### Forthcoming Events

**June**
- **Monday 9th**: Queens Birthday Holiday
- **Tuesday 10th**: Physical Resources Meeting
- **Wednesday 11th**: VCE Exams
- **Thursday 12th**: Primary Report Writing Day - P-6 students not required at school
- **Friday 13th**: 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**: Jump Rope for Heart - JUMP OFF DAY 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 28th**: Secondary Winter sports at Birchip & Hopetoun
- **Thursday 31st**: Australian Mathematics Competition **August**
- **Tuesday 12th**: Australian English Competition

### St Vincent de Paul – Winter Appeal

You will have noticed that an envelope for the St Vincent de Paul – Winter Appeal was attached to the school’s newsletter last week. Over the past two years, our school has received $27,500.00 in funding to support our students to experience the usual array of educational activities provided by the school including camps and excursions.

An example of how a family of three children may have benefited includes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Camp Type</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Subsidy</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 11 camp</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>40% subsidy</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 10 camp</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>50% subsidy</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9 camp</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>40% subsidy</td>
<td>$140.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 8 camp</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>50% subsidy</td>
<td>$140.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7 camp</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>40% subsidy</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6 camp</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>50% subsidy</td>
<td>$90.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These figures suggest that this family would have benefited by at least $980.00 to assist their children to take part in these activities over the 2 year period.

I ask you to consider making a contribution to the St Vincent de Paul Society’s - Winter Appeal in recognition of the support they provided to you and your family over the past two years.

The Birchip P-12 School, thanks sincerely, the Birchip Conference of the Society of St Vincent de Paul for their support of our school and its families. You can make a donation by using the envelope from last week’s newsletter, OR visiting [www.vinnies.org.au/vic](http://www.vinnies.org.au/vic) OR call 13 18 12.

Envelopes can be returned to the school office for a bulk postage return.

### Semester Two, Student Unit Selections

All parents of students in years 9 & 10 received a letter during the week indicating that Semester Two, Student Unit Selections were occurring. Mr Sayle is endeavouring to meet with each student to discuss their unit choices for next semester. Should you have any questions about your sons/daughters courses for next semester, please contact Mr Sayle at the school.
What’s on next week

**Monday 9th June**
Queen’s Birthday Holiday

**Tuesday 10th June**
Swat Vac for students with Biology & Physics on Wednesday

**Wednesday 11th June**
Swat Vac for students with Psychology & Chemistry on Thursday

**Thursday 12th June**
P-6 report writing day – pupil free day for primary students

**Friday 13th June**
7-12 report writing day – pupil free day for secondary students

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**Head Lice**

We have had some reports of an infestation of head lice. Please check heads carefully, preferably in sunlight, because eggs are easier to detect. If detected the hair must be treated prior to a child’s return to school. If using medicated shampoo, follow up treatment must occur in exactly seven days, using the same medicated shampoo.

It is very much appreciated that we are notified when head lice are detected. In this way, we can alert our school community and maintain confidentiality. If you have any queries, please contact Mrs Kelly.

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**VCE mid year exams**

We wish all students undertaking exams next week all the best. It is a particularly important time of the year for our senior students. I would also like to thank the staff taking senior classes for making extra time after hours and at weekends to help prepare students for these 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>Wednesday 11 June</th>
<th>9.00am - 10.45am</th>
<th>11.45am - 1.30pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.00am - 10.45am</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. Mary’s</td>
<td>St. Mary’s</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday 12 June</th>
<th>9.00am – 10.45am</th>
<th>11.45 am – 1.30pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.00am – 10.45am</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St Mary’s</td>
<td>St Mary’s</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday 13 June</th>
<th>10.00am – 1.15pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.00am – 1.15pm</td>
<td>General Achievement Test (GAT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rooms 11 and 12 Birchip P-12 School</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Instructions for VCE exam students**

- Please arrive at the examination venue early.
- Mobile phones and 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.
- The General Achievement Test MUST be sat by all students studying a unit 3 or 4 subject.
- Students with examinations are entitled to a study day on the day prior to their exam.
- 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 student will remain at school after the GAT as it is a pupil free day.
LITERATURE STUDENTS ATTEND IBSEN’S HEDDA GABLER

On Thursday 22 May students from Literature Units One and Three changed out of their school uniform, dressed in theatre garb and headed to Melbourne to see a production of Henrik Ibsen’s Hedda Gabler at ‘Chapel off Chapel’. This play will form the basis of their assessment tasks. During the next few weeks the literature students will also perform their own dramatisations, listen to a radio play adaptation and watch the movie version. They will then compare and contrast how meaning changes when form changes.

The students came away from the live performances with mixed opinions:

‘I thoroughly enjoyed the ‘Hedda Gabler’ play that our Literature class was fortunate enough to see live at the famous Chapel off Chapel. The acting was brilliant and such strong personalities made the play funny yet interesting and enjoyable to watch.’

‘The experience of seeing a live play, and to be on floor level with the characters, really made the play come to life for me. The set was extremely basic with the minimum of props which shows you don’t need to have lots of equipment to put on a great performance’. Virginia Glen

‘It proves difficult to create modern adaptations of timeless texts. The production of ‘Hedda Gabler,’ at the Chapel, was no exception. The setting was strained by the influence of several modern items, which subtracted from the believability of the performance’.

‘Evidently, the play would have benefited by sticking to the original context. It wouldn’t have been a great leap, but it would have been effective’. Dean Totzenberger

‘The trip down to see the play was a talkative one. Dean Totzenberger, Elsie Coffey, Virginia Glen, Miss Helen Digby and I were all very excited and unaware of the enthusiasm and professionalism that we were about to experience. I thought to myself at the start of act one, scene one that this play was going to be like the amateur plays that I had often seen. That was not the case. Yes, they used a similar branch to hang from but it was a completely different tree’. Cassie Street

Flight Unit for Semester Two

This week we received the good news that our application for funding of the proposed year 9&10 Flight unit was successful. We received $3,370.00 funding. Flight will be an integrated unit covering several VELS strands including science, design, creativity & technology, communication, community engagement, personal learning etc.,

The topics to be covered include:

- Aerodynamics – theory & practical
- Paper & model planes - design and construction
- Design and construction of remote control planes
- Manufacturing aluminium wing rib and fibre glass components
- Navigation principles
- Excursions to Birchip aerodrome, Mildura Airport, Tullamarine, Point Cook
- Experience actual flight in small plane from Birchip Aeroplane

Unfortunately, this unit will be limited to 10 students.

Their will be a small cost to each student undertaking the unit but the bulk of the costs will be funded thanks to our generous sponsors.

This Flight Project is sponsored by Career Advice Australia an initiative of the Federal Government and the North Loddon/West Mallee Local Community Partnership.

The Pianist

The history department is looking to borrow a copy of “The Pianist” (2002).

Could you please contact Miss Johnson at the school.
**SUCCESSFUL REVIEW AT BIRCHIP P-12 SCHOOL**

Last Monday 2nd June 2008, Doug ROBB (Monash University), Brendan RYAN (SEO – Grampians Region) and Margaret SCOTT (School Development & Improvement) met with our review team and other staff to discuss the school’s self evaluation and conduct a most successful review of our school for the years 2004 – 2007. Thank you to all members of staff and school community for their input during this review period. Some comments from our visitors following the day include:

- I really enjoyed working with such a professional team.
- It was a pleasure to be part of a most affirming day for Birchip P-12 School, its teachers and community.
- The quality of educational conversation among staff was outstanding, reflecting the high expectations the school has for all.
- Thank you for the opportunity to be part of such a quality day.
- Had a great day and a marvellous lunch! I have already recommended the vanilla slices to others.

Our reviewer, Mr Doug Robb, will now complete his report and present it to staff and school council on Thursday 19th June 2008.

**Youth Mental Health**

Parents and Carers may not know how to talk to a young person about their problems, how to support them when needed, where to get help for a young person or how to seek support for themselves. If this is the case, you can of course discuss your worries with us at school but you can also go to the new National Youth Mental Health Foundation website [www.headspace.org.au](http://www.headspace.org.au). This is an excellent site for young people and their parents. Excellent advice and information is given by trained professionals in the area.

Many mental health problems first emerge when people are in their teens or early twenties. Australia’s new headspace initiative aims to make a difference through services custom-designed for this age group.

Every year, around 14% of young people aged 12-17 experience mental health problems, serious enough to need treatment. This percentage almost doubles among 18-25 year olds.

If you wish to gain information and advice over the phone ring 1800 18 SANE (7263) or go to the SANE website [www.sane.org](http://www.sane.org).

If you have an inquiries contact Mrs Eileen Smith

**General Knowledge Questions**

*Friday 6th June*

1. In which country would you find the Orinoco River? Mark the country on your map.
2. What is a fjord?
3. In which year did Advance Australia Fair become our National Anthem?
4. How many albums did Slim Dusty Fair record?
5. How long is The Great Barrier Reef?
6. Name the longest river in the world.
7. When is World Environment Day?
8. Who founded the Red Cross?
9. 'Last Judgement' was the first painting of an Italian painter named ..........?
10. What is a cuboid also known as?

**Answers to this week’s questions:**

1. Venezuela
2. A narrow, steep inlet of the sea, carved by a glacier
3. 1984
4. 105 (He was recording his 106th when he died).
5. 2000km
6. Nile
7. 5th June
8. Jean Henri Dunant
9. Michaelangelo
10. Rectangular prism

*Correction to answers last week: The Big Guitar is in Narrandera. The Big Golden Guitar is in Tamworth.*

**LOST**

1 Blue school jumper, size 22 has been misplaced
Please contact Tim Walder if you find this jumper.

Also lost at Wedderburn – 1 hockey skirt – size M
Please contact Mikaela Christie.

**VCE SAC**

*next week*

Food ongoing
Our year nine students enjoyed a well organized and highly enjoyable celebration day in Bendigo last Tuesday 3rd June 2008.

The boys went swimming and worked out at the Eaglehawk Leisure Centre followed by rock climbing and abseiling at the Bendigo YMCA Stadium. While the boys enjoyed their extreme sports the girls were pampered with skin and nail care followed by a hair and face makeover compliments of the Australian College of Hair & Beauty. The students enjoyed lunching at Bendigo Market Place. Prior to their return journey, the students enjoyed ten pin bowling at Dragon City Lanes.

Thank you to Mr Marchesi and Miss Langley for their chaperoning of the students on the day and to Mrs Rhonda Allan (Mallee Sports Assembly) for her excellent organization not only of the celebration day but the entire year nine activity program.
During Grade Prep - Grade 5 PASE sessions for the remainder of Term 2, students will be involved in the ‘Jump Rope for Heart’ program. This program enables all participants to be actively involved in a variety of skipping activities that will improve their agility, rhythm, coordination, balance and strength as well as developing their awareness and knowledge of heart health and the relationship to fitness. Best of all, it is also FUN!

**JUMP OFF DAY:** On the last day of Term 2, **Friday 27th June 2008** all primary students and some secondary students will be involved in a variety of skipping activities and challenges as a FUN way to finish the term and the ‘Jump Rope for Heart’ Program.

This day will also be a casual clothes day with the theme of **dress as your favourite sports person or in favourite sports colours**. (Must be suitable jumping attire and covered footwear: i.e., runners and **NOT** thongs or crocs.) There will be no charge for dressing in casual clothes on this day however, a healthy lunch organized and provided by Year 11 & 12 VCAL students and Mrs Barb Smith will be available. Orders and costing will be sent home at a later date.

**DID YOU KNOW?** The Heart Foundation is Australia’s leading not-for-profit heart health organization, working since 1959 to build community awareness about heart disease. On average, every year more than 46,000 Australians die from heart disease, stroke or blood vessel disease; that’s a life lost almost every 10 minutes! Donations by you help the Heart Foundation continue the fight against cardiovascular disease (a disease affecting 2 in 3 Australian families). Many families in our school community have had their own personal experiences with family members suffering heart complaints. If you would like to make a donation, online donations can be made directly through the Heart Foundation website by credit card using **www.heartfoundation.org.au/jumpropeforheart** or by phoning the **Heart Foundation** on **1300 72 48 04**.

**HAVE YOU GOT A SKIPPING ROPE AT HOME?** Skipping is an activity that many parents will have tried as a child. How about parents and children challenge each other to a skipping contest?

Mrs Michelle Lee – PASE Co-ordinator

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**Birchip Watchem Netball**

**Donald Netball times**

- **A** 2.15pm Claire Brown
- **B** 1.00pm Lyn Boyle
- **C** 11.45am Julie Coffey
- **JA** 10.40am Sharlene Connelly
- **JB** 11.45am Jenny (Sophie) Noonan
- **13A** 9.50am Rhonda Bell

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**Birchip Watchem Hockey Club**

Pasta Night after training next Thursday night 12th June. All welcome.

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**Back In The Olden Days**
From time to time Mrs Donnellon will contribute some historical information about the school that she comes across while researching family history at the Museum.

From “Birchip Advertiser” - 117 years ago

First School Picnic
9th November 1891
To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the birth of the Prince of Wales and to honour the first few weeks of the new State School a school picnic was held on the west bank of Lake Karyrie. Parents and friends of the children transported the excited children to the venue where picnic races, games and a grand repast of delectable picnic food was consumed by all and sundry. A marvellous crowd attended such an auspicious occasion as it was also a public holiday in honour of the royal personage. Parents were thanked for transporting the children and Mr Blyth the school master thanked also Mr Chigwidden for bringing all the tables and benches to and from the venue. Among the winners of races was Miss E. Chigwidden who won the Under 9 race. A concert was also held later in the afternoon at which the children sang several items.

Prize Giving Ceremony
24th December 1891
The proceedings opened with a song by the children after which Mr Blyth addressed the children, explaining to them the reason that he called so many of their parents and friends there.
He alluded to their hardships and suffering in the old shared mud brick building which once did duty as a school and pleasantly contrasted it with their present comfortable surroundings and the eagerness with which they had awaited the erection of a new school.
As a result of the recent school picnic held at Karyrie Lake and the liberty of their parents and friends, they had a balance of 8 pounds 7 shillings which was handed over to him to be expended on prizes and he was pleased indeed to be able to give to every child a small memento as well as a valuable prize for merit. He hoped the prizes would be kept to commemorate the new building. He hoped they would preserve their prizes so that in years to come, the prizes would recall some pleasurable experience of their school career. He apologised for the absence of Mr Joseph Lockwood J.P. and called upon Mr J.E. Cutts J.P. of Wycheproof to act as his substitute. The prizes as well as many handsome and valuable books also comprised of a writing desk and workboxes, ladies’ companions etc.
A full list of successful scholars is as follows:

DUX OF SCHOOL
Esther Mahood

5th Class Maggie McCarthy
4th Class Charlotte Campbell
3rd Class Adeline Chigwidden
2nd Class Bertie Blencowen
1st Class Arthur King

SPECIAL PRIZES
General Proficiency
Mary Reid
Drawing Emma Chigwidden
Singing Sarah Campbell
Sewing Ellen Mahood

HIGHEST MARKS IN CLASS
6th Class Mary Reid
4th Class Charlotte Campbell
3rd Class Jane Reid
2nd Class Bertie Blencowen
1st Class Arthur King

The scholars sang a number of songs and Miss Campbell sang a solo “The Ship That Never Returned”, in a manner that proved her worthy of her prize.

The Reverend F. Elliot congratulated the children and remarked that the girls had badly beaten the boys. He reflected in eulogistic terms of the great interest taken in them all by their teacher Mr Blyth, not only in school, but out of school, and hoped they would all work hard in the future.

Fruit and lollies were then distributed and the children and school broke up.

Some descendents of these early pupils attend our school today.
Chigwiddens married into the Schofield and Blencowen clan, the Campbells belonged to the Campbell after whom the street was named.
**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>Practise sounds, words, counting by 1, 2, 5 &amp; 10s</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Mrs Kelly</td>
<td>Spelling list 13, tables, general knowledge questions</td>
<td>13th June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Mr Welton</td>
<td>List words, general knowledge questions</td>
<td>13th June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>My Side of the Story assignment</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>Miss Langley</td>
<td>Homework sheet</td>
<td>11th June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Reading assignment</td>
<td>10th June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>Miss Johnson</td>
<td>Bloom’s assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>Miss Barclay</td>
<td>Maths sheet</td>
<td>11th June</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>Survival</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Papillon assignment</td>
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<td>9/10</td>
<td>Forensics</td>
<td>Mr Marchesi</td>
<td>Exam on Tuesday</td>
<td>10th June</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>Miss Langley</td>
<td>Homework sheet</td>
<td>11th June</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Business Man.</td>
<td>Mr Knights</td>
<td>SAC revision</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Accounting</td>
<td>Mr Knights</td>
<td>SAC revision</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Legal Studies</td>
<td>Mr Knights</td>
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<td>ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Business Man.</td>
<td>Mr Knights</td>
<td>SAC revision</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All Years - 15 minutes reading a day!

Revision for mid-year external exams

- Psychology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Biology
This week students are busy revising and preparing for their mid-year VCE exams. Students have been using a number of study techniques in preparation for their exam/s. Some techniques include completing practice exams, writing memory cards, creating flow charts, writing summary notes, drawing diagrams and completing chapter questions.

On Monday VCE Psychology students attended a quiz night as part of their exam revision. Miss Johnson put together a range of questions to help them to identify gaps in their knowledge. In teams students put their heads together to answer the easy and not so easy questions. **Thinking independently** has improved their knowledge for next week’s exam.