Forthcoming Events

April
- Monday 14th: VCE Physics excursion to University of Ballarat
- Thursday 17th: Summer Sports - Hopetoun School Council Presentation Ball
- Friday 18th: Parent Teacher Evening - Prep→Year 12
  Three sessions: 4:00→5:00, 5:00→6:00, 6:00→7:00
- Tuesday 22nd: Bully Bullring – Cultural Event – 9:15 a.m.
- Thursday 24th: MS Readathon visit for Primary students
- Friday 25th: Anzac Day
- Monday 28th: Grade 6 Maldon Camp
- Thursday 1st May
  May
- Thursday 1st: Drama class to Bendigo to see ‘The Crucible’
- Thursday 1st: Grampians & Arapiles overnight camp
- Friday 2nd: Years 10/11 Canberra Camp
- Sunday 4th: Year 9 Advance Camp
- Friday 9th: Year 12 TIS – Charlton
  Physical Resources Meeting
- Friday 9th: Primary Cross Country - St Arnaud
- Monday 12th: Pupil Free Day
- Tuesday 13th: National Assessment Program for Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 students
- Thursday 15th: School Council
- Thursday 15th: Law Makers, Law Breakers Loddon Jail, Castlemaine Excursion
- Tuesday 20th: Year 11 & 12 Literature students–Melbourne
- Friday 23rd: Secondary Motivational Media ‘The power of everyone’
- Monday 26th: Bell Shakespeare Company

Welcome Back to Term Two

Welcome back to students and staff for what appears to be a busy, long twelve week term two. There are many projects on the go.

Primary Toilets

John Wilson and his team are constructing the primary toilet block. The slab is complete and the walls and plumbing fittings will commence next week. The project should be finished in 8 weeks time.

Primary Classroom Ceiling Removal

Due to the presence of small amounts asbestos in the plaster of the primary classroom ceilings, all the ceilings are being removed over a period of six (6) weeks. A team of builders will commence works next Monday 14th April 2008.

At 4:00 p.m. next Monday 14th April 2008 – the school will be closed to students, staff and visitors until 8:00 a.m. the following morning – Tuesday 15th April 2008. During this time a team of experts will safely remove the ceilings in Room 18 (Grade 5&6) and Room 19 (Grade 4&5) classrooms. The ceiling debris will be removed prior to 8:00 a.m. on the next day. The builders will then reinstate the ceilings and fittings back into the rooms during next week. The four (4) other primary rooms will be completed after next week. I ask for the co-operation of students, staff and parents during this time.
Front Garden
Weed matting has been laid and bark chips covered on the front north east garden. The Mallee Environmental Employment Program (MEEP) workers undertook this work during the week. Next week, more MEEP workers will trench and lay pipes on the front lawn. This will allow future watering of the area with recycled water when it becomes available. The front lawn area will be followed by the main sports oval to the west of the stadium. We thank Cameron Flowers and the MEEP workers very much for their efforts to help us complete many projects.
Soft fall, for under the play equipment, has been ordered and will arrive in the next 4 weeks.
Many thanks to James Boyle for carting the bark chips from Warracknabeal.

Japan Trip Information Night
Japan trip information night is on Tuesday 15th at 7.30 in the Staff Recreation Room.

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.

Piping from AWB to the school
The school in conjunction with the Birchip Community Leisure Centre are completing a further water recycling project which will see the piping from AWB Grainflow site to the school. 
Now all we need is the rain to fill the recycle dams to water our playing fields

New technology shed
Over the holidays Mr Cameron Whelan, Mr David Valentine, Mr Travis Knights and Mr Russell Christie started construction of the technology shed. The footings were dug and poured during the day. Since then Mr Whelan has overseen the uprights being erected by various students. Cladding and concreting of the floor will commence next week and is scheduled to be completed over the coming weeks. Thanks to these people for giving up their time for the benefit of the school and its students.

School Photographs
This year, Master School Portraits of Ballarat, will visit to take all school photographs on Tuesday 26th September 2008. Please keep this date in mind. Students will need to be dressed in FULL winter uniform for these photographs. Parents can check out the Master School Portraits site on www.

James Anderson (Habits of Mind) will lead all Birchip P-12 School staff in a whole day seminar on Monday 12th May 2008. This will be a pupil free day for all students Prep → Year 12.
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. It is expected that parents provide a note to the respective home group or class teacher if their son or daughter is out of uniform.

Secondary Summer Sports Carnival

Secondary students will be involved in the summer sports carnival on Thursday 17th April 2008.

Sports are shared between Hopetoun - Girls basketball, Cricket, Boys Tennis, Girls softball) and Birchip -Lawn Bowls, Junior Boys Softball, Girls Tennis and Boys Basketball.

Students will be working period one before moving to sporting venues.

Transport to Hopetoun will be leaving at 9:55 a.m. and returning in time for afternoon buses.

Transport forms will be distributed on Monday and should be returned the following day (Tuesday).

2008 ATTITUDES TO SCHOOL SURVEY

Students will be asked to complete the 2008 Attitudes to School Survey on Tuesday 15th April 2008 during extended home group assembly.

Year 9 Youth Healthy Activity Program

Rhonda Allan from the Mallee Sports Assembly will take our year nine students through an exciting program over the next few weeks. 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.

The program commenced yesterday with Rhonda facilitating a ‘Time Management’ session and Brendan Doyle a ‘self defence’ activity. Students responded very positively to these activities.

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.

Year 11 students will NOT be required at school on Friday 18th April 2008.

FINAL TRAINING

The schedule for final trainings includes Sunday 13th April 2008 from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., Monday 14th April 2008 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. and Wednesday 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. All parents are required to attend the Wednesday practice please.

WORKING BEE

All parents and student participants in the Presentation Ball are asked to attend a working bee at the hall on Sunday 13th April at 4:00 p.m. prior to training. We will be making table centres and help set up the hall, foyer and stage. All students and parents are encouraged to attend. Please bring appropriate items that you think we might need. Also if people have extension cords, power boards and white fairy lights could these please be labelled and brought to the working bee or training.

MISSING/MISPLACED

If anyone has any ideas as to the whereabouts of the red carpet/runner that is traditionally used for the steps at the Presentation Ball could they please let the school or Debra Emonson (50 792 342) know ASAP as we need to find it or a replacement for the Presentation Ball on 18th April 2008.

World War One Memorabilia Wanted

Year 9 History students are currently researching the lives of the soldiers who were from Birchip and lost their lives at war.

As part of their research they are interested in reading letters or newspaper cuttings from the time (1914-1918).

If anyone has any memorabilia that they wish to share with the students please contact Miss Elisha Johnson at the school.
Anzac Day

Anzac Day falls on Friday 25th April 2008 this year. Mr Cameron Whelan will be the guest speaker at the Birchip ceremony. He will be assisted by some Year 9/10 students. Cameron’s talk will focus on the night of 24th April 1918 when Australian Imperial Force soldiers attacked German forces at Villers-Bretonneux. In fierce fighting the Australians retook the town, ending the German advance on the Somme. Please make the effort to come along and support this event and listen to an excellent speaker.

World of Mathematics

Students from Grade Prep to Year 8 enjoyed the world of mathematics last Tuesday. It was very good to see students enjoying mathematics and trying to solve the many and varied puzzles and activities prepared for them. Thanks to Miss Carly Langley for organizing the activity for our students to enjoy.

STADIUM DAMAGE

It was disappointing to return from the holiday break to find that some facilities in the stadium had been damaged. Students are regularly given access to the stadium over the holidays and weekends. This is on the condition that they look after the facility, do not use equipment from the storeroom, report any damage that occurs and pay $2.00 to the person who hands out the key (Andrew Sayle or Eileen Smith).

All users of the stadium must be recorded and members are not permitted to use their own key to allow other people to use the stadium. If they do so, they may have the privilege of a key removed and lose their bond.

Users of the weights room must be yr 10 or above and follow a recognised program. No Primary student is allowed to use the stadium unless under the supervision of a parent.

Unfortunately the damage to the stadium was not reported, use of equipment from the storeroom not authorised and a number of people did not record that they used the stadium and have not paid the $2.00. As a result, stadium use is now restricted to members only until the issue is resolved.

Stadium Management Committee
Prep activities – How long is a snake skin?

As you can see in the photographs, the prep children were investigating snake skins and measuring their length alongside themselves. Oskar brought along a snake skin on Monday and we got it out and measured it. It was at least 127 cm. Jonty brought his bit of snake along the next day. It had bones as well. Jonty Randall and Oskar Bennett are pictured below with their snake skins.

Science, Maths and English Competitions 2008

As in previous years the school is offering students in years 3-12 a chance to be involved in the Science, English and Mathematics Competitions held throughout the year.

Competition dates are as follows:
Science 29th May
Mathematics 31st July
English 12th August

The cost for entry is $4 per competition or $10 for all 3 competitions. Entry is voluntary.

Students were handed out letters regarding entry into these competitions this week.

For your child to be involved the signed forms, along with payment, must be returned to the school by Tuesday 15th April.

Any student requiring another form can see Mrs Emonson.

PASE for Prep - Year 5

During Term 1, children became accustomed to bringing a drink bottle (preferably water) with them to each PASE session. PASE can be strenuous and children were given the opportunity during each session to have short hydration breaks. It not only educated the students of the importance of replacing lost fluid but by having their own bottle it minimised the time lost during each session with children going to get drinks from the school drink taps. Because of its success, children will be required to bring their drink bottle to PASE for the duration of the year.

I would be grateful if parents could assist their child/ren to get into the habit of bringing drink bottles (again preferably water) to school each week. Thanking you, Michelle Lee.

Hockey training times

Prep to grade 6 students
Wednesday 4:45 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Secondary students and seniors
Wednesday from 6:00 p.m.

Hockey game times

11:15 a.m. Minkey (grade 2 up)
11:45 a.m. Junior A - Under 13s (grade 4 & 5)
12:45 p.m. Underage (grade 6 & up)
01:45 p.m. Women’s

Minkey players don’t need a uniform but all other players will need Birchip Watchem football socks, purple shorts or skirt and a hockey shirt. Shirts will be available from Simone on Saturday if you need one. Red shorts will be suitable in the interim.
Birchip Student – Building Class at University of Ballarat – Horsham TAFE

Nesting boxes help build relationships

A partnership between learning providers, vocational education students and environmental groups helped 100 nesting boxes to be distributed at last month’s Wimmera Machinery Field Days.

The project, a joint initiative between Wimmera and Southern Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network, University of Ballarat VET building and construction students, Wimmera Catchment Management Authority, Wimmera Landcare and Trust for Nature will help monitor animal accommodation behaviours.

Boxes were suitable for different sized parrots, kookaburras, ducks, possums, gliders and pygmy possums.

VET and structured workplace learning coordinator Andrew Cormack said the project encouraged and provided an opportunity for students to make a contribution to the community and provided a protected environment for native animals.

“For the 55 VET building and construction students involved, this was their first project for the year,” Mr Cormack said.

“These nesting boxes were built through a grant provided by the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority, who are financing the project.

“The whole idea was to have them on display at the Wimmera Landcare tent at the Wimmera Machinery Field Days from where they would be offered to visitors who expressed interest in providing a location for the boxes.

“That’s been achieved, we made the boxes and they’ve all been given away. We now know where they are and now a wider group of students, parents and the community can monitor the use of the boxes.”

Some of the boxes were designed for a dual function.

“Many birds and animals will share them, they become a community nesting box.”

The project was an Adopt a School Project, where a community organisation works with young people to give them hand-on learning experience, Mr Cormack said.

The participants will be recognised at a celebration later this year.

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**Dance For Fun**

Will be on Tuesday nights this term.

Primary students: 4.30 - 5.15pm
Secondary students: 5.15 - 6pm

There will be no dance next week. It will recommence Tuesday 22nd April.

Put your name down with Simone at BB&LC.

**Birchip Preschool presents**

‘The Kazoos’

**Thursday 15th May at 11am**

Birchip Public Hall

Tickets $12 for over 12 months old

For more information ring Noeline Hogan 5492 2988

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**Last chance to enrol in BB&LC programs**

Dance for Fun. Tuesday nights, Primary 4.30-5.15 $40
Secondary 5.15-6.00 $40

Fit Camp-Monday nights 6-7pm $45

Circuit Gym-Wednesday nights 6-7pm $45

Computer classes- Wednesday afternoons 1.30-3.30pm

Personal & Professional Life Coaching for Women-Weds 16th April 7-10pm-$35

Bookings essential. Contact the centre on 5492 2735 or email birchipblc@bigpond.com
Presentation Ball Roster 18th April 2008

The continuation of the traditional sumptuous supper at the Presentation Ball is reliant upon the generosity of our parent body. Families who have been allocated a task for the Ball have been generally identified by a female representative, however these roles are not gender specific!

Food may be left at the school or delivered to the hall by 7pm.

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

Workers: 7pm
Coordinators - Sam Kemp, Rhonda Bell
Louise Lee, Colene Delaney, Julie Weir,
Gaye Bardell, Roz McClelland,
Bernadette Hogan, Jenny Hogan.

Small Cream Puffs, 2doz.
Sam Kemp, Rachael Colbert

Eclairs, 2 doz.
Michelle Lee, Deanne Botheras

Jelly Slice, 2 doz.
Heather Hogan, Nichole James,
Kellyanne Sheahan

Hedgehog, 2 doz.
Sue Cozens, Helen Casey, Janine Paley

Own Choice Slice, 2 doz. (excluding those already mentioned)
Rosalie Gould, Jackie Tierney, Jacinta Lewis

Sausage Rolls, 3 doz.
Wendy Buteux, Helen Platz, Jackie Rymer,
Janet Smith.

Mini Quiche, 3 doz.
Rhonda Bell, Cassie Robinson, Carly Sharp

Pinwheels, 3 doz.
Colene Delaney, Heather Hogan,
Bernadette Hogan, Tracey Bennett.

Meatballs, 3 doz.
Lyn Boyle, Mandy Braine, Simone Christie,
Claire Cook

Milk, 4 ltrs - Greg Martin
Tomato Sauce, 4 ltrs - Tammy Tait

School Council Meeting Next Thursday

School Councillors are reminded of the meeting next Thursday, commencing at 7pm with a casserole tea. New members of staff have been invited to attend. Please let Julie Coffey know variety of casserole you would like to bring.

Homework!

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<td>Finish up to 3E</td>
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<td>Mr Richmond</td>
<td>Materials</td>
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All Years - 15 minutes reading a day!

VCE SAC next week

Ag Hort  Friday
Further Maths Thursday 24th April
Biology
Business Management
Psychology
VC & D
Physics
COMING FILMS

AMERICAN GANGSTER

SAT 5 April - 8pm
SUN 6 April - 2pm
TUES 8 April - 8pm

A 1970’s detective works to bring down the drug empire of Frank Lucas, a heroin kingpin from Manhattan. Edgy, compelling & gritty, with strong performances from Crowe & Washington.

2 DAYS IN PARIS

SAT 12 April - 8pm
SUN 13 April - 2pm
TUES 15 April - 8pm

A European vacation for Marion & Jack includes 2 days in Paris to meet Marion’s parents and several of her ex-boyfriends.

JUNO

SAT 19 April - 8pm
SUN 20 April - 2pm
TUES 22 April - 8pm

16 year old Juno Macguff is a real individual - super smart with a razor wit. However, life becomes complicated after a 1 night stand which results in an unwanted pregnancy.

3:10 TO YUMA

SAT 26 April - 8pm
SUN 27 April - 2pm

A small-time rancher agrees to hold a captured outlaw who’s awaiting a train to go to court in Yuma. A battle of wills ensues as the outlaw tries to psych out the rancher.

DRUG AWARENESS EVENING

Presented by the
NORTH CENTRAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
Tuesday 29th April
Incorporating members from the Victoria Police
PURANA TASKFORCE
All Welcome (See local print media for more details)

Coming - DON COSTA

SUNDAY 11 May 2008 at 2pm
Tickets $15
Bookings: Ph: 0419 727 574 or 0425 709 005