**Forthcoming Events**

**April**
- **Monday 14th**: VCE Physics excursion to University of Ballarat
- **Thursday 17th**: Summer Sports - Hopetoun School Council
- **Friday 18th**: Parent Teacher Evening - Prep→Year 12
  - Three sessions: 4:00→5:00, 5:00→6:00, 6:00→7:00
- **Wednesday 23rd**: Bully Bullring – Cultural Event – 9:15 a.m.
- **Thursday 24th**: MS Readathon visit for Primary students
  - Primary Cross Country - 2pm
- **Friday 25th**: Anzac Day
- **Monday 28th → Grade 6 Maldon Camp**
- **Tuesday 29th → Year 9 Advance Camp**
- **Wednesday 30th → Year 10/11 Canberra Camp**

**May**
- **Thursday 1st**: Drama class to Bendigo to see ‘The Crucible’
- **Thursday 1st → Friday 2nd**: Grampians & Arapiles overnight camp
- **Sunday 4th → Friday 9th**: Years 10/11 Canberra Camp
- **Monday 5th → Friday 9th**: Year 9 Advance Camp
- **Tuesday 6th**: Year 12 TIS – Charlton
  - Physical Resources Meeting
- **Friday 9th**: Primary Cross Country - St Arnaud
- **Monday 12th**: Pupil Free Day
- **Tuesday 13th → Thursday 15th**: National Assessment Program for Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 students
- **Thursday 15th**: School Council
- **Tuesday 20th**: Law Makers, Law Breakers Loddon Jail, Castlemaine Excursion
- **Thursday 22nd**: Year 11 & 12 Literature students – Melbourne
- **Friday 23rd**: Secondary Motivational Media ‘The power of everyone’
- **Monday 26th**: Bell Shakespeare Company

**Works around the school**
- Mallee Environmental Employment Program (MEEP) workers commenced trenching and laying pipes on the main oval during the week.
- The bark chipping of the front north east garden is complete and looks terrific.
- Room 18 (Grade 5 & 6) and Room 19 (Grade 4 & 5) had their ceilings removed and reinstated during the week. We now await painting and the installation of lights to complete the job before classes can use the rooms again.
- The next primary rooms to have their ceilings replaced will be Room 20 (P-6 Art Room) and Room 21 (Grade 3). The school will again be closed from 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday 29th April 2008 until 8:00 a.m. Wednesday 30th April 2008.
- The primary toilet construction is ongoing – the concrete slab has cured and the framing and trusses are being erected.

**Piping from AWB to the school**
Stuart Nicholls will commence the trenching and laying of pipes from the school to AWB next week.

**New technology shed**
More of the technology shed frame will be erected and purlins attached at a working bee to be held on Sunday 27th April 2008.
School Uniform
This Monday 21st April all students are expected to be in full Winter uniform. Please ensure your son and/or daughter are 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.

Japan Trip Information Night
Thanks to Ms Nakamura for her very informative discussion for the proposed Japanese trip. Eight students and 3 teachers will leave for Japan on Sunday 21st September 2008. A very detailed itinerary is being developed.

Presentation Ball
The presentation Ball is on TONIGHT. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. with the students being presented at 8:30 p.m. Many thanks to the families of Year 11 students for their organization of the event. Thanks also to parents for catering. Mrs Barb Smith has done an amazing job in co-ordinating and assisting the families of the students for our Presentation Ball this evening. Thanks Barb for your efforts.

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

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 were sent home to parents on Wednesday this week indicating the session times for your family. If you are unable to attend the Parent Teacher Evening please let Mr Richmond know so that alternative arrangements can be made.

Secondary Summer Sports Carnival
Yesterday, our secondary students participated in a very successful summer sports carnival. It was great to see so many of our students being active and participating in a variety of sports. Many chose a different sport to one they may normally play on a Saturday. Thank you to staff and parents who made the day possible through their managing, coaching and umpiring skills. Thanks also to Mr Andrew Sayle for his overall organisation and planning of the day.

Birchip winning teams include:
- Boys Tennis
- Cricket
- Girls Basketball - to be confirmed
- Boys Basketball
- Lawn Bowls

School Photographs – wrong date
This year, Master School Portraits of Ballarat, will visit to take all school photographs on Tuesday 26th August 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.

2008 ATTITUDES TO SCHOOL SURVEY
Students completed the 2008 Attitudes to School Survey on Tuesday 15th April 2008 during extended home group assembly. The school should receive the results to this survey towards the end of the term.

Sports trials
Marnie Lehmann (Netball), Jacob Christie (Hockey & Football) and Jordan Galway (Football) travelled to Horsham today to take part in Wimmera Zone selection trials. We wished them all the best and are sure that they acquitted themselves well.
THE SHAPE OF MATHS

Grade 3 students are investigating shapes during mathematics and computer classes. As part of their learning about symmetry, the students cut out 2 dimensional shapes and folded them to test whether or not they were symmetrical. Next they worked on PowerPoint documents to draw the lines of symmetry on those and other shapes. The interactive whiteboard came in handy as the children could check in the mirror to see if they had drawn lines correctly.

With more computer maths to come, the grade 3 students are extending their mathematical understanding of concepts such as classification and tessellation, while learning useful computer skills such as creating and naming documents, keyboard shortcuts, duplication and manipulation of objects and text, moving and nudging objects, changing the colours of objects and backgrounds and adding animation effects.

However, whiz-bang technology is not always the best answer and many methods are used to try to increase children’s numeracy skills. Good old-fashioned playing cards are proving to be a valuable aid in improving the students’ mental arithmetic skills. At present the children are practising making 10 and addition facts to 20, but in time these games will be altered to incorporate larger numbers and other facts such as times tables.

Any parents of grade 3 students who would like details of card games that can be played at home (using two or three decks of cards) please ask Miss Howard for a games sheet at the parent-teacher interviews next week.

PRIMARY CROSS COUNTRY

The Primary Cross Country events will be held at school on Thursday 24th April 2008, commencing at approximately 2:00 p.m. All primary children are expected to participate but if this is not possible could a note be supplied please. Children are encouraged to wear suitable clothing and footwear for the activity. There will be an event for the 5 - 8 year age groups and another for the 9 - 12 year olds. Parents and other interested onlookers are most welcome to attend.

Age groups are taken as of 31st December 2008

SECONDARY CROSS COUNTRY

The Secondary Cross Country event will be held at school on Tuesday 29th April 2008 during period 5. All students are expected to participate. Students are asked to bring along a change of clothing suitable for the cross country event.

For the past three years it has been this event that has been influential in deciding the yearly House Competition. With Young winning the House Swimming Sports it is important that Fraser rallies its team to produce a good result in the Cross Country.
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.

Education week is on again!

It is envisaged that we run an evening in a similar format to last year on Wednesday 21st May 2008. Please keep this evening free for another action packed and enjoyable learning experience with your family.

Booklist and Levies

Booklist and levies sheets were distributed on Monday 14th April 2008. Please make payment at the general office or contact the general office to arrange other payment alternatives. Cheques should be made payable to ‘Birchip P-12 School’. Every secondary student received a 2008 school diary this year. Can parents please make sure that when making payments for booklist and levies items that a payment of $8.50 for each child should be made – not just $8.50 per family.

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

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

Milk, 4 ltrs - Greg Martin

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

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

Tomato Sauce, 4 ltrs - Tammy Tait

VCE SAC next week

Further Maths
Psychology
Ag-Hort
VC&D
## 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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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Mrs Taylor</td>
<td>Practise spelling, 100 High Frequency words and number words</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/5</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Mrs Kelly</td>
<td>General Knowledge questions, Spelling List 7 Tables Maths questions</td>
<td>24th April</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/6</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Mr Welton</td>
<td>7x tables, list words, Explorer project and oral presentation</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Hand in Strange House</td>
<td>22nd April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>Miss Langley</td>
<td>Homework sheet</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>Mrs McClelland</td>
<td>Complete map of South America</td>
<td>21st April</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>King Kong assignment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>Miss Barclay</td>
<td>Homework sheet</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>Miss Johnson</td>
<td>Finish game</td>
<td>22nd April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>Miss Johnson</td>
<td>Finish soldier research assignment</td>
<td>21st April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>Law Makers</td>
<td>Mrs McClelland</td>
<td>Collect 1/2 articles from newspapers relating to criminal law.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>Survival</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Being Different assignment</td>
<td>21st April</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/11</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Miss Johnson</td>
<td>Complete all work</td>
<td>21st April</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/11</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>Miss Johnson</td>
<td>Complete Cabaret analysis</td>
<td>21st April</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>General Maths</td>
<td>Miss Barclay</td>
<td>Study chp 3 for test on Tuesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Miss Barclay</td>
<td>Chapter 5 Review</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>Miss Langley</td>
<td>Finish to end Ex 6E. Ensure completely up to date</td>
<td>21st April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Miss Barclay</td>
<td>Chapter 5 review</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Man for all Seasons notes</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Further Maths</td>
<td>Miss Barclay</td>
<td>Ongoing SAC</td>
<td>24th April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Legal Studies</td>
<td>Mr Knights</td>
<td>Referendum case study</td>
<td>22nd April</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All Years - 15 minutes reading a day!

## Dance for fun

Due to low interest, dance classes have been postponed until Tuesday May 6th.

Dance classes will run for 8 weeks from Tuesday 6th May - Tuesday 24th June. Cost $40. Put your name down at the BB&LC. Miss Johnson apologizes for any inconvenience.

## Food

**The Good, the Bad and the Ugly**

BCG Conference Room

Wednesday 7th May 2008

7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Ticket cost - $15.00

This is a Birchip pre-school fundraiser.

Contact Noeline Hogan – 03 54 922 988

$10.00 from every ticket goes to the Pre-school

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## 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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## Lost

Watch at Birchip Football Oval last Saturday.

Contact Kim 5493 5342
DRUG AND ALCOHOL AWARENESS NIGHT
REX THEATRE, CHARLTON, 7.00PM, TUESDAY 29TH APRIL

The North Central Football League (NCFL), with the support of the Buloke Shire Council and Victorian Country Football League (VCFL), is holding a drug and alcohol awareness night at the Rex Community Theatre in Charlton on Tuesday 29th April starting at 7:00pm.

Guest speakers from the Victoria Police Purana Task Force and the Goodsports Program will talk about the impact of drugs and alcohol and the effects that these have on family, friends and communities. Similar information nights have been held recently in other centres throughout Victoria with very positive reviews. The information session is ‘hard hitting’ with real life stories that have affected real people.

When it comes to issues of drugs and alcohol there are many myths and rumours that exist. This session will help dispel many of these myths and increase community awareness of the risks associated with partaking in these behaviours. We invite sporting clubs, families, and the wider community to attend.

What is the Purana Task Force?
The Purana Taskforce was established by the Victoria Police to investigate the gangland war that saw the killings of 34 criminal figures, and some of their relatives, in Victoria between 1998 and 2006. The majority of these murders were linked either directly or indirectly to the sale and distribution of drugs. Since its formation, Purana has been responsible for the seizure of millions of dollars in drugs, cash and assets and has seen a number of criminals in Melbourne’s ‘underworld’ brought to justice. Detectives who will speak at the information session in Charlton have been heavily involved in bringing these criminals to justice and are currently involved in the extradition case against the infamous Tony Mokbel.

The information session is particularly focused on the negative impacts of drugs and alcohol on young people and their families, but anyone is welcome to attend.

The information session has been enthusiastically supported by Victoria Police, Charlton Football Club, Charlton Lions Club, Lions International and Charlton P12 College.

For more information contact Marc Cox: 0429867897

East Wimmera Health Service
Junior Food and Domestic Services Assistants
Permanent and Casual Positions available at Birchip

Applications are invited to fill permanent and casual Junior positions within Food and Domestic Services at Birchip campuses. Junior staff assist with the preparation and provision of evening meals to patients and residents, amongst other tasks within domestic services, through two hour rostered shifts from 4.00pm to 6.00pm each day.

Further information, including a Position Description, can be obtained from Jackie or Leonie at Reception at the Birchip Campus

Applications in writing, including the name of two referees, are to be addressed and forwarded to Ms Janet Feeny, East Wimmera Health Service, P.O. Box 31, St. Arnaud VIC 3478 by 28th April 2008.
“A Habit of Mind is knowing how to behave intelligently when you DON’T know the answer.”

Stop for a moment and think about someone you admire for being successful. When I say successful I don’t necessarily mean famous or rich. Now think about the sort of behaviours and characteristics successful people exhibit?

On closer examination they probably use some, if not all, of the 16 Habits of Mind. Some people use these behaviours instinctively but everyone can learn to consciously identify the 16 habits in their day to day activities and work to improve their abilities.

Our school is consciously beginning to focus on these habits and over the coming weeks we will highlight classroom activities and school events that demonstrate a specific Habit of Mind.

If you are keen to find out more the following websites may be useful:

http://www.habits-of-mind.net/

http://www.habitsofmind.org/Index.html

On Thursday 9th and Friday 10th April 2008 a team of three teachers – Merrilyn Kelly, Greg Welton and Elisha Johnson – took the long road to Melbourne to face the first two of five days training in Habits of Mind. The course is led by Australian HoM guru, James Anderson. James will be coming to Birchip P-12 School on Monday May 12th 2008 to run workshops for all staff.

Greg Welton said, “It was a thought provoking challenging, two days, and will be of benefit to overall development of the children and staff at our school.” He is looking forward to the next three days.

Merrilyn Kelly: “It intrigued me that it is possible to improve anyone’s intelligence by the use of Habits of Mind. We all use them but we can all improve our use of them.”

For Elisha it came at just the right time. “I am working with Jarrod Tyler on an integrated studies approach to year 7 for semester 2. I came home ready to change their world!”