We are rapidly moving through the term! In fact we have only six weeks to go before the June holidays but ever so much to complete before then.

Next week we have Education Week. On Monday evening we will welcome a large number of students, parents and family members who come and work together on many exciting challenges and activities. It’s not too late to register.

VCE mid-year examinations will occur in just over three weeks time and year nine – eleven examinations in four weeks time. I urge all students to prepare well and to ensure that revision and study are afforded much time and consideration.

The school will co-ordinate the Red Shield Appeal again this year and hope that the junior football, netball, hockey and golf participants and parents will assist with collections on Sunday 30th May 2010. Please help us to assist an organization who so generously helps us.

Japanese Tour Report #2

On Monday, the group visited Tokyo. Students were lucky to have a guided tour for the Tokyo Metropolitan Building. This building provided excellent views of Tokyo in all directions. After this students had some shopping time in Harajuku. All said it was fun. They went to a 100 yen shop and took photos with ‘Harajuku girls’. Some of the girls bought a bracelet as a Harajuku souvenir for their host.
sisters, which was very nice. Mr Knights and Ms Nakamura went to Meiji-jingu shrine and were very lucky to see a traditional style of Japanese wedding.

To move from Harajuku to Ryogoku for sumo watching, students experienced the vast Tokyo subway transport system. Ms Nakamura requested students to direct the teachers to the correct station using the map of the train network. Students gradually, with a little prodding, understood the map and by the end of the day were actually very good subway travellers.

Sumo was very impressive and several students had photos with the wrestlers. Students enjoyed the bouts although they were sometimes short. After the sumo, students and teachers dined on a meal known as Chanko-nabe which is sumo food. All became very sleepy and didn’t get back to their host families until after midnight.

After a short night’s sleep, all students and teachers met for the trip to Disneyland. Harry and Mr Knights must miss their mum and wife very much because they took ‘women only’ carriage of the train to Yokohama. It was rainy day but all still enjoyed the day in Disneyland.

After two days of excursions, it was back to Shoyo High School. Due to inclement weather the athletic sports day was postponed. Over the next few days students will experience the following on their trip:

- Sail boats at the Nippon Maru training centre
- Attend a Japanese baseball game
- Ride the Shinkansen bullet train to Hiroshima and Kyoto
- Visit the Hiroshima A-Bomb Dome and museum
- Eat Okonomiyaki
- View the Itsukushima Shrine on Miyajima Island
- Climb the big hill to Kiyomizu-dera temple
- Wander the gardens of Kinkakuji temple
- Fly home next Thursday (20th May)

All students and teachers are having loads of fun and are increasing their knowledge of Japanese culture and language. They are already looking forward to sharing their experiences.

Hope you are well in Birchip.

Mr Knights & Ms Nakamura

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**GRADE 6 CAMP**

The Grade 6 students have been honing their bike skills in preparation for the Maldon Camp next week. The Bike Ed program will culminate in a ride around town on Monday. The adults accompanying the students on the camp will be Greg Welton, Aaron Valentine and Erin Welton.

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**NAPLAN**

Students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sat the Australian NAPLAN tests during the week.

Results from the NAPLAN will be available during term three.

Thanks to Mrs Eileen Smith for her organization of these examinations.

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**Congratulations Ethan**

Congratulations to Year 10 student, Ethan Cooper who has won a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development seventeen day study tour scholarship to Japan in June and July. The program provides students with a language and cultural experience at the Japan Foundation Japanese Language Institute in Osaka. Twenty Victorian students, along with thirty students from high schools around the world will participate in this two week program.

To be awarded this prize, Ethan had to create a video presentation in Japanese and also write in Japanese why he wanted to study in Japan. Ethan will not only study the language and culture but he will travel to Tokyo, Hiroshima and Kyoto. The students will visit a school and have a home-stay experience with a local family. This program is an ideal preparation for any student considering studying VCE Japanese and we are sure that Ethan will make the most of his experience.

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**Asbestos**

Within the next two weeks the asbestos which is in the ceilings and eaves of two primary classrooms will be removed. While this may cause some minor disruption to these classes, the benefits will be worth the effort. While this removal is taking place, the whole school; the main buildings, library and stadium will be out of bounds on 22nd and 23rd of May. The next stage in the building development will be an $850,000 refurbishment of the whole primary building. See the drawing plans attached.
The Historical Society

Year 11 VCAL students catered for a Historical Society Open House on Tuesday evening. Teacher, Mrs Barbara Smith and three students; Branden Atkinson, Ray Poulton and Brady Milne cooked a barbecue for about thirty people. The boys learned how to liaise with the members of the Historical Society and how to order and cater for a group of people. The boys’ front of house manners and pleasantries couldn’t be faulted. President, Warren King thanked the boys for their efforts and all those who participated in the evening.

Not only did the boys learn from their cooking experience but their efforts encouraged many people to come out on a very cold night to view the treasures housed in the old court house. The Historical Society should be commended for the attractive way their artefacts are displayed and for the hours that a few people put into cataloguing history for the benefit of generations to come. If anyone is interested in joining the group, there is plenty of interesting work to do.

Mothers’ Day Stall

Mothers’ Day is becoming very commercial and seems to be driven by greeting card companies and large stores. To combat this trend towards commercialism, the Parents’ Club ran a Mothers’ Day stall for all primary and secondary students. Presents ranged from the princely sum of five dollars to an affordable one dollar. On the heavy laden trestles there was something to make every mum smile in appreciation and there were some gifts that would ‘go straight to the pool room’. Thank you to all the parents who organised the gifts for the children and made so many mums smile.

Thank you to Sue Turner, Julie Lowry, Maureen Trolley, Janine Paley and Ros McCallum for their assistance with the Mothers’ Day Stall.
District Cross Country at Donald

The Primary District Cross Country was held at the Goff Lett’s Oval in Donald today.

Results are:
9/10 girls  Sarah Botheras 1st and Caitlin Bidstrup 6th
9/10 boys  Joseph Reid 1st, Jesse Kemp 9th and Bill Lee 11th
11 girls  Nakita Turner 3rd and Chloe Rymer 9th
11 boys  Sam Owa 4th, Tom Hogan 10th and Gus Walsh 12th
12 girls  Shae Colbert 4th
12/13 boys  Royce Bennett 1st and Joe O’Donnell 2nd

Education Week 2010
An education week extravaganza

Birchip P-12 School will be holding an evening activity for parents and students on Monday 17th May 2010.

The evening is designed for parents/guardians to attend with their students and partake in an activity for an hour. The adults are to attend the same activity as their child and enjoy the interaction and thought processes with teachers, children and other parents.

The activities will last for one hour.

The evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a free BBQ for participants.
At 7:00 p.m. parents and children will break off into different activities and finish at 8:00 p.m.

There is NO COST to the evening.

Some of the activities that will be on offer include
- Ice cream making
- Kite making
- Drawing activities
- Mathematics activities

Another bike is up for grabs to the family with the lucky ticket on the night.

Activities fill on a first in basis so please return the form below as soon as possible to ensure your preference.

Grade Five and Six Homework Questions
– due Friday 21st May 2010
1. What do ophiologists study?
2. What was the title of the first Lassie film?
3. Which pop group was named after the inventor of the seed drill?
4. Name Spain’s second largest city in terms of population.
5. What colour are the flowers on a laburnum tree?
6. Liechtenstein lies between which two European countries?
7. Where is your basilic vein?
8. What are clave?
9. Which board game, developed in India in the 5th century, was originally called Chaturanga?
10. The tuft of hair at the back of a horse’s leg, just above the hoof, is called the...

Answers to last week’s homework questions
1. On which part of the body would a bell topper be worn? Head
2. What is an orison more commonly called? Prayer
3. In the spectrum which color comes between orange and green? Yellow
4. Which continent is the natural home of the tiger? Asia
5. What does Melba sauce consist of? Raspberry
6. Is souc'hong a green or black variety of tea? Black
7. How is a pizzicato passage played on the violin? By hand
8. Of which planet is Elara a satellite? Jupiter
9. In which European river is the rock known as the Lorelei? Rhine
10. Where do pelagian creatures live? Open sea

Habits of Mind
This week’s winner

Congratulations to Patrick Sheahan for ‘displaying empathy and understanding’ by nominating his partner to go first in a game.

Thank you to all students who have been nominated this week. ALL nominated students will go in the running for the end of year prize of the iPod touch.
## Mid-year Examinations

Mid-year VCE examinations will be held on the following dates:

- **Tuesday 8th June 2010**  Physics & Accounting
- **Wednesday 9th June 2010**  Psychology & Chemistry
- **Thursday 10th June 2010**  VCE GAT Examination

The year 9, 10 & 11 mid-year examinations will be held in the week following the Queen’s Birthday Holiday.

- **Monday 14th**  Queen’s Birthday holiday
- **Tuesday 15th**  3 examinations will be held during Periods 1&2, Periods 3&4 and Periods 5&6
- **Wednesday 16th**  All year 10 & 11 students will attend the Careers Expo in Horsham
- **Thursday 17th**  1 examination will be held on this day during Periods 1&2
- **Friday 18th**  3 examinations will be held during Periods 1&2, Periods 3&4 and Periods 5&6

As Friday 11th June 2010 is a pupil free day (report writing day) this will allow year 9, 10 and 11 students four days to prepare thoroughly for their mid-semester exams.

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### 2010 Semester 1 Exam Timetable

Examinations will take place in Learning Studios 11 & 12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15th June 2010</td>
<td>17th June 2010</td>
<td>18th June 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 – 10:40</td>
<td>9:00 – 10:40</td>
<td>9:00 – 10:40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Orange**

- 60 Minute Exams
- Certificate II Hospitality (10)
- 9/10 Forensic Science (8)
- Certificate II Engineering (9)
- 9/10 Information Technology (9)
- 90 Minutes Exams
- 11 Chemistry (7)
- 9/10/11 Literature (10)

**Mauve**

- 60 Minute Exams
- 9/10 Biology (14)
- 9/10 History (11)
- 9/10 Law Makers and Breakers (12)
- 90 Minute Exams
- 11 Physical Education (5)
- 11 Maths Methods (5)

**Red**

- 90 Minutes Exams
- 11 General Mathematics (13)
- 10 Maths (17)
- 9 Maths (20)

**Pink**

- 60 Minute Exams
- 9/10 Environmental Science (7)
- 11 Wood (6)
- 90 Minute Exams
- 11 Physics (4)
- 9/10 War Files (18)
- 9/10 Japanese (8)

**Green**

- 60 Minute Exams
- 11 Business Management (5)
- 9/10 Horticulture (7)
- 90 Minute Exams
- 11 Studio Art (2)
- 11 History (7)
- 9/10 Lights, Camera, Action! (13)
- 9/10 Textiles (12)

**Blue**

- 60 Minute Exams
- 9/10 Art (14)
- 9/10 Business Management (17)
- 9/10 Global issues (6)
- 90 Minute Exams
- 11 English (15)

**Yellow**

- 60 Minute Exams
- 9/10 Graphic Art (7)
- 9/10 Physical Education (14)
- 11 Ag & Hort (3)
- 90 Minute Exams
- 11 HD (9)
- 11 Biology (7)
- 9/10 Wood (4)
PREPS LET LOOSE

This week the Prep students had their first chance to show their prowess with the school cameras. Under the guidance of the more experienced grade ones, the Preps captured some creditable images of things of interest in the library.

These images show that, although some pictures may be a bit blurry, or off-centre, the Prep/1 students will soon be snapping away in expert fashion.
Dear Parents.

The week of Monday 17th May – Friday 21st May 2010 will see the Birchip P-12 School celebrate Education Week. This year we have again decided to involve the family and have identified Monday, 17th May 2010 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.

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.

Another bike is up for grabs to the family with the lucky ticket on the night.

Activities on offer include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Activity Description</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Activity Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Kite Making</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>Spicks and Specks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Bubble Art</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>Making Volcanoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Ice Cream Making</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Mathematics Problem Solving &amp; Quizzes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>High Tea with the Queens</td>
<td>J</td>
<td>Origami with Takashi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Go for your life</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>Electronics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Board Games</td>
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</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.

Numbers are limited for some sessions.

Activities fill on a first in basis so please return the form below as soon as possible to ensure your preference.
THE PROPOSED REFURBISHED PRIMARY SECTION
Parents’ Club News

NEXT PARENTS CLUB MEETING: Monday 2nd AUGUST.

Thank you to all students, both primary and secondary who supported our Mothers Day stall on Friday 7th May 2010. I am sure your gifts were greatly appreciated by your mothers.

A special thanks must go to Janine Paley and Deanne Botheras for buying the gifts, a very big thank you to Janine Paley and Sue Turner for setting up the stall Thursday night and lastly, thank you to all our stall workers - Janine Paley, Maureen Trollope, Julie Lowry, Sue Turner & Ros McCullum.

Year 4 spelling words for Term 2, Week 6 – Miss Jessica Arnott’s class

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>stayed</th>
<th>course</th>
<th>bucket</th>
<th>caught</th>
<th>court</th>
<th>keeper</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>after</td>
<td>stick</td>
<td>accident</td>
<td>satellite</td>
<td>hammock</td>
<td>kept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>forward</td>
<td>comfortable</td>
<td>board</td>
<td>waist</td>
<td>thought</td>
<td>near</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pretty</td>
<td>supply</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Students can also access a highly recommended website to assist: www.spellingcity.com

For Sale - Excess to our needs.

2 gas ovens – Chef brand, Murray 90 Infra-ray model
In full working condition. $100.00 per oven

Reminder to Netballers

Pie drive order forms have been distributed, so please finalise your sales and hand your order forms in to Tara or your coach tomorrow 15th May 2010 at the home match.

 Helpers available on Thursday 27th May 2010 to help sort pies in the tennis rooms would be appreciated.

Birchip Community Leisure Centre Concerns

This morning, I spoke to the children at primary assembly about being safe when visiting the Leisure Centre for football, netball, hockey, golf etc., along with ensuring the facilities are always looked after and respected. Some of the issues included:

- Children climbing onto the water tank near kiosk
- Children climbing onto the shed rooves
- Getting in the yard where the water tanks are at the back of the Leisure Centre and getting on top of the tank and throwing things into the tank
- Lifting the cover off the pump and turning the pump off and on. The cord was cut by the cover when this was done and live wires were exposed
- Bark chips are constantly being kicked out of the gardens
- Chairs are being thrown into the caged garden area in front of the leisure centre building
- Eating meals in the squash court area and throwing chips and food around
- Swinging on toilet doors which then won’t shut and work properly
- Wandering onto the golf course when the golfers are playing

Youth Room

The Youth Room key can be collected from the Christie’s home at the following times.

The key MUST be signed out when being collected.

Weekdays: between 3:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.
Weekends: between 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Presentation Ball
DVDs are now available from the front office - $15

VCE SACs next week
Psychology
PE

Year 7 Spelling
Week Five
Endangered
Predator
Frenzied
Fascinating
Environment
Legendary
Ancient
Ritual
Generosity
Financial

Birchip Watchem Football Club - Junior Roster for Saturday 15th May 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>U13 Timekeeper</th>
<th>U13 Interchange</th>
<th>U13 Goal Keeper</th>
<th>U16 Timekeeper</th>
<th>U16 Interchange</th>
<th>U16 Goal Keeper</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trollope Family</td>
<td>D. Kemp</td>
<td>Walsh Family</td>
<td>Rickard Family</td>
<td>Galway Family</td>
<td>Delaney Family</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Under 16</th>
<th>Boundary Umpires</th>
<th>Seniors</th>
<th>Water Boys</th>
<th>Seniors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riley Sayle</td>
<td>Jordan Galway</td>
<td>Jackson Sayle</td>
<td>Carl Egerer</td>
<td>Mark Trollope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mason Bland</td>
<td>Connor McGinnis</td>
<td>David Casey</td>
<td>Spencer Weir</td>
<td>Gus Walsh</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Could Boundary Umpires please wear a white shirt, not an inside out jumper.
Also if parents or players are unable to do their duty could they please organise a swap.

Under 13 Team Manager - Andrew Sayle
Under 16 Team Manager - Russell Christie

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 Welt</td>
<td>Counting &amp; Spelling - see sheet in reader cover</td>
<td>18th May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>SOSE</td>
<td>Miss Arnott</td>
<td>Picture of your house</td>
<td>17th May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>Miss Barclay</td>
<td>Assignment: Number Pattern</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Mr Welton</td>
<td>List words and tables</td>
<td>21st May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Star awards</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Oral presentations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Spelling, read ‘Don’t Call Me Ishmael’</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Miss Hicks</td>
<td>Green Angel questions</td>
<td>20th May</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Writing Folio</td>
<td>24th May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>LCA</td>
<td>Miss Hicks</td>
<td>Jaws assignment parts 1-5</td>
<td>17th May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>PE</td>
<td>Mr Sayle</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
<td>21st May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>Miss Wright</td>
<td>Kristall Nacht questions</td>
<td>24th May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>Enviro. Science</td>
<td>Miss Barclay</td>
<td>Water Analysis</td>
<td>19th May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Miss Barclay</td>
<td>Summary Report study</td>
<td>17th May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>General Maths</td>
<td>Miss Barclay</td>
<td>Chapter 2 review questions</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Further Maths</td>
<td>Miss Barclay</td>
<td>Chapter 12 finished</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Study for Man for all Seasons SAC</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All Years - 15 minutes reading a day!
The ultranet goes live at Birchip P-12 School

On Monday 17th May 2010 our school will login to the future with Ultranet, the new online system for schools. The Ultranet is a statewide secure site that teachers, parents/guardians and students can access via the internet. Birchip P-12 School is one of the Round One schools being rolled out at the present time. Extensive professional development is being conducted with teachers before its general release.

It will be rolled out in our school in two releases:

1. In Release 1, students and teachers will be able to collaborate using online tools such as wikis, blogs and discussion forums. Students will be able to create their own online learning portfolio and take part in online learning activities. Teachers will be able to access and share valuable online learning content across Victoria.

2. Release 2, with extra functionality, will be made available to all schools in late September. Towards the end of Term Three, parents/guardians will receive a user name, password and user manual, and from Term Four, you will be able to log on and see information about your child and our school. This information will build up over time, creating an ongoing record for each student. These records will travel with your child from year to year and school to school.

Between now and then, we will give you more information about the system and how you will be able to use it.

Our teachers will be learning to use the Ultranet over the next few months and will gradually bring it into the classroom for our students to use. We will inform you when students start to access the Ultranet.

Some basic privacy information about the Ultranet

The Ultranet is accessible to school staff, teachers, students and parents/guardians in Victorian government schools. It is a closed website that can’t be accessed by anyone else on the internet.

The Ultranet will not store health or welfare information about your child. (Health or welfare information includes medical, behavioural, birthday or contact details.) In fact, the only personal information about your child in the Ultranet will be their name and school photograph (unless you notify the school and request the photograph is not used). All other information on the Ultranet about your child will be specific to their learning.

In Release 1, learning information about a student can be seen only by that student and teachers at our school. In Term Four, the parents/guardians of the individual student will then be able to see this information. This means that you can only see information about your own children, and teachers can only see information about students at their own school.

If you’d like more information, please go to www.education.vic.gov.au/ultranet or talk to Mr Richmond at the school on 03 54 922 287 or 0417 106 033.
This week in Year 8 English students focussed on communicating with *clarity and precision*.

On Wednesday, students worked in pairs to guide their blindfolded partner around the school with only verbal communication. Students soon realised that they had to give *precise directions* to ensure the safety of their partner – we managed to complete the task with only a few MINOR injuries!

This task was followed on Thursday morning by student created scavenger hunts. Students created their own scavenger hunt that directed another student around the school to find a series of clues. After the activity the Year 8 students reflected that some of their clues needed more *clarity and precision* as many of the students could not complete their scavenger hunt without assistance from its creator. Some students even managed to finish scavenger hunts that weren’t their own after picking up the wrong clues. This is a skill that these students will need to refine further!

Below are some comments from the Year 8 students when reflecting on these two exercises.

**Blindfold Activity**
- I felt safe when doing this task and trusted my partner. It was scary at times and thought I would run into stuff but that was because I got my left and rights mucked up.
- My partner was great at communicating with me. Although I was blindfolded and a little anxious, I felt safe because my partner was sensible.
- I think my partner did a really good job. I thought she communicated really well and directed me the right way.
- I think we communicated really well, although I don’t think he should have deliberately made me crash into poles.

**Scavenger Hunt**
- I think that it is very important to communicate with precision and clarity because if you don’t, people won’t understand what you are trying to tell them.
- It is important to communicate so you don’t get lost.
- I found the activity fun and easy, this was because the clues were easy to follow and easy to find.
- The clues were easy to read because the clues were clear. The hard part was finding the clue when it went ‘missing’. It is important to communicate with clarity because you might be misunderstood and that is when mistakes happen.