Forthcoming Events

June
Tuesday 3rd  Yr 9 Youth Program trip to Bendigo
Monday 9th   Queens Birthday Holiday
Tuesday 10th  Physical Resources Meeting
Wednesday 11th → VCE Exams
Friday 13th   Primary Report Writing Day - P-6 students not required at school
Thursday 12th  Secondary Report Writing Day - 7-12 students not required at school
Wednesday 18th Primary Winter Sports - Birchip
Thursday 19th  School Council
Friday 20th  Primary State Cross Country Championships
Thursday 26th  P-6 Emergency Services Day
Friday 27th  Last Day of Term 2.  2.30pm finish

July
Monday 14th   First Day Term 3
Monday 14th → Yr 9 Rubicon Camp
Friday 18th   Year 10 Work Experience
Monday 14th → Year 10 Work Experience
Friday 18th   Year 10 Work Experience
Monday 28th  Secondary Winter sports at Birchip & Hopetoun
Thursday 31st Australian Mathematics Competition

August
Tuesday 12th  Australian English Competition

Foundation for Regional and Rural Renewal - Multi Media Grant
Thanks to Mrs Simone Christie and Mrs Megan Lord, the school and community were granted approximately $4,300 for the purchase of a MacBook Pro laptop, video camera and Adobe Creative Suite Software. These items will allow various school and community projects to take shape. These include: Birchip community website including new geographic domain name, youth group projects including triple J applications and the school magazine. Thanks to Simon and Mrs Lord for their initiative to assist our school and the community.

Communicating with Shakespeare
There is no question about the geographical challenges faced by students and teachers in country schools like Birchip P-12. With the price of fuel and the continuing economic pressure of inflation on rural families, the prospect of running excursions is now somewhat limited. After reading about the exciting Bell
BirchipP-12 School Newsletter

Shakespeare Education programs visiting regional centres such as Bendigo and Horsham. English teacher Mrs Megan Lord made inquiries, only to discover the programs had been booked out at both cities. Megan, undeterred by this, convinced the Bell Shakespeare Education department to schedule a visit to Birchip P-12 in their busy schedule.

They obliged and on Monday morning students from Tyrell College, Wycheproof P-12 College, Donald High School and Birchip P-12 School gathered in the Birchip P-12 Stadium for Bell Shakespeare’s ‘Actors at Work: Macbeth Intensive’. Four actors performed key scenes from Macbeth including several soliloquies whilst intermittently pausing to deconstruct the meaning of these scenes. The actors also linked Macbeth’s hubris to well known Australian politicians and famous conflicts. Their explanations and analogies engaged students and assisted their understanding of the ‘Scottish play’. They also emphasised that Shakespeare’s plays were not intended to be read from text books in the 21st century but were originally written to be interpreted and delivered with passion on the stage. It was perhaps this message that resonated most with students, who felt the magic of Shakespeare’s language from the emphatic performances.

We look forward to a continuing dialogue with Bell Shakespeare to ensure students not just at the Birchip but indeed the Buloke Shire are given the opportunity to enjoy cultural performances of greatness.

SCHOOL REVIEW

Our formal school review will occur on Monday 2nd June 2008. Mr Doug Robb (Monash University) along with Mr Brendan Ryan (SEO – Grampians Region) and Margaret SCOTT (School Development & Improvement) will assist our review team in this process. The team will review the past 4 years and make recommendations for the future. Following the review process, the school will develop our strategic plan for the next 4 years. The school’s review team consists of David Smith, Janine Welton, Russell and John Richmond.

Primary School Toilet Site Meeting

I attended a site meeting with Architect, Noel McConnell of ‘npm Architects’ and with builder, John Wilson yesterday. The windows and glass doors are installed and the brick laying will commence next week. We accepted painting colour schemes which the year 4 – 6 children had chosen previously. It is anticipated the toilets will be completed in 3-4 weeks.

Reconciliation Day

This week is Reconciliation Week. Reconciliation week gives us the chance to identify the disadvantages the Aboriginal people experienced and we look to the future in which Aboriginal people are not discriminated against on the basis of race. Aboriginal people should have equal access to health, education and work.

Yesterday students were ‘put into the shoes’ of people who have been discriminated against in the past. Students with a last name beginning with A – M were made to stand with their heads down in a small square in the stadium while students with a last name beginning with N – Z were free to do what they want. They were offered lollies and complimented on how great their last name is. The activity highlighted the emotions of the group who were discriminated against on the basis of their last name. They were sad that they were not treated equally to the other group and believed that they were entitled to the lollies too.

Following the activity, Miss Johnson discussed with all students the injustice of discrimination to anybody for any reason. At the end of the activity, all students who missed out initially were offered lollies before all students returned to their classrooms. Many thanks to Miss Johnson for her initiative.

Australian Science Competition

Students from years 3 – 12 sat for the Australian Science Competition yesterday. Thanks to Mrs Debra Emonson.
for her organization. Joe O’Donnell looks up momentarily from his Science Examination.

Year Nine Activity Program

Our year nine activity program continued yesterday with students involved with 2 different sessions. Roberta Barry from the Swan Hill Police discussed drug and alcohol awareness. Roberta was a student at the Birchip High School many years ago and was able to meet with some of her teachers again. Next week, Roberta will visit to discuss a possible Drug and Alcohol awareness for students and parents next term. Natalie Jenkins also of Swan Hill introduced our students to yoga. This is the fifth and final activity day for our students.

Next Tuesday our year nine students will complete their activity program with a celebration day in Bendigo undertaking the following activities.

09:00 a.m. Depart Birchip P-12 School for Bendigo
11:00 a.m. Boys: Eaglehawk Leisure Centre for swimming and gymnasium
11:15 a.m. Girls: Australian College of Hair & Beauty for skin and nail care
12:30 p.m. Lunch at Bendigo Market Place
01:15 p.m. Boys: Rock Climbing and Abseiling at the YMCA Stadium, Mundy St, Bendigo
Girls: Australian College of Hair & Beauty for hair and make-up
03:30 p.m. Ten Pin Bowling at Dragon City Lanes
04:30 p.m. Depart Bendigo for home – Program evaluation to be completed on the bus.
06:30 p.m. Arrive back at Birchip P-12 School

Primary Cross Country – Dimboola

Six primary students travelled to Dimboola yesterday to compete in the zone cross country event. Well done to all our competitors.

Results include:
Joe O’Donnell 17th
Claudia Lee 25th
Royce Bennett 7th
Hayley Hogan 8th
Jacob Christie 13th

Nakita Turner 32nd – actually 13th but her age group ran the wrong way so she had to run it again

Textiles Excursion to Bendigo Art Gallery

On Thursday 22nd May 2008 the middle years textiles students travelled with Mrs Barb Smith to visit the Bendigo Art Gallery. They viewed the exhibition ‘Fashion in the Age of Queen Victoria’ - the Darnell Collection. The students also participated in a practical workshop. The students developed creative concepts for clothing using techniques such as pleating, beading, ruffles and draping. The students learnt about the crinoline bustles and riding side saddle.

Pictured are the final products made by Emily Hogan, Cassie Hogan and Mrs Barb Smith.
General Knowledge Questions
Friday 30th May

1. What would you use dubbin for?
2. Who was Erik Weisz better known as and what was he famous for?
3. What is a kittiwake?
4. What colour is murrey?
5. Is pennywort edible?
6. In music, what is a ritornello?
7. What is seersucker?
8. Is a sockeye edible?
9. What is the special name given to a Jewish church?
10. If you did something surreptitiously, how would you do it?

Answers to today’s questions:
1. Waterproof or soften leather
2. Houdini- escape artist
3. Small gull found on sea coast
4. Deep red or purple
5. Marsh plant- stem, leaves and roots are edible
6. A short instrumental refrain or interlude
7. Linen or cotton fabric with a puckered appearance
8. A blue-backed Alaskan salmon, so yes.
9. Synagogue
10. Stealthily or sneakily

VCE Mid Year Exams

VCE mid year exams begin on Wednesday 11th June 2008, and continue through to Friday 13th June 2008 when the GAT will be held.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Subject/Class</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 11th</td>
<td>9.00am - 10.45am</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>St. Mary’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11.45am - 1.30pm</td>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>St. Mary’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 12th</td>
<td>9.00am – 10.45am</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>St Mary’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11.45 am – 1.30pm</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>St Mary’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 13th</td>
<td>10.00am – 1.15pm</td>
<td>General Achievement</td>
<td>Rooms 11 and 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Test (GAT)</td>
<td>Birchip P-12 School</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please arrive at the examination venue early.
Mobile phones are not to be taken into examination areas.
Ipods are not to be taken into examination areas.
All students are required to stay for the entire length of time in the written examinations for unit 3 and 4 subjects.
Students may exit the GAT after 2 hours of writing time if they wish to.

GAT

The General Achievement Test MUST be sat by all students studying a unit 3 or 4 subject.
If you have any questions about the examinations please contact me at school.
Students with examinations are not required at School on Tuesday 10th June 2008. Students without examinations are required to attend.
Students with only a Biology exam will be expected to be back at school at the end of recess on Wednesday 11th June 2008, if they do not have another examination.
Students sitting the Psychology examination will be expected back at school at the end of recess on Thursday 12th June 2008.
No students will remain at school after the GAT as it is a pupil free day.

Russell Christie
VCE Coordinator
Acting Assistant Principal

School Jumpers

Monday 2nd June 2008 will be ‘school jumper naming day’. Home group teachers will be given a fabric marker ready for students to name their unnamed jumpers during home group assembly. At present we have three (3) unnamed school jumpers waiting for collection by students in lost property.

VCE SAC next week

Physics
D & T
Econonica
Food   ongoing
**Netball Update**
All the best to Marnie Lehmann who today participated in the next stage of the State Primary Netball Team.

**Fitness Classes - Instructors Choice**
4 weeks of classes designed by the instructor
Mon nights begin June 2nd at IHOM 6-7pm $35
Bookings essential
Contact BB & LC ph 5492 2735 or email birchipblc@bigpond.com

**Hockey this weekend**
The Round 11, June 28th match against Boort will be played this weekend in St Arnaud in lieu of the round that will be missed for country week.
Under 15 game 10.05am and Womens game 1.35pm.
There will be no under 13 or minkey games.

**Birchip Squash Club**
Social Hit Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th June 2008.
Competition to start on Wednesday 11th June 2008.
All past, present and new players welcome.
Names to Mark Bowen, Eileen Smith and Louise Lee by Sunday 8th June 2008.

**Fitness through squash!!**
If you are thinking about your fitness, then squash on a Wednesday evening might be just the activity to kick-start your health. Past, present and new players are most welcome to come along to the social hits on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week to either receive a few tips from the old hands or to get the feel of the game after the season’s break. If you are interested in playing, could you please give your name to either, Mark Bowen, Eileen Smith or Louise Lee

**AFL Tickets Available**
2 Adults/2 Juniors - Rd 17 Hawthorn Vs Geelong (25th July) or Rd 19 Melbourne Vs Geelong (8th August) - choice of game.
2 Adults/2 Juniors - Rd 12 W/Bulldogs Vs B/Lions (14th June)
Games are held at MCG
Contact Amanda 5492 2365

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**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>Prep/1</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Mrs Welton</td>
<td>Practice counting by 1, 2, 5 &amp; 10s, Practise sounds, words, shapes and numbers</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Mrs Kelly</td>
<td>Spelling List 12, General Knowledge Table - learn them</td>
<td>6th June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Mr Welton</td>
<td>List words, general knowledge questions, maths</td>
<td>7th June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>Mr Delaney</td>
<td>Complete China Tourist highlights</td>
<td>2nd June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Good copy of three paras of My Side of the Story</td>
<td>2nd June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>Miss Barclay</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
<td>6th June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Finish novel, prepare for presentation</td>
<td>5th June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>Miss Johnson</td>
<td>Bloom’s taxonomy assignment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>Miss Johnson</td>
<td>Find newspaper article about war</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>PE</td>
<td>Mr Sayle</td>
<td>“Personal Best” assignment</td>
<td>6th June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>Business Man.</td>
<td>Mr Knights</td>
<td>Marketing assignment</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>PE</td>
<td>Mr Sayle</td>
<td>Research Presentation</td>
<td>3rd June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>Mr Christie</td>
<td>Complete slowmation</td>
<td>2nd June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Ag Hort</td>
<td>Mr Christie</td>
<td>Complete “name that cow/sheep”</td>
<td>5th June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Legal Studies</td>
<td>Mr Knights</td>
<td>Read Chapter 6</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Business Man.</td>
<td>Mr Knights</td>
<td>Summary 2, 3a, d &amp; 24 a, e</td>
<td>2nd June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Mr Christie</td>
<td>Study and finish CSE exam</td>
<td>2nd June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Keep up to date with Omagh notes</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All Years - 15 minutes reading a day!
HABITS OF MIND

Plenty of visual displays are starting to appear on noticeboard space around the school reflecting work covered in classes. Many staff are reinforcing strategies to help students work with the Habits of Mind.

Mathematics – Miss Barclay and Miss Langley worked with the year 8 students to develop strategies to help them with problem solving. See their poster below.

Computers – Miss Digby is working on strategies for persisting in IT.

Textiles – Mrs Barb Smith and year 8 students have been discussing ways to improve the quality of their practical work and understand what they are creating.

It is terrific to see the Habits of Mind initiative taking shape within the school.
Dear Parents

Our school is working towards developing a set of values that is consistent with what you are teaching your child at home.

We realise that children learn their values and attitudes first and foremost in the family environment and that parents and caregivers have a significant influence on their children’s values, learning and development. We also realise that parents reasonably expect that these values will be reinforced at school. To this end we would like your thoughts in promoting key values which parents think are important.

Research has found that good schools not only have excellent teachers and buildings but they make their values explicit to students. Having agreed upon values makes it easier for the school community to work together towards common goals.

There are Nine National Values for Australian Schooling:
- Care and Compassion- Care for self and others
- Doing your best- Try hard, pursue excellence.
- Fair Go- Pursue common good where all people are treated fairly.
- Freedom- Stand up for the rights of others, ensure that we are free from unnecessary control.
- Honesty and Trustworthiness- Be honest, sincere and seek the truth.
- Integrity- Ensure consistency between words and deeds, act according to your principles.
- Respect- Treat others with consideration and regard, respect another person’s point of view.
- Responsibility- Be accountable for one’s own actions, resolve differences in a constructive, non-violent way, contribute to society and civic life, take care of the environment.
- Understanding, Tolerance and Inclusion- Be aware of others and their cultures, accept diversity, being included and accept others.

We would like our school to have five or six values which students from Prep to Year 12 can easily understand. What we would like to know is what five or six values you think are the most important to you. If there are values which you feel are important and which are not mentioned on this list, please feel free to mention them.

Students, Staff, School Council and Parents’ Club will also be surveyed to see what values are important to them. Once information is available from all these groups, then a set of five or six values will be adopted as our school’s key values. The agreed upon values will then be publicised widely and discussed in classes.

Could you please fill in the accompanying survey and send it back to school at your earliest convenience. If you have any queries, do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Eileen Smith
Welfare Coordinator
Parents’ and Carers’ Survey

1. What values are important to you?

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2. List the 5 or 6 values you want for Birchip P-12 School. Remember, you can include values which are different from the Nine National Values. Please keep the words simple as they have to be understood by Year Prep as well as Year 12 students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Values for Australian Schooling Values</th>
<th>The values you want for Birchip P-12 School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Care and Compassion</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Doing Your Best</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Fair Go</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Freedom</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Honesty and Trustworthiness</td>
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<td>6. Integrity</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Respect</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Responsibility</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Understanding, Tolerance and Inclusion</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

3. Look at the list of the nine Values for Australian Schooling. Comment on the extent to which you feel that the school promotes these values.

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Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey and helping us to work together. Could you please return this form to school by Friday 6th June 2008.

Yours sincerely

Eileen Smith
Welfare Coordinator