Holiday class</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Complete holiday word</td>
<td>4th April</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Living with Teenagers**

Being a parent is one of the most important jobs.

If you would like to get together with other parents to share ideas, brush up on skills and learn some new ones, come along.

This is an enjoyable and practical program to help parents understand and cope better with the challenges of rearing teenage children.

- **PARENTING TEENAGERS**
- **TEENAGE DEVELOPMENT**
- **PARENTAL WELLBEING**
- **BUILDING & MAINTAINING POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS**
- **COMMUNICATION**
- **LIMIT SETTING, BOUNDARIES & STRATEGIES**
- **RECONCILIATION**
- **SELF CARE**

**HORSHAM**

**TIME:** 7:00pm - 9:00pm

**DATES:** April 22nd & 29th & May 6th (3 Tuesday sessions)  
Participants need to attend all 3 sessions.

**VENUE:** TO BE CONFIRMED

**BOOKINGS:** Cherie Ladlow 5362 4031 or Louise Smith 5362 4084

**FREE - OTHER THAN YOUR TIME & COMMITMENT**
RoadSafe Wimmera wishes all School students, families and staff a great Easter break.

The following information is provided in the interest of Road Safety for all over the holiday period: -

Every year about 70% of all injuries or deaths involving children between 5 and 14 years are related to using the road – mostly as a passenger, pedestrian or cyclist.

The correct road crossing procedure is STOP, LOOK, LISTEN and THINK:

- STOP one step back from the kerb or shoulder of the road if there is no footpath.
- LOOK in all directions for approaching traffic.
- LISTEN in all directions for approaching traffic.
- THINK about whether it is safe to cross the road – when the road is clear or all traffic has stopped.

When crossing walk straight across the road. Keep LOOKING and LISTENING for traffic while crossing.

If you are under 12 years of age you can legally ride on footpaths in Victoria. Any adults riding with you can also ride on the footpath. The footpath or a bicycle path is generally much safer than riding on the road, but watch out for cars coming out of driveways and where footpaths and bicycle paths intersect with roads.

Pedestrian fatalities and serious injuries are a major factor for young people aged 12 to 21 years.

Head injuries are the major cause of death and serious injury to cyclists. Since wearing bicycle helmets became compulsory in Victoria, there has been a 70% drop in the number of cyclists killed or admitted to hospital through head injury.

Cyclists aged 12 to 17 have the highest rate of fatalities and serious injuries for all age groups. This same age group also has the lowest bicycle helmet wearing rates of all age groups in Victoria.

Seatbelts have been shown to be the single most effective life saving device in a road crash.

Research shows that learner drivers who have at least 120 hours of practice behind the wheel can reduce the likelihood of a crash by 30% when they get their P plates.

Grade 3 hi-jinks

End-of-term treats are a tradition in Miss Howard’s class. This year the grade 3s enjoyed crazy hair, coloured hairspray pillow fights and face painting. But this time there was the new event of smashing the Easter bunny piñata. And of course, once the bunny was destroyed, there was all the fun of scrambling for the chocolate eggs. The photographs show the grade 3 children enjoying these activities.