Forthcoming Events

May
Monday 12th
Tuesday 13th →
Thursday 15th
Thursday 15th
Tuesday 20th
Thursday 22nd
Friday 23rd
Monday 26th
Thursday 29th
Tuesday 3rd
Monday 9th
Tuesday 10th
Wednesday 11th →
Friday 13th
Thursday 19th
Friday 20th
Thursday 26th
Friday 27th
Monday 14th
Monday 14th →
Friday 18th
Pupil Free Day
National Assessment Program for Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 students
School Council
Law Makers, Law Breakers Loddon Jail, Castlemaine Excursion
Year 11 & 12 Literature students – Melbourne
Secondary Motivational Media ‘The power of everyone’
Bell Shakespeare Company
Primary Zone Cross Country - Dimboola
Science Competition
Yr 9 Youth Program trip to Bendigo
Queens Birthday Holiday
Physical Resources Meeting
VCE Exams
School Council
Primary State Cross Country Championships
P-6 Emergency Services Services Day
Last Day of Term 2. 2.30pm finish
First Day Term 3
Yr 9 Rubicon Camp

June

Year 10 & 11 Canberra Camp

The Year 10 and 11 students together with Mr Whelan, Miss Heyden, Mr Delaney and Ms Nakamura have enjoyed the past 5 days in Canberra. They have visited numerous national buildings including Parliament House, National Museum, National Gallery and of course the Australian War Memorial. All reports suggest a great time was had by all. It is anticipated that the tour will arrive back home at approximately 4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. tomorrow. Thanks to all concerned for their efforts to ensure the success of the camp. A more detailed camp report will be included in next week’s newsletter.

Habits of Mind – PUPIL FREE DAY –
Monday 12th May 2008

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.

National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy NAPLAN Tests

This year the AIM tests are being replaced by the NAPLAN. As with the AIM, students in selected year levels are tested in English and Mathematics skills. The actual tests are similar to previous years with the main difference being that the results are compared across the whole country, rather than state-by-state as in the past. Testing begins on Tuesday, with English first.

With the pupil-free day on Monday, it would be great if all students (particularly those in years 3, 5, 7 and 9) arrive at school bright and early on Tuesday, refreshed and relaxed after their ‘long weekend’, ready to tackle the tests.
Year 9 Advance Camp
Swan Hill

Miss Digby, Mr Knights and the Year 9 students have enjoyed their week at Swan Hill. Students have completed the theory component of the Advance course. This is the precursor to their activities in Advance next semester. The students have also identified their community project. You will be able to read a more comprehensive report in next week’s newsletter. Thank you to Miss Digby and Mr Knights for their organization and efforts.

EARLY ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL

It is evident that some students are arriving at school as early as 8:00 a.m. The school ensures that teachers are on duty from 8:30 a.m. and provides a duty of care to students from this time. Although it is great to have students enthusiastic and wanting to come to school, I believe students should not arrive at school until 8:30 a.m. each morning.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

The Birchip P-12 School uniform policy has been in operation over many years. The uniform policy includes ALL students from Prep to Year 12. It is EXPECTED that all students both primary and secondary follow the school uniform guidelines as stated in the school uniform policy. I have included a copy of the winter uniform for students again in this newsletter so that parents and students can check. It would be appreciated that parents send a note to the respective home group or class teacher if their son or daughter is out of uniform. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Boys:
- Navy jumper with school logo
- VCE top (VCE students only)
- White tailored shirt with stiff collar
- School tie (Yrs 7 - 12 only)
- Grey trousers
- Black socks
- Black shoes
- Dark green tracksuit (P-6 only)
- Gold Skivvy or white polo shirt (P-6 only)
- Sneakers (P-6 only)

Girls:
- Navy jumper with school logo
- VCE top (VCE students only)
- White tailored shirt with stiff collar
- School tie (Yrs 7 - 12 only)
- Green six-gore skirt or green tailored slacks
- Plain white socks
- Brown or black shoes
- Dark green tracksuit (P-6 only)
- Gold Skivvy or white polo shirt (P-6 only)
- Sneakers (P-6 only)

ANZAC DAY PRESENTATION - THANKS FROM THE ARMY

When Sam King returned to the army following his visit home and to our school, he also took a copy of the Buloke Times to his Commanding Officer who then passed it on to higher ranking officials. Subsequently, Sam’s Commanding Officer, Regimental Sergeant Major and Officer in Charge of the 1st Armoured Regiment wish to pass on their congratulations to Mr Cameron Whelan and year 9 students involved on their excellent presentation at the Birchip Anzac Day Ceremony. The Commanding Officer was very impressed with their efforts and was pleased to see that Mr Whelan had mentioned the tanks as this was the first time that Australians had used tanks at war.

EDUCATION WEEK IS ON AGAIN!

Education week will be celebrated on Wednesday, 21st May 2008 with an ‘Activities Evening’ similar to previous years. Please see the attached flyer to book your family into the various activities on offer. The idea of the night is to have parents and children build, think, create, plan, or solve problems and exercises together. A draw for prizes will be held for the attendees. The evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a free BBQ. Activities will commence at 7:00 p.m. These will last for 1 hour. Parents and children are expected to attend the same activity and enjoy the interaction between themselves and other groups.
ABC Radio

I was contacted yesterday by Cathy Bedford to comment on the how the drought has impacted on students at our school. I consulted with an empowered group of Year 7, 8 and 12 students who provided me with various issues they felt some concern about in relation to the drought. I was subsequently interviewed on radio during the ABC ‘Drive’ program yesterday afternoon. I was incredibly impressed with the responses the students provided me with. I used these notes to chat with Cathy Bedford. My notes from the students include:

- Students tend to be more pessimistic rather than optimistic – they hear their parents discuss issues relating to the drought conditions and subsequently carry this burden too.
- Some students who wish to be farmers worry about the farm still being there for them when they are ready to take over.
- There is a perception that prospects for students interested in a career in agriculture are not as good.
- Students worry that there will not be enough money to go to university, TAFE and further education.
- More students defer their courses nowadays.
- As acting principal, I have contacted a growing number of parents to discuss the possibility of their sons and daughters participating in school camps and excursions. The issue of finance and camp costs is mentioned during these discussions.
- Some students indicated that parents are rationalizing between the attendance at school camps and family holidays.
- Family holidays are shorter, include more camping and generally involve cheaper alternatives.
- Students are concerned that the money used to buy fuel, which is now more expensive, and used to sow this year’s crops, will not be returned at harvest time. Therefore no reward for their labours.
- Transports costs are rising due to increasing fuel costs.
- I took 6 year 12 physics students to the University of Ballarat for their materials SAC. Had I used a bus it would have cost $60.00 per student for the afternoon. Instead students were charged $15 with a parent getting petrol money and a teacher car being used.
- Older students experience greater anxiety due to being ‘in the loop’ with discussions with their parents whereas parents try to shield their younger children from many worrying discussions.
- Fathers are not at home as much. They can’t afford to pay others to work on the farm so they undertake their work and the work of the farm hand as well.
- Fathers are away earning another income away from the farm while the mother stays home with the children and keeps up a part time job as well.
- Not only is the drought bad, but the pig market is worsening during to cheaper imports and rising feed prices.
- The pipeline involves more planning, work and costs including pipes, tanks and pumps are worrying.
- Many parents are trying to live a ‘normal’ lifestyle. They still buy another vehicle due to need. The comment being that it only adds a few thousand to the already growing millions of debt anyway. Students commented on that ‘day of reckoning’ – the debt is growing and still needs to be paid.
- There is less part time work available to students especially at harvest time.
- There is a concern that farms are being bough by bigger farmers and corporate companies – this is ruining the social fabric of our communities.

As a result of my discussion with Cathy Bedford on ABC Drive yesterday, I was contacted by Greg Paynting of The Australian Institute of eLearning who offered the Birchip P-12 School an entire curriculum package for years 11 and 12 Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Greg recognised the plight that many rural schools face in the delivery of a robust curriculum. We look forward to working with this organisation in the near future and thank them for their generosity.
Secondary Cross Country

The secondary cross country was held during period 5 on Tuesday 29th April 2008. All girls events were run over 3 km with Under 16 and Under 21 boys being over 5 kms. Mr Leigh Weir ran the 5 km course and notched up a very comfortable 18 minutes 28 seconds. Mr Tyler put up the challenge of $100.00 for any student who could beat Leigh. Lachlan Foott was the closest and came in first for the Under 21 boys in 55 seconds later in a time of 18 minutes 10 seconds.

Secondary Cross Country Results

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<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
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</table>

Final results were:

Young 184 points
Fraser 171 points.

Congratulations to all students who participated in a sporting way.

On Monday during School assembly we welcomed Birchip Watchem Football, Netball and Hockey coaches in Robbie Lee, Simone Christie, Brooke Bolden and Lachlan Foott. All four coaches spoke of the positive aspects of always trying, achieving their personal best and the positive health benefits from physical activity. Thank you to Robbie, Simone, Brooke and Lachlan for your willingness to support our students and the school.

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART – Preliminary Notice

Over the latter part of Term 2, the children in Prep to Year 5 PASE will be participating in the Jump Rope for Heart program. First introduced in 1983 (celebrating its 25th anniversary this year), the Heart Foundation Jump Rope for Heart program has had much success in engaging children in a fun program that develops fundamental motor skills as well as health and fitness gains through skipping related activities. Students will also be able to practise their skills during recess and lunch time. A JUMP OFF DAY will be held close to the conclusion of term two where students will participate in various activities and performances. Stay tuned for more information over the coming weeks. Michelle Lee.

Drink bottles for Primary PASE classes

Just a reminder that all students in Prep to Year 5 PASE are asked to bring a drink bottle with them to each PASE session. Generally most students are very conscientious. I would be grateful if parents could remind their sons and daughters to pack a drink bottle (water) for each PASE day. Michelle Lee.

Tertiary Information Service

Mr Christie, Mrs Barb Smith and many year 12 students travelled to Charlton on Tuesday 6th May 2008 for the TIS expo. Representatives of universities and TAFEs presented information on their various courses available to students. Student’s comments were very positive of the value of the visit.
**FIRST YOU GET THE SAND ...**

Grade Three students recently practised following instructions by reading about and making volcanoes. First they made volcanoes in the sandpit with dry sand, which helped them estimate how much sand each group would need. Next they gathered all of the things they needed to make the ‘real’ volcanoes. The students greatly enjoyed stirring and moulding wet sand around small water bottles: any excuse to get dirty! Miss Howard prepared the flour and bi-carbonate of soda mixture and poured in the vinegar to make the lava flow. Judging by the oohs, aahs and cries of delight, the results were greatly appreciated by the makers.

**Indoor Bowling Equipment**

Thank you to Elaine McCallum and the Birchip Indoor Bowling Club for donating the Indoor Bowling Equipment to the Birchip P-12 School. Although we are still trying to find the best spot to locate this gear, the school is grateful for their kind generosity in providing additional equipment for our students to learn and develop a variety of skills.

**WATCHEM WILKUR BUS CONTACT**

A notice went home this week advising families and travellers on the Watchem Wilkur bus of a change to the bus mobile telephone number. The new number is 048922545.

**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.

**Footy skills for all**

On Monday 5th May 2008, 33 students from our school travelled to Donald to join students from neighbouring schools for a football clinic conducted by St Kilda Football Club. Students divided into groups and participated in eight different activities each conducted by a senior St Kilda player, and assisted by Donald Secondary Students. Our girls and boys thoroughly enjoyed the experience.
**ROCK EISTEDDFOD UPDATE**

This week the rock eisteddfod received a grant from the SALVATION ARMY. This will pay for students’ accommodation and travel to and from Melbourne in August. We thank the Salvation Army for their support and we look forward to supporting them during the red shield appeal. 36 of our students will perform in the Global Rock Eisteddfod Challenge at Vodafone Arena in Melbourne on Friday the 8th of August 2008. Students will travel to Melbourne by bus and stay together at arranged accommodation the night before the performance. Early in term three, there will be a performance in the Birchip Community Stadium for those interested. For more information on the Rock Eisteddfod, please contact Miss Johnson, at Birchip P-12 School, or visit the website http://www.rockchallenge.com.au/.

**General Knowledge Questions**

1. Approximately how long is the Great Wall of China today?
2. What is falconry?
3. What did Geoff Hurst do for the first time in 1966?
4. Where is bile stored in the human body?
5. In which garden did Judas betray Jesus?
6. Mark Finland on your map and name its capital.
7. Which group of predatory fish grow and replace thousands of teeth in a lifetime?
8. Which Australian opera singer was named ‘La Stupenda’?
9. What did Don Wetzel invent in 1968?
10. Who was the sculptor of the ‘Statue of Liberty’.

**Understanding Food Labels Helps Families Make Healthy Choices**

Buying healthy and enjoyable food for your child’s lunch box can be tricky at the best of times, but having to interpret nutrition information panels and health claims can make it an even more complicated task for parents.

Food manufacturers use packaging as an opportunity to promote the benefits of their product but may not tell the whole story about what the food contains, such as high fat, sugar or sodium (salt) levels. Parents are often left feeling confused about what is really healthy for their child.

Advocacy group The Parents Jury’s campaign for Improved Food Labelling Systems informs and empowers Australian parents to learn about the types of information that appear on food packaging, to understand labelling regulations, and to practice reading food labels at home with their families.

It is important that parents are able to trust the nutrition information they find on food packaging because Nutrition Information Panels, nutrition claims and endorsement ‘stamps’ all influence the purchases that parents make on behalf of their children, for better or worse.

The Parents Jury’s campaign advocacy kit contains information about the different types of information that appear on food packaging such as ingredients lists, Nutrition Information Panels and nutrition claims. It teaches parents how to interpret food labels and to read between the lines of potentially misleading claims and endorsements. The kit also contains lots of handy tips, resources and Internet links to help parents and children make ongoing healthy food choices.

To get involved with The Parents Jury’s campaign for Improved Food Labelling Systems, visit http://www.parentsjury.org.au, or email enquiries@parentsjury.org.au.

The Parents Jury is supported by Diabetes Australia - Vic, WA and QLD, The Cancer Council Australia and its member bodies, The Australian and New Zealand Obesity Society and VicHealth. Membership of The Parents Jury is free and open to all Australian parents, grandparents and guardians of children aged under 18 years.
2008 REGIONAL SERIES
Bendigo Golf Course - Sunday, May 18

The REGIONAL SERIES is played over 18 holes for juniors with handicaps, the maximum handicap being 32 (boys) and 45 (girls), with play being stroke for players up to and including 18 h'cap, and stableford for players up to and including 45 h'cap (Golf Link numbers must be provided with entry). There will be a 9 hole section for players without handicaps, played in a modified stroke format. Points are also awarded as part of the REGIONAL SERIES CUP.

Great prizes from Bridgestone Golf are on offer at all events:
Division A (0-9 h’cap)
Stroke formatBest gross and best nett  (boy or girl)
Division B (10-18 h’cap)Stroke format
Best gross and best nett  (boy or girl)
Division C (19+ h’cap)
Stableford formatWinner and runner-up  (boy or girl)
9 Hole Division (no h’cap required)Modified stroke format Winner and runner-up  (boy or girl)
Nearest the Pins  18 hole and 9 hole players (boy or girl)

Prizes:  SAJG reserves the right to alter the prize allocation, up or down, pending entry numbers. Where numbers do not meet minimum requirements, points will still be allocated however prizes may be combined between Divisions. In the event of ties competitors’ placing will be determined on the basis of a count back system.

ENTRY FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT WWW.STUARTAPPLEBY.COM.AU

Stop Press

Mrs Michelle Lee phoned the Primary Cross Country results through.
12 yo boys  Jacob Christie  3rd
11 yo boys  Royce Bennett  2nd
11 yo girls  Claudia Lee  4th
9-10yo girls  Nakita Turner  6th
Georgia Lee  8th
Retired injured  Chloe Rymer  9th
9-10 yo boys  Joe O’Donnell  5th
Spencer Weir  11th

A more extensive report will be included in the next newsletter.

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 5498 1261

Homework!

<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>5/6</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Mr Welton</td>
<td>Explorer project</td>
<td>13th May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Explorer oral presentation</td>
<td>13th - 19th May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>Miss Langley</td>
<td>Finish Ex 9B</td>
<td>13th May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>Miss Johnson</td>
<td>Finish powerpoint presentation</td>
<td>13th May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Maths Methods</td>
<td>Miss Langley</td>
<td>Methods Assignment</td>
<td>13th May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/12</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Miss Johnson</td>
<td>Complete checklist</td>
<td>14th May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Further Maths</td>
<td>Miss Barclay</td>
<td>Finish chapter 12</td>
<td>13th May</td>
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</table>

All Years - 15 minutes reading a day!

Birchip Watchem Netball
Wyche proof Netball times

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>2.15pm</td>
<td>Di Thompson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>1.00pm</td>
<td>Lyn Boyle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>11.45am</td>
<td>Jacinta Connell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JA</td>
<td>10.40am</td>
<td>Louise Lee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JB</td>
<td>11.45am</td>
<td>Bev Forrester</td>
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<tr>
<td>13A</td>
<td>9.50am</td>
<td>Ros McClelland</td>
</tr>
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Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation

Packets of Jelly Babies are available for purchase at the School Office for $2 a packet.
Funds will go towards research into Juvenile Diabetes.
Parents can purchase these items after school.

Found

A fluffy white cat - adult. Please phone Belinda Randall 5085 4235
Our featured Habit of Mind this week is that of being prepared to take a risk. This was certainly evident on the recent Grade 6 Maldon Camp. One of the highly anticipated activities was the rock climbing wall. Certain camp goers, both young and old, initially approached the task with a certain degree of reluctance and trepidation. However the willingness to move beyond comfort zones meant a great deal of success and personal fulfilment was achieved when climbers touched the top rock which signified a fear conquered.

The Year 11 Outdoor and Environmental Studies course provides students with many challenges in relation to their outdoor experiences. These challenges can be overcome by working cooperatively, thinking creatively about a problem and most importantly planning for safe participation in an outdoor experience.

Students are actively encouraged to understand their personal responses to a seemingly risky experience; their fears, expectations and past experiences. They are then challenged to overcome these responses during outdoor activities, with the knowledge that through safe planning the risk they are taking is a responsible one with immediate rewards.

A great example of responsible risk taking was our recent trip to Mount Arapiles, 27 km south west of Horsham on May 2. This is one of Victoria’s premier rock climbing sites. Here the students worked together to scale rock walls up to 20 metres high and abseiled down cliff faces. Knowing they had the support of others and the equipment and instruction to succeed at these activities gave them great confidence to take a responsible risk.
Dear Parents,

The week of Monday 19th May – Friday 23rd May 2008 will see the Birchip P-12 School celebrate Education Week. This year we hoping to involve school community and have identified Wednesday, 21st May 2008 as ‘Activities Evening’. An evening of activities is planned for you and your children. The idea of the night is to have parents and children build, think, create, plan, or solve problems and exercises together. A draw for prizes will be held for the attendees.

The evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a free BBQ. Activities will commence at 7:00 p.m. These will last for 1 hour. Parents and children are expected to attend the same activity and enjoy the interaction between themselves and other groups.

Activities on offer include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Activity Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>5 - 10 Maths Olympics with Ms Langley and Mr Richmond. A Variety of maths games.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Healthy Snacks for Lunchboxes with Mrs Smith. Savoury Muffins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Kite Making with Mrs Welton and Mrs Kelly. Making kites!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Military Research with Mr Whelan. Research Family Military History from WWI and WWII.</td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Creating mosaics with Ms Heyden. Come along and learn to construct a mosaic.</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>‘Kahootz’ with Miss Howard. Learn how to create computer 3D animations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>The Weird and The Wonderful with Ms Johnson. An insight into our complex mind.</td>
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<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>Jump Rope for heart activity with Mrs Lee and Mr Sayle. Skipping games and activities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Fruitful DNA Extraction with Mr Marchesi. Using common household items learn how to extract real DNA to take home.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J</td>
<td>Origami with Ms Nakamura. Learn the ancient Japanese art of paper folding.</td>
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<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>Spicks &amp; Specks with Mr Welton and Mr Tyler. Come along, create and enjoy some music and have fun!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Interactive fun with electronic whiteboards. You may have heard about them, come along and have a try of this interactive phenomenon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Catchphrase and lots more with Mrs E Smith and Mrs Lord. Word games for everyone.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You will be required to choose one activity only for the evening. Adults and students should attend the entire session. In order to plan the evening please detach and return the slip below ASAP. No child should attend a session by themselves. Families can split up to attend more than one session. E.g., Dad with one child, mum with another or an older student (Year 10 and above) with a younger primary child.

Please detach the form below and return by Wednesday 14th May 2008 to the front office.

Family Name:

Number of adults attending:    Number of children attending:    

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Child</th>
<th>2nd Child</th>
<th>3rd Child</th>
<th>4th Child</th>
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