Forthcoming Events

June

Tuesday 23rd
Year 9/10 Law Makers-Law Breakers excursion
Prep Report Meeting 8pm Staff Recreation Room

Friday 26th
Last day of second term - 2.30pm finish

Student reports available at 2.25pm during Home Group Assembly

July

Thursday 2nd
Birchip Cropping Group-Ag Expo at Birchip P-12 School

Monday 13th
First day of third term

Monday 13th →
Year 10/11 Melbourne Camp

Friday 17th

Monday 13th →
Year 9 Rubicon Camp

Friday 17th

Tuesday 28th
Year 12 Biology excursion to GTAC Melbourne

August

Monday 3rd
Parents Club Meeting - 7.30pm

Tuesday 25th
School Photographs

Thursday 27th
Staff PD Literacy across the Curriculum - Joan Stewart - 3.30pm - 5.30pm

A BUSY WEEK!

Years 9, 10 and 11 students have experienced end of semester examinations with each unit. Staff reports suggest these examinations were conducted very formally with students responding appropriately to ensure their test marks were maximized.

Staff completed student reports during the week – these are now being checked and printed. Reports will be available next Friday 26th June 2009 at 2:25 p.m. during Home Group Assembly.

The school will be host to the annual BCG Ag Expo on Thursday 2nd July 2009. This is usually a terrific fundraiser for the school. Later in this newsletter parents will find a roster for this day. Thank you to rostered parents in anticipation of your willingness to give up your time to support our school.

Early Dismissal Next Friday 26th June 2009

As it will be the last day of Term 2, school will dismiss students at 2:30 p.m. next Friday 26th June 2009. As such buses will drop students off at their respective bus stops approximately one hour earlier than normal.

Wilkur Watchem Bus

A new schedule for term 3 will be sent home next week. Parents and students are reminded that the anti-clockwise route will be in operation.

Evening of performances

9/10 Drama and Mr Tyler's Music students Weds 24th June 7.30pm - 8.30pm

Family members of students doing year 9/10 drama are invited to attend their end of semester performance. This semester's performance is called "The Actor's challenge". The drama performance is in the Staff Recreation Room.

Mr Tyler has asked some of his senior music students to accompany the drama performance. Family members of these students are also invited to attend.

BYO drinks and hors d'oeuvre

School Calendar for Terms 3 & 4

Attached to the newsletter please find the school calendar for terms 3 & 4. Hopefully this will assist parents and students with forward planning. Please ensure you check the important dates on the school newsletter each week to adjust this initial school calendar.

19 June 2009
Prep Reports Meeting

Prep parents are reminded of the Reports Meeting this Tuesday 23rd June at 8:00 p.m. in the Staff Recreation Room. Please confirm your attendance/no attendance if you haven’t done so already.

Alpine School –
CLP Presentation Evening

The Alpine students in Dinner Plain are nearing the end of the nine week sojourn in the snow and to celebrate their achievements, the four students from Birchip, Jesse Smith, Ashlea Potter, Laura Lee and Emily Smith show-cased their Community Learning Project.

Ten schools from all different parts of Victoria joined together for their alpine experience and all students pledged to undertake a community project once they returned to their home schools. The four Birchip students are planning to redevelop the fitness track that forms the boundary around the school. In its heyday, the track was used by many sporting clubs to improve their fitness and by individuals who just wanted a pleasant walk. The track is interesting; it has perhaps the only hills in Birchip, a wetlands area and a lovely canopy of trees. The team plan to erect fitness stations along the track and plant even more trees so that the aesthetic appeal of the area is enhanced.

Each school presented their project to teachers and community members from all the participating schools. This year, the Birchip P-12 School was well represented by the principal Mr John Richmond and his wife, Christine, Mrs Eileen Smith, Assistant Principal and her husband, Ian. Going to the snow was a real experience as most of the group had never seen snow or it falling. The teachers commented that it was so pleasing to see four happy students who obviously loved their environment and who had really developed over a short period of time. Students, who were once quiet and reserved, could now initiate conversations and allow their personalities to shine through. The students enthusiastically showed the teachers around the facility and their bedrooms, which were like any other teenager’s bedroom being adorned with pictures and photographs.

The presentations to explain each group’s community projects were outstanding and very creatively constructed. Jesse Smith, dressed as the Mallee Bull, held the audience’s attention while he took part in a ‘Street Talk’ conversation with Laura, Ashlea and Emily to explain to the audience how they plan to redevelop the fitness track. The four students should be really proud of themselves.

The four students had obviously fitted in well and had made many new friends.

Rosebrook Restaurant

On Wednesday 17th June, Pay Poulton and I took part in the first VET function for Certificate II in Hospitality and Tourism. This was a practical assessment to test our skills and provide a real restaurant experience. We got to the venue at 3:00 p.m. and helped clean up and set up for the evening function. When the restaurant was set up, our chef Donna and front of house instructor Glen went over the menu with us; there was canapés then a choice of lamb or beef and then for dessert lemon delicious or sticky date pudding.

At about 6:00 p.m. our first dinner guests arrived. We had all been given jobs; Ray was a kitchen hand helping out the second year students with food and dishes. I was the head runner telling people what table to go to and which person to see. The night was a great success and I would like to thank Miss Barclay, Brad Ryan and Mrs Barb Smith for attending.

Branden Atkinson

Maths is Marvellous – You can count on it!

Fish

Play “Fish” using playing cards. Count up the number of tricks (pairs) won. Count up the number of cards won, (Count by 2s). Look at the tricks won and practise doubling the numbers.
Grade Five and Six Homework Questions – due Friday 24th June 2009
1. What city was the birthplace of Florence Nightingale?
2. What Australian body of water stretches over 1000 km from Cape Paisley to Cape Catastrophe?
3. Which side of the brain is usually responsible for speech?
4. How many letters of the alphabet are also Roman numerals?
5. What piece of equipment has a carriage, platen and space bar?
6. The ancient city of Carthage was found in which continent?
7. What sport brought Australian Scobie Breasley fame in England?
8. Which three Australian states meet at Cameron’s Corner? NSW QLD
9. What colour are the delicate flowers of the rosemary bush?
10. How many cards does each player put in the crib in four handed cribbage?

Last Week’s Answers to Grade Five and Six Homework Questions
1. What kind of plant is the American saguaro the biggest variety of? Cactus
2. Which two state capitals are linked by Australia’s Pacific Highway? Sydney and Brisbane
3. What’s the coldest planet in our solar system? Pluto
4. People suffering from autophagia are always biting what? Themselves
5. Name the color of the middle Olympic ring. Black
6. What is the term for an otter’s nest? Holt
7. How many dice are thrown in a standard game of snakes and ladders? One
8. What part of an egg goes into Hollandaise sauce? Yolk
9. Which sportspeople are masters of the balestra, fleche and riposte? Fencers.
10. Which side is the military slouch hat turned up on? Left

Northern Zone Cross Country
Congratulations to Jacob and Harrison Christie on their efforts in the Northern Zone Cross Country held at St Arnaud last Tuesday.
Harrison and Jacob qualified for this by running times in the House Cross Country that were faster than four minutes per kilometre, and although the St Arnaud course was more hilly than ours they still ran well with Jacob finishing 24th out of 73 and Harry 30th out of a field of 70.
Thanks also to Simone Christie who transported the boys to St Arnaud.

Head Lice
A case of head lice has been reported. Thank you to the parent concerned. Please carefully check for signs of these pests. If you find any lice or eggs (nits) your child may attend school as soon as treatment has occurred. A reminder that a follow up treatment is required, exactly 7 days after the first, to break the cycle.
Merrilyn Kelly

Fitness Track Refurbishment
As reported previously, the Alpine School students are undertaking the refurbishment of the fitness track as their Community Learning Project. Many thanks to Cameron Flowers and the Birchip Landcare Group for their very generous donation of $1,200 which will assist greatly in covering of costs grading the track and filling in sink holes.

MIPs – Years 10, 11 and 12 Students
This term, Lizzie Wilde, Managed Individual Pathways (MIPs) Co-ordinator from the North Central LLEN, will be working with students in years 10, 11 and 12.
Generally, Lizzie will have a half-hour one-on-one session with each student, guiding them through their own ‘Pathways Plan’ and helping them to explore their options for life after school.
During the program, Lizzie will guide the students through activities relating to;
• general pathway planning
• goal setting
• job hunting skills
• self-reflection
• time management
• motivation
• study habits
In doing so, students are assisted to develop a capacity to manage their own ‘pathway’ throughout the duration of their working lives. Lizzie will also assist students to gain a thorough understanding of the opportunities available to them upon completion of compulsory education (VCE, VCAL, School Based Apprenticeship, TAFE, Apprenticeship / Traineeship, direct employment) as well as aiding with subject selection and applications for tertiary education or employment.
Lizzie encourages parents to become involved in the MIPs process by discussing their child’s Pathways Plan with them. Parents can also contact Lizzie on 0429 148 399 or email llen5@bigpond.com if they have any concerns.

**School for Student Leadership**

- Alpine School Campus – Dinner Plain
- Snowy River Campus – Marlo
- Gnurad – Gundidj Campus – Glenormiston

**The School for Student Leadership** is a Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development initiative offering a unique residential education experience for year nine students. The curriculum focuses on personal development and team learning projects sourced from students’ home regions. There are three campuses in iconic locations across Victoria. The **Alpine School Campus** is located at Dinner Plain in the Victorian Alps. **Snowy River Campus** is near the mouth of the Snowy River at Marlo in east Gippsland. The third site is adjacent to Mount Noorat near Camperdown in Victoria’s Western District, and is called **Gnurad-Gundidj Campus**.

In the past Birchip P-12 School students have been fortunate to have students experience Alpine School at Dinner Plain in the Victorian Alps. Students live onsite at the campus for a period of nine weeks. The cost of the experience for each student is $1,000.00

The Grampians region is allocated the **Alpine School Campus** for term three and **Gnurad-Gundidj Campus** in term four next year. This means that the Birchip P-12 School’s current year eight students will be able to apply for these schools next year. We are required to submit our application to attend these schools by Friday 26th June 2009.

A note went home today with all year eight students. The expression of interest should be returned to Mr Richmond at the school by Monday 22nd June 2009.

**2009 Somers School Camp – Grade 5 & 6 students**

Every two years Birchip P-12 School is offered a limited number of places at the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development’s Somers School Camp. This year our allotted time is from Tuesday 6 October 2009 until Wednesday 14th October 2009. It is a nine day commitment and as such I would ask that you only fill in the expression of interest form, if children can attend without concerns of sports or family commitments. The middle Sunday is a day when visitors can attend from 12:00 noon – 2:30 p.m.

and again children must be able to return to their camp activities willingly after their family leaves.

Children who gain selection from Birchip P-12 School will join with 160 Grade 5 and 6 children from our school district in this very special Outdoor Education and Personal Development program.

The camp has both indoor and outdoor activities all run by specialist permanent teaching staff with the assistance of nine local teachers who will accompany the children to and from the camp.

The activities are mainly physical and outdoor and include High and Low Ropes Courses, Boating, Rock Climbing, Abseiling, Challenge Swing and Initiative Activities which require a reasonable level of physical fitness. All children are also required to take part in the following activities: Archery, Art, Drama, Environmental Studies, Bush Cooking, Orienteering, Bike Education, Flying Fox, Bush Dancing, Disco Night, Singing and Diary Writing. Separate boys and girls living arrangements are provided but all activities are done in mixed groups.

Somers Camp is situated on Westernport Bay, 80km from Melbourne (Melway Map Ref 193 H9).

The fee for the camp is $145.00 per student and must be paid in full before children can attend. The fee includes transport, accommodation, meals and pocket money.

This is a great camp and provides children with the opportunity to accept challenges, improve their self esteem, meet and mix with others from our local area, have fun and learn at the same time.

If you would like your Grade 5 or 6 son or daughter to attend the expression of interest form should be returned to Mr Richmond at the school by Monday 22nd June 2009.

**Birchip Watchem Netball Club General Meeting**

Monday June 22nd, 7.30 p.m.

Players and parents of all age players are encouraged to attend.

Sharp’s Bakery Pie Drive is now on. See a player to order by July 2nd

**CHANGED NETBALL TIMES FOR BOORT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>13A</th>
<th>9.30am</th>
<th>13B</th>
<th>10.20am stadium</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16A</td>
<td>10.20am</td>
<td>16B</td>
<td>11.40am</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>12.30pm</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>1.45pm</td>
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<td>A</td>
<td>3pm</td>
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Birchip P-12 School
Parents’ Club Meeting
Monday 3rd August 2009 at 7:30 p.m.
Staff Recreation Room
Guest Speakers - Mrs Barb Smith and Mr Russell Christie.
They will speak on VCE, VET, VCAL and (ASBA) School Based Apprenticeships.
Supper will be provided.

Birchip Cropping Group Ag Expo
Thursday 2nd July 2009
(First week of the school holidays)
We would be pleased if the following families could provide an adult member to work at the BCG Ag Expo. This event is a major fund raising opportunity for our school and your support is necessary to ensure that adequate people are in attendance to assist with the catering. We thank in anticipation, all of those listed, especially those on the early shift. It is vital that replacements are found by those unavalia ble to work. If you are unable to find a replacement, please contact Mr Richmond so that a suitable replacement can be found.

Set Up: 7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Angela Liston, Trisha Lehmann, Simone Christie, Colene Delaney, Sharon Flowers, Barb Smith, Sharon Foott, Kerrie Walder Brenda Doran

Breakfast Crew: 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Russell Christie (Head Chef), Kevin Reid, Tony Lehmann, Cameron Flowers, Chris Hogan, Leigh Hogan, John Bales, Graeme Connelly, Leigh Weir, David Smith.

Lunch Time Crew 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
James Boyle, Ross Atkinson, Wendy Bidstrup, Mandy Braine, Lindy Fraser, Keith/Bev Forrester, Keiko Nakamura, Danny/Julie Lowry, Claire/Chris Cook.

Afternoon Crew 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Sam Kemp, Bernadette O’Donnell, Nicole James, Colin Kemp, Chris/Rachel Colbert, Russell/Maureen Trollope, Kevin/Carol Reid, Noeline Hogan, Joan Glen, Jackie Tierney, Wendy Watts, Veronica Sullivan.

Food Trolleys x 2 (around Expo site) 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Cassie Robinson/Veronica Hogan and Diona Cooper/Rhonda Bell

Food Trolleys x 2 (around Expo site) 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Helen Casey/Bissy Ajith and Michelle Lee/Meg Walsh.

5 Litres of Vegetable or Chicken Soup:
Trish Lehmann, Brenda Doran, Val Connelly. Sharon Flowers, Sharon Foott, Bernadette Hogan

Slice - Own Choice (to cut up to 12 pieces)
Wendy Collins, Carly Sharp, Renae Dingley, Joan Glen, Fiona Sayle, Noeline Hogan

Muffins - Own Choice (1 dozen)
Tracey Bennett, Jackie Rymer Debra Emonson, Annette Bennett, Claire Cook

All cooking for Ag Expo is required at the school by 7.30a.m. Thursday 2nd July 2009 or by prior arrangement with Angela Liston or Trish Lehmann.

Thank you for your support.
Birchip Watchem Football Club - Junior Roster for Saturday 20th June 2009

Birchip Watchem is away to Boort

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<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>
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<tr>
<td>Bland Family</td>
<td>Sayle Family</td>
<td>Christie Family</td>
<td>Delaney Family</td>
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<tr>
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<th>Seniors</th>
<th>Water Boys</th>
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<tr>
<td>U16</td>
<td>Matthew Rickard</td>
<td>Hugh O'Keefe</td>
<td>Joe O'Donnell</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Riley Doran</td>
<td>Harrison Christie</td>
<td>Sam Mline</td>
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<td>Seamus Lowry</td>
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<td>Joe Boyle</td>
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Lightning Premiership Junior Sports Carnival

This year’s North Central League Junior Carnival, (the Under 12 Lightning Premiership) for football, netball and hockey will be held at Wedderburn on Sunday, July 12th 2009. Players will need to be under 12 years of age at 1st January of this year to play football and in hockey there are two grades, under 12 and under 10.

The rules for the round robin competition will be the same as the Minkey competition, played across the field in one 23m section of the field with modified goals, only pushing, no hitting. Football also plays on a modified size field with reduced playing numbers.

This is a good opportunity for players to play a few games on one day and is usually a well organized fun day. It starts at 9:30 a.m. and finishes about 4:00 p.m. Teams usually play about 5 games for the day. Some children will have to decide if they want to play football, netball or hockey so please have this discussion with your parents ASAP so we can organize teams.

There is no pressure on your child to play, but if your child is interested it’s a good opportunity to have a taste and play a few games in one day. Children don’t have to be playing football or hockey already, any new players are welcome in football and hockey. Netball is restricted by the number of players they can enter so anyone interested in playing netball should talk to Heather Hogan and not include their name on this form.

Should you have any queries, please contact Russell or Simone Christie on 54 922 735 work or home 54 922 488 ASAP.

If there is a lack of response by Tuesday 23rd June 2009, then Birchip Watchem will not field any sides in hockey or football.

A note will be given to students prior to the end of term with more details about starting times etc. Players will need to organize their own transport to the event.

SACs next week

- English            Monday
- P.E.                Tuesday
- Further Maths      Tuesday

Birchip & District Pre School
Cake Stall
Friday 26th June 2009
1pm & 3pm
Cumming Avenue (Westpac Bank)

Squash

Squash finals this week are on Monday and Wednesday. All teams will be playing on Monday at 6.30 and the finals are on Wednesday.

Players wishing to play in the winter competition which will start the second week school returns should give their names to Mark Bowen or Eileen Smith.

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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<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Mrs Kelly</td>
<td>New letter e&lt;br&gt;Play Maths &amp; English games</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Mrs Welton</td>
<td>Counting by 1s, 2s, 5s &amp; 10s starting at any number between 0-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>Miss Barclay</td>
<td>Week 7 Maths Mate</td>
<td>29th June</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>Mr McRae</td>
<td>Finish Exercise 4C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Further Maths</td>
<td>Miss Barclay</td>
<td>Chapter 15 Review/study</td>
<td>30th June</td>
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</tbody>
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All Years - 15 minutes reading a day!
ASTHMA POLICY

Rationale:
Asthma affects up to one in four primary aged children, one in seven teenagers and one in ten adults. It is important therefore for all staff members to be aware of asthma, its symptoms and triggers, and the management of asthma in a school environment.

Aims:
To manage asthma and asthma sufferers as effectively and efficiently as possible at school.

Information:
- Asthma attacks involve the narrowing of airways making it difficult to breathe. Symptoms commonly include difficulty breathing, wheezy breathing, dry and irritating cough, tightness in the chest and difficulty speaking.
- Children and adults with mild asthma rarely require medication; however severe asthma sufferers may require daily or additional medication (particularly after exercise).

Implementation:
- Professional development will be provided for all staff on the nature, prevention and treatment of asthma attacks. Such information will also be displayed on the staffroom wall.
- All students with asthma must have an up to date (annual) written asthma management plan consistent with Asthma Victoria's requirements completed by their doctor or paediatrician. Appropriate asthma plan proformas are available at the school and www.asthma.org.au.
- Asthma plans will be attached to the student’s records for reference.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring their children have an adequate supply of appropriate asthma medication (including a spacer) with them at school at all times.
- The school will provide, and have staff trained in the administering of, reliever puffers (blue canister) such as Ventolin, Airomir, Asmol or Bricanyl and spacer devices in all first-aid kits, including kits on excursions and camps. Clear written instructions on how to use these medications and devices will be included in each first aid kit, along with steps to be taken to treat severe asthma attacks. Kits will contain 70% alcohol swabs to clean devices after use.
- The delegated first aid staff member will be responsible for checking reliever puffer expiry dates.
- A nebuliser pump will not be used by the school staff unless a student’s asthma management plan recommends the use of such a device, and only then if the plan includes and complies with the Vic Government School’s Reference Guide – Asthma Medication Delivery Devices.
- All devices used for the delivery of asthma medication will be cleaned appropriately after each use.
- Care must be provided immediately for any student who develops signs of an asthma attack.
- Children suffering asthma attacks should be treated in accordance with their asthma plan.
- If no plan is available children are to be sat down, reassured, administered 4 puffs of a shaken reliever puffer (blue canister) delivered via a spacer – inhaling 4 deep breaths per puff, wait 4 minutes, if necessary administer 4 more puffs and repeat the cycle. An ambulance must be called if there is no improvement after the second 4-minute wait period, or if it is the child’s first known attack. Parents must be contacted whenever their child suffers an asthma attack.
- Our school will register as an asthma friendly school – www.asthmafriendlyschools.org.au
- In line with the school’s ‘Medication Policy’, “students who provide the principal with written permission supported by the approval of the principal, may carry an asthma inhaler with them”.

Evaluation:
This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review cycle.

References:
Asthma Foundation: www.asthma.org.au

Adopted at the Birchip P-12 School Council meeting on Thursday 18th June 2009

Wendy Watts ..........................  John Richardson ..........................
President, School Council  Principal
Habits of Mind

Staff Develop their Habits of Mind

On Monday after school staff were involved in a workshop that explored the dimensions of implementing ‘Habits of Mind’. Curriculum planning for next semester is in full swing. Providing content and activities to develop the thinking capabilities of students is a targeted improvement area for the staff this year. Staff worked in small groups to discuss the what, how, when and why of implementing habits of mind which improved teacher understanding and deepened commitment to the ‘Habits of Mind’.

Questions posed included
- What do we do differently next semester?
- What can I do in my classroom to help students get better at developing the Habits of Mind?
- How can I connect Habits of Mind to current student understanding?
- Does success in the unit depend on the application of habits of mind?
- Is there room for reflection?

Miss Barclay and Miss Meehan collaborating during the session on a unit they will team teach next semester.

Miss Barclay, Mr Whelan, Mr Delaney and Mr McRae deliberating on Habits of Mind.