Forforthcoming Events

May
- Monday 18th → Education Week
- Friday 22nd
- Thursday 21st
- Monday 25th
- Please note change of date

June
- Monday 1st
- Monday 1st → Grade 6 Maldon Camp
- Wednesday 3rd
- Monday 8th
- Tuesday 9th → VCE exams & GAT exam
- Thursday 12th
- Tuesday 9th
- Wednesday 10th
- Friday 12th
- Friday 19th
- Friday 26th
- July
- Monday 13th
- August
- Tuesday 25th

School Photographs

David Torrington from Master School Portraits will visit the school on Tuesday 25th August 2009 to take our school photographs. Please mark this day on the calendar and ensure you sons and/or daughters are present and in full winter uniform.

NAPLAN

The annual NAPLAN (National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy) was conducted with all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Students sat four tests, Language Conventions, Writing, Reading and Mathematics.

Education Week Activity Evening

[Please note change of date]

On Monday 25th May 2009 the school will again host an evening of learning and enquiry for students, parents and friends. Please keep this evening free for another action packed and enjoyable learning experience with your family. A free family BBQ will be available. A list of activities is available elsewhere in this newsletter. There will also be a chance to win a beautiful, brand new, Malvern Star bicycle and helmet. All attendees will receive a ticket in the free draw.

Junior SRC Lunchtime Sports

During Thursday lunchtimes the Junior SRC will be holding a senior competition where students from years 4-6 can join in and have some fun. We have organised four different sports which will be played, these sports include indoor soccer, netball, basketball and football. The competition will run for a number of weeks. Students who want to be included will be asked to pay $1.00. We will also be holding Art & Craft sessions for the prep-year 3 students.
Visit and talk by Sonia Karras

Sonia ran an excellent session for our Years 10 - 12 students on many issues facing young adults including binge drinking, ID’s and party safety.

Youth today face a complicated life and they need to know what faces them when they leave Birchip. Sonya Karras, who has had years of experience working in clubs and hotels spoke to students in Years 11 and 12 on how to be safe in unknown environments.

Sonya alerted students to what can happen when they leave the relative safety of their home town. She urged students not to be too trusting as there are many unscrupulous people who see country youth as easy pickings.

Sonya spoke at length on the dangers of ‘Schoolies Week,’ where teenagers mostly consume too much alcohol which undermines sound reasoning. She warned students that social and drug predators congregate at these events because under these circumstances, guards are down and teenagers are easy prey to drug pushers and social misfits. She also warned students that the police will not be tolerant of drinking offences and that in ‘Schoolies’ areas, maximum penalties are given as a deterrent. She informed the senior students that the maximum fine for underage drinking is $2000, as is carrying alcohol in a public place.

In her talk, Sonya reinforced safe drinking practices. She examined what a standard drink is for a variety of alcoholic beverages and enlightened the girls that they absorbed alcohol quicker into their system than do boys. She dispelled the notion that drinking water and coffee can sober up a person by saying that this practice, whilst wise, only results in the making of an ‘alert drunk.’

Drinking to excess can kill and Sonya related many stories where a person who had consumed far too much, too quickly had died as a result. Sonya pleaded with the students that if they suspected that a friend had passed out form drinking too much alcohol, then they must ring an ambulance. However, in the meantime, the person must be placed in the recovery position as they could choke if they vomited. Her plea was not to leave a drunken person on their own as they can die.

Sonya spoke at length about drink spiking. She informed students that they must never leave a drink unguarded and never leave it with a friend to look after. Interestingly, there are more than forty spiking agents available and under their influence, a person can be robbed, raped or have their photograph placed on Utube. This was also a warning for those going to ‘Schoolies.’

Ecstasy poses as a huge problem in larger centres. Sonya stated that users do not know what is in the mix as there can be anything from horse tranquillisers to caustic cleaning agents. If any students thought she was exaggerating, she related the story of the scores of young people over-dosing on substances at a Calder Park event. Ecstasy and substances like GBD (Grievous Bodily Harm) are mind-altering substances and can cause psychotic episodes. The issue for students is not only them being given these substances but how to deal with the erratic behaviour of others who are not in control and who might become aggressive over a minor issue. The advice was simple, don’t get into a discussion with an aggressive person, say sorry and walk away.

Her concluding message to the students was to keep control because then they can’t be taken advantage of and abused.
Year 9 Advance Camp
Swan Hill

Year 9 students last week went on their Advance Camp to Swan Hill. The group, along with teachers, Miss Helen Digby and Mr Travis Knights, stayed at the Pioneer Settlement completing the theory component of their Advance course. Much of their time was devoted to effective teamwork, communicating, negotiating, reporting and volunteering whilst they discovered much about themselves. Much time was dedicated to choosing their community projects and problem solving issues that arose during the week. The majority of their class time will now be devoted to the completion of their projects.

This year, following feedback from last year’s crew, a Habits of Mind challenge was included into the program. Students worked in teams to solve a treasure hunt. They then presented their findings to the group, showing how Habits of Mind helped them overcome their problems.

Students had plenty of opportunities to put the theory into practice by using role play, problem scenarios and team challenges.

Overall, the students thoroughly enjoyed this camp and are looking forward to using their new skills in the community.

Shoeboxes and magazines please
The Prep Class and Mrs Kelly would be very grateful for some shoe boxes and magazines, if you have them to spare, please.

Word Quiz
Which two words in each column are the odd ones out:
Chat      Angry
Dialogue  Peved
Mute      Sedentary
Communication Elated
Curt      Infuriated

Maths is Marvellous – You can count on it!
Take One or take Two
Put out 11 blocks (or coins, counters, small pieces of paper, etc.) In turn, remove one or two blocks at a time. The object of the game is to make your partner pick up the last block.

School Nurse Visit
Kerrie McCosh, primary school nurse, will be visiting our school on June 9th and 19th 2009. The purpose of this visit is to undertake health assessments and discuss health concerns that parents and/or teachers may have with their children/students.

Prep Health Assessments: All parents of prep grade children will be requested to complete a Health Questionnaire and return the forms to the school office by June 9th – prior to the school nurse visit. (Thanks to those who have returned their forms already.)

Referrals (All Grades): Parents and/or teachers may refer children from any grade for assessments of vision, hearing, basic speech, physical abilities, medical conditions, behavioural and parenting issues. Please collect a referral form from the school office. Completed forms are to be handed into the school office by June 9th 2009. Should parents wish to have an interview with the School Nurse, please indicate your request on the form. Please note: You can talk to the school nurse at any time throughout the year. The school has her mobile phone number.

Well done Claudia Lee
Of the students who were selected to go to Horsham recently, Claudia Lee has progressed to the next stage of the hockey tryouts.

First Aid Management of Anaphylaxis
21659VIC with Neil Ritchie
(Wednesday 20th May2009 from 5.30-8.30 $90.00). Subsidies may be available for anaphylaxis & food handlers course if you are using these skills for volunteering. Contact the Simone Christie at the Birchip Business and Learning Centre.

Austswim Course
An Austswim course will be held at Swan Hill on the 16th, 17th & 24th May 2009.
Upon completion of the course, successful candidates are qualified to teach swimming.
For those requiring points towards reaccreditation, a professional development component will be conducted both morning and afternoon on Sunday 17th May 2009.
Those wishing to do the course are asked to contact Brian Safe, phone 50 324 357.
Welcome to Nobuko

Mrs Nobuko Barker commenced in her role as a Japanese assistant already. She is from Aomori which is in north of Japan. Nobuko very much likes music. She will stay with us and teach Japanese until the end of Term Two. We also welcome Nobuko’s husband Alex to Birchip. We trust both Nobuko and Alex have an enjoyable and rewarding stay with us.

KODOMO NO HI celebration

Kodomo no hi (Boys' Day) celebration for primary children will be on Tuesday 19th May 2009. All primary boys can dress up and bring their favourite toys. There will be Japanese lolly tasting for all primary children.

Birchip Archery on the Move

With the generous help of sponsors and supporters, Birchip Archery Club has relocated. The new location is the race club reserve in Kirsch Road, Birchip. This area is more spacious and has allowed the club to construct a full size 20 target field course as well as a practice range which includes all the regulation distances.

Our thanks go to Leon Wilson Transport, Blairs Panels and David Lee for their invaluable assistance.

Birchip Archery Club meets every 4th Sunday of the month. Next shoot is May 24th, 10am start. Everyone is welcome.

For more information contact Bob Darby 0400 958 915.

For Sale

Shredded Cardboard, 20kg - $10.00. Great mulch for garden beds. See Brooke or phone 5492 2827.

BIRCHIP JUNIOR GOLF

Junior Golf will commence next Friday 22nd after school. Please contact the Junior Co-ordinator Beryl Fietz if you are interested.

SACs next week

- Australian History
- English
Grade Five and Six Homework Questions
due Friday 15th May 2009
1. What is another word for nacre?
2. How is Frances Gumm better known?
3. In which branch of the arts is a metronome used?
4. Which is the USA’s largest state?
5. Where are your clavicles?
6. Which vegetable goes into sauerkraut?
7. In which decade was the bullet proof vest developed?
8. Which country has .pt as its internet code?
9. True or false? A jalousie is made with flaky pastry.
10. What sort of creature is a capercaillie?

Last Week’s Answers
1. Where is the Matterhorn and how tall is it? Swiss Alps- 4477 metres
2. How would someone versed in the ‘art of Terpsichore’ entertain you? Dancing
3. What would you be travelling on if you were going down the Cresta Run? Tobogganing
4. What does RSVP stand for? Repondez s’il vous plait- please reply
5. From what is turpentine obtained? Trees
6. In which country did Kung-Fu originate? China
7. Which two countries are divided by Hadrian’s Wall? Scotland and England
8. What kind of bird sat on Merlin’s shoulder? An owl called Archimedes
9. Which fish is a parr, then a smolt before it swims out to sea? Salmon
10. Name the bird with the largest wingspan. Albatross

Homework!

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<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</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Mrs Kelly</td>
<td>Count 0-20 by 1, numbers 0→10, letters m, s, r, f, t, l, a, b, c. New Oo. Practise words and letters, play maths games.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Mrs Welton</td>
<td>Counting beyond 100, start at any 2 digit number. Count by 1, 2, 5, 10 and backwards</td>
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<td>4/5</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Weir/Emonson</td>
<td>Reading 30 minutes a night</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Weir/Emonson</td>
<td>Homework questions</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>Miss Barclay</td>
<td>Fraction division exercise sheet</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Spelling</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Miss Johnson</td>
<td>Group newspaper assignment Writing folio</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>Forensics</td>
<td>Miss Meehan</td>
<td>Work on bio</td>
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<td>9/10</td>
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<td>Miss Meehan</td>
<td>Agar plate prac</td>
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<td>9/10</td>
<td>Murder Ink</td>
<td>Miss Johnson</td>
<td>Writing folio Essay</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Miss Johnson</td>
<td>Writing folio Deadly Unna essay</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>Survival</td>
<td>Miss Johnson</td>
<td>Writing Folio Of Mice &amp; Men Essay</td>
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<td>9/10</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>Miss Johnson</td>
<td>Questions 1-5</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>General Maths</td>
<td>Miss Barclay</td>
<td>Complete set exercises</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Miss Johnson</td>
<td>Wild Child questions</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Further Maths</td>
<td>Miss Barclay</td>
<td>Complete set exercises</td>
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<td>English</td>
<td>Smith/Hicks</td>
<td>Practise for SAC on Monday</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Miss Meehan</td>
<td>Practise exam questions</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>Miss Johnson</td>
<td>Practise essay</td>
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All Years - 15 minutes reading a day!
Campbell Street Garden Project

Mr Jarrod Tyler and his horticulture class are busily creating a native garden walk along the Campbell Street fence. Students and parents will remember the large white ant infested gum trees that were present at the end of last year. These and their stumps have been removed. Mr Tyler and the students plan to create a themed native garden. It is proposed there will be sections including Lomandra, Banksia, Callistemon and others. There will also be a citrus garden. The class has also created passive spaces for students to sit and enjoy the garden.

GWM Water Project

“Is our water use sustainable today, tomorrow and beyond?”

Mikaela Christie, Hugh O’Keefe, Conor Hogan and Nick Bales are investigating Birchip’s current water use and predicting future usage based on today’s practices. Mr Delaney has been working with the students as part of his Global Issues unit.

The students will present their findings at The University of Ballarat (Horsham Campus) on Tuesday 2nd June in front of an urban audience.

In order to successfully complete this project we require photos of the Birchip area. The idea is to compare the changes that occurred because of the drought. Photos before the drought will be very useful.

Photos include: People working on the pipeline, Crop, Channels, Tchum Lake North and South, Golf Course.

If you are able to assist us please send your photos into Elisha Johnson at the school. They will be scanned and returned to you.
Year 4 & 5 Habits of Mind Photos
Habits of Mind

Year 4&5 have been working on using their past knowledge and applying it to new situations. Persistence is a habit that is getting lots of opportunity to be used during all classes, especially SOSE.

- “I used persistence to get better at longer sentences in writing,” said Chloe.
- I had to do a SOSE project and I said “NO.” But I persisted and started to like it a lot. Seamus.
- “I used my past knowledge in maths for my times tables,” said Sophie.
- I used persistence in my SOSE project. I thought that I could not get my board game done, but I said to myself ‘That I could do it!’ Elise.
- I used my past knowledge of other board games to create ‘My Disaster’ game in SOSE. Nick.
- I used persistence to make my ‘Westgate’ Bridge model. I wasn’t sure when I was building the model, but I stuck with it. Jack.
- I used persistence in SOSE to never give up on completing my model of the Titanic. Gus.