Forthcoming Events

August
Monday 9th  Pupil Free Day - ULTRANET Day
Friday 13th  ‘Fit to Drive’ program Yr 11 Periods 1-4
Monday 16th  House Athletics Sports - Field Events
Wednesday 18th  House Athletics Sports - Track Events
Thursday 19th  School Council Meeting 8pm
Monday 23rd  Information Night for Year 12 students & parents
‘Wizard of Oz’ - All day dress rehearsal
Monday 23rd → Saturday 28th  Book Week
Tuesday 24th  School Photographs
‘Wizard of Oz’ - Singing Rehearsal
Thursday 26th  ‘Wizard of Oz’ - Full Dress Rehearsal 1pm
Friday 27th  ‘Wizard of Oz’ - Opening Night - 6.30pm

September
Wednesday 1st  ‘Wizard of Oz’ - Closing Night - 6.30pm
Thursday 2nd  Parents’ Club Father’s Day Stall
Friday 3rd  Primary Athletics Sports - Donald
Tuesday 7th  Secondary Interschool Athletics Sports - Rainbow
Thursday 16th  School Council Meeting 8pm
Friday 17th  Last Day of Term 3 - 2.30 finish
Sunday 26th → Sunday 10th October  France Belgium Trip

October
Monday 4th  First Day of Term 4
Tuesday 5th → Thursday 7th  Grades 3 & 4 Echuca Camp
Monday 11th  Parents’ Club Meeting - 7.30pm
Thursday 14th  Prep. 1 & 2 Extended stay and sleepover
Monday 18th  Grade 6 → 7 Transition meeting - 7pm
Thursday 21st  Year 12 Valedictory Dinner
Year 12 Last official day at school
Friday 22nd  Birchip Flower Show
Monday 25th  Year 12 Swat Vac commences
Tuesday 26th → Thursday 28th  Grade 5 Camp to Melbourne
Friday 29th  Grades P → 2 Excursion to Melbourne Zoo
VCE Examinations commence
Transition Day #1

SPORT
The House Athletics sports are a little over a week away. Are you fit and ready for the challenges?

Monday 16th August 2010
Field events – for students from grade 5 → year 12
Events 18th August 2010
Track events – for students from grade prep → year 12

The 1500m and 800m events will be held the week prior to the track and field events.

Gnurad Gundidj Meeting in Hopetoun
Thanks to parents and students for attending the Gnurad Gundidj Information meeting in Hopetoun last Tuesday. The Campus Principal Michael Casterzen provided a very informative evening on what students can expect and even what not to expect at Gnurad Gundidj. Shannon Southall, David Casey, Brylie Emonson, Zoe Weir, Stephanie Martin and Stephanie McClelland will attend Gnurad Gundidj School for Student Leadership for nine weeks in term four. Thanks to Jesse Smith and Laura Lee for attending and providing highlights from their experience at Alpine School last year. They may even be lucky enough to join Liaison Teacher, Mr Travis Knights, on the student expedition during their stay.
KEYS PLEASE

There was a very good roll up at the Keys Please information evening on Wednesday where Mr Murray Robinson from Rainbow Secondary College and VicRoads gave parents and young people plenty of information on driver education and the need to experience many and varied road conditions prior to obtaining their probationary licence. The school thanks Murray for his willingness to add Birchip P-12 School to his list of duties but unfortunately due to a reshuffle of VicRoads regions Wednesday evening was his last night at Birchip.

UNIFORM SHOP

The Birchip P-12 School, Uniform Shop opening times are 3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. each school day. Please contact Mrs Kaye Haslam and Mrs Sharon Foot for your school uniform requirements.

Student Teachers

Nicole Summerhayes, a local of Berriwillock, commenced a four week teaching round today. She will work with Mrs Kristy Knights, Mrs Claire Ison, Mrs Barb Smith and Mr Travis Knights.

New Staff Member for 2011

Mr Joshua Richmond has been appointed to Birchip P-12 School as a 7 → 12 mathematics teacher. Joshua is currently teaching at Ballarat Grammar School. He will commence duties in term 1, 2011.

Student Notebooks

Please be careful with your notebooks. Screens are the most expensive part to replace and need to be carefully looked after. Please be careful when closing the lid on your notebooks.

The Wizard of Oz

Cast and crew of the Wizard of Oz are rehearsing hard and often to perfect their lines and acting before their performances on Friday 27th August and Wednesday 1st September. Everything is starting to come together and students are really excited about the upcoming event. At general assembly, four of the troupe performed a segment from the play to give the audience a taste of what to expect. The result was rapturous applause.

Bullying

School captain, Ashlee Donnan spoke to students at general assembly about the terrible damage bullying can do to a person. She pleaded with students to think hard before they said hurtful words to others or even excluded them from games in the yard. She urged students to consider carefully the effects of such bullying.

Ashlee spoke from the heart and one could hear a pin drop as she listed the effects of bullying; loss of self-esteem, feeling physically sick, not wanting to go to school and believing that the problem lies within one’s self rather than with the bully. Ashlee gave students advice - DO NOT put up with bullying, talk to teachers and feel comfortable to go and talk to her or other year 12s about any issues that they might have.
Volunteering

Volunteering plays a large part in ensuring small communities have a breadth of activities and sports from which to select. Most young people are involved in sport and these clubs would not survive if it were not for volunteers who take on a number of roles within clubs. In remote areas, volunteers, like the CERT team are an essential part of the medical process. Gail Sharp, president of the local CERT team, spoke to the Year 9 Advance class about volunteering and how this organisation works with the local community.

CERT presently has 14 members who are rostered on to look after emergencies that crop up quite often in the area. Each CERT member has done an initial 50 hours training course which is followed up with three and a half hours of training each month. Every year, CERT members have to do certificate updates that are conducted by the Swan Hill ambulance corps. Whilst the members do give up their time, the benefit in the form of friendship, working for others and gaining new knowledge make volunteering in such an organisation very rewarding.

CERT is always looking for volunteers and if anyone is interested they should contact Gail or Kevin Reid.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VCE SAC dates</th>
<th>12 Further Maths</th>
<th>Network Test SAC</th>
<th>13th Aug.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 Physics</td>
<td>Electricity Investigation</td>
<td>16th Aug.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BIRCHIP P-12 SCHOOL
COMMUNITY LIBRARY
2010 BOOK FAIR

The Annual Birchip P-12 School Community Library Book Fair is just around the corner.

A large collection of quality books, pre-school to adults, together with activity books, special packs and posters, will be on display in the Library commencing Monday 16 August 2010 → Saturday 28 August 2010.

Every person who buys a book will go into the daily draw to win a prize.

Hope to see you all there!
Welcome Sara Sydengen from Norway

Sara Sydengen is another exchange student who has joined the year 11 ranks. Sara comes from a small town one hour’s drive from Oslo. A small town to Sara means a population of 3000. In her home town, Sara travels to a nearby school which has 900 students.

This is an adventurous move for Sara who is leaving behind her father who is a bank manager and mother who is a pathologist. Sara also has one sister and two brothers. Incidentally, her sister gave birth to a daughter on the day Sara landed in Australia.

Sara was greeted at Tullamarine airport by her host family, Jenny and James Goldsmith and their other exchange student daughter, Emma. It was impossible for Sara not to recognise her new family as they were draped in long flowing Australian capes, wearing blue Australian witches’ hats and James was sporting an akubra hat with large lettering welcoming Sara to Australia. Once in Birchip, Sara was treated to an Australian barbecue lunch, lots of hedgehog slice and vanilla slices and all served in a room decorated with many Australian flags and native Australian animals. Sara is presently trying to acquire a taste for Vegemite.

Sara would like to be a nutritionist and is looking forward to meeting new people and improving her English. Again, students are amazed at how competent our overseas students are at speaking English.

Science Competition

56 students from years 3-11 sat the University of New South Wales Global Science Competition. It was very pleasing to see so many students prepared to challenge themselves and no matter what result students achieved, they gained valuable experience for their future learning.

Two students were awarded distinction certificates and eight students received a credit certificate. The average mark of our students in years 8, 9 and 10 was well above the state average for these year levels. Congratulations to all students for their efforts and well done to the following students for their outstanding results:

Credit Certificates were awarded to:
Olivia Rickard, year 3
Georgia Lee, year 6
Jessamy Bennett, year 9
Claire Boyle, year 10

Distinction Certificates were awarded to:
Hayley Hogan, year 8
Brittany Hogan, year 4
Ronald Turner, year 8
Zoe Turnbull, year 9
Nicholas Bales, year 11
Ethan Cooper, year 10
Fit2Drive Workshop

On Friday, 13th August 2010, senior students will be attending a Fit to Drive (F2D) workshop aimed at reducing the road toll and trauma on young drivers, and helping them to both survive and enjoy the independence of driving.

In essence this workshop is about putting students in charge to find out what they can do to tackle the problem of the number of young people involved in road trauma in our community.

Younger drivers and passengers are over represented in the crash statistics for all areas in Victoria.

Through the auspices of the Central Murray Road Safety Council Committee, this program is being introduced to Year 11 providers throughout the municipalities of Buloke, Gannawarra and Swan Hill at no cost to the schools and colleges involved.

Fit2Drive works in conjunction with partners including TAC, VicRoads, Victoria Police, SES, CFA, MFB, RMIT University, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Central Murray Road Safety Council, Operation, Roadsaf Frankston and Mornington Peninsula, the Confederation of Australian Motor Sports (CAMS), The Teenage Road Accident Group (TRAG) and now the RACV Free2Go program.

The Workshop will run for half a day and involve:
- Peer education workshops involving small groups of students, working with trained facilitators to consider the consequences of dangerous risk taking and peer group pressure. The program focuses on personal safety, responsibility and strategies to make them safer drivers and passenger.
- Presentations by the Victoria Police Road Safety Awareness and Information Unit.
- A case study presented by Emergency Services involving road trauma and young people.

Malcolm Pollitt,
Fit2Drive Coordinator,
RoadSafe Central Murray

2010 Donald Primary Sports

Training is commencing next Tuesday in preparation for the Athletic Sports to be held in Donald on Friday, 3rd September 2010. Our school is responsible for providing helpers to run the senior hurdles, junior hurdles and junior sprints. Please contact Greg Welton as soon as possible if you can help out.

BIRCHIP PRESCHOOL
VISION PORTRAITS
FAMILY PHOTO FUNDRAISER

SUNDAY 22nd AUGUST, 2010
BLACK & WHITE OR COLOUR
10” x 13” WITH A FRAME ONLY $12.00

BOOKINGS ARE FILLING FAST, SO BE QUICK,
Closes FRIDAY 13th AUGUST 2010
CONTACT: CASSIE ROBINSON ON 54 935 336

1.5kw Solar Power
ONLY $1860.00
1575 Watts of Solar Panels (9x175 Watt)
1.5kW Inverter
2.1kw Solar Power System
ONLY $3890.00
2100 Watts of Solar Panels (12x175 Watt)
2kw Inverter
5.1kw Solar Power System
ONLY $15900.00
5250 Watts of Solar Panels (30x175 Watt)
5kW Inverter

All systems include installation done by a Clean Energy Council Accredited Electrician from the Wimmera-Mallee region.

*price includes Solar Credit REC rebate if available
Call Thomas on 0422 698 460
Call Matt on 0409 236 769
Or check out our new web site
www.gwmsolar.com.au
SPECIAL FOREVER ART AND LITERATURE PROJECT

In Term Two, Year 5 students wrote short stories and created colourful pictures which showed and told about the importance of water in our district. Four pictures and four stories were selected from our school to go to the final judging in Sydney. Finalists from the judging will have their work published in a book to be printed at the end of the year. The Library will receive a copy and also all contributors whose work appears. Congratulations from Mrs Emonson and Mrs Donnellon to the following students – SHORT STORIES – Nick Martin, Luana Baird, Lea Gould and Jessica Bidstrup and to Lea Gould and Jessica Bidstrup, Sarah Botheras and Elise Bales whose PICTURES were chosen. We have copies of the winning stories but we will have to wait until later to see the pictures; - hopefully in the book.

ALL WE COULD LOSE

The mighty crops are being ruined by drought. Creeks, dams and lakes are slowly drying up. We are lucky to have Tchum Lake filled with water. The pipeline has supplied us with crystal clear water. If we don’t look after it, that’s our bad luck. It is our responsibility. Jet skis and boats, swimming in Summer and fishing are privileges. Think about all we have to lose. If we don’t look after our dams and creeks, not only will our crops die, but so will our livestock. We need to keep our crops alive, and to do so, we need to look after our precious water.

JESSICA BISTRUP, YEAR 5

TCHUM LAKE

Tchum Lake used to be as dry as a bone and people went out of town to go fishing, camping or skiing at Kangaroo Lake, Lake Charm or the mighty Murray River. Dead trees surrounded Tchum Lake North and dirt drier than a brick. Then Tchum Lake South got filled with water. Life and animals come from far and wide just to go swimming, skiing or just to catch a red fin or a yellow belly. Animals come to have a home, because you’ll see kangaroos, or birds or the odd echidna. People these days go camping out at Tchum Lake. That’s what we do at Tchum Lake now that it’s got water.

LEA GOULD, YEAR 5

When Lake Tchum was dry, there was nothing—just dust and rubbish and abandoned toilets and dead trees. There were no animals in it any more. All there was were dead fish bones and empty yabby shells. There was no fun left, no water; it was deserted. In 2009 there was fun and joy again and lots more animals came. There was no more littering at Tchum Lake.

NICHOLAS MARTIN, YEAR 5

WATCHEM LAKE

When my dad was a kid, there was a lake in Watchem. It was called Watchem Lake. My dad lived in Watchem and still does. He has two other brothers called Chris and Bean. They had parents who are my Grandma and Grandpa. They used to go to Watchem Lake nearly all the time. They had fun until it started to go down. Soon they couldn’t put boats on the lake because the boats would touch the bottom of it. When the Lake was empty, some people left. Dad and the family stayed. My dad is 41 now and it is still not filled. A couple of years ago my dad had a talk to the GWM Water people to see if they could fill the Lake. They said “OK”. In December it will be filled. By the way a little while back they tested the pipe.

LUANA BAIRD, YEAR 5
Grade 2 & 3 reflections on the Wizard of Oz

This morning at Assembly Miss Barlay and Miss McKenzie performed a part from the Wizard of Oz. Miss Barlay was the girl and she was very good at acting. Miss McKenzie performed as the scarecrow well I can’t say anything about that it was just wonderful. Their voices were just “Oh I can’t say anything I’m just speech-less and I hope the real performance is just like that!”

Cloe

This morning at Assembly Miss Barlay and Miss McKenzie performed a part from the Wizard of Oz. Miss McKenzie was the scarecrow on the stick without a brain. I liked the costumes on Miss Barlay. I think it was fantastic. I can’t wait to see the real thing.

The wizard of Oz

This morning at Assembly Miss Barlay and Miss McKenzie performed a part from the Wizard of Oz. Miss Barlay was Dorothy and Miss McKenzie was the scarecrow. I thought it was funny. My favourite part was when Miss McKenzie sang a song.
The Wizard of Oz

This morning at assembly Miss Barclay and Miss McKenzie performed a part of the Wizard of Oz. In the Gallery, Miss Barclay was Dorothy and Miss McKenzie was the scarecrow. I thought they were better than the movie. I thought it was FANTASTIC.

by Rosie Hogan

This morning at assembly Miss Barclay and Miss McKenzie performed a part from the Wizard of Oz. Miss Barclay was Dorothy, she was FANTASTIC. Miss McKenzie was the scarecrow, she was GREAT. I thought Miss McKenzie was a FABULOUS actress. Well for that matter they were both GREAT. I thought they did an AWESOME job.
Habits of Mind
This week’s winner

Congratulations to Year 9, for working interdependently whilst preparing healthy sandwiches for students and staff of the school.

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.

Grade Five and Six Homework Questions – due Friday 13th August 2010

1. In which sport is the expression “bunt” used?
2. What type of fruit is a Cox’s orange pippin?
3. Name the tree beginning with ‘m’ which grows and flourishes in salt water.
4. What is the shortest sea crossing between England and France?
5. In which state would you find the Warragamba Dam?
6. Name the Italian family who ruled Florence during the Renaissance.
7. In horticulture, what does the practice of espalier involve?
8. Yorkshire pudding is traditionally served with which roast meat?
9. Which two countries merged to form Tanzania?
10. How many petals does a daffodil have?

Answers to last week’s questions:

1. Perains are a variety of which fruit? Apple
2. In which sport would you use a baffy? Golf
3. Who was the Roman goddess of wisdom? Minerva
4. If a recipe called for a soupcon of sugar, how much would you put in? A very small quantity - a dash.
5. In which month in the UK do people burn an effigy of Guy Fawkes? November
6. Who invented the electric light bulb? Thomas Edison
7. What type of wood was Noah’s Ark built from? Gopher
8. The Pearl anniversary is celebrated after how many years of marriage? 30
9. Of which nationality was the composer and musician Bela Bartok? Hungarian

Birchip Historical Society Inc. Annual Meeting

Wednesday 11th August 2010 at 8:00 p.m.
In the Archives Building behind the museum.
New members welcome  All Enquiries to Dorothy Reid  53 990 564

Become a volunteer at the Birchip Historical Society

The members of the Birchip Historical Society Inc. have been quietly busy doing research for some local sporting bodies and families enquiring about their ancestry. Filing newspaper cuttings and cataloguing and cross-referencing photographs are activities that do not require computer literacy.

Grants were successfully applied for that included a heater and other small equipment to assist with comfort for the volunteers.

Day Care groups from other towns as well as Probus Clubs find the Birchip museum very interesting, recalling many memories of their early life.

People interested in keeping this museum and archives continuing in Birchip, please come along to the Annual Meeting on Wednesday night. An interesting video will also be shown.

Golf Clinic

A free follow up clinic for junior golfers will be held on Sunday 15th August 2010 at 10:00 a.m. with Murray Downs golf professional Kristian Kiely.

This will be followed by a clinic for senior golfers at a cost of $10.
Names to Neil or Beryl Fietz on 54 922 636.
OPEN DAY DATES
Attending Open Days is a great way to find out more about universities and TAFEs, see facilities, find out about courses and collect information. Put these dates in your diary.

Saturday 31st July
- Monash University (Berwick Gippsland and Peninsula campuses)

Sunday 1st August
- Monash University (Caulfield, Clayton and Parkville campuses)

Sunday 8th August
- Deakin University (Geelong)
- RMIT University / TAFE
- Gordon TAFE (Geelong)
- Victoria University / TAFE (Footscray)

Saturday 14th August
- Holmesglen TAFE

Sunday 15th August
- Australian Catholic University (ACU) (Melbourne)
- Deakin University (Warrnambool)
- Swinburne University / TAFE
- Melbourne University
- Sunraysia TAFE (Swan Hill)
- La Trobe University (Albury/Wodonga)

Sunday 22nd August
- Box Hill TAFE
- Deakin University (Melbourne)
- La Trobe University (Bendigo)

Sunday 29th August
- ACU (Ballarat)
- Ballarat University
- La Trobe University (Bundoora)

2010 BASKETBALL COMPETITION
Brady Milne, Ronald Turner and Dammy Ovwe all sustained injuries this week which was a great loss to various basketball teams. Some players listed in teams have not turned up. This makes it very hard for the team if your name is on the list and you are not a regular please contact Sue or Ray ASAP.

The first game last week was Green 39 defeated Red 13. Nick Bales with a score of 7 and Nikko Garcia 6 were the only scorers for Red. Green played well as a team with the highest scorer being Gerhard Egerer 25 with one 3 pointer. In the second game Blue 51 defeated Yellow 37. The game was goal to goal. Extra players were needed in both teams. Blue gained Hugh O’Keefe and Gerhard Egerer and Yellow gained Jake Hogan. It was a very tough battle. Highest scorers were Ronald Turner 19 with two 3 pointers, Hugh O’Keefe’s came excellent play by Riley Sayle with a score of 13. Jahneva McGinnis scored 10 and Jake Hogan one 3 pointer with a great shoot by Brylie with her 3 pointer.

Thanks to Ray Poulton, Brady Milne and Gerhard Egerer for their umpiring.

Due to pupil free day there will still be basketball at the normal time.

Games next week:
FIRST GAME – 4:00 P.M.
SECOND GAME – 4:45 P.M.
BLUE v GREEN
YELLOW v RED

Paul Messer — guest speaker
at St Mary’s Church Birchip
Sunday 15th August 2010
at 9:30 A.M.

Next Sunday, during the Lay Led Liturgy, Paul Messer, a 24 year old Birchip-Watchem footballer recruited from Geelong will present a talk/video on his experiences as a volunteer carpenter in Los Lomas in Peru, South America.

Paul, who attended St Joseph’s College in Geelong, has in recent years spent the off season with friends repairing and building homes for the poor in Los Lomas which is located near the capital, Lima.

A special collection will be taken up with the proceeds going to assist inspiring Paul’s work. A morning tea will follow the Liturgy in the Belleville Room.

Catholic parishioners are requested to supply a plate of morning tea.

All are very welcome to attend.
Parents’ Club News

At our general meeting on Monday night we were privileged to have our 2010 Japanese students as well as Miss Nakamura and Mr Knights give an informative talk on their recent trip to Japan. The students spoke for an hour, and from all reports it was an excellent experience had by all. A very big thank you to Demi Donnellon, Sarah Watts, Laura Lee, Sophie Noonan, Stephanie McClelland, Brylie Emonson, Keiko and Travis for sharing their stories with us.

Father’s Day Stall - Thursday 2nd September 2010

NEXT PARENTS CLUB MEETING: Monday 11th October 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

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>1/2</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Mrs Welton</td>
<td>Practise telling time, identifying money &amp; adding coins to $1.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Miss Hicks</td>
<td>Read up to chapter 4 of textbook</td>
<td>11th Aug.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Business Man.</td>
<td>Mr Knights</td>
<td>SAC revision</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>PE</td>
<td>Mr Sayle</td>
<td>Training session plan</td>
<td>10th Aug.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Business Man.</td>
<td>Mr Knights</td>
<td>SAC revision</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Read Secret River, analyse ‘Binge Drinking’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All Years - 15 minutes reading a day!

Birchip Watchem Football Club - Junior Roster for Saturday 7th August 2010

Birchip Watchem is away to Wycheproof

<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></td>
<td>Eger Family</td>
<td>C. Kemp</td>
<td>C. Hogan</td>
<td>Casey Family</td>
<td>Delaney Family</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boundary Umpires</th>
<th>Seniors</th>
<th>Reserves</th>
<th>Water Boys</th>
<th>Seniors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reserves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nick Sands
Jack Lee
Jacob Christie
Nikko Garcia
Harry Christie
Jesse Smith
Emerg: C. McGinnis
Aden Kemp
Bill Lee
Seamus Lowry
Connor Buteux

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

Birchip Watchem Netball Club

Scorers
A Grade
Simone Donnellon
B
Rory Layton
C
Abbey Frew
Junior A
Barb Smith
U13
Simone Christie

Wizard of Oz Rehearsals

Tuesday 10th August 2010
3.30 - 5.30pm
Whole ACT 1 cast

Wednesday 11th August 2010
3.30 - 5.15pm
Dorothy, Toto, Wizard, Miss Gulch, Scarecrow, Tinman, Lion
Students often don’t take the time to **think** why we are doing what we are doing. They rarely question themselves about their own learning strategies or discuss how they obtained an answer or whether their solution was the most efficient. The concept of metacognition must be explicitly taught and practiced.

Some children virtually have no idea of what they should do when they confront a problem and are often unable to explain their strategies of decision making. When teachers ask, "How did you solve that problem; what strategies did you have in mind"? or, "Tell us what went on in your head to come up with that conclusion". Students often respond by saying, "I dunno, I just did it.'

Metacognition (or thinking about your thinking) is the one Habit of Mind that I find the most challenging for students. After the completion of a question or a task, it is always important to reflect on your solution for reasonableness, sensibility and accuracy.

As a teacher I always try to work out why a student came up with an answer so that I could then try to diagnose the problem he or she was having.

One example of this is when a student gave the perimeter of 28 cm to the problem below.

I was mystified as to how this answer was possible. The usual wrong answers can be 40 cm because they multiplied 8 x 5 or 13 cm because they have just added 8 + 5, but as a teacher, I was baffled with 28 cm. When I enquired as to their method used, the student remarked – oh that’s easy I just added 8 + 5 = 14 and then doubled it to get 28 cm.

As the teacher, I was then able to rectify the problem. The student couldn’t add but knew the concept of how to find a perimeter.

We need the time for discussion, to reflect on how we arrived at our answer – this is where most of the learning actually takes place.

---

**Find the perimeter of**

![Rectangle](image.png)

**8 cm**

**5 cm**